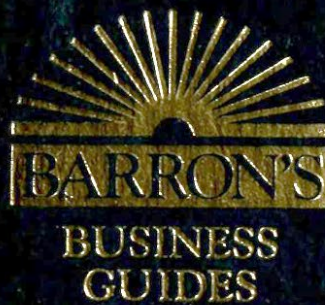




Dictionary of Computer and Internet Terms

Sixth Edition



- More than 2500 key computer terms with definitions
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FIGURE 44. CASE VS. BUILT VS. PIECE FRACTION

built fraction a fraction that is composed by setting the numerator and denominator as regular numerals separated by a forward slash (1/2, 1/4). *Contrast* PIECE FRACTION; CASE FRACTION.

bullet a character such as • used to mark items in a list.

bundled software software that is sold in combination with hardware. For example, software for processing speech and music is often bundled with sound cards.

burn (*slang*) to record information on a CD-R disc or an EPROM.

bus the main communication avenue in a computer. For a diagram, *see* COMPUTER ARCHITECTURE.

The bus consists of a set of parallel wires or lines to which the CPU, the memory, and all input-output devices are connected. The bus contains one line for each bit needed to give the address of a device or a location in memory, plus one line for each bit of data to be transmitted in a single step, and additional lines that indicate what operation is being performed.

Most personal computers today use a 32-bit bus, but on PC-compatibles, the bus can also work in 8-bit and 16-bit mode.

Here is how an 8-bit bus works: If the CPU wants to place the value 00011001 into memory location 10100000, it places 00011001 on the data lines, places 10100000 on the address lines, and places 1 (rather than the usual 0) on the “write memory” line. The memory unit is responsible for recognizing the “write memory” request, decoding the address, and storing the data in the right location.

The bus can transmit data in either direction between any two components of the system. If the computer did not have a bus, it would need separate wires for all possible connections between components. *See also* ISA; EISA; MICRO CHANNEL; VESA LOCAL BUS; PCI; PCMCIA; SERIAL BUS.

bus mouse a mouse that is connected to its own adapter card, which in turn connects to the bus of the computer. *See* MOUSE.