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Microsoft

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Fifth Edition

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Acquisitions Editor: Alex Blanton

Project Editor: Sandra Haynes

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audio response *n.* Any sound produced by a computer; specifically, spoken output produced by a computer in response to some specific type of input. Such output may be generated using a combination of words from a digitized vocabulary or through the synthesis of words from tables of phonemes. *See also* frequency response, phoneme.

audiotex *n.* An application allowing users to send and receive information by telephone. Users typically call an audiotex system and are presented with a series of choices or a series of questions through a voice mail system. When users select choices by pressing the buttons on the phone (rotary dial phones cannot be used for audiotex) or by speaking aloud, a database host responds by sending information to the voice mail system, which then converts the data to a spoken message for the user, or it responds by receiving and storing the information entered by the user. *Also called:* audiotext. *See also* voice mail.

audiotext *n.* *See* audiotex.

Audio Video Interleaved *n.* *See* AVI.

audiovisual *adj.* Relating to or being any material that uses a combination of sight and sound to present information.

audit *n.* In reference to computing, an examination of equipment, programs, activities, and procedures to determine how efficiently the overall system is performing, especially in terms of ensuring the integrity and security of data.

auditing *n.* The process an operating system uses to detect and record security-related events, such as an attempt to create, to access, or to delete objects such as files and directories. The records of such events are stored in a file known as a security log, whose contents are available only to those with the proper clearance. *See also* security log.

audit policy *n.* A policy that determines the security events to be reported to the network administrator.

audit trail *n.* In reference to computing, a means of tracing all activities affecting a piece of information, such as a data record, from the time it is entered into a system to the time it is removed. An audit trail makes it possible to document, for example, who made changes to a particular record and when.

AUI *n.* **1.** Acronym for **attachment unit interface**. A 15-pin (DB-15) connector commonly used to connect a net-

work interface card to an Ethernet cable. **2.** *See* aural user interface.

AUI cable *n.* Short for **Attachment Unit Interface cable**. A transceiver cable used to connect a host adapter within a computer to an Ethernet (10base5 or 10BaseF) network. *See also* 10Base5, 10Base-F, Ethernet (definition 1), transceiver cable.

AUP *n.* *See* acceptable use policy.

aural user interface *n.* Voice-activated interface that allows users to issue spoken commands to electronic devices. The aural user interface is used with features such as voice recognition for computers and voice-activated dialing for wireless phones. *Acronym:* AUI.

authentication *n.* In a multiuser or network operating system, the process by which the system validates a user's logon information. A user's name and password are compared against an authorized list, and if the system detects a match, access is granted to the extent specified in the permission list for that user. *See also* logon, password, permission, user account, user name.

authentication center *n.* Secure database used to identify and prevent wireless phone fraud. Authentication centers verify whether a wireless phone is registered with a wireless carrier's network.

Authentication Header *n.* *See* AH.

Authenticode *n.* A security feature of Microsoft Internet Explorer. Authenticode allows vendors of downloadable executable code (plug-ins or ActiveX controls, for example) to attach digital certificates to their products to assure end users that the code is from the original developer and has not been altered. Authenticode lets end users decide for themselves whether to accept or reject software components posted on the Internet before downloading begins. *See also* ActiveX control, Internet Explorer, security.

author¹ *vb.* **1.** To create a product for implementation via computer technology. **2.** To write a computer program. **3.** To assemble multimedia components, such as graphics, text, audio, and animation, in a publication or product, for delivery on a CD-ROM or DVD or on line, to be viewed on a computer. **4.** To create Web pages. Traditionally, to author meant to write a literary work or journalistic piece; in the cyberworld, to write is "to provide content"; thus, to author in the traditional sense is to be a "content provider."

author² *n.* *See* Web author.

recorded piano note, digitized and stored in memory, is used by the synthesizer to create other piano-like notes.

samurai *n.* A hacker employed by a company or organization to manage network security or conduct legal cracking operations. A samurai uses the skills of a hacker to meet the legitimate needs of an employer.

SAN *n.* See storage area network.

sandbox *n.* **1.** Java Virtual Machine security area for downloaded (remote or untrusted) applets, an area in which such applets are confined and prevented from accessing system resources. Confinement to the sandbox prevents downloaded applets from carrying out potentially dangerous operations, maliciously or otherwise. They have to "play" inside the sandbox, and any attempt to "escape" is thwarted by the Java Security Manager. **2.** Slang for the research and development department at many software and computer companies. See also applet, Java Virtual Machine.

sans serif *adj.* Literally, "without stroke"; describes any typeface in which the characters have no serifs (the short lines or ornaments at the upper and lower ends of the strokes). A sans serif typeface usually possesses a more straightforward, geometric appearance than a typeface with serifs and typically lacks the contrast between thick and thin strokes found in serif faces. Sans serif typefaces are used more frequently in display type, such as headlines, than in blocks of text. Compare serif¹.

SAOL *n.* Acronym for **Structured Audio Orchestra Language**. Part of the MPEG-4 standard, SAOL describes a set of tools for producing computer music, audio for computer games, streaming Internet sound or music, and other multimedia applications. SAOL is a flexible computer language for describing music synthesis and integrating synthetic sound with recorded sound in an MPEG-4 bit stream. See also bit stream, MPEG-4, streaming (definition 1).

SAP *n.* See Service Advertising Protocol.

SAPI *n.* Acronym for **Speech Application Programming Interface**. A feature in Windows 9x and Windows NT that allows applications to include speech recognition or convert text to speech. Also called: Speech API. See also voice recognition.

SAS *n.* See single attachment station.

SASL *n.* Acronym for **Simple Authentication and Security Layer**. An authentication support mechanism for use with connection-based protocols. SASL allows a client to request identification from a server and negotiate use of an added security layer for authentication during subsequent client/server interaction.

satellite *n.* See communications satellite.

satellite computer *n.* A computer that is connected to another computer, with which it interacts over a communications link. As its name indicates, a satellite computer is of lesser "stature" than the main, or host, computer; the host controls either the satellite itself or the tasks the satellite performs. See also remote communications.

satellite dish *n.* A parabolic (dish-shaped) reflector and antenna that is used for transmitting and receiving signals between the ground and earth satellites. Satellite dishes are commonly used for receiving television transmissions.

saturated mode *n.* The state in which a switching device or amplifier is passing the maximum possible current. A device is in saturated mode when increasing the control signal does not result in output of additional current.

saturation *n.* **1.** In a switching device or amplifier, the fully conducting state. At saturation, the device is passing the maximum possible current. The term is most commonly used with reference to circuits containing bipolar or field-effect transistors. **2.** In color graphics and printing, the amount of color in a specified hue, often specified as a percentage. See also HSB.

save *vb.* To write data (typically a file) to a storage medium, such as a disk or tape.

SAX *n.* Acronym for **Simple API for XML**. An event-driven application program interface (API) used to interpret an XML file. SAX works with an XML parser, providing an interface between the parser and an XML application. SAX is used as an alternative to the more complex object-based Document Object Model (DOM) interface. See also DOM.

scalability *n.* A measure of how well a computer, service, or application can grow to meet increasing performance demands. For server clusters, it is the ability to incrementally add one or more systems to an existing cluster when the overall load of the cluster exceeds its capabilities. See also server cluster.

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