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INTERNET UPDATE

THIRD EDITION

JONAR C. NADER

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1 2 3 4 5 99 98

National Library of Australia
Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Nader, Jonar C.
Prentice Hall's illustrated dictionary of computing.

3rd ed.
ISBN 0 13 095104 8.

1. Computers - Dictionaries. 2. Electronic data processsing - Dictionaries. I. Title. II. Title: Illustrated dictionary of computing

004.03

Prentice Hall of Australia Pty Ltd, *Sydney*
Prentice Hall, Inc., *Upper Saddle River, New Jersey*
Prentice Hall Canada, Inc., *Toronto*
Prentice Hall Hispanoamericana, *SA, Mexico*
Prentice Hall of India Private Ltd, *New Delhi*
Prentice Hall International, Inc., *London*
Prentice Hall of Japan, Inc., *Tokyo*
Simon & Schuster (Asia) Pte Ltd
Editora Prentice Hall do Brasil Ltda, *Rio de Janeiro*

PRENTICE HALL

A division of Simon & Schuster

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parsing On the World Wide Web, the reading of a Web page by the Web browser for special instructions that are embedded in the Hypertext Markup Language. These instructions act as codes for the Web browser, enabling it to display the retrieved file in the way that its author had intended. This could include instructions relating to page layout, fonts, position of graphics symbols, and colors to be used. Different Web browsers will parse in the same way, but may have slight variations in how the codes can be interpreted or executed. Effective browsers ought to first download the text of a page and then parse later so that a user can start reading the text while the browser is busily formatting the pages. See HTML.

partial carry [ISO In parallel addition, a procedure in which some or all of the carries are temporarily stored instead of being immediately transferred.]

partition Before a hard disk can be used for the first time, it must be partitioned and then formatted. Partitioning is a software function that involves dividing the storage space into usable sections, with each section assigned a letter as though it were a separate drive. This process conceivably allows each partition to be assigned to a different operating system. However, even if the entire disk is to belong to the same operating system, partitioning must still be performed. The size of each partition is variable, and must be specified. It is important to specify the partition from which the operating system is to boot (this is called the 'active partition'), and to specify the drive letter assignments. Normally the process automatically assigns letters starting with 'C'. However, other letters may be assigned if there are multiple hard disks. After a hard disk is partitioned, each partition must be formatted by the operating system to which it is dedicated. Under DOS and Windows, the 'format' command lays out the structure on the disk and establishes how and where files can be stored. Note that the 'format' command works differently on a diskette drive as opposed to a hard disk drive. On a diskette drive, the command performs both low-level and high-level formatting. Low-level formatting involves the creation of sectors complete with their address markings (this process is called 'initializing'). High-level formatting lays out the operating system structure on the disk and establishes how and where files are stored. A new hard disk normally comes with low-level formatting already done. Consequently, the 'format' command on a hard disk only performs high-level formatting. Utility programs (such as MultiDisk) are available to help manage partitioned disks.

partitioned database A database whose contents are divided physically among multiple input/output subsystems, and governed by multiple operating systems.

partition-sector virus Any computer virus capable of replacing the original code of the partition sector found on a hard disk (diskettes do not have a partition sector). The hard disk's partition sector contains important information about the disk, such as the number of sectors that can be found in each partition. In most cases, when a personal computer is turned on, it first turns to drive A to read the boot sector. If a diskette is not present in drive A, it may turn to the hard disk (usually drive C)

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