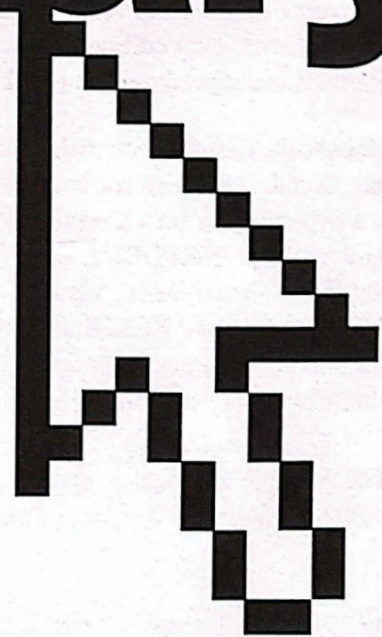


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spambot *n.* A program or device that automatically posts large amounts of repetitive or otherwise inappropriate material to newsgroups on the Internet. *See also* bot (definition 3), robopost, spam¹.

span *n.* *See* range.

SPARC \spärk\ *n.* Acronym for Scalable Processor Architecture. A RISC (reduced instruction set computing) microprocessor specification from Sun Microsystems, Inc. *See also* RISC.

sparse array *n.* An array (arrangement of items) in which many of the entries are identical, commonly zero. It is not possible to define precisely when an array is sparse, but it is clear that at some point, usually when about one third of the array consists of identical entries, it becomes worthwhile to redefine the array. *See also* array.

spatial data management *n.* The representation of data as a collection of objects in space, particularly as icons on a screen, in order to make the data easier to comprehend and manipulate.

spatial digitizer *n.* A three-dimensional scanner most often used in medical and geographical work. *Compare* optical scanner.

spec \spek\ *n.* *See* specification.

special character *n.* Any character that is not alphabetic, numeric, or the space character (for example, a punctuation character). *See also* reserved character, wildcard character.

special interest group *n.* *See* SIG.

special-purpose language *n.* A programming language whose syntax and semantics are best suited for a given field or approach. *See also* Prolog.

specification *n.* 1. A detailed description of something. 2. In relation to computer hardware, an item of information about the computer's components, capabilities, and features. 3. In relation to software, a description of the operating environment and proposed features of a new program. 4. In information processing, a description of the data records, programs, and procedures involved in a particular task.

spectral color *n.* In video, the hue represented by a single wavelength in the visible spectrum. *See also* color model.

spectral response *n.* In relation to sensing devices, the relationship between the device's sensitivity and the frequency of the detected energy.

spectrum *n.* The range of frequencies of a particular type of radiation. *See also* electromagnetic spectrum.

Speech API *n.* *See* SAPI.

Speech Application Programming Interface *n.* *See* SAPI.

speech recognition *n.* *See* voice recognition.

Speech Recognition API *n.* *See* SRAPI.

Speech Recognition Application Programming Interface *n.* *See* SRAPI.

speech synthesis *n.* The ability of a computer to produce "spoken" words. Speech synthesis is produced either by splicing together prerecorded words or by programming the computer to produce the sounds that make up spoken words. *See also* artificial intelligence, neural network.

spelling checker *n.* An application that employs a disk-based dictionary to check for misspellings in a document. *Also called* spell checker.

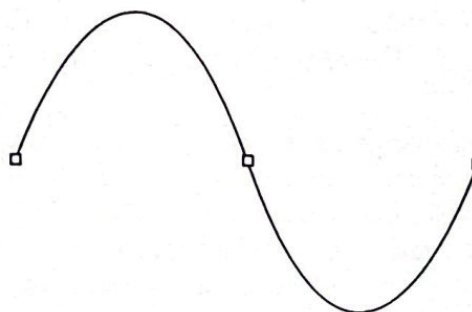
spew *vb.* On the Internet, to post an excessive number of e-mail messages or newsgroup articles.

spider *n.* An automated program that searches the Internet for new Web documents and indexes their addresses and content-related information in a database, which can be examined for matches by a search engine. Spiders are generally considered to be a type of bot, or Internet robot. *Also called* crawler. *See also* bot (definition 3), search engine (definition 2).

spike *n.* A transient electrical signal of very short duration and usually high amplitude. *Compare* surge.

spindle *n.* An axle for mounting a disk or reel of magnetic tape.

spline *n.* In computer graphics, a curve calculated by a mathematical function that connects separate points with a high degree of smoothness. *See the illustration. See also* Bézier curve.



Spline.

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