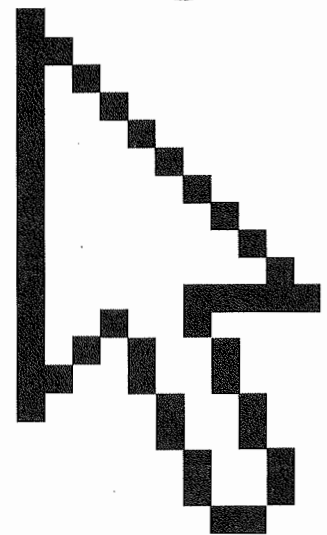


Microsoft

Computer Dictionary

Fifth Edition



Forcepoint 1012
p. 1

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Forcepoint 1012
p. 2

be similar to Perl, it has many features to process text files and perform system management tasks.

rudder control *n.* A device, consisting of a pair of pedals, that enables a user to input rudder movements in a flight simulation program. The rudder control is used along with a joystick (which controls the simulated ailerons and elevators) and possibly a throttle control.

rule *n.* **1.** A line printed above, below, or to the side of some element, either to set that item off from the remainder of the page or to improve the look of the page. Footnotes, for example, often appear below a short rule that sets them off from the main text on the page. The thickness of a rule is typically measured in points. (A point is approximately $1/72$ inch.) *See also* point¹ (definition 1). **2.** In expert systems, a statement that can be used to verify premises and to enable a conclusion to be drawn. *See also* expert system.

rule-based system *n.* *See* expert system, production system.

ruler *n.* In some application programs, such as word processors, an on-screen scale marked off in inches or other units of measure and used to show line widths, tab settings, paragraph indents, and so on. In programs in which the ruler is "live," the on-screen ruler can be used with the mouse or with the keyboard to set, adjust, or remove tab stops and other settings.

run *vb.* To execute a program.

run around *vb.* In page composition, to position text so that it flows around an illustration or other display.

run-length encoding *n.* A simple compression method that replaces a contiguous series (run) of identical values in a data stream with a pair of values that represent the length of the series and the value itself. For example, a data stream that contains 57 consecutive entries with the value 10 could replace them all with the much shorter pair of values 57, 10. *Acronym:* RLE.

Run Length Encoding *n.* *See* RLE.

run-length limited encoding *n.* A fast and highly efficient method of storing data on a disk (usually a hard disk) in which patterns in the bits representing information are translated into codes rather than being stored literally bit by bit and character by character. In RLL encoding, changes in magnetic flux are based on the number of zeros

that occur in sequence. This scheme allows data to be stored with fewer changes in magnetic flux than would otherwise be needed for the number of data bits involved and results in considerably higher storage capacity than is possible with older technologies, such as frequency modulation (FM) and modified frequency modulation (MFM) encoding. *Abbreviation:* RLL encoding. *Compare* frequency modulation encoding, modified frequency modulation encoding.

running foot *n.* One or more lines of text in the bottom margin area of a page, composed of one or more elements such as the page number, the name of the chapter, and the date. *Also called:* footer.

running head *n.* One or more lines of text in the top margin area of a page, composed of one or more elements such as the page number, the name of the chapter, and the date. *Also called:* header.

RUNOFF *n.* A very early text editor/text formatting program, developed by J. E. Saltzer at M.I.T. for the CTSS (Compatible Time-Sharing System) operating system in the mid-1960s, in order to format his Ph.D. thesis. RUNOFF was the ancestor of many other text processors, including TeX, and the UNIX programs roff, nroff, and troff.

run-time *adj.* Occurring after a program has begun to be executed, such as evaluation of variable expressions and dynamic allocation of memory.

run time *n.* **1.** The time period during which a program is running. *See also* compile time, dynamic allocation, dynamic binding, link time. **2.** The amount of time needed to execute a given program.

runtime *n.* *See* common language runtime.

run-time binding *n.* Assignment of a meaning to an identifier (such as a variable) in a program at the time the program is executed rather than at the time the program is compiled. *Compare* compile-time binding, link-time binding.

run-time error *n.* A software error that occurs while a program is being executed, as detected by a compiler or other supervisory program.

run-time library *n.* A file containing one or more prewritten routines to perform specific, commonly used functions. A run-time library, used primarily in high-level languages such as C, saves the programmer from having to rewrite those routines.

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