

A Dictionary of  
**Computing**

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called *smileys*, regardless of mood. E-mail messages are largely restricted to the \*ASCII character set, which precludes the use of text attributes such as bold, italic, or underline but does have a full set of punctuation marks. These are typically used to make faces sideways on the line (see table).

|     |                 |
|-----|-----------------|
| :~) | smiling         |
| :-( | sad or frowning |
| :-( | sour            |
| !~) | winking         |
| :-D | laughing        |

**Emoticon** Examples of some emoticons

**empty list (null list)** See **LIST**.

**empty medium** A \*data medium that does not contain variable data but may have a frame of reference or preformatting. Compare **VIRGIN MEDIUM**.

**empty set (null set, void set)** A \*set with no elements. It is usually denoted by  $\phi$ .

**empty string (null string)** A string whose \*length is zero. It is commonly denoted by  $\epsilon$  or  $\Lambda$ . The possibility of strings being empty is a notorious source of bugs in programs.

**EMS memory** See **EXPANDED MEMORY**.

**emulation** The exact execution on a given computer of a program written for a different computer, accepting the identical data and producing the identical results. Emulation is thus the imitation of all or part of one computer system by another system. It may be achieved by software, microprogram, or hardware. A particular emulation could be used as a replacement for all or part of the system being emulated, and furthermore could be an improved version. For example, a new computer may emulate an obsolete one so that programs written for the old one will run without modification. See also **SIMULATION**, **COMPATIBILITY**.

**emulator** Any system, especially a program or microprogram, that permits the process of \*emulation to be carried out.

**enable** To selectively activate a device or

function. When a number of devices are connected in parallel, selective operation can be achieved by an enabling action - such as a signal on a discrete line or a pattern of signals on the common line or lines - that will set only the desired device into a state in which it can receive further signals. Compare **INHIBIT**.

**enable pulse** A pulse that must be present to allow other signals to be effective in certain electronic logic circuits. Although the term is now used to describe an electronic logic function it was originally used in an analogous way in connection with \*core stores, where the coincidence of two pulses was required to change the state of a core: one of the pulses was the write pulse and could be common to a number of cores; an enable pulse was simultaneously applied to a particular core and thus enabled the write pulse to change the state of that core.

**encapsulated PostScript (EPS)** A format for importing and exporting \*PostScript files, usually used for illustrations. An EPS file is a single-page PostScript file, similar to any PostScript file but with certain extra conditions. In particular, an EPS file has to contain a bounding box comment describing the size of the illustration. The file can contain graphics or text or a combination of the two and may contain embedded fonts. Files of this type can be inserted into a page on a desktop publishing application, and the graphic will be embedded in an output PostScript file of the page. In general, a basic EPS file appears as a gray rectangle in the screen view of the page. For positioning purposes, it is convenient to have an EPS file with an embedded bitmap preview, giving a low-resolution representation of the illustration. There are various ways of doing this. On Macintosh machines, EPSF files are commonly used. These have a PICT preview in the resource fork of the file. On PCs it is usual to have an embedded low-resolution TIF file as a preview. EPSI is an Adobe specification for a device-independent ASCII bitmap preview.

**encapsulation 1.** See **OBJECT, INFORMATION HIDING**.

**2.** See **INTERNETWORKING**.

**encoder 1.** The means by which an en-