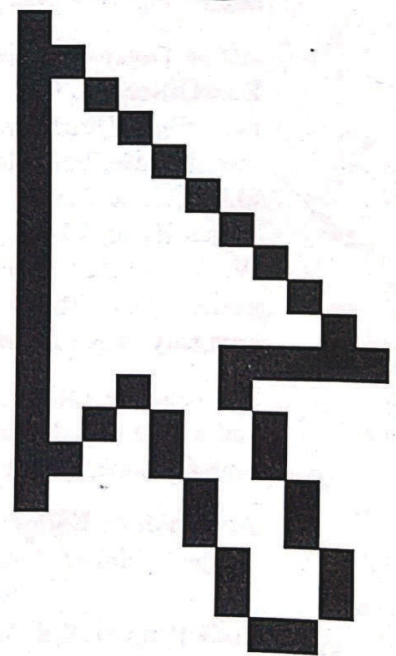


Microsoft®

Computer Dictionary

Fifth Edition



PUBLISHED BY
Microsoft Press
A Division of Microsoft Corporation
One Microsoft Way
Redmond, Washington 98052-6399

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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.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 QWT 7 6 5 4 3 2

Distributed in Canada by Penguin Books Canada Limited.

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

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Body Part No. X08-41929

vertical scan rate *n.* See vertical bandwidth.

vertical scrolling *n.* Movement up or down in a displayed document. See also scroll bar.

vertical sync *n.* See vertical bandwidth.

vertical sync signal *n.* The part of a video signal to a raster display that denotes the end of the last scan line at the bottom of the display.

very-high-level language *n.* See 4GL.

very-high-rate digital subscriber line *n.* See VDSL.

very-high-speed integrated circuit *n.* An integrated circuit that performs operations, usually logic operations, at a very high speed. Acronym: VHSIC.

Very Large Database *n.* A database system containing volumes of data hundreds of gigabytes, or even terabytes, in size. A Very Large Database must often support thousands of users and tables with billions of rows of data, must often be able to operate across several different platforms and operating systems, and must often be able to work with many different software applications. Acronym: VLDB. See also data warehouse.

Very Large Memory *n.* A memory system designed to handle the huge data blocks associated with a Very Large Database. Very Large Memory uses 64-bit RISC technology to allow the use of addressable main memory and file sizes larger than 2 gigabytes (GB) and to cache as much as 14 GB of memory. Acronym: VLM. See also RISC, Very Large Database.

very-large-scale integration *n.* A reference to the density with which transistors and other elements are packed in an integrated circuit and to the thinness of the connections between them. Very-large-scale integration is generally considered to encompass the range from 5000 to 50,000 components. Acronym: VLSI. See also integrated circuit. Compare large-scale integration, medium-scale integration, small-scale integration, super-large-scale integration, ultra-large-scale integration.

Very Long Instruction Word *n.* See VLIW.

very-low-frequency electromagnetic radiation *n.* See VLF radiation.

VESA¹ *adj.* Having VL bus expansion slots. Also called: VLB. See also expansion slot, VL bus. Compare VESA/EISA, VESA/ISA.

VESA² *n.* Acronym for Video Electronics Standards Association. An organization of hardware manufacturers

and vendors dedicated to drafting and improving standards for video and multimedia devices. Standards developed by VESA include the Display Data Channel (DDC), Display Power Management Signaling (DPMS), and VESA local bus (VL bus). See also DDC, DPMS, VL bus.

VESA DDC *n.* See DDC.

VESA Display Data Channel *n.* See DDC.

VESA Display Power Management Signaling *n.* See DPMS.

VESA/EISA *adj.* Having both EISA and VL bus expansion slots. See also EISA, expansion slot, VESA², VL bus. Compare VESA¹, VESA/ISA.

VESA/ISA *adj.* Having both ISA and VL bus expansion slots. See also expansion slot, ISA, VESA², VL bus. Compare VESA¹, VESA/EISA.

VESA local bus *n.* See VL bus.

vesicular film *n.* A coating for optical discs that facilitates erasing and rewriting. The surface is marked by small bumps, which can be flattened and thereby erased, rather than by the pits used in standard CD-ROM discs.

V.everything *n.* A marketing term used by some modem manufacturers to describe modems that comply with both the ITU-T (formerly CCITT) V.34 standard and the various proprietary protocols that were used before the standard was adopted, such as V.Fast Class. A V.everything modem should be compatible with any other modem that operates at the same speed. See also V.Fast Class, V series.

V.Fast Class *n.* A de facto modulation standard for modems implemented by Rockwell International prior to approval of the V.34 protocol, which is the standard. Although both V.Fast Class and V.34 are capable of 28.8-Kbps transmission, V.Fast Class modems cannot communicate with V.34 modems without an upgrade. Acronym: V.FC. See also V series.

VFAT *n.* Acronym for Virtual File Allocation Table. The file system driver software used under the Windows 9x Installable File System Manager (IFS) for accessing disks. VFAT is compatible with MS-DOS disks but runs more efficiently. VFAT uses 32-bit code, runs in protected mode, uses VCACHE for disk caching, and supports long filenames. See also Installable File System Manager, long filenames, protected mode, VCACHE, Windows. Compare file allocation table.

V.FC *n.* See V.Fast Class.

no application or transport semantics, which makes it highly modular and extensible.

SOC *n.* Acronym for system on a chip. A chip integrating computer, microprocessors, and all necessary support components in a single unit. SOC technology is used in firewalls, gateways, specialized servers, and interactive devices like Web pads and vending machines.

social engineering *n.* The practice of penetrating system security by tricking individuals into divulging passwords and information about network vulnerabilities. Often done by calling the individual on phone and pretending to be another employee of company with a computer-related question.

Society for Information Management *n.* A professional society based in Chicago for information systems executives, formerly the Society for Management Information Systems. *Acronym:* SIM.

Society for Management Information Systems *n.* *See* Society for Information Management.

socket *n.* **1.** An identifier for a particular service on a particular node on a network. The socket consists of a node address and a port number, which identifies the service. For example, port 80 on an Internet node indicates a Web server. *See also* port number, sockets API. **2.** The receptacle part of a connector, which receives a plug. *See also* female connector. **3.** A receptacle on a PC motherboard into which a microprocessor is plugged. A socket-mounted microprocessor, such as the Pentium, connects to the motherboard through numerous pins on the underside. Newer Intel microprocessors, such as the Pentium II and later, plug into the motherboard through an edge connector along the side of the chip. *See also* socket 4, socket 5, socket 7, socket 8. *Compare* Slot 1, Slot 2.

socket 4 *n.* A 5-volt mounting socket on a PC motherboard designed to hold a Pentium microprocessor operating at 60 MHz or 66 MHz. Socket 4 includes openings for 273 pins. *See also* Pentium, socket (definition 3). *Compare* Slot 1, Slot 2, socket 5, socket 7, socket 8.

socket 5 *n.* A 3.3-volt mounting socket on a PC motherboard designed to hold a Pentium microprocessor operating at the following speeds: 75, 90, 100, 120, 133, 150, 166, 180, and 200 MHz. Socket 5 includes openings for 320 pins. It has been superseded by socket 7, socket 8, slot 1, and slot 2. *See also* Pentium, socket (definition 3). *Compare* Slot 1, Slot 2, socket 4, socket 7, socket 8.

socket 7 *n.* A mounting socket on a PC motherboard designed to hold a microprocessor operating at the following speeds: 150, 166, 180, 200, 210, and 233 MHz. Socket 7 includes openings for 321 pins and operates at two voltages, 2.5 volts at the core and 3.3 volts input/output. It is used with the Pentium MMX chip and competitive microprocessor chips from other manufacturers, such as AMD and Cyrix. *See also* MMX, Pentium, socket (definition 3). *Compare* Slot 1, Slot 2, socket 4, socket 5, socket 8.

socket 8 *n.* A 2.5-volt mounting socket on a PC motherboard designed to hold a Pentium Pro microprocessor. Socket 8 has openings for 387 pins. *See also* Pentium, socket (definition 3). *Compare* Slot 1, Slot 2, socket 4, socket 5, socket 7.

sockets API *n.* An application programming interface implemented to create and use sockets in client/server networking. The most common sockets API is the University of California at Berkeley UNIX/BSD implementation (Berkeley Sockets API), which is the basis for Winsock. *See also* socket (definition 1).

soc. newsgroups *n.* Usenet newsgroups that are part of the soc. hierarchy and have the prefix soc. These newsgroups are devoted to discussions of current events and social issues. Soc. newsgroups are one of the seven original Usenet newsgroup hierarchies. The other six are comp., misc., news., rec., sci., and talk. *See also* newsgroup, traditional newsgroup hierarchy, Usenet.

soft *adj.* **1.** In computing, temporary or changeable. For example, a soft error is a problem from which the system can recover, and a soft patch is a temporary program fix that holds only while the program is running. *Compare* hard (definition 1). **2.** In electronics, characterized by magnetic materials that do not retain their magnetism when a magnetic field is removed. *Compare* hard (definition 2).

soft boot *n.* *See* warm boot.

soft copy *n.* The temporary images presented on a computer display screen. *Compare* hard copy.

soft error *n.* An error from which a program or operating system is able to recover. *Compare* hard error.

soft font *n.* *See* downloadable font.

soft hyphen *n.* *See* hyphen.

soft link *n.* *See* symbolic link.

softmodem *n.* *See* software-based modem.