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Dictionary of Computer and Internet Terms

Ninth Edition

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provided to homes is called G.lite and provides data rates up to 1.5 Mbps downstream and 0.5 Mbps upstream. *See* DSL and cross-references there.

adventure game a game in which the player navigates through an interactive story, solving puzzles and exploring areas. There may be multiple endings to the game, and the player's actions determine which ending is reached. Adventure games test reasoning skills instead of reflexes.

The first adventure games had no graphics, only textual descriptions: "You are in a maze of twisting passages, all alike..."

adware software whose main purpose is to display advertisements on the user's computer. Sometimes *adware* refers to legitimate software sent out as samples or sales presentations, but more often, the term denotes software installed without the user's full knowledge and consent. Adware of the latter type can make advertisements pop up on the screen even when the web browser is blocking pop-up ads. *See* POP-UP AD.

Software tools for detecting and removing malicious adware can be found at www.safer-networking.org and www.lavasoftusa.com. *See also* MALWARE; SPYWARE.

.aero a suffix indicating that a web or e-mail address belongs to some part of the aeronautical industry (in any country). *Contrast* .COM. *See also* TOP-LEVEL DOMAIN; ICANN.

AF (audio frequency) a frequency within the range of human hearing, 20 to 20,000 hertz. *Contrast* RF.

AFAIK online abbreviation for "as far as I know."

AFAIR online abbreviation for "as far as I remember."

affiliate program a promotional program whereby a business makes payments or provides free services to others who refer customers to them. For example, many web sites participate in the affiliate program of AMAZON.COM to sell books.

afk online abbreviation for "away from keyboard."

agent a piece of software that performs a service for someone, usually silently and automatically. For example, an agent might run on a CLIENT computer to keep the SERVER informed of its needs.

AGP (Accelerated Graphics Port) a fast bus connection that allows the graphics adapter to communicate with the CPU at a higher speed than the conventional ISA, EISA, or PCI bus. AGP was introduced with Intel's Pentium II processor.

AI *see* ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

AIM America Online Instant Messenger, a widely used chat program. *Compare* ICQ, IM, IRC.