
Dictionary of Computer and Internet Terms

Tenth Edition

Douglas A. Downing, Ph.D.
School of Business and Economics
Seattle Pacific University

Michael A. Covington, Ph.D.
Artificial Intelligence Center
The University of Georgia

Melody Mauldin Covington
Covington Innovations
Athens, Georgia

Catherine Anne Covington
Covington Innovations
Athens, Georgia

With the assistance of
Sharon Covington



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Douglas Downing teaches economics and quantitative methods at the School of Business and Economics at Seattle Pacific University. He is the author of several books in both Barron's Easy Way and Business Review series. He is also the author of *Java Programming the Easy Way* and *Dictionary of Mathematics Terms*, published by Barron's Educational Series, Inc. He holds the Ph.D. degree in economics from Yale University.

Michael Covington is Associate Director of the Artificial Intelligence Institute at the University of Georgia. He is the author of several books and over 250 magazine articles. He holds the Ph.D. degree in linguistics from Yale University.

Melody Mauldin Covington is a graphic designer living in Athens, Georgia. She is the author of *Dictionary of Desktop Publishing* (published by Barron's).

Catherine Anne Covington is a student at the Lamar Dodd School of Art (University of Georgia).

Sharon Covington is a student at Emory University.

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All inquiries should be addressed to:

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session

1. a period of time during which a person is using a particular computer service, such as a connection to the Internet.
2. an occasion upon which data is written to a recordable CD-ROM. Multisession CDs have had data written to them more than once.

set

1. the input of a flip-flop that places it into state 1, as opposed to the *reset* input. *See* FLIP-FLOP.
2. the command in Windows and UNIX, that stores information in the operating system's environment area (*see* ENVIRONMENT).
3. in mathematics, a collection of objects of any kind. For example, {2, 4, -425} is a set of numbers, and {{2, 3}, {4, 5}} is a set of sets. *See* INTERSECTION; SET DIFFERENCE; UNION.
4. a data type in Pascal that consists of a group of values of a specified type.

set difference the set of elements that belong to one set and not to another. For example, the difference between {*a*, *b*, *c*} and {*b*, *c*} is {*a*}.

SETI@home a distributed computer system where users sign up to have their computers analyze pieces of data received from radio telescopes, in a search for extra-terrestrial intelligence (SETI). *See* setiathome.ssl.berekely.edu.

seven layers *see* DATA COMMUNICATION.

SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language) a standard set of codes for marking boldface, italics, etc., in ASCII text files, which became the basis for HTML. *See* HTML; XML.

shadow

1. (or **shadows**) the darkest area in a digitized photograph. Contrast HIGHLIGHT (definition 2).
2. to automatically and constantly copy the contents of memory or a storage device as a backup.

shadow RAM random-access memory (RAM) that holds a copy of the ROM BIOS. The copy is made at boot-up for faster access because RAM is faster than ROM. *See* BIOS; BOOT; RAM; ROM.

share

1. (*verb*) to make a file, folder, or printer available to others through a network.
2. (*noun*) a folder that is shared on a network.

shareware software that is copyrighted but can be distributed free of charge to anyone. Users are asked or required to make a payment directly to the author if they use the program regularly. Shareware is sometimes misleadingly described as "free" (*see* FREE SOFTWARE).