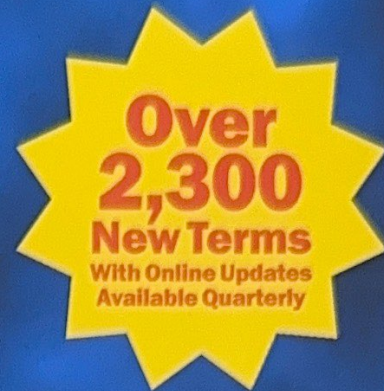




The Ultimate Computer Reference

*The Comprehensive Standard for Business,
School, Library, and Home*



Microsoft Press[®] **Computer Dictionary** Third Edition

- **Over 7,600 terms and definitions**
- **345 illustrations and diagrams**
- **Extensive Internet and Web coverage**
- **Featured in Microsoft[®] Bookshelf[®] 97**



Microsoft Press

PUBLISHED BY
Microsoft Press
A Division of Microsoft Corporation
One Microsoft Way
Redmond, Washington 98052-6399

Copyright © 1997 by Microsoft Corporation

All rights reserved. No part of the contents of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without the written permission of the publisher.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data pending.

ISBN 1-57231-743-4

Printed and bound in the United States of America.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 QMQM 2 1 0 9 8 7

Distributed to the book trade in Canada by Macmillan of Canada, a division of Canada Publishing Corporation.

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Microsoft Press books are available through booksellers and distributors worldwide. For further information about international editions, contact your local Microsoft Corporation office. Or contact Microsoft Press International directly at fax (425) 936-7329. Visit our Web site at mspress.microsoft.com.

Macintosh, Power Macintosh, QuickTime, and TrueType fonts are registered trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. Intel is a registered trademark of Intel Corporation. DirectInput, DirectX, Microsoft, Microsoft Press, MS-DOS, Visual Basic, Visual C++, Win32, Win32s, Windows, Windows NT, and XENIX are registered trademarks and ActiveMovie, ActiveX, and Visual J++ are trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Java is a trademark of Sun Microsystems, Inc. Other product and company names mentioned herein may be the trademarks of their respective owners.

Acquisitions Editor: Kim Fryer

Project Editors: Maureen Williams Zimmerman, Anne Taussig

Technical Editors: Dail Magee Jr., Gary Nelson, Jean Ross, Jim Fuchs, John Conrow,
Kurt Meyer, Robert Lyon, Roslyn Lutsch

churn rate \churn' rāt\ *n.* The rate of customer subscription turnover. In beeper, cell phone, and online businesses it is common for customers to drop their monthly subscriptions, creating a churn rate as high as 2 or 3 percent per month. High churn rates are costly to companies because attracting new subscribers through advertising and promotion is expensive.

.ci \dot'C-I\ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address is located in the Ivory Coast.

CIDR \C'I-D-R\ *n.* See classless interdomain routing.

CIFS \C'I-F-S\ *n.* See Common Internet File System.

CIM \C'I-M\ *n.* **1.** Acronym for **computer-integrated manufacturing**. The use of computers, communication lines, and specialized software to automate both the managerial functions and the operational activities involved in the manufacturing process. A common database is used in all aspects of the process, from design through assembly, accounting, and resource management. Advanced CIM systems integrate computer-aided design and engineering (CAD/CAE), material requirements planning (MRP), and robotic assembly control to provide "paperless" management of the entire manufacturing process. **2.** Acronym for **computer-input microfilm**. A process in which information stored on microfilm is scanned and the data (both text and graphics) converted into codes that can be used and manipulated by a computer. Computer-input microfilm is similar to processes such as optical character recognition, in which images on paper are scanned and converted to text or graphics. *Compare* COM (definition 4).

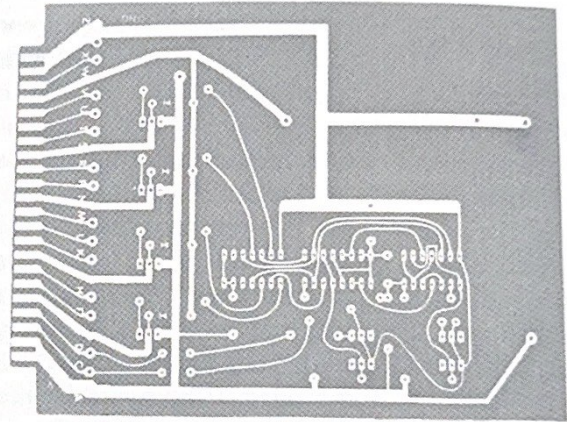
.cincinnati.oh.us \dot-sin-sə-nat`ē-dot-O-H`dot-U-S\ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address is located in Cincinnati, Ohio, United States.

cipher \sī'fər\ *n.* **1.** A code. **2.** An encoded character. **3.** A zero.

circuit \sər'kət\ *n.* **1.** Any path that can carry electrical current. **2.** A combination of electrical components interconnected to perform a particular task. At one level, a computer consists of a single circuit; at another, it consists of hundreds of interconnected circuits.

circuit analyzer \sər'kət an-ə-lī'zər\ *n.* Any device for measuring one or more characteristics of an electrical circuit. Voltage, current, and resistance are the characteristics most commonly measured. Oscilloscopes are circuit analyzers.

circuit board \sər'kət bōrd\ *n.* A flat piece of insulating material, such as epoxy or phenolic resin, on which electrical components are mounted and interconnected to form a circuit. Most modern circuit boards use patterns of copper foil to interconnect the components. The foil layers may be on one or both sides of the board and, in more advanced designs, in several layers within the board. A printed circuit board is one in which the pattern of copper foil is laid down by a printing process such as photolithography. See the illustration. *See also* board, printed circuit board.



Circuit board.

circuit breaker \sər'kət brā'kər\ *n.* A switch that opens and cuts off the flow of current when the current exceeds a certain level. Circuit breakers are placed at critical points in circuits to protect against damage that could result from excessive current flow, which is typically caused by component failure. Circuit breakers are often used in place of fuses because they need only to be reset rather than replaced. *Compare* surge protector.

circuit card \sər'kət kărd\ *n.* See circuit board.

Circuit Data Services \sər'kət dā'tə sər'vi-səs, dat`ə\ *n.* A GTE service that uses circuit switching technology to provide fast data transfer using a laptop computer and cellular telephone. *Acronym:* CDS (C'D-S'). *See also* circuit switching.