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Computer Desktop Encyclopedia, Ninth Edition

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full-service network See FSN.

full-text search A search that compares every word in a document, as opposed to searching an abstract or a set of keywords associated with the document. Full-text searching is the type performed by most Web search engines. Although it is very thorough, it often results in too many false drops. See *false drops*.

full user mobility Refers to a wireless service that lets you be completely mobile such as in a car, train, etc.

fully buzzword compliant Said of software that contains the same features and functions of its competitor.

fully populated A circuit board whose sockets are completely filled with chips.

fully qualified domain name See FQDN.

function In programming, a self-contained software routine that performs a job for the program it is written in or for some other program. The function performs the operation and returns control to the instruction following the calling instruction or to the calling program. Programming languages provide a set of standard functions and may allow programmers to define others. For example, the C language is built entirely of functions.

functional decomposition Breaking down a process into non-redundant operations. In structured programming, it provides a hierarchical breakdown of the program into the individual operations, or routines, that are required.

functional requirements See *information requirements* and *functional specification*.

functional specification The blueprint for the design of an information system. It provides documentation for the database, human and machine procedures, and all the input, processing and output detail for each data entry, query, update and report program in the system. See *information requirements*.

functional stovepipe See *stovepipe application*.

function call A request by a program to use a subroutine. The subroutine can be large and perform a significant amount of processing, or it can be as small as computing two numbers and returning the result. When applications are running, they make millions of function calls to the operating system.

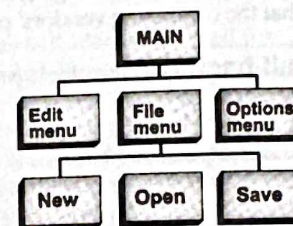
A function call written in a program states the name of the function followed by any values or parameters that have to be passed to it. When the function is called, the operation is performed, and the results are returned as variables or pointers with new values.

The function may be written within the program, be part of an external library that is combined with the program when it is compiled or be contained in another program, such as the operating system or DBMS.

function keys A set of keyboard keys used to command the computer (F1, F2, etc.). F1 is often the help key, but the purpose of any function key is determined by the software currently running.

function library A collection of program routines. See *function*.

function overloading In programming, using the same name for two or more functions. The compiler determines which function to use based on the type of function, arguments passed to it and type of values returned.



Functional Decomposition of a Program

This example is ultra simplistic, but shows the hierarchical breakdown of the program into its constituent components.

System Development Cycle

