

RECEIVED LIBRARY

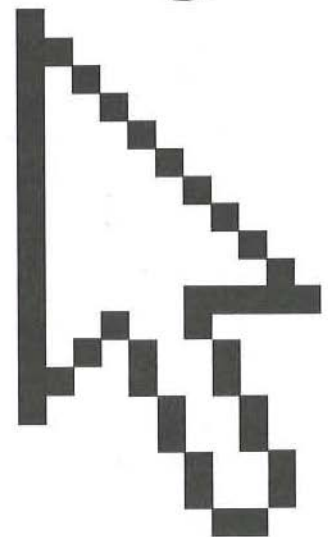
DEC 02

**KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP
SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE**

Microsoft®

Computer Dictionary

Fifth Edition



PUBLISHED BY

Microsoft Press

A Division of Microsoft Corporation

One Microsoft Way

Redmond, Washington 98052-6399

Copyright © 2002 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

Microsoft Computer Dictionary.--5th ed.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-7356-1495-4

1. Computers--Dictionaries. 2. Microcomputers--Dictionaries.

AQ76.5. M52267 2002

004'.03--dc21

200219714

Printed and bound in the United States of America.

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 QWT 7 6 5 4 3 2

Distributed in Canada by H.B. Fenn and Company Ltd.

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 www.microsoft.com/mspress. Send comments to mspinput@microsoft.com.

Active Desktop, Active Directory, ActiveMovie, ActiveStore, ActiveSync, ActiveX, Authenticode, BackOffice, BizTalk, ClearType, Direct3D, DirectAnimation, DirectDraw, DirectInput, DirectMusic, DirectPlay, DirectShow, DirectSound, DirectX, Entourage, FoxPro, FrontPage, Hotmail, IntelliEye, IntelliMouse, IntelliSense, JScript, MapPoint, Microsoft Press, Mobile Explorer, MS-DOS, MSN, Music Central, NetMeeting, Outlook, PhotoDraw, PowerPoint, SharePoint, UltimateTV, Visio, Visual Basic, Visual C++, Visual FoxPro, Visual InterDev, Visual J++, Visual SourceSafe, Visual Studio, Win32, Win32s, Windows, Windows Media, Windows NT, Xbox are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries. Other product and company names mentioned herein may be the trademarks of their respective owners.

The example companies, organizations, products, domain names, e-mail addresses, logos, people, places, and events depicted herein are fictitious. No association with any real company, organization, product, domain name, e-mail address, logo, person, place, or event is intended or should be inferred.

Acquisitions Editor: Alex Blanton

Project Editor: Sandra Haynes

Body Part No. X08-41929

M

m prefix *See* milli-.

M prefix *See* mega-.

Mac- prefix A prefix used to indicate a software product's applicability for the Macintosh computer, as in MacDraw.

Mac n. *See* Macintosh.

MAC n. Acronym for **Media Access Control**. In the IEEE 802.x specifications, the lower of two sublayers that make up the ISO/OSI data link layer. The MAC manages access to the physical network, delimits frames, and handles error control. *See also* IEEE 802.x, LLC.

MacBinary n. A file transfer protocol used to preserve coding for Macintosh-produced files stored in non-Macintosh computers, containing the file's resource fork, data fork, and Finder information block. *See also* data fork, Finder, resource fork.

Mach n. A variant of the UNIX operating system developed at Carnegie-Mellon University. Mach was designed to support advanced features such as multitasking, multiprocessing, and distributed systems. *See also* UNIX.

Mach 3.0 n. The microkernel forming the lowest level of the Mac OS X operating system. Mach 3.0 provides basic services such as memory management, thread-handling, virtual memory, and address space management to the operating system kernel.

mach 3 kernel n. *See* Mach 3.0.

machine address n. *See* absolute address.

machine code n. The ultimate result of the compilation of assembly language or any high-level language such as C or Pascal: sequences of 1s and 0s that are loaded and executed by a microprocessor. Machine code is the only language computers understand; all other programming languages represent ways of structuring human language so that humans can get computers to perform specific tasks. *Also called:* machine language. *See also* compiler (definition 2).

machine cycle n. 1. The time required for the fastest operation (usually a NOP, or no-op, which does nothing) a

microprocessor can perform. **2.** The steps taken for each machine instruction. These steps are, typically, fetch the instruction, decode it, execute it, and perform any necessary storing.

machine-dependent adj. Of, pertaining to, or being a program or a piece of hardware that is linked to a particular type of computer because it makes use of specific or unique features of the equipment and that cannot easily be used with another computer, if at all. *Compare* machine-independent.

machine error n. A hardware error. Probably the most common type of machine error involves media, such as an error in reading a hard disk.

machine identification n. A code by which an executing program can determine the identity and characteristics of the computer and other devices with which it is operating.

machine-independent adj. Of, pertaining to, or being a program or piece of hardware that can be used on more than one type of computer with little or no modification. *Compare* machine-dependent.

machine instruction n. An instruction (action statement) in machine code that can be directly executed by a processor or microprocessor. *See also* instruction, statement.

machine language n. *See* machine code.

machine-readable adj. 1. Presented in a form that a computer can interpret and use as input. For example, bar codes that can be scanned and used directly as computer input contain machine-readable information. **2.** Coded in the binary form used by computers and stored on a suitable medium such as magnetic tape. *See also* optical character recognition.

machine translation n. The use of computer software to translate large amounts of text from one natural language into another. Machine translation is usually used by corporations, publishers, and government agencies that need large amounts of documentation, news stories, or business data translated quickly. *See also* natural-language processing.

surfaces. Because the markings permit an electric current to flow, a set of conductive brushes that ride on the surface of the conductive wheels can detect these conductive markings. The electronics in the mouse translate these electrical movement signals into mouse-movement information that can be used by the computer. *See also* mouse, trackball. *Compare* optical mouse, optomechanical mouse.

mechatronics *n.* A term derived from the words *mechanical* and *electronics* to describe a field of engineering that applies mechanical, electrical, and electronic engineering concepts to product design and manufacture. A relatively new discipline, mechatronics is applicable to products in fields as diverse as medicine, robotics, manufacturing, and consumer electronics.

media *n.* The physical material, such as paper, disk, and tape, used for storing computer-based information. *Media* is plural; *medium* is singular.

Media Access Control *n.* *See* MAC.

Media Control Interface *n.* *See* MCI (definition 1).

media conversion *n.* Transferring data from one storage medium to another—for example, from disk to tape.

media eraser *n.* A device that removes or obliterates data from a storage medium on a wholesale basis, usually by writing meaningless data (such as zeros) over it. *See also* bulk eraser.

media filter *n.* **1.** A device used with local area networks (LANs) as an adapter between two different types of media. For example, an RJ-45 connector might be used between coaxial cable and unshielded twisted pair (UTP) cables. Media filters are similar in function to transceivers. As with many components to LANs, manufacturers often choose different names for similar products, so a LAN expert is needed to decide which media filters are required for a particular LAN. *See also* coaxial cable, connector (definition 1), LAN, transceiver, UTP. **2.** A device added to data networks to filter out electronic noise from the environment. For example, a media filter might be added to an Ethernet network based on coaxial cabling to prevent data loss from interference by nearby electronic equipment. *See also* coaxial cable, Ethernet (definition 1).

media stream *n.* A continuous sequence of audio or audio-and-video through a network.

medium¹ *adj.* Of or relating to the middle part of a range of possible values.

medium² *n.* A substance in which signals can be transmitted, such as a wire or fiber-optic cable. *See* media.

medium model *n.* A memory model of the Intel 80x86 processor family. The medium model allows only 64 kilobytes for data but generally up to 1 megabyte for code. *See also* memory model.

medium-scale integration *n.* A concentration of circuit elements in the hundreds on a single chip. *Acronym:* MSI. *See also* integrated circuit.

meg *n.* *See* megabyte.

mega- *prefix* One million (10^6). In computing, which is based on the binary (base-2) numbering system, *mega-* has a literal value of 1,048,576, which is the power of 2 (2^{20}) closest to one million. *Abbreviation:* M.

megabit *n.* Usually 1,048,576 bits (2^{20}); sometimes interpreted as 1 million bits. *Abbreviation:* Mb, Mbit.

megabyte *n.* Usually 1,048,576 bytes (2^{20}); sometimes interpreted as 1 million bytes. *Abbreviation:* MB.

megacycle *n.* A term for 1 million cycles—usually used to mean 1 million cycles per second. *Abbreviation:* MC. *See also* megahertz.

megaflops *n.* *See* MFLOPS.

megahertz *n.* A measure of frequency equivalent to 1 million cycles per second. *Abbreviation:* MHz.

megapel display *n.* *See* megapixel display.

megapixel *adj.* A reference to image resolution of one million pixels or more. The term is used in reference to devices such as digital cameras, scanners, and computer monitors and display adapters.

megapixel display *n.* A video display capable of displaying at least 1 million pixels. For example, a video display with a screen size of 1024 horizontal pixels and 1024 vertical pixels is a megapixel display. *Also called:* megapel display.

Melissa *n.* A macro virus that affects Word files in Microsoft Office 97 and Office 2000 and first appeared in the spring of 1999. Melissa is delivered as an attachment to an e-mail with the subject line “An Important Message From <user name>,” a message beginning “Here is that document you asked for...,” or both. When the attachment is opened, the virus propagates (if Microsoft Outlook is installed) by sending itself to the first 50 e-mail addresses in the user’s Outlook address book. On the infected machine,