

A Dictionary of
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Science**

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grammars and hence to parse and generate natural-language text (see PARSING, NATURAL-LANGUAGE UNDERSTANDING). The grammar is represented as a set of labelled directed *graphs whose labels are word categories, or recursive calls to itself or other graphs, or calls to update or access a set of registers. Procedures can be associated with the arcs to build a *parse tree or a semantic representation, or to generate text, etc.

AUI (attachment unit interface) An interface connecting an *Ethernet transceiver to the controller.

AUP *Abbrev. for acceptable use policy.*

authentication A process by which subjects, normally users, establish their identity to a system. This may be effected by the use of a *password or possession of a physical device, e.g. a coded token. In **reverse authentication**, the object is required to authenticate to the subject, e.g. to establish user confidence regarding the object, before sensitive information is entered into a system.

authentication code An appendage to a message that indicates to the recipient whether the message has been tampered with during transit. Authentication codes can be derived cryptographically as a function of the message using either *public key encryption or a secret key held by the sender and recipient. *See also* CRYPTOGRAPHY.

authoring language A *high-level language used for creating CAL (*computer-assisted learning) and other educational and training software packages.

authorization A process by which users, having completed an *authentication stage, gain or are denied access to particular resources based on their entitlement.

autobaud *Colloquial expression for automatic baud rate detection.* A feature of some communication systems that automatically detect and adapt to the transmission speed of incoming data.

autochanger *Short for automatic disk changer.* A device in which a single read head is linked to a caddy containing several

CD-ROMs. The head is moved to select the required disk.

autocode The generic name given to the precursors of modern high-level programming languages. The term is now obsolete.

autodial A modem feature that allows it to dial a telephone number automatically.

autodump *See* AUTOLOAD.

autoload 1. Automatic operation of a program or procedure. *See* AUTOPLAY.
2. A facility provided on some tape transports whereby a tape reel is automatically located and clamped on the hub and the tape is then automatically threaded.
3. A facility in a magnetic tape subsystem whereby a single unqualified command from the host causes a quantity of data from the tape mounted on a transport, selected according to predetermined rules, to be read and transferred to the host. The function is provided to assist in initial program loading. The corresponding process in which data is written to tape is known as **autodump**.

autoload cartridge *See* MAGNETIC TAPE CARTRIDGE.

automated disk library *See* OPTICAL DISK LIBRARY.

automated reasoning The use of computer programs that perform *inference processes. *see* THEOREM PROVING, PRODUCTION RULE SYSTEMS.

automated tape library (ATL) A peripheral device in which a large number of cartridges or reels of magnetic tape are stored in cells in a storage matrix. Any chosen cartridge can be transferred mechanically to a tape transport where it can be accessed by the host system, and then returned to the same or another cell. The device also contains one or more **drawers** that can also be reached by the transfer mechanism: these are accessible to an operator so that cartridges can be introduced to or removed from the library.

automatic coding A term used in the early stages of development of computers to signify the use of a primitive high-level