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Microsoft

Computer Dictionary

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MFC *n.* See Microsoft Foundation Classes.

MFLOPS *n.* Acronym for **m**illion **f**loating-point **o**perations **p**er second. A measure of computing speed. *Also called:* megaflops.

MFM encoding *n.* See modified frequency modulation encoding.

MFP *n.* See multifunction peripheral.

MFS *n.* See Macintosh File System.

mget *n.* Short for **m**ultiple **g**et. A command in most FTP clients with which a user can request the transfer of several files at once. *See also* FTP¹ (definition 1).

MHTML *n.* Acronym for **M**ultipurpose Internet Mail **E**xtension **H**ypertext **M**arkup **L**anguage, or MIME HTML. A standard method for sending an HTML document encapsulated with inline graphics, applets, linked documents, and other items referred to in the HTML document. *See also* HTML, MIME.

MHz *n.* See megahertz.

MI *n.* See multiple inheritance.

MIB *n.* See Management Information Base.

mickey *n.* A unit of measure for mouse movement. One mickey is typically equal to 1/200th of an inch.

MICR *n.* See magnetic-ink character recognition.

micro-prefix **1.** In nonexact measurements, small or compact, as in *microprocessor* or *microcomputer*. **2.** Metric prefix meaning 10⁻⁶ (one millionth).

microbrowser *n.* An application for mobile phones that allows users to access the Internet to send and receive e-mail and browse the Web. Microbrowsers don't have the full functionality of a Web browser on a PC. For instance, microbrowsers are capable of loading only stripped-down text versions of Web pages. Most microbrowser products are built to utilize the Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) standard. *See also* Wireless Application Protocol.

microcapsule *n.* In an electronic paper display, millions of tiny beads filled with dark dye and light pigment that, in response to an electrical charge, change color to create images and text. *See also* electronic paper.

Micro Channel Architecture *n.* The design of the bus in IBM PS/2 computers (except Models 25 and 30). The Micro Channel is electrically and physically incompatible with the IBM PC/AT bus. Unlike the PC/AT bus, the Micro Channel functions as either a 16-bit or a 32-bit bus.

The Micro Channel also can be driven independently by multiple bus master processors.

microchip *n.* See integrated circuit.

microcircuit *n.* A miniaturized electronic circuit etched on a semiconductor chip. A microcircuit is made up of interconnected transistors, resistors, and other components. However, it is fabricated as a unit, rather than as a set of vacuum tubes, discrete transistors, or other elements that have to be wired together. *See also* integrated circuit.

microcode *n.* Very low-level code that defines how a processor operates. Microcode is even lower in level than machine code; it specifies what the processor does when it executes a machine-code instruction. *See also* machine code, microprogramming.

microcomputer *n.* A computer built around a single-chip microprocessor. Less powerful than minicomputers and mainframes, microcomputers have nevertheless evolved into very powerful machines capable of complex tasks. Technology has progressed so quickly that state-of-the-art microcomputers—essentially, in today's terms, a desktop PC—are as powerful as mainframe computers of only a few years ago, at a fraction of the cost. *See also* computer.

microcontent *n.* Short pieces of text on a Web page that help provide an overview of the page's contents. Microcontent introduces, summarizes, or enhances the macrocontent of a Web page, and includes headings, page titles, ALT text, links, and subheads. *Compare* macrocontent.

microcontroller *n.* A special-purpose, single-chip computer designed and built to handle a particular, narrowly defined task. In addition to the central processing unit (CPU), a microcontroller usually contains its own memory, input/output channels (ports), and timers. When part of a larger piece of equipment, such as a car or a home appliance, a microcontroller is an embedded system. *See also* embedded system.

microdisplay *n.* A tiny monitor screen that provides a full-size view when magnified. Microdisplays work by magnifying a screen as small as one-tenth of an inch to fill the user's field of vision. Microdisplays may be used with computers, DVD players, or handheld devices, in headsets and viewfinders, or anywhere a full-size monitor is impractical or undesirable.

Microdrive *n.* A 1-inch disk drive, introduced in 1998 by IBM. The Microdrive is designed for use in handheld

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