

MICROSOFT PRESS®

COMPUTER DICTIONARY

SECOND EDITION



COMPLETELY
REVISED AND
UPDATED, WITH NEW
DEFINITIONS AND
ILLUSTRATIONS

THE COMPREHENSIVE
STANDARD FOR
BUSINESS, SCHOOL,
LIBRARY, AND HOME

Microsoft
P R E S S

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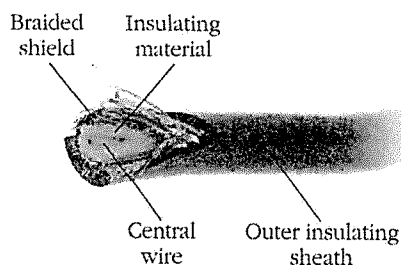
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Coaxial cable.

language developed between 1959 and 1961. Its establishment as a required language by the U.S. Department of Defense, its emphasis on data structures, and its English-like syntax (compared to those of FORTRAN and ALGOL) led to its widespread acceptance and usage, especially in business applications. Programs written in COBOL, which is a compiled language, are split into four divisions: Identification, Environment, Data, and Procedure. The Identification division specifies the name of the program and contains any other documentation the programmer wants to add. The Environment division specifies the computer(s) being used and the files used in the program for input and output. The Data division describes the data used in the program. The Procedure division contains the procedures that dictate the actions of the program. *See also* compiled language.

CODASYL Pronounced "code-a-sill." Acronym for Conference on Data Systems Languages, an organization founded by the U.S. Department of Defense. CODASYL is dedicated to the development of data-management systems and languages, among them the widely used COBOL business language.

code As a noun, a generic term for program instructions, used in two general senses. The first sense refers to human-readable source code, which is the instructions written by the programmer in a programming language. The second refers to executable machine code, which is the instructions of a program that were converted from source code to instructions that the computer can understand. As a verb, to write program instructions in a programming language. *See also* data, program.

code conversion The act of translating code from one form into another. Conversion might be performed at the source-language level (for example, converting a program from C to Pascal), at the hardware-platform level (for example, converting a program from working on the IBM PC to working on the Apple Macintosh), or at the language level (for example, converting from C, a high-level language, to assembly language, a low-level language). Code conversion can also refer to converting data from one form of representation to another, such as converting from ASCII to EBCDIC or converting from two's complement to binary-coded decimal. *See also* code.

code page In MS-DOS versions 3.3 and later, a means of providing support for character sets and keyboard layouts used in different countries. A code page is a table that relates the binary character codes used by a program to keys on the keyboard or to the appearance of characters on the display. Devices such as the display and the keyboard can be configured to use a specific code page and to switch from one code page (such as United States) to another (such as Portugal) at the user's request.

code segment Any piece of code consisting of one or more instructions, or a memory segment containing code. *Code segment* can also refer to a named and segregated portion of a program's code that typically performs a specific class of operations. The main program segment is kept in memory, and auxiliary segments are loaded only when they are required. *See also* transient.

coding The act of programming; specifically, generating source code in the language(s) of the programmer's choice. *See also* code.

coding form A sheet of paper specifically designed to aid in writing source code. Coding forms are popular for older languages that have position-dependent syntax (such as FORTRAN); most programmers now use graph paper, if they use paper at all. *See also* coding.

coercion *See* cast.

coherence In raster-scan technology, the assignment of the value of one pixel to the pixel next to