



Dictionary of Computing

▼ The most comprehensive computing dictionary ever published

▼ More than 18,000 entries

Limitation of Liability

While the Editor and Publisher of this book have made reasonable efforts to ensure the accuracy and timeliness of the information contained herein, neither the Editor nor the Publisher shall have any liability with respect to loss or damage caused or alleged to be caused by reliance on any information contained herein.

Copyright © 1994 by International Business Machines Corporation. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America. Except as permitted under the United States Copyright Act of 1976, no part of this publication may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a data base or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

5 6 7 8 9 0 DOC/DOC 9 9 8 7

ISBN 0-07-031488-8 (HC)

ISBN 0-07-031489-6 (PBK)

The sponsoring editor for this book was Daniel A. Gonneau and the production supervisor was Thomas G. Kowalczyk.

Printed and bound by R. R. Donnelley & Sons Company.

Tenth Edition (August 1993)

This is a major revision of the *IBM Dictionary of Computing*, SC20-1699-8, which is made obsolete by this edition. Changes are made periodically to the information provided herein.

It is possible that this material may contain reference to, or information about, IBM products (machines and programs), programming, or services that are not announced in your country. Such references or information must not be construed to mean that IBM intends to announce such IBM products, programming, or services in your country. Comments may be addressed to IBM Corporation, Department E37/656, P. O. Box 12195, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.

International Edition

Copyright © 1994 by International Business Machines Corporation. Exclusive rights by McGraw-Hill, Inc. for manufacture and export. This book cannot be re-exported from the country to which it is consigned by McGraw-Hill. The International Edition is not available in North America.

When ordering this title, use ISBN 0-07-113383-6.

memory partitioning In calculators, the subdividing of storage into independent sections. Synonymous with storage partitioning. (T) (A)

memory protection Synonym for storage protection.

menu (1) A list of options displayed to the user by a data processing system, from which the user can select an action to be initiated. (T) (2) In text processing, a list of choices displayed to the user by a text processor from which the user can select an action to be initiated. (T) (3) In SQL, a displayed list of available, logically grouped functions for selection by the operator. (4) In SAA Advanced Common User Access architecture, an extension of the menu bar that displays a list of choices available for a selected choice in the menu bar. After a user selects a choice in the menu bar, the corresponding menu appears. Additional pop-up windows can appear from menu choices. (5) See pop-up menu, pull-down menu, submenu, system menu. (6) See also data entry panel.

Note: In CUA architecture, this is a programmer term. The end user term is action bar pull-down.

menu area In a split SDF/CICS screen, the part of the screen that contains the menu. See also user area.

menu bar (1) In the AIX operating system, a rectangular area at the top of the client area of a window that contains the titles of the standard pull-down menus for that application. See also scroll bar. (2) In SAA Advanced Common User Access architecture, the area near the top of a window, below the title bar and above the rest of the window, that contains choices that provide access to other menus.

menu-driven Concerning application software allowing user to select operations from one or more menus without entering keyboard commands.

menu parameter A parameter for an SDF/CICS screen that can be entered in a parameter field on the screen. Usually, it is given a default value from a profile.

menu security (1) A function of the operating system that controls which system resources are available to users. Menu security restricts a user to a single menu or a sequence of menus that are defined in the user profile. (2) In System/36, a System Support Program Product option that restricts an operator to selecting items from a particular menu.

menu system In the AIX operating system, an interactive interface that lists related software options in a

manner that expedites review and selection by the user.

mercury storage A storage device that utilizes the acoustic properties of mercury to store data. (A)

mercury-wetted relay A device that uses mercury as the relay contact closure substance.

merge (1) To combine the items of two or more sets that are each in the same given order into one set in that order. (I) (A) (2) In word processing, the automatic recording, printing, or sending onto one element of recording medium of selected recorded text, in correct order, from at least two other elements of recording media. (T) (3) In the AS/400 system, to combine overrides for a file from the first call level up to and including a greater call level, producing the override to be applied when the file is used. (4) See balanced merge. (5) See also collate.

MERGE disk The virtual disk in the VM operating system that contains program temporary fixes (PTFs) after the VMFMERGE EXEC is invoked. See BASE disk, DELTA disk, RUN disk, ZAP disk.

merge file (1) A temporary file that contains all records to be combined. (2) In COBOL, a collection of records to be merged by a MERGE statement. The merge file is created and can be used only by the merge function.

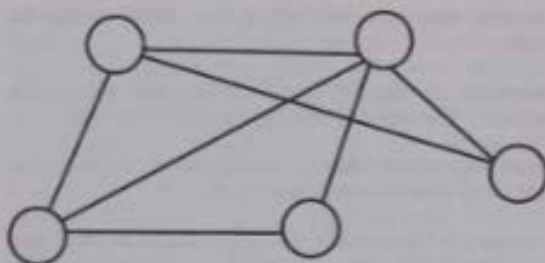
merge order The number of strings that can be merged into one string by a merge program during a pass. (A)

merge pass In sorting, the processing of records to reduce the number of sequences by a factor equal to the specified merge order.

merge sort (1) A sort program in which the items in a set are divided into subsets, the items in each subset are sorted, and the resulting sorted subsets are merged. (A) (2) See balanced merge sort, unbalanced merge sort.

merging (1) In the 3800 Printing Subsystem, the combining of print lines to highlight or subordinate data within a print line, or the printing of different columns of data across a page in different character styles or sizes. (2) See order-by-merging, sequence-by-merging.

mesh network A network in which there are at least two nodes with two or more paths between them. (T) See Figure 96.



Mesh Network

Figure 96. Mesh Network

message (1) In information theory, an ordered series of characters intended to convey information. (1) (A) (2) An assembly of characters and sometimes control codes that is transferred as an entity from an originator to one or more recipients. A message consists of two parts: envelope and content. (T) (3) A communication sent from a person or program to another person or program. (4) A unit of data sent over a telecommunication line. (5) For BSC devices, the data unit from the beginning of a transmission to the first ETX character, or between two ETX characters. For start/stop, message and transmission have the same meaning. (6) One or more message segments transmitted among terminals, application programs, and systems. (7) In SAA Common User Access architecture, information not requested by a user but displayed by an application in response to an unexpected event, or when something undesirable could occur. (8) In COBOL, data associated with an end of message indicator or an end of group indicator. (9) In SNA, deprecated term for message unit. (10) In VTAM, the amount of function management data (FMD) transferred to VTAM by the application program with one SEND request.

message authentication code (1) In computer security, a value, part of or accompanying a message, used to determine that the contents, origin, author, or other attributes of all or part of the message are as they appear to be. See also authentication. (2) In cryptography: (a) a number or value derived by processing data with an authentication algorithm, (b) the cryptographic result of block cipher operations on text or data using a cipher block chain (CBC) mode of operation, (c) a digital signature code.

message box In SAA Advanced Common User Access architecture, a type of window that shows messages to users. See also dialog box, primary window, secondary window.

message buffering A method of spooling text messages to disk for output with device independence.

message circuit A long-distance telephone circuit used in furnishing regular long-distance or toll service to the general public. The term is used to differentiate these circuits from circuits used for private line service.

message class In IMS/VS, the class the user assigns to a transaction code that determines the message region within which an application program is to process the transaction. See also region class.

message control program In ACF/TCAM, any implementation of TCAM, including initialization and termination routines, resource management routines, message handling routines, and service facilities.

message control system (MCS) In COBOL, a communication control system that supports the processing of messages.

message count In COBOL, the count of the number of complete messages that exist in the designated queue of messages.

message data set A data set on disk storage that contains queues of messages awaiting transmission to particular terminal operators or to the host system.

message delete option In IMS/VS, an option that may be defined to prevent nonessential messages from being sent to a specific terminal. This option helps protect printers that use special forms or depend on forms alignment.

message description The information describing a particular message. A message description is stored in a message field.

message-driven program In IMS/VS, a program designed to operate with expedited message handling (EMH) transactions in a Fast Path region.

message editing In IMS/VS, the process by which messages are formatted for presentation to an application program or terminal. Additional message editing routines may be written by the user. See also basic edit, message format service.

message error record Synonym for error record.

message field (MFLD) (1) An area on the screen of a display device in which messages are displayed. (2) In the IMS/VS message format service, the smallest area in a message input or output descriptor whose content and structure are defined by the user. (3) In DPCX, the third of four areas on the bottom line of a display screen during field-by-field processing. This field informs the operator that a message is waiting.