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THE

AUTHORITATIVE

DICTIONARY

OF IEEE STANDARDS TERMS

SEVENTH EDITION



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retarding-field (positive-grid) oscillator An oscillator employing an electron tube in which the electrons oscillate back and forth through a grid maintained positive with respect to the cathode and the plate. The frequency depends on the electron-transit time and may also be a function of the associated circuit parameters. The field in the region of the grid exerts a retarding effect that draws electrons back after passing through it in either direction. Barkhausen-Kurz and Gill-Morell oscillators are examples. *See also*: oscillatory circuit. (AP/ANT) 145-1983s

retarding magnet A magnet used for the purpose of limiting the speed of the rotor of a motor-type meter to a value proportional to the quantity being integrated. *See also*: braking magnet; watt-hour meter; drag magnet. (EEC/PE) [119]

retard transmitter A transmitter in which a delay period is introduced between the time of actuation and the time of transmission. *See also*: protective signaling. (EEC/PE) [119]

retention (metal-nitride-oxide field-effect transistor) The time period defined by the time elapsed between the instant of writing a metal-nitride-oxide semiconductor (MOS) transistor into a given high conduction or low conduction (HC or LC) state, and the instant when either state becomes indistinguishable from the other. (ED) 581-1978w

retention characteristic (metal-nitride-oxide field-effect transistor) A plot of both high conduction (HC) and low conduction (LC) threshold voltages v_{HC} or v_{LC} as a function (commonly the logarithm) of the time t_{rd} elapsed after the instant of writing. (ED) 581-1978w

retention cycle The length of time specified for data on a data medium to be preserved. *Synonym*: retention period. (C) 610.10-1994w

retention failure The inability to correctly sense the state of a memory cell within the limits of device specifications dependent on the time period of data storage. (ED) 641-1987w

retention longevity The time elapsed between the instant of writing a data pattern into a memory and the time when the read failure rate exceeds some predetermined value. *Note*: This definition allows for soft errors and fits reliability prediction and specification methods. (ED) 641-1987w

retention period *See*: retention cycle.

retention pit A pit designed to retain (hold) oil-contaminated liquids. (SUB/PE) 980-1994

retention time (1) The time interval between the instant of writing a memory pattern into a memory and the first retention failure. (ED) 641-1987w

(2) The time interval between the instant that data is stored and the instant that the data can no longer be read correctly. *Note*: Unless otherwise qualified, the term "read-only memory" implies that the data content is determined by the structure of the memory and is unalterable. (ED) 1005-1998

retention time at maximum read rate The retention time using the maximum specified read rate on a single address. (ED) 641-1987w

retention time, maximum *See*: maximum retention time.

retentivity (magnetic material) That property that is measured by its maximum residual induction. *Note*: The maximum residual induction is usually associated with a hysteresis loop that reaches saturation, but in special cases this is not so. (Std100) 270-1966w

Re Test Okay (RTOK) The result of a UUT passing at any level of maintenance after failing at a previous level of maintenance. In maintenance, it is a unit determined faulty at one level, but good at the next level of maintenance. (ATLAS) 1232-1995

reticle (navigation aid terms) A system of lines, etc., placed in the focal plane of an optical instrument to serve as a reference. (AES/GCS) 172-1983w

retina (1) (illuminating engineering) A membrane lining the posterior part of the inside of the eye. It comprises photoreceptors (cones and rods) which are sensitive to light, and

nerve cells which transmit to the optic nerve the responses of the receptor elements. (EEC/IE) [126]

(2) (laser maser) That sensory membrane which receives the incident image formed by the cornea and lens of the human eye. The retina lines the inside portion of the eye. (LEO) 586-1980w

retirement (A) (software) Permanent removal of a system or component from its operational environment. **(B) (software)** Removal of support from an operational system or component. *See also*: software life cycle; system life cycle. (C) 610.12-1990

retirement phase (software) The period of time in the software life cycle during which support for a software product is terminated. (C) 610.12-1990

retrace (oscillography) Return of the spot on the cathode-ray tube to its starting point after a sweep; also that portion of the sweep waveform that returns the spot to its starting point. *See also*: oscillograph. (IM/HFIM) [40]

retrace blanking *See*: blanking.

retrace interval (television) The interval corresponding to the direction of sweep not used for delineation. *See also*: flyback. (BT/AV) 201-1979w

retrace line The line traced by the electron beam in a cathode-ray tube in going from the end of one line or field to the start of the next line or field. 188-1952w

retraining The process of re-acquiring receiver parameters and synchronizing the scramblers of two connected 100BASE-T2 PHYs. *See also*: receiver training. (C/LM) 802.3-1998

retransmit contacts Auxiliary contacts on an annunciator that provide an output to a remote device to indicate that the annunciator has been actuated. (SUB/PE) C37.123-1996

retrieval *See*: information retrieval.

retrieval code In micrographics, a code used for manual or automatic retrieval of microimages. (C) 610.2-1987

retrieval queue One of two alternative databases that the service uses to convey objects to the client of the MA interface. (C/PA) 1224.1-1993w

retrieve To move data out of a storage device or data medium. *Contrast*: store. *See also*: read. (C) 610.5-1990w

retrodirective antenna An antenna whose monostatic cross section is comparable to the product of its maximum directivity and its area projected in the direction toward the source, and is relatively independent of the source direction. *Note*: Active devices can be added to enhance the return signal. For this case, the term shall be qualified by the word active; that is, active retrodirective antenna system. (AP/ANT) 145-1993

retrofill (handling and disposal of transformer grade insulating liquids containing PCBs) The process of replacing the dielectric liquid in a transformer. (LM/C) 802.2-1985s

retrograde orbit (communication satellite) An inclined orbit with an inclination between 90° and 180°. (COM) [19]

retro-reflector (illuminating engineering) A device designed to reflect light in a direction close to that at which it is incident, whatever the angle of incidence. (EEC/IE) [126]

retrospective trace A trace produced from historical data recorded during the execution of a computer program. *Note*: This differs from an ordinary trace, which is produced cumulatively during program execution. *See also*: execution trace; variable trace; symbolic trace; subroutine trace. (C) 610.12-1990

retry A mechanism whereby a transaction that (for whatever reason) could not complete in the current operation is attempted again at a later time. (C/BA) 1014.1-1994w

retry period The time a master waits after failing to receive a response before trying the operation again. This time should be randomized to avoid system deadlocks. (NID) 960-1993

return (1) (A) (software) To transfer control from a software module to the module that called it. *See also*: return code. **(B) (software)** To assign a value to a parameter that is ac-