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Dictionary of Computer and Internet Terms

Eleventh Edition

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Dictionary of Computer and Internet Terms

Eleventh Edition

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MINIMIZE in Windows. To clear the program from memory, choose Quit from the File menu.

This illustrates one of the most basic areas of confusion between Macintosh and Windows terminology. Be careful when talking to your cross-platform friends or you'll both end up confused!

5. (in Visual Basic.NET) removing a form from the screen and exiting the program.

Closed Beta a test of incomplete software that is only open to a small group, such as the developer's employees. See BETA TESTING.

cloud computing computing operations carried out on servers that are accessed through the Internet, rather than on one's own personal computer. For example, many people read their e-mail via cloud computing; that is, they connect to a web site where the server handles the mail. More recently, it has become possible to do word processing, document storage, and other kinds of work "through the cloud." The users pay for computing as a service rather than owning the machines and software to do it.

Why this is called "cloud computing" is somewhat unclear. The key concept is that the user does not know where the server is located, or whether there is one server or many; everything is "off in the clouds." On network diagrams, a cloudlike shape has long been used to indicate a large network whose internal structure is not known or does not matter. The term WIRELESS CLOUD may also play a role, although cloud computing need not be wireless.

cloud, the any CLOUD COMPUTING resource; any set of computers accessed remotely. "The cloud" is not a specific place or service. *Compare* CYBERSPACE.

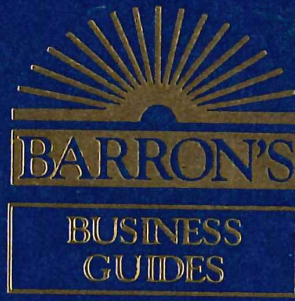
cluster

1. a group of disk sectors that are treated as a unit for purposes of allocating space; an ALLOCATION UNIT. *See also* LOST CLUSTER.
2. a group of servers that function as a single system.

cluster computing using networked computers to work on computationally complicated problems, often more economically than on a traditional SUPERCOMPUTER. Software needs to be designed to distribute the tasks to the different machines. For an example, see BEOWULF. The clustered computers are part of the same organization, in contrast with GRID COMPUTING.

CLV (constant linear velocity) in disk drives, a speed of rotation that varies depending on whether the drive is reading a long track near the edge of the disk or a short track near the center. Thus the disk itself passes beneath the head at a constant speed. Most CD-ROM drives use CLV. *Contrast* CAV.

CMOS (complementary metal-oxide semiconductor) a type of integrated circuit noted for its extremely low power consumption and its



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