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Computer Dictionary

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identifier (LCID) identifies the primary language and any secondary language of a specific locale. *Acronym:* LCID. *See also* language identifier.

localhost *n.* The name that is used to represent the same computer on which a TCP/IP message originates. An IP packet sent to localhost has the IP address 127.0.0.1 and does not actually go out to the Internet. *See also* IP address, packet (definition 1), TCP/IP.

localization *n.* The process of altering a program so that it is appropriate for the geographic area in which it is to be used. Localization involves the customization or translation of the separated data and resources required for a specific region or language. For example, the developers of a word processing program must localize the sorting tables in the program for different countries or languages because the correct order of characters in one language might be incorrect in another. L10N is a common abbreviation for Localization, where the "L" in Localization is followed by 10 letters and ends with the letter "N."

localized version *n.* A version of a program that has been translated into another language. *Also called:* international version.

local loop *n.* The (end) portion of a telephone connection that runs from the subscriber to the local telephone exchange. *See also* last mile.

local memory *n.* In multiprocessor systems, the memory on the same card or high-speed bus as a particular processor. Typically, memory that is local to one processor cannot be accessed by another without some form of permission.

local newsgroups *n.* Newsgroups that are targeted toward a geographically limited area such as a city or educational institution. Posts to these newsgroups contain information that is specific to the area, concerning such topics as events, meetings, and sales. *See also* newsgroup.

local reboot *n.* A reboot of the machine that one is directly working on, rather than of a remote host. *See also* reboot.

LocalTalk *n.* An inexpensive cabling scheme used by AppleTalk networks to connect Apple Macintosh computers, printers, and other peripheral devices. *See also* AppleTalk.

local user profile *n.* A user profile that is created automatically on the computer the first time a user logs on to a

computer. *See also* mandatory user profile, roaming user profile, user profile.

local variable *n.* A program variable whose scope is limited to a given block of code, usually a subroutine. *See also* scope (definition 1). *Compare* global variable.

location *n.* *See* address¹ (definition 1).

location-based service *n.* A service provided to a wireless mobile device based on the device's location. Location-based services can range from simple services, such as listing nearby restaurants, to more complex features, such as connecting to the Internet to monitor traffic conditions and find the least congested route to a destination.

lock *n.* **1.** A software security feature that requires a key or dongle in order for the application to run correctly. *See also* dongle. **2.** A mechanical device on some removable storage medium (for example, the write-protect notch on a floppy disk) that prevents the contents from being overwritten. *See also* write-protect notch.

locked file *n.* **1.** A file on which one or more of the usual types of manipulative operation cannot be performed—typically, one that cannot be altered by additions or deletions. **2.** A file that cannot be deleted or moved or whose name cannot be changed.

locked volume *n.* On the Apple Macintosh, a volume (storage device, such as a disk) that cannot be written to. The volume can be locked either physically or through software.

lockout *n.* The act of denying access to a given resource (file, memory location, I/O port), usually to ensure that only one program at a time uses that resource.

lock up *n.* A condition in which processing appears to be completely suspended and in which the program in control of the system will accept no input. *See also* crash¹.

log *n.* A record of transactions or activities that take place on a computer system. *See* logarithm.

logarithm *n.* Abbreviated log. In mathematics, the power to which a base must be raised to equal a given number. For example, for the base 10, the logarithm of 16 is (approximately) 1.2041 because $10^{1.2041}$ equals (approximately) 16. Both natural logarithms (to the base *e*, which is approximately 2.71828) and common logarithms (to the base 10) are used in programming. Languages such as C and Basic include functions for calculating natural logarithms.