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by Alan Freedman**

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retrieve To call up data that has been stored in a computer system. When a user queries a database, the data is retrieved into the computer first and then transmitted to the screen.

return key Also called the *enter key*, the keyboard key used to signal the end of a line of data or the end of a command. In word processing, return is pressed at the end of a paragraph, and a return code is inserted into the text at that point. See *CR*.

reusability The ability to use all or the greater part of the same programming code or system design in another application.

reverse engineer To isolate the components of a completed system. When a chip is reverse engineered, all the individual circuits that make up the chip are identified. Source code can be reverse engineered into design models or specifications. Machine language can be reversed into assembly language (see *disassembler*).

reverse polish notation A mathematical expression in which the numbers precede the operation. For example, $2 + 2$ would be expressed as $2\ 2\ +$, and $10 - 3 * 4$ would be $10\ 3\ 4\ * -$.

reverse video A display mode used to highlight characters on screen. For example, if the normal display mode is black on white, reverse video would be white on black.

revision level See *version number*.

REXX (REstructured EXtended eXecutor) An IBM mainframe structured programming language that runs under VM/CMS and MVS/TSO. It can be used as a general-purpose macro language that sends commands to application programs and to the operating systems. REXX is also included in OS/2 Version 2.0.

The following REXX example converts Fahrenheit to Celsius:

```
Say "Enter Fahrenheit "
Pull FAHR
Say "Celsius is " (FAHR - 32) * (5 / 9)
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RF (Radio Frequency) The range of electromagnetic frequencies above the audio range and below visible light. All broadcast transmission, from AM radio to satellites, falls into this range, which is between 30KHz and 300GHz.

RF/ID (Radio Frequency/IDentification) An identification system that uses tags that transmit a wireless message. The tag gets its power from a hand-held gun/reading unit.

RF modulation The transmission of a signal through a carrier frequency. In order to connect to a TV's antenna input, some home computers and all VCRs provide RF modulation of a TV channel, usually Channel 3 or 4. See *FCC class*.

RF shielding A material that prohibits electromagnetic radiation from penetrating it. Personal computers and electronic devices used in the home must meet U.S. government standards for electromagnetic interference.

RFI (Radio Frequency Interference) High-frequency electromagnetic waves that emanate from electronic devices such as chips.

RFP (Request For Proposal) A document that invites a vendor to submit a bid for hardware, software and/or services. It may provide a general or very detailed specification of the system.

RFS (Remote File System) A distributed file system for UNIX computers introduced by AT&T in 1986 with UNIX System V Release 3.0. It is similar to Sun's NFS, but only for UNIX systems.