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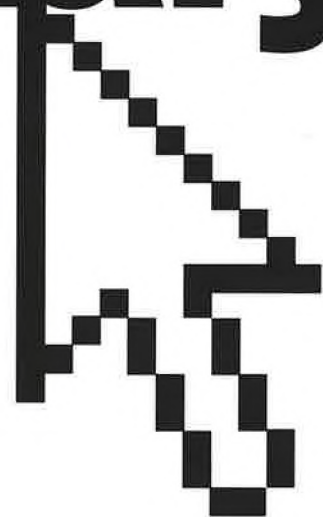
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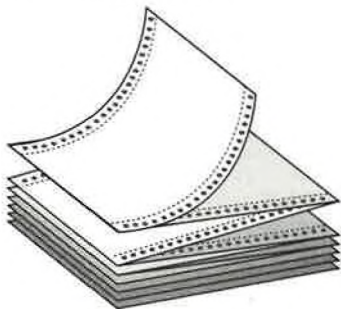
contextual search *n.* A search operation in which the user can direct a program to search specified files for a particular set of text characters.

contiguous *adj.* Having a shared boundary; being immediately adjacent. For example, contiguous sectors on a disk are data-storage segments physically located next to one another.

contiguous data structure *n.* A data structure, such as an array, that is stored in a consecutive set of memory locations. *See also* data structure. *Compare* noncontiguous data structure.

continuous carrier *n.* In communications, a carrier signal that remains on throughout the transmission, whether or not it is carrying information.

continuous-form paper *n.* Paper in which each sheet is connected to the sheets before and after it, for use with most impact and ink-jet printers and some other printing devices designed with an appropriate paper-feed mechanism. The paper usually has holes punched along each side so that it can be pulled by a tractor-feed device. *See the illustration.* *See also* pin feed, sprocket feed, tractor feed.



Continuous-form paper.

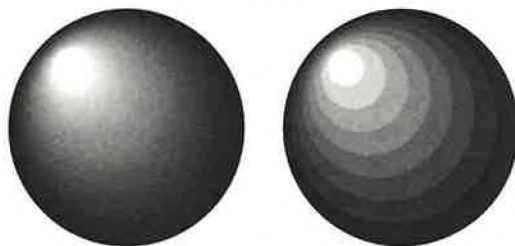
continuous processing *n.* The processing of transactions as they are input to the system. *Compare* batch processing (definition 3).

continuous-tone image *n.* An image, such as a photograph, in which color or varying shades of gray are reproduced as gradients rather than as clustered or variably sized dots, as in traditional book or newspaper printing. Continuous-tone images can be viewed on an analog monitor (such as a television monitor), which accepts input as a continuously variable signal. They cannot be viewed on a digital monitor, which requires input broken into discrete units, nor can they be printed in books or newspapers, which

represent illustrations as groups of dots. *See also* scan (definition 2), video digitizer. *Compare* halftone.

continuous-tone printer *n.* A printer that produces an image using smoothly blended levels of continuous ink for gradations of gray or color. *Compare* dithering.

contouring *n.* 1. In computer graphics, such as CAD models, the representation of the surface of an object—its bumps and crannies. *See the illustration.* 2. In image processing, the loss of detail that occurs in a shaded image when too few gradations of gray are used to reproduce a graphic, such as a photograph. In photography and graphic arts, this phenomenon is sometimes called *posterization*.



Contouring.

contrast *n.* 1. The degree of difference between light and dark extremes of color on a monitor or on printed output. 2. The control knob by which the contrast of a monitor is changed.

control *n.* 1. Management of a computer and its processing abilities so as to maintain order as tasks and activities are carried out. Control applies to measures designed to ensure error-free actions carried out at the right time and in the right order relative to other data-handling or hardware-based activities. In reference to hardware, control of system operations can reside in a data pathway called a *control bus*. In reference to software, *control* refers to program instructions that manage data-handling tasks. 2. In a graphical user interface, an object on the screen that can be manipulated by the user to perform an action. The most common controls are buttons, which allow the user to select options, and scroll bars, which allow the user to move through a document or position text in a window.

control break *n.* A transition in control of the computer that typically gives control of the CPU (central processing unit) to the user console or to some other program.