
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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Win32s a subset of Win32 that could be installed as an extension to Windows 3.1, making it possible to run many Windows 95 programs.

Winchester disk any hard disk designed for use in microcomputers. "Winchester" is an early industry code name, not a brand name. *See* HARD DISK.

window an area of the screen set aside for a special purpose. On the Macintosh, in Microsoft Windows, and in other similar operating systems, the screen is divided into windows for different pieces of software. The user can control the size, shape, and positioning of the windows. The *active window* is the one in which you are currently typing.

Figure 298 shows the main parts of a window in Microsoft Windows. To move the window, place the mouse pointer on the title bar, hold down the left button, and move the mouse. To change the size of the window, do the same thing but with the pointer on the left, right, or bottom border of the window. To close the window, click once on the *close box* (the box with the x symbol) or double-click on the control menu button. *See also* DIALOG BOX; ICON; MAXIMIZE; MENU BAR; MESSAGE BOX; MINIMIZE; PULL-DOWN MENU; SCROLL BAR; TITLE BAR.

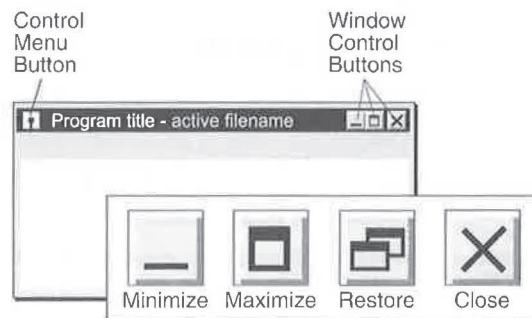


FIGURE 298. Window (in Microsoft Windows)

Windows (Microsoft) a family of operating systems whose lineage is shown in Figure 301, produced by Microsoft Corporation of Redmond, Washington.

Windows originated in 1983 as a GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE that ran under DOS to provide windowing and mouse support for graphics software. In 1990, **Windows 3.0** introduced the ability to multitask DOS programs, thereby giving Windows an advantage over DOS even for non-graphical uses.

Separately, Microsoft and IBM collaborated on a 32-bit multitasking operating system for the 80386, 486, and Pentium, but the collaboration broke up and produced two separate products, IBM OS/2 and Microsoft **Windows NT**, the direct ancestor of present-day Windows versions.