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Microsoft

Computer Dictionary

Fifth Edition

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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

user interface *n.* The portion of a program with which a user interacts. Types of user interfaces, or UIs, include command-line interfaces, menu-driven interfaces, and graphical user interfaces. *Acronym:* UI.

User Interface Toolbox *n.* See Toolbox.

username *n.* The name by which a user is identified to a computer system or network. During the logon process, the user must enter the username and the correct password. If the system or network is connected to the Internet, the username generally corresponds to the leftmost part of the user's e-mail address (the portion preceding the @ sign, as in username@company.com). *See also* e-mail address, logon.

user name *n.* The name by which a person is known and addressed on a communications network. *See also* alias (definition 2).

user profile *n.* A computer-based record maintained about an authorized user of a multiuser computer system. A user profile is needed for security and other reasons; it can contain such information as the person's access restrictions, mailbox location, type of terminal, and so on. *See also* user account.

user state *n.* The least privileged of the modes in which a Motorola 680x0 microprocessor can operate. This is the mode in which application programs are run. *See also* 68000. *Compare* supervisor state.

USnail *n.* **1.** Slang for the United States Postal Service. USnail, a term used on the Internet, is a reference to how slow the postal service is in comparison to e-mail. **2.** Mail delivered by the United States Postal Service. *See also* snail mail.

/usr *n.* A directory in a computer system that contains subdirectories owned or maintained by individual users of the computer system. These subdirectories can contain files and additional subdirectories. Typically, /usr directories are used in UNIX systems and can be found on many FTP sites. *See also* FTP site.

USRT *n.* Acronym for **universal synchronous receiver-transmitter**. A module, usually composed of a single integrated circuit, that contains both the receiving and transmitting circuits required for synchronous serial communication. *Compare* UART.

UTC *n.* See Universal Time Coordinate.

UTF-8 *n.* Acronym for **UCS Transformation Format 8**. A character set for protocols evolving beyond the use of ASCII. The UTF-8 protocol provides for support of extended ASCII characters and translation of UCS-2, an international 16-bit Unicode character set. UTF-8 enables a far greater range of names than can be achieved using ASCII or extended ASCII encoding for character data. *See also* ASCII, Unicode.

utility *n.* A program designed to perform a particular function; the term usually refers to software that solves narrowly focused problems or those related to computer system management. *See also* application.

utility program *n.* A program designed to perform maintenance work on the system or on system components (for example, a storage backup program, disk and file recovery program, or resource editor).

UTP *n.* Acronym for **unshielded twisted pair**. A cable containing one or more twisted pairs of wires without additional shielding. UTP is more flexible and takes up less space than shielded twisted-pair (STP) cable but has less bandwidth. *See the illustration. See also* twisted-pair cable. *Compare* STP.



UTP.

.uu *n.* The file extension for a binary file that has been translated into ASCII format using uuencode. *Also called:* .uud. *See also* ASCII, binary file, uuencode¹. *Compare* .ue.

UUCP *n.* Acronym for **UNIX-to-UNIX Copy**. A set of software programs that facilitates transmission of information between UNIX systems using serial data connec-