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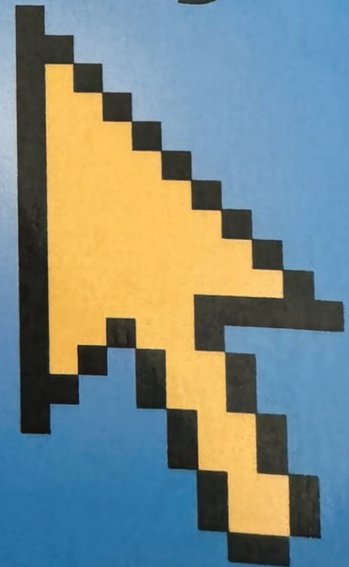
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Microsoft

Computer Dictionary

Fifth Edition

- Fully updated with the latest technologies, terms, and acronyms
- Easy to read, expertly illustrated
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Amiga *n.* An operating system owned by Amiga, Inc. The Amiga model of desktop computer, which featured the Amiga operating system, was introduced by Commodore in 1985. The Amiga was especially strong in its ability to support sound and video, which made it popular among broadcast and multimedia producers, but it was overshadowed by the IBM Personal Computer (and its clones) and the Apple Macintosh. The ownership of the Amiga design has been through the hands of several companies in the United States and Germany.

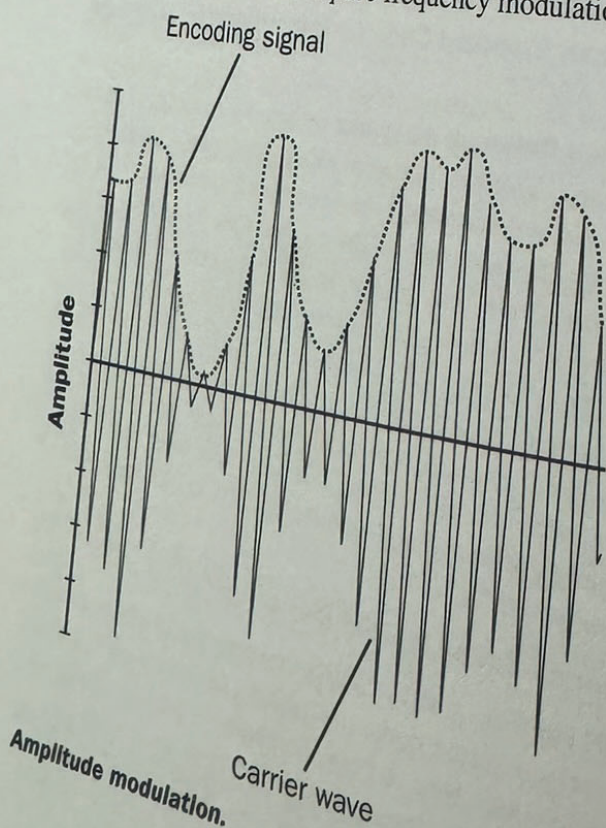
amp *n.* See ampere.

ampere *n.* The basic unit of electric current. One ampere is equivalent to a flow of 1 coulomb per second.

Abbreviation: a, A, amp.

amplitude *n.* A measure of the strength of a signal, such as sound or voltage, determined by the distance from the baseline to the peak of the waveform. See also waveform.

amplitude modulation *n.* A method of encoding information in a transmission, such as radio, using a carrier wave of constant frequency but of varying amplitude. See the illustration. Acronym: AM. Compare frequency modulation.



amplitude shift keying *n.* A form of amplitude modulation that uses two different wave heights to represent binary values 1 and 0. See also amplitude modulation.

AMPS *n.* Acronym for Advanced Mobile Phone Service. The standard for analog cellular phone service, widely used in the United States and many other countries around the world. AMPS was introduced by AT&T in 1983. It relies on frequency division multiple access (FDMA) to divide frequencies in the 800 MHz to 900 MHz range into 30 KHz channels for sending and receiving calls. A form of AMPS based on a narrower bandwidth is known as N-AMPS. The comparable standard for digital cellular phones is known as D-AMPS. See also D-AMPS, N-AMPS.

AMPS/D-AMPS/N-AMPS *n.* See AMPS, D-AMPS, N-AMPS.

AMT *n.* See address mapping table.

Anaglyph *n.* A 3-D effect obtained by creating two overlapping images that appear as a single three dimensional image when viewed through special lenses. Anaglyph 3-D technologies are used on the Web to produce 3-D images for a variety of virtual reality, teaching, and research applications.

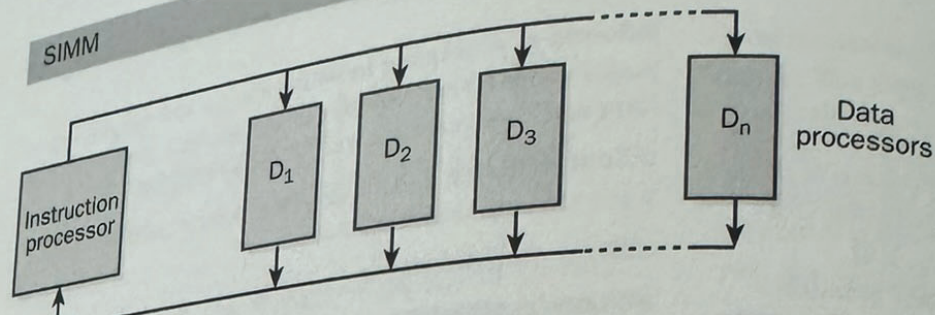
analog *adj.* Pertaining to or being a device or signal that is continuously varying in strength or quantity, such as voltage or audio, rather than based on discrete units, such as the binary digits 1 and 0. A lighting dimmer switch is an analog device because it is not based on absolute settings. Compare digital (definition 2).

analog channel *n.* A communications channel, such as a voice-grade telephone line, carrying signals that vary continuously and can assume any value within a specified range.

analog computer *n.* A computer that measures data varying continuously in value, such as speed or temperature.

analog data *n.* Data that is represented by continuous variations in some physical property, such as voltage, frequency, or pressure. Compare digital data transmission.

analog display *n.* A video display capable of depicting a continuous range of colors or shades rather than discrete values. Compare digital display.



SIMD.

SIMM *n.* Acronym for single inline memory module. A small circuit board designed to accommodate surface-mount memory chips.

Simple API for XML *n.* See SAX.

Simple Authentication and Security Layer *n.* See SASL.

Simple Control Protocol *n.* See SCP.

Simple Mail Transfer Protocol *n.* A TCP/IP protocol for sending messages from one computer to another on a network. This protocol is used on the Internet to route e-mail. Acronym: SMTP. See also communications protocol, TCP/IP. Compare CCITT X series, Post Office Protocol.

Simple Network Management Protocol *n.* See SNMP.

Simple Object Access Protocol *n.* See SOAP.

simplex *n.* Communication that takes place only from sender to receiver. Compare duplex² (definition 1), half-duplex².

simplex transmission *n.* See simplex.

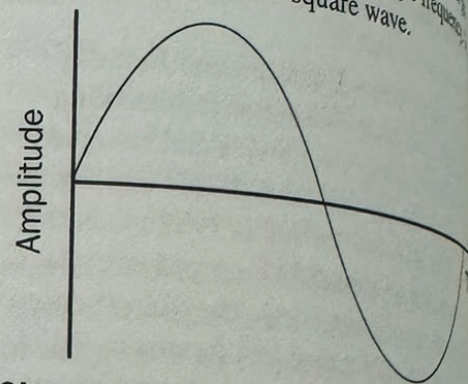
SIMULA *n.* Short for **simulation language**. A general-purpose programming language based on ALGOL 60, with special features designed to aid the description and simulation of active processes. Visual C++ is based on aspects of this language.

simulation *n.* The imitation of a physical process or an object by a program that causes a computer to respond mathematically to data and changing conditions as though it were the process or object itself. See also emulator, modeling (definition 1).

simultaneous access *n.* See parallel access.

simultaneous processing *n.* 1. True multiple-processor operation in which more than one task can be processed at a time. See also multiprocessing, parallel processing. 2. Loosely, concurrent operation in which more than one task is processed by dividing processor time among the tasks. See also concurrent, multitasking.

sine wave *n.* A uniform, periodic wave often produced by an object that vibrates at a single frequency. Compare square wave.



Sine wave.

single attachment station *n.* An FDDI node that connects to the primary ring through a concentrator and to the secondary ring through a dual attachment station.

single-board *adj.* Of or pertaining to a computer component that occupies only one circuit board, usually with provisions for additional boards.

single-density *adj.* Of or pertaining to a diskette or disk. Used only for use with frequency modulation encoding. A single-density disk can store much less data than a double-density disk using modified FM encoding or run-length limited encoding. See also modified frequency modulation encoding, run-length limited encoding.

Single Image Random Dot Stereogram *n.* A type of stereogram.

Single Image Stereograms *n.* See autostereograms.

single inline memory module *n.* See SIMM.

single inline package *n.* See SIP.

single inline pinned package *n.* See SIP.

single-instruction, multiple-data stream processing *n.* See SIMD.

single-line digital subscriber line *n.* See DSL.

single-precision *adj.* Of or pertaining to a floating-point number that uses a single-precision format.