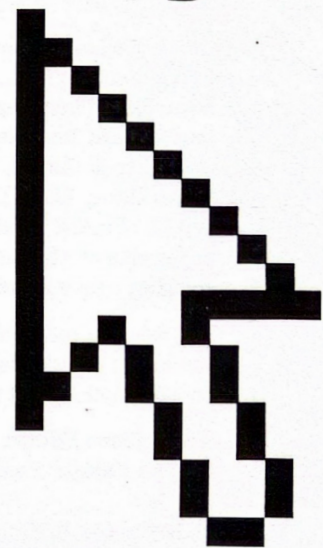


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Computer Dictionary

Fifth Edition



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transceiver *n.* Short for **transmitter/receiver**. A device that can both transmit and receive signals. On LANs (local area networks), a transceiver is the device that connects a computer to the network and that converts signals to and from parallel and serial form.

transceiver cable *n.* A cable that is used to connect a host adapter within a computer to a LAN (local area network). *See also* AUI cable, LAN.

transducer *n.* A device that converts one form of energy into another. Electronic transducers either convert electric energy to another form of energy or convert nonelectric to electric energy.

transfer¹ *n.* 1. The movement of data from one location to another. 2. The passing of program control from one portion of code to another.

transfer² *vb.* To move data from one place to another, especially within a single computer. *Compare* transmit.

transfer rate *n.* The rate at which a circuit or a communications channel transfers information from source to destination, as over a network or to and from a disk drive. Transfer rate is measured in units of information per unit of time—for example, bits per second or characters per second—and can be measured either as a raw rate, which is the maximum transfer speed, or as an average rate, which includes gaps between blocks of data as part of the transmission time.

transfer statement *n.* A statement in a programming language that transfers the flow of execution to another location in the program. *See also* branch instruction, CALL statement, GOTO statement, jump instruction.

transfer time *n.* The time elapsed between the start of a data transfer operation and its completion.

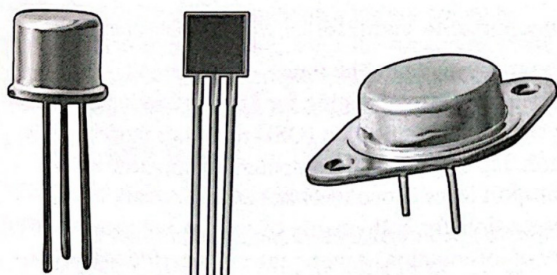
transform *vb.* 1. To change the appearance or format of data without altering its content; that is, to encode information according to predefined rules. 2. In mathematics and computer graphics, to alter the position, size, or nature of an object by moving it to another location (translation), making it larger or smaller (scaling), turning it (rotation), changing its description from one type of coordinate system to another, and so on.

transformer *n.* A device used to change the voltage of an alternating current signal or to change the impedance of an alternating current circuit.

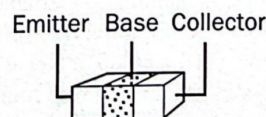
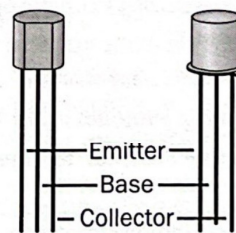
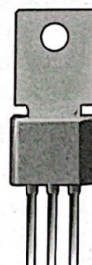
transient *adj.* 1. Fleeting, temporary, or unpredictable. 2. Of or pertaining to the region of memory used for programs, such as applications, that are read from disk storage and that reside in memory temporarily until they are replaced by other programs. In this context, *transient* can also refer to the programs themselves. 3. In electronics, of or pertaining to a short-lived, abnormal, and unpredictable increase in power supply, such as a voltage spike or surge. *Transient time* is the interval during which a change in current or voltage is building up or decaying.

transient suppressor *n.* A circuit designed to reduce or eliminate unwanted electrical signals or voltages.

transistor *n.* Short for **transfer resistor**. A solid-state circuit component, usually with three leads, in which a voltage or a current controls the flow of another current. The transistor can serve many functions, including those of amplifier, switch, and oscillator, and is a fundamental component of almost all modern electronics. *See the illustration. See also* base (definition 3), FET, NPN transistor, PNP transistor.



Transistor.



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necessary to run the Windows operating environment. The win.ini file has been supplanted by the registry database in Windows 95 and later and Windows NT and later. *See also* configuration file, ini file, registry.

Winipcfg *n.* Short for **Windows IP Configuration**. A Windows 9x utility that enables users to access information about their TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol) and network adapter card settings. Running the Winipcfg program (winipcfg.exe) opens the IP Configuration window, which reveals the physical address, IP address, subnet mask, and default gateway settings of the primary TCP/IP adapter (or settings of multiple adapters if more than one is installed). This information is also helpful for troubleshooting. *See also* TCP/IP.

WINS *n.* Acronym for **Windows Internet Naming Service**. A Windows NT Server method for associating a computer's host name with its address. *Also called:* INS, Internet Naming Service. *Compare* DNS (definition 1).

Winsock *n.* Short for **Windows Sockets**. An application programming interface standard for software that provides a TCP/IP interface under Windows. The Winsock standard developed out of a Birds of a Feather (BOF) discussion that arose among software vendors at a UNIX conference in 1991; it has gained the general support of software developers, including Microsoft. *See also* application programming interface, BOF, socket (definition 1), sockets API, TCP/IP.

Wintel *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of a computer that uses the Microsoft Windows operating system and an Intel central processing unit (CPU). *See also* Windows.

wired *adj.* 1. Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of an electronic circuit or hardware grouping in which the configuration is determined by the physical interconnection of the components (as opposed to being programmable in software or alterable by a switch). *See also* hardwired (definition 1). 2. Knowledgeable about Internet resources, systems, and culture. 3. Having access to the Internet.

Wired Equivalent Privacy *n.* *See* WEP.

wired home *n.* *See* smart home.

wire-frame model *n.* In computer graphics applications such as CAD programs, a representation of a three-dimensional object using separate lines that resemble strands of wire joined to create a model. *Compare* solid model, surface modeling.

wireless *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of communications that take place without the use of interconnecting wires or cables, such as by radio, microwave, or infrared light.

Wireless Application Protocol *n.* A specification for a global standard for enabling digital cellular phones and other wireless devices to access Internet and other information services. The Wireless Application Protocol, or WAP, is supported by an organization known as WAP Forum, which includes such members as Motorola, Nokia, L. M. Ericsson, and Unwired Planet. The goal of the forum is to create an open standard that works with different wireless technologies. *Acronym:* WAP.

wireless communication *n.* Communication between a computer and another computer or device without wires. The form of wireless communication provided as part of the Windows operating system uses infrared light to transmit files. Radio frequencies, as used by cellular and cordless telephones, are another form of wireless communication. *See also* infrared, infrared device, infrared port.

Wireless Information Device *n.* *See* WID.

wireless Internet *n.* Version of the Internet designed for use on wireless phones and handheld devices with small display screens, limited memory, and slower data transmission speeds than a personal computer. Most wireless Internet sites offer content as basic text with limited graphics.

wireless LAN *n.* A LAN (local area network) that sends and receives data via radio, infrared optical signaling, or some other technology that does not require a physical connection between individual nodes and the hub. Wireless LANs are often used in office or factory settings where a user must carry a portable computer from place to place. *Also called:* WLAN.

Wireless Markup Language *n.* *See* WML.

Wireless Multimedia Forum *n.* *See* WMF (definition 2).

wireless phone *n.* Telephone that operates by means of radio waves without a wire connection. A base station (cell tower) relays the phone's signal to a wireless carrier's network, where it is transmitted to another wireless phone or to a wired telephone network.

Wireless Services server component *n.* A component that allows a content provider or carrier to configure and schedule any number of information acquisition/encoding/transmission components to create a data stream to be transmitted by a carrier to a device. The server component builds