

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 WORLDTM

COMPUTER DICTIONARY

10TH EDITION

By Bryan Pfaffenberger, Ph.D.



Wiley Publishing, Inc.

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

authenticate To establish the identity of a person accessing a computer network. See *authentication, log on, password, strong authentication*.

authentication In a network, the process by which the system attempts to ensure that the person logging on is the same person to whom the account was issued. The sole means of authentication in some networks is the demand for a password, even though password-based authentication is known to have several serious security flaws. See *CHAP, PAP*.

Authenticode A Microsoft-developed security technology that provides a "wrapper" for downloaded software. Authenticode "wrappers" enable the user to determine the identity of the software's author and to determine whether the software has been tampered with.

authoring In multimedia, the process of preparing a presentation. This involves not only writing the text, but also preparing the sound, graphic, and video components.

authoring language A computer-assisted instruction (CAI) application that provides tools for creating instructional or presentation software. For example, a popular authoring language for Macintosh computers is HyperCard, provided free with every Macintosh computer. Using HyperCard, educators can develop instructional programs quickly and easily.

authoring tools In multimedia, application programs that enable the user to blend audio files, video, and animation with text and traditional graphics. The leading commercial authoring tool is Macromedia Director.

authoritative Official and superior to other, competing directives. In a data restore procedure, for example, the authoritative backup set will replace existing data.

auto-answer mode In a modem, a user-selectable mode that automatically answers incoming calls. This mode is switched off

by default in most modem's default configuration since most users employ their modems only for originating calls.

auto-assembly In digital video, a type of assemble edit in which the editing proceeds automatically based on a previously specified edit decision list (EDL). See *assemble edit, edit decision list (EDL)*.

AutoCAD A computer-assisted design and drafting (CAD) program, created by Autodesk, that is widely used in professional engineering and architectural settings.

auto-dial/auto-answer modem A modem that can generate tones to dial the receiving computer and that can answer a ringing telephone to establish a connection when a call is received.

autodial modem See *auto-dial/auto-answer modem*.

AUTOEXEC.BAT In MS-DOS, a batch file containing instructions that DOS executes when the system is started. AUTOEXEC.BAT files commonly include PATH statements that tell DOS where to find application programs and the commands to install a mouse or to operate a printer. All this information must be provided at the start of every operating session; AUTOEXEC.BAT does the task for the user. See *CONFIG.SYS, path, path statement*.

autologon A feature of communications programs that lets one automate the process of logging on to an online service.

automagically Performed by means of a process that is too complex to be explained in the context in which this word is used or by a process that appears quite simple to the user but in fact is accomplished by extremely complex, hidden procedures.

automatic backup An application program feature that saves a document automatically at a period the user specifies, such as every 5 or 10 minutes. After a power outage or system crash, the user can retrieve