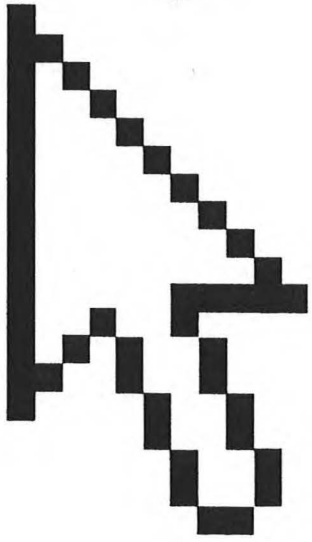
Microsoft

Microsoft Computer Dictionary

Fifth Edition



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no application or transport semantics, which makes it highly modular and extensible.

SOC *n.* Acronym for system on a chip. A chip integrating computer, microprocessors, and all necessary support components in a single unit. SOC technology is used in firewalls, gateways, specialized servers, and interactive devices like Web pads and vending machines.

social engineering *n.* The practice of penetrating system security by tricking individuals into divulging passwords and information about network vulnerabilities. Often done by calling the individual on phone and pretending to be another employee of company with a computer-related question.

Society for Information Management *n.* A professional society based in Chicago for information systems executives, formerly the Society for Management Information Systems. *Acronym:* SIM.

Society for Management Information Systems *n. See* Society for Information Management.

socket *n.* **1.** An identifier for a particular service on a particular node on a network. The socket consists of a node address and a port number, which identifies the service. For example, port 80 on an Internet node indicates a Web server. *See also* port number, sockets API. **2.** The receptacle part of a connector, which receives a plug. *See also* female connector. **3.** A receptacle on a PC motherboard into which a microprocessor is plugged. A socket-mounted microprocessor, such as the Pentium, connects to the motherboard through numerous pins on the underside. Newer Intel microprocessors, such as the Pentium II and later, plug into the motherboard through an edge connector along the side of the chip. *See also* socket 4, socket 5, socket 7, socket 8. *Compare* Slot 1, Slot 2.

socket 4 *n.* A 5-volt mounting socket on a PC motherboard designed to hold a Pentium microprocessor operating at 60 MHz or 66 MHz. Socket 4 includes openings for 273 pins. *See also* Pentium, socket (definition 3). *Compare* Slot 1, Slot 2, socket 5, socket 7, socket 8.

socket 5 *n.* A 3.3-volt mounting socket on a PC motherboard designed to hold a Pentium microprocessor operating at the following speeds: 75, 90, 100, 120, 133, 150, 166, 180, and 200 MHz. Socket 5 includes openings for 320 pins. It has been superceded by socket 7, socket 8, slot 1, and slot 2. *See also* Pentium, socket (definition 3). *Compare* Slot 1, Slot 2, socket 4, socket 7, socket 8.

socket 7 *n.* A mounting socket on a PC motherboard designed to hold a microprocessor operating at the following speeds: 150, 166, 180, 200, 210, and 233 MHz. Socket 7 includes openings for 321 pins and operates at two voltages, 2.5 volts at the core and 3.3 volts input/output. It is used with the Pentium MMX chip and competitive microprocessor chips from other manufacturers, such as AMD and Cyrix. *See also* MMX, Pentium, socket (definition 3). *Compare* Slot 1, Slot 2, socket 4, socket 5, socket 8.

socket 8 *n.* A 2.5-volt mounting socket on a PC motherboard designed to hold a Pentium Pro microprocessor. Socket 8 has openings for 387 pins. *See also* Pentium, socket (definition 3). *Compare* Slot 1, Slot 2, socket 4, socket 5, socket 7.

sockets API *n.* An application programming interface implemented to create and use sockets in client/server networking. The most common sockets API is the University of California at Berkeley UNIX/BSD implementation (Berkeley Sockets API), which is the basis for Winsock. *See also* socket (definition 1).

soc. newsgroups *n.* Usenet newsgroups that are part of the soc. hierarchy and have the prefix soc. These newsgroups are devoted to discussions of current events and social issues. Soc. newsgroups are one of the seven original Usenet newsgroup hierarchies. The other six are comp., misc., news., rec., sci., and talk. *See also* newsgroup, traditional newsgroup hierarchy, Usenet.

soft *adj.* **1.** In computing, temporary or changeable. For example, a soft error is a problem from which the system can recover, and a soft patch is a temporary program fix that holds only while the program is running. *Compare* hard (definition 1). **2.** In electronics, characterized by magnetic materials that do not retain their magnetism when a magnetic field is removed. *Compare* hard (definition 2).

soft boot *n. See* warm boot.

soft copy *n.* The temporary images presented on a computer display screen. *Compare* hard copy.

soft error *n.* An error from which a program or operating system is able to recover. *Compare* hard error.

soft font *n. See* downloadable font.

soft hyphen *n. See* hyphen.

soft link *n. See* symbolic link.

softmodem *n. See* software-based modem.

soft patch *n.* A fix or modification performed only while the code being patched is loaded into memory, so that the executable or object file is not modified in any way. *See also* patch[1].

soft return *n.* A line break inserted in a document by a word processor when the next word in the current line of text would cause the line to overflow into the margin—a movable line break. *See also* wordwrap. *Compare* hard return.

soft-sectored disk *n.* A disk, especially a floppy disk, whose sectors have been marked with recorded data marks rather than punched holes. *See also* index hole. *Compare* hard-sectored disk.

software *n.* Computer programs; instructions that make hardware work. Two main types of software are system software (operating systems), which controls the workings of the computer, and applications, such as word processing programs, spreadsheets, and databases, which perform the tasks for which people use computers. Two additional categories, which are neither system nor application software but contain elements of both, are network software, which enables groups of computers to communicate, and language software, which provides programmers with the tools they need to write programs. In addition to these task-based categories, several types of software are described based on their method of distribution. These include packaged software (canned programs), sold primarily through retail outlets; freeware and public domain software, which are distributed free of charge; shareware, which is also distributed free of charge, although users are requested to pay a small registration fee for continued use of the program; and vaporware, software that is announced by a company or individuals but either never makes it to market or is very late. *See also* application, canned software, freeware, network software, operating system, shareware, system software, vaporware. *Compare* firmware, hardware, liveware.

Software & Information Industry Association *n. See* SIIA.

software-based modem *n.* A modem that uses a general-purpose, reprogrammable digital signal processor chip and RAM-based program memory rather than a dedicated chip with the modem functions burned into the silicon. A software-based modem can be reconfigured to update and change the modem's features and functions.

software bloat *n.* A software condition caused by the addition of excessive number of possibly unnecessary features and functions as new versions of the software are released. Software bloat is generally assumed to result in long loading times and inordinate resource (memory and storage) requirements. *See also* bloatware, creeping featurism.

software conversion *n.* Changing or moving a program designed to run on one computer to run on another. Usually this involves detailed (professional) work on the program itself.

software-dependent *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or being a computer or device that is tied to a particular program or set of programs developed for it.

software development kit *n. See* developer's kit.

software engineer *n.* **1.** In general, one who works at the code level with software. Although such engineering can be considered to encompass everything from software design to management and testing, the term is generally considered more or less synonymous with *programmer*—one who actually writes the code. **2.** *See* developer.

software engineering *n.* The design and development of software. *See also* programming.

software handshake *n.* A handshake that consists of signals transmitted over the same wires used to transfer the data, as in modem-to-modem communications over telephone lines, rather than signals transmitted over special wires. *See also* handshake.

software house *n.* An organization that develops and supports software for its customers.

software IC *n. See* software integrated circuit.

software integrated circuit *n.* An existing software module that can be designed into a program, much as an integrated circuit can be designed into a logic board. *Abbreviation:* software IC. *See also* abstract data type, module (definition 1), object-oriented programming.

software interrupt *n.* A program-generated interrupt that stops current processing in order to request a service provided by an interrupt handler (a separate set of instructions designed to perform the task required). *Also called:* trap.

software package *n.* A program sold to the public, ready to run and containing all necessary components and documentation.

software piracy *n. See* piracy.