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database *n.* A file composed of records, each containing fields together with a set of operations for searching, sorting, recombining, and other functions.

database administrator *n.* One who manages a database. The administrator determines the content, internal structure, and access strategy for a database, defines security and integrity, and monitors performance. *Acronym:* DBA. *Also called* database manager.

database analyst *n.* One who provides the analytic functions needed to design and maintain applications requiring a database.

database designer *n.* One who designs and implements functions required for applications that use a database.

database engine *n.* The program module or modules that provide access to a database management system (DBMS).

database machine *n.* 1. A peripheral that executes database tasks, thereby relieving the main computer from performing them. 2. A database server that performs only database tasks.

database management system *n.* A software interface between the database and the user. A database management system handles user requests for database actions and allows for control of security and data integrity requirements. *Acronym:* DBMS. *Also called* database manager. *See also* database engine.

database manager *n.* *See* database administrator, database management system.

database publishing *n.* The use of desktop publishing or Internet technology to produce reports containing information obtained from a database.

database server *n.* A network node, or station, dedicated to storing and providing access to a shared database. *Also called* database machine.

database structure *n.* A general description of the format of records in a database, including the number of fields, specifications regarding the type of data that can be entered in each field, and the field names used.

data bit *n.* In asynchronous communications, one of a group of from 5 to 8 bits that represents a single character of data for transmission. Data bits are preceded by a start bit and followed by an optional parity bit and one or more stop bits. *See also* asynchronous transmission, bit, communications parameter.

data buffer *n.* An area in memory where data is temporarily stored while being moved from one location to another. *See also* buffer¹.

data bus *n.* *See* bus.

data cable *n.* Fiber-optic or wire cable used to transfer data from one device to another.

data capture *n.* 1. The collection of information at the time of a transaction. 2. The process of saving on a storage medium a record of interchanges between a user and a remote information utility.

data carrier *n.* *See* carrier (definition 1).

Data Carrier Detected *n.* *See* DCD (definition 1).

data chaining *n.* The process of storing segments of data in noncontiguous locations while retaining the ability to reconnect them in the proper sequence.

data channel *n.* *See* channel (definition 1).

data collection *n.* 1. The process of acquiring source documents or data. 2. The grouping of data by means of classification, sorting, ordering, and other organizing methods.

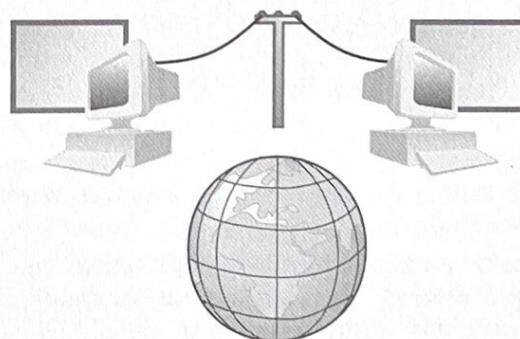
datacom *n.* Short for **data communications**. *See* communications.

data communications *n.* *See* communications.

data compaction *n.* *See* data compression.

data compression *n.* A means of reducing the amount of space or bandwidth needed to store or transmit a block of data, used in data communications, facsimile transmission, file storage and transfer, and CD-ROM publishing. *Also called* data compaction.

data conferencing *n.* Simultaneous data communication among geographically separated participants in a meeting. Data conferencing involves whiteboards and other software that enable a single set of files at one location to be accessed and modified by all participants. *See the illustration. See also* desktop conferencing, whiteboard. *Compare* video conferencing.



Data conferencing.