



Dictionary of Computer and Internet Terms

Tenth Edition



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- More than 3,200 key terms defined and explained, many with helpful illustrations and tables
 - Practical guidance for the business software users, including computer security, law, and ethics
 - Computer science principles and programming examples in the most widely used computer languages
 - Includes new media, digital photography and audio, Internet culture and humor
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All inquiries should be addressed to:

Barron's Educational Series, Inc.

250 Wireless Boulevard

Hauppauge, NY 11788

www.barronseduc.com

ISBN-13: 978-0-7641-4105-8

ISBN-10: 0-7641-4105-8

Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 2008044365

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Downing, Douglas.

Dictionary of computer and Internet terms / Douglas A. Downing,
Michael A. Covington, Melody Mauldin Covington. — 10th ed.
p. cm.

ISBN 978-0-7641-4105-8

1. Computers—Dictionaries. 2. Internet—Dictionaries. I. Covington,
Michael A., 1957— II. Covington, Melody Mauldin. III. Title.

QA76.15.D667 2009

004.03—dc22

2008044365

PRINTED IN CHINA

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

In 1998, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) proposed the “binary” metric prefixes *kibi-*, *mebi-*, *gibi-*, and *tebi-* to be used in place of *kilo-*, *mega-*, *giga-*, and *tera-* where powers of 1024 rather than powers of 1000 are meant.

In Greek, *kilo-*, *mega-*, *giga-*, and *tera-* mean, respectively, “thousand,” “big,” “giant,” and “monster.”

mezzanine bus a special bus that connects the CPU to some of the faster peripherals, such as memory modules, and is separate from the slower bus used for slower peripherals. *See* BUS.

MFP (Multi Function Printer) a printer that also performs other functions such as faxing and scanning.

MHz *see* MEGAHERTZ.

MIB (describing items for sale) **mint in box** (i.e., new and never unpacked). *See also* EBAY; NRFB.

micro- metric prefix meaning $\div 1,000,000$ (one millionth). For example, a microsecond is one millionth of a second (0.000001 second), and a microfarad is one millionth of a farad. *Micro-* is derived from the Greek word for “small.” *See* METRIC PREFIXES.

microblogging publishing short descriptions of your current activity to a blog or web site designed for microblogging, such as Twitter, often from a phone or other mobile device. Status and mood updates on web sites such as Facebook and LiveJournal can be considered a form of microblogging.

microbrowser a web browser using less memory than a conventional browser so it can be used on a small device such as a palmtop.

microcomputer a computer whose CPU consists of a single integrated circuit known as a microprocessor. Commonly, a microcomputer is used by only one person at a time. All home computers are microcomputers. *See* INTEGRATED CIRCUIT; MICROPROCESSOR.

microcontroller a microprocessor designed specifically for controlling equipment. Microcontrollers usually contain some memory and input-output circuitry on the same chip with the microprocessor. This enables the microcontroller to work as a self-contained unit. Microcontrollers are used in consumer products such as telephones, automobiles, and microwave ovens, as well as in industrial equipment. *See also* EMBEDDED SYSTEM.

Microdrive *see* COMPACTFLASH.

microprocessor an integrated circuit containing the entire CPU of a computer, all on one silicon chip, so that only the memory and input-output devices need to be added. The first popular microprocessor, the Intel 8080, came out in 1973 and cost approximately \$400.

Microprocessors are commonly described as 16-bit, 32-bit, or the like. The number can refer either to the number of bits in each internal