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Acquisitions Editor: Alex Blanton

Project Editor: Sandra Haynes

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log files *n.* A computer file that records requests received by online applications or the number of hits a Web page receives. Log files are useful in analyzing the technical performance of a Web site, redesigning Web site navigation, and revising marketing strategies used by e-businesses.

logic *n.* In programming, the assertions, assumptions, and operations that define what a given program does. Defining the logic of a program is often the first step in developing the program's source code. *See also* formal logic.

logical *adj.* **1.** Based on true and false alternatives as opposed to arithmetic calculation of numeric values. For example, a logical expression is one that, when evaluated, has a single outcome, either true or false. *See also* Boolean algebra. *Compare* fuzzy logic. **2.** Conceptually true to a particular design or idea—for example, network transmissions travel in a circle around a logical ring, even though the ring shape itself is not physically apparent. *Compare* physical.

logical block addressing *n.* A technique in which the cylinder, head, and sector locations on a hard disk are converted to 24-bit addresses for data storage and retrieval. Logical block addressing is used with SCSI drives and is also a feature of Enhanced IDE (EIDE) disk drives, on which it breaks through the earlier 528-MB IDE limit and allows support for drives up to 8.4 GB in capacity if 24-bit logical address space is used. Address conversion is performed by an EIDE drive's disk controller, but also requires support from the BIOS and the computer's operating system. *Acronym:* LBA. *See also* EIDE, SCSI.

logical decision *n.* Any decision that can have one of two outcomes (true/false, yes/no, and so on). *Compare* fuzzy logic.

logical device *n.* A device named by the logic of a software system, regardless of its physical relationship to the system. For example, a single floppy disk drive can simultaneously be, to the MS-DOS operating system, both logical drive A and drive B.

logical drive *n.* *See* logical device.

logical error *n.* *See* logic error.

logical expression *n.* *See* Boolean expression.

logical file *n.* A file as seen from a conceptual standpoint, without reference to and as distinct from its physical realization in memory or storage. For example, a logical file might consist of a contiguous series of records, whereas the file might be physically stored in small pieces scat-

tered over the surface of a disk or even on several disks. A logical file might also consist of some subset of columns (fields) and rows (records) extracted from a database. In this case, the logical file (or view) is only that information required by a particular application program or user.

Logical Link Control *n.* *See* LLC.

logical memory *n.* A correlation between physical memory of the computer system and an address range that is accessible to devices. The hardware abstraction layer (HAL) provides this correlation (or mapping). *See also* map.

logical network *n.* A way to describe the topology, or layout, of a computer network. Referring to a logical (rather than physical) topology describes the way information moves through the network—for example, in a straight line (bus topology) or in a circle (ring topology). The difference between describing a network as logical or physical is sometimes subtle because the physical network (the actual layout of hardware and cabling) doesn't necessarily resemble the logical network (the path followed by transmissions). A logical ring, for example, might include groups of computers cabled octopus-like to hardware "collection points" which, in turn, are cabled to one another. In such a network, even though the physical layout of computers and connecting hardware might not visually resemble a ring, the logical layout followed by network transmissions would, indeed, be circular. *See also* bus network, ring network, star network, token ring network, topology. *Compare* physical network.

logical operator *n.* An operator that manipulates binary values at the bit level. In some programming languages, logical operators are identical to Boolean operators, which manipulate true and false values. *See also* Boolean operator, mask.

logical record *n.* Any unit of information that can be handled by an application program. A logical record can be a collection of distinct fields or columns from a database file or a single line in a text file. *See also* logical file.

logical schema *n.* *See* conceptual schema.

logic analyzer *n.* A hardware device that facilitates sophisticated low-level debugging of programs. Typical features include the ability to monitor bus signals during execution, to halt execution when a given memory location is read or written to, and to trace back through some number of instructions when execution is halted for any reason. *See also* debugger.

