

WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD™

COMPUTER DICTIONARY

TENTH EDITION

The Best Computer Dictionary Anywhere

Revised and updated

Contains extensive coverage of Internet and multimedia terms

Over 4,750 words, phrases, abbreviations, and acronyms

BRYAN PFAFFENBERGER

WE DEFINE YOUR WORLD™

WEBSTER'S
NEW WORLD™

COMPUTER
DICTIONARY

10TH EDITION

By Bryan Pfaffenberger, Ph.D.



Wiley Publishing, Inc.

F.W. Olin College Library

Webster's New World™ Computer Dictionary, 10th Edition

Copyright © 2003 by Wiley Publishing, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana

Published by Wiley Publishing, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana

Published simultaneously in Canada

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning or otherwise, except as permitted under Sections 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without either the prior written permission of the Publisher, or authorization through payment of the appropriate per-copy fee to the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, (978) 750-8400, fax (978) 646-8700. Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to the Legal Department, Wiley Publishing, Inc., 10475 Crosspoint Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46256, (317) 572-3447, fax (317) 572-4447, E-mail: permcoordinator@wiley.com.

Trademarks: Wiley, the Wiley Publishing logo, Webster's New World, and the Webster's New World logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Wiley Publishing, Inc., in the United States and other countries, and may not be used without written permission. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. Wiley Publishing, Inc., is not associated with any product or vendor mentioned in this book.

Limit of Liability/Disclaimer of Warranty: While the publisher and author have used their best efforts in preparing this book, they make no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents of this book and specifically disclaim any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. No warranty may be created or extended by sales representatives or written sales materials. The advice and strategies contained herein may not be suitable for your situation. You should consult with a professional where appropriate. Neither the publisher nor author shall be liable for any loss of profit or any other commercial damages, including but not limited to special, incidental, consequential, or other damages.

For general information on our other products and services or to obtain technical support please contact our Customer Care Department within the U.S. at 800-762-2974, outside the U.S. at 317-572-3993 or fax 317-572-4002.

Wiley also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats. Some content that appears in print may not be available in electronic books.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available from the publisher.

ISBN 0-7645-2478-X

Manufactured in the United States of America

5 4 3 2 1

stories, columns, and chat rooms. The companies that offer Web portals hope to keep users within the portal so that they can be repeatedly subjected to advertising, which supplies most of the portal's revenue. To make sure users stay within the portal, developers may create a walled garden,

Web ring A group of Web sites that have agreed to facilitate user navigation to sites on a similar subject. Each site administrator must insert a navigation code, usually at the bottom of the site's home page, which enables users to visit the next site in the ring, the previous site, view a list of sites, or return to the ring's home page. A significant drawback of current Web ring technology is the lack of any means to update these links automatically; on many Web ring sites, the links point to sites that no longer exist.

Web server In the World Wide Web (WWW), a program that accepts requests for information framed according to the Hypertext Transport Protocol (HTTP). The server processes these requests and sends the requested document. See *Apache*, *HTTP*, *Hypertext Transfer Protocol Daemon (httpd)*.

Web server farm See *server farm*.

Web Services A repertoire of Web-based data and procedural resources made available by a resource description language, the Web Services Description Language (WSDL). Each described service is conceptualized as a point-to-point communication channel in which XML-based messages are exchanged. Independent of messaging protocols, Web Services can be implemented using HTTP and SOAP. See *HTTP*, *SOAP*, *WSDL*, *XML*.

Web Services Description Language See *WSDL*.

Web site 1. In common but technically inaccurate usage, a Web page. 2. In technically correct usage, one or more computers that are associated with a fully qualified domain name and make content available on the Web. See *fully qualified domain name (FQDN)*.

Web site hosting See *Web hosting*.

Web Standards Project A volunteer, non-profit organization of programmers and Web users who pressure browser publishers to conform to the standards published by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). Both Netscape/AOL and Microsoft have added proprietary features to open standards (such as HTML). In consequence, Web developers must write voluminous code to detect the type of browser that is accessing their sites, so that a version of a given Web page can be displayed properly on the user's browser. Despite arduous efforts and publicity campaigns, the Web Standards Project has met with only limited success in its attempt to pressure companies to adhere to Web standards. See *Microsoft Internet Explorer*, *Mozilla*, *Netscape Navigator*.

Web surfing Serendipitous (and often inordinately time-consuming) exploration of the World Wide Web, in which a browser user follows a previously unknown link trail to unknown destinations.

Web TV A set-top appliance that enables users to connect to the Internet and display Web sites and e-mail on the TV screen. Web TV units include a built-in modem, a processor, memory, and storage. The newer Web TV Plus standard enables viewers to enhance their TV experience by consulting onscreen TV schedules and accessing Web pages related to shows they are viewing.

weight The overall lightness or darkness of a typeface design, or the gradations of lightness to darkness within a font family. A type style can be light or dark. Within a type style, several gradations of weight are visible: extra light, light, semi-light, regular, medium, semi-bold, bold, extra bold, and ultra-bold. See *book weight*.

welcome page In the Web, a Web-accessible document that is meant to be the point of entry to a series of related documents, called a web. For example, a company's welcome page typically includes