

WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD™

DICTIONARY *of* COMPUTER TERMS

EIGHTH EDITION

The Best Computer Dictionary in Print

Completely revised and updated

Contains extensive Internet coverage

More than 4,000 entries, terms, and acronyms

Bryan Pfaffenberger

THE NAME YOU TRUST

Dedication

For Suzanne, always

Webster's New World™ Dictionary of Computer Terms,
8th Edition

Copyright © 2000 by
IDG Books Worldwide, Inc.
An International Data Group Company
919 E. Hillsdale Blvd.
Suite 400
Foster City, CA 94404

All rights reserved including the right of reproduction in whole
or in part in any form.

For general information on IDG Books Worldwide's books in
the U.S., please call our Consumer Customer Service depart-
ment at 1-800-762-2974. For reseller information, including
discounts, bulk sales, customized editions, and premium sales,
please call our Reseller Customer Service department at
1-800-434-3422.

A Webster's New World™ Book

WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD DICTIONARY is a registered
trademark of IDG Books Worldwide, Inc.

Library of Congress Catalog Number: 98-68180

ISBN: 0-02-863777-1

Manufactured in the United States of America

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 00 1 02 03 04

EEMS See *Enhanced Expanded Memory Specification*.

EEPROM Acronym for Electrical Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory. A type of read-only memory (ROM) that can be erased and reprogrammed by applying an electrical current to the memory chips and then writing new instructions to them. See *EPROM* and *flash memory*.

EFF Acronym for Electronic Frontier Foundation. A nonprofit public advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring the survival of privacy and civil liberties in the computer age. Spurred by an ill-conceived and heavy-handed Secret Service program that resulted in the seizure of hackers' computer systems throughout the United States, the organization's founders, Mitchell Kapor and John Perry Barlowe, initially contributed to hackers' legal defense funds and have since developed an extensive public education and lobbying program.

effective resolution The resolution of a printer's output on which resolution enhancement has been performed. For example, some printers print at 600 dpi, but they vary the size of the dots placed on the page to achieve an effective resolution as good as a 1200 dpi printer could produce.

effective transmission rate The rate at which a modem that uses on-the-fly data compression communicates data to another modem. Data compression ensures that a given amount of data can be communicated at a given speed in a shorter amount of time than uncompressed data, so modems that use on-the-fly compression have higher throughput than modems that do not.

EGA Acronym for Enhanced Graphics Adapter. An obsolete graphics video adapter standard for IBM PC-compatible computers. The EGA adapter can display as many as 16 colors simultaneously with a resolution of 640 pixels horizontally by 350 lines vertically. You select the 16 colors from the EGA color palette, which contains 64 colors (including black and shades of gray). Compare to *CGA* and *VGA*.

egosurfing Searching the Web for pages that mention your name.

EGP An Internet protocol that defines the routing of Internet data between a local area network and the wider Internet. This protocol has been superseded by the Border Gateway Protocol (BGP). See *BGP*.

read-only Capable of being displayed or used, but not deleted. If a display of read-only data can be edited, formatted, or otherwise modified, it can't be saved under the same file name. See *file attribute*, *locked file*, and *read/write*.

read-only attribute In operating systems such as MS-DOS and Microsoft Windows, a file attribute stored with a file's directory entry that indicates whether the file can be changed or deleted. When the read-only attribute is on, you can display the file, but you can't modify or erase it. When the read-only attribute is off, you can modify or delete the file.

read-only memory (ROM) The portion of a computer's primary storage that doesn't lose its contents when you switch off the power. ROM contains essential system programs that neither you nor the computer can erase. Because the computer's internal memory is blank at power-up, the computer can perform no functions unless given startup instructions. These instructions are stored in ROM. A growing trend is toward including substantial portions of the operating system on ROM chips instead of on disk. See *EPROM* and *programmable read-only memory (PROM)*.

read/write The capability of a primary or secondary storage device to record data (write) and to play back data previously recorded or saved (read).

read/write file In MS-DOS, Microsoft Windows 95/98, and OS/2, a file whose read-only file attribute is set so that the file can be deleted and modified. See *locked file*.

read/write head In a hard disk or floppy disk, the magnetic recording and playback device that travels back and forth across the surface of the disk, storing and retrieving data.

read/write memory See *random access memory (RAM)*.

Real Audio A streaming audio technology developed by Real Audio, Inc., which enables Internet users to begin hearing an audio file moments after they start downloading the file. Quality is that of an AM radio broadcast, which is sufficient for voice broadcasts.

real mode In Intel microprocessors, an operating mode in which memory locations are directly mapped by a limited set of registers, producing a total maximum memory size of 1 M