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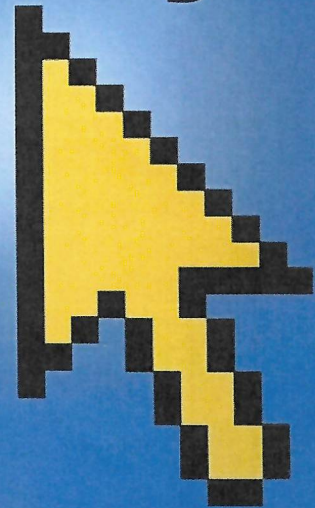
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Microsoft

Computer Dictionary

Fifth Edition

- *Fully updated with the latest technologies, terms, and acronyms*
- *Easy to read, expertly illustrated*
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monochrome display *n.* **1.** A video display capable of rendering only one color. The color displayed depends on the phosphor of the display (often green or amber). **2.** A display capable of rendering a range of intensities in only one color, as in a gray-scale monitor.

Monochrome Display Adapter *n.* See MDA.

monochrome graphics adapter *n.* See HGC.

monochrome monitor *n.* See monochrome display.

monographics adapter *n.* Any video adapter that can display only monochrome text and graphics; any video adapter functionally compatible with the Hercules Graphics Card (HGC). See also HGC.

monospace font *n.* A font (set of characters in a particular style and size), similar to that used on a typewriter, in which each character occupies the same amount of horizontal space regardless of its width—an *i*, for example, taking as much room as an *m*. See the illustration. Also called: fixed-width font. See also monospacing. Compare proportional font.

Monospace

Proportional

Monospace font. Monospace font vs. proportional font.

monospacing *n.* A form of print and display spacing in which each character occupies the same amount of horizontal space on the line, regardless of whether the character is wide (such as *m*) or narrow (such as *i*). Also called: fixed-pitch spacing, fixed spacing, fixed-width spacing. See also monospace font. Compare proportional spacing.

Monte Carlo method *n.* A mathematical technique that uses repeated calculations and random numbers to find an approximate solution to a complex problem. The Monte Carlo method, named for its relationship to games of chance played in the casinos at Monte Carlo, Monaco, can be used in situations in which it is possible to calculate the probability of a particular event occurring but not to factor in the complex effects of many other contributing factors.

MOO *n.* Short for MUD, object-oriented. A type of virtual environment on the Internet, similar to a game-oriented

MUD but based on an object-oriented language and generally focused more on programming than on games. See also MUD.

Moore's Law *n.* A prediction by Intel cofounder Gordon Moore in the early days of the computer revolution regarding the growth of semiconductor technology. Moore predicted that the number of transistors that could be put on a chip would double every year, and it did. Ten years later, Moore predicted that chip capacity would double every two years, and capacity has actually doubled every 18 months since then. The doubling of capacity every 18 months is popularly referred to as a "law."

.moov *n.* A file extension indicating a QuickTime MooV video file for a Macintosh computer. See also MooV.

MooV *n.* The file format for QuickTime movies that stores synchronized tracks for control, video, audio, and text. See also QuickTime.

morphing *n.* Short for metamorphosing. A process by which one image is gradually transformed into another, creating the illusion of a metamorphosis occurring in a short time. A common motion picture special-effects technique, morphing is available in many advanced computer animation packages. See also tween.

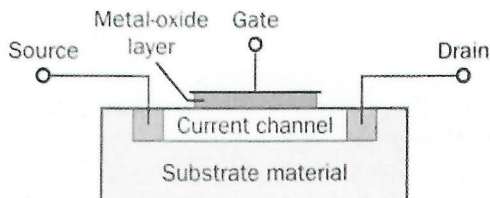
MOS *n.* Acronym for metal-oxide semiconductor. An integrated-circuit technology in which field-effect transistors (FETs) are made with an insulating layer of silicon dioxide between a metal gate electrode and a semiconductor channel. MOS designs are widely used both in discrete components and in integrated circuits. MOS integrated circuits have the advantages of high component density, high speed, and low power consumption. MOS devices are easily damaged by static electricity, so before they are inserted in a circuit, they should be kept with their connectors embedded in conducting foam to prevent the buildup of static charges. See also FET, MOSFET.

Mosaic *n.* The first popular graphical World Wide Web browser. Released on the Internet in early 1993 by the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Mosaic is available as freeware and shareware for Windows, Macintosh, and X Window systems. Mosaic is distinguished from other early Web browsers by its ease of use and its addition of inline images to Web documents. Also called: NCSA Mosaic.

MOSFET *n.* Acronym for metal-oxide semiconductor field-effect transistor. A common type of field-effect transistor in which a layer of silicon dioxide insulates the

M

metal gate from the semiconductor current channel. MOSFETs have extremely high input impedance and therefore require almost no driving power. They are used in many audio applications, including high-gain amplifier circuits. Like all metal-oxide semiconductor (MOS) devices, MOSFETs are easily damaged by static electricity. See the illustration. *See also* FET, MOS.



MOSFET.

most significant bit *n.* In a sequence of one or more bytes, the highest-order bit of a binary number, not including the sign bit. *Acronym:* MSB. *See also* high-order. *Compare* least significant bit.

most significant character *n.* The high-order, or leftmost, character in a string. *Acronym:* MSC. *See also* high-order. *Compare* least significant character.

M

most significant digit *n.* In a sequence of one or more digits, the highest-order digit, which is the leftmost digit. In 456.78, 4 is the most significant digit. *Acronym:* MSD. *Compare* least significant digit.

MOTD *n.* *See* message of the day.

motherboard *n.* The main circuit board containing the primary components of a computer system. This board contains the processor, main memory, support circuitry, and bus controller and connector. Other boards, including expansion memory and input/output boards, may attach to the motherboard via the bus connector. *See also* expansion slot. *Compare* daughterboard.

Motion JPEG *n.* A standard for storing motion video, proposed by the Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG), that uses JPEG image compression for each frame. *See also* JPEG (definition 1). *Compare* MPEG (definition 1).

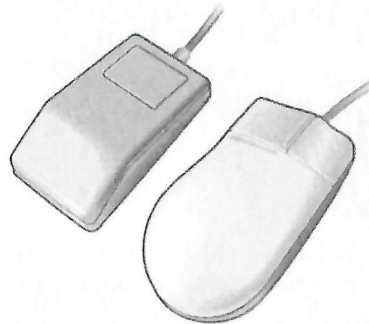
motion path *n.* The path that a specified object or text will follow as part of an animation sequence for a slide.

mount *vb.* To make a physical disk or tape accessible to a computer's file system. The term is most commonly used to describe accessing disks in Macintosh and UNIX-based computers.

mount *n.* In NFS, a folder or file retrieved from elsewhere on the network and accessed locally. *See also* NFS.

MOUS *n.* Acronym for **Microsoft Office User Specialist**. A certification from Microsoft that verifies an individual's skills with the Microsoft Office desktop programs. *See also* MCP.

mouse *n.* A common pointing device. The basic features of a mouse are a flat-bottomed casing designed to be gripped by one hand, one or more buttons on the top, a multidirectional detection device (usually a ball) on the bottom, and a cable connecting the mouse to the computer. By moving the mouse on a surface (such as a desk top), the user typically controls an on-screen cursor. A mouse is a relative pointing device because there are no defined limits to the mouse's movement and because its placement on a surface does not map directly to a specific screen location. To select items or choose commands on the screen, the user presses one of the mouse's buttons, producing a "mouse click." *See* the illustration. *See also* bus mouse, mechanical mouse, optical mouse, optomechanical mouse, relative pointing device, serial mouse. *Compare* trackball.



Mouse. Two types of mouse: for the Macintosh (left) and for the PC (right).

MouseKeys *n.* A feature in Windows that allows a user to use the numeric keyboard to move the mouse pointer. MouseKeys is primarily intended for people who may have physical limitations that make it difficult to move a conventional mouse. *See also* mouse.

mouse pad *n.* A surface on which a mouse can be moved, typically a rectangular rubber pad covered with fabric, providing more traction than a wooden or glass desktop or tabletop. *See also* mouse.

mouse pointer *n.* An on-screen element whose location changes as the user moves the mouse. Depending on the location of the mouse pointer and the operation of the pro-