

FEB 7 2007

Dictionary of
Computer and
Internet Terms

Ninth Edition

Douglas A. Downing, Ph.D.
School of Business and Economics
Seattle Pacific University

Michael A. Covington, Ph.D.
Artificial Intelligence Center
The University of Georgia

Melody Mauldin Covington
Covington Innovations
Athens, Georgia

With the assistance of
Catherine Anne Covington

FOR REFERENCE ONLY
Do Not Take From This Room



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Douglas Downing teaches economics and quantitative methods and is undergraduate program director for the School of Business and Economics at Seattle Pacific University. He is the author of several books in both Barron's Easy Way and Business Review series. He is also the author of *Java Programming the Easy Way* and *Dictionary of Mathematics Terms*, published by Barron's Educational Series, Inc. He holds the Ph.D. degree in economics from Yale University.

Michael Covington is Associate Director of the Artificial Intelligence Center at the University of Georgia. He is the author of several books and over 250 magazine articles. He holds the Ph.D. degree in linguistics from Yale University.

Melody Mauldin Covington is a graphic designer living in Athens, Georgia. She is the author of *Dictionary of Desktop Publishing* (published by Barron's).

Catherine Anne Covington is a student and web designer in Athens, Georgia.

© Copyright 2006, 2003, 2000, 1998, 1996, 1995, 1992, 1989, and 1986
by Barron's Educational Series, Inc.

All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form, by photostat, microfilm, xerography, or any other means, or incorporated into any information retrieval system, electronic or mechanical, without the written permission of the copyright owner.

All inquiries should be addressed to:
Barron's Educational Series, Inc.
250 Wireless Boulevard
Hauppauge, New York 11788
<http://www.barronseduc.com>

Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 2005052175

ISBN-13: 978-0-7641-3417-3

ISBN-10: 0-7641-3417-5

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Downing, Douglas.

Dictionary of computer and Internet terms / Douglas A. Downing, Michael A. Covington, Melody Mauldin Covington.—9th ed.

p. cm.

ISBN-13: 978-0-7641-3417-3

ISBN-10: 0-7641-3417-5

1. Computers—Dictionaries. 2. Internet—Dictionaries. I. Covington, Michael A., 1957– II. Covington, Melody Mauldin. III. Title.

QA76.15.D667 2006

004'.003—dc22

2005052175

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

identify their serial ports as `/dev/ttya` and `/dev/ttyb`. Most serial ports follow the EIA-232D (RS-232) standard. See RS-232. *Contrast* PARALLEL PORT; USB.



FIGURE 240. Series circuit (two resistors)

series connection of two electronic components so that current flows through one and then the other (see Figure 240). *Contrast* PARALLEL.



FIGURE 241. Serif (highlighted on two letters)

serif the short finishing strokes of the letterforms in a roman typeface, present in I F A and absent in I F A (Figure 241). It is thought that the horizontal nature of serifs helps guide the reader's eye along the line of type. *Contrast* SANS-SERIF. See also TYPEFACE.

server a computer that provides services to another computer (called the *client*). On multitasking machines, a process that provides services to another process is sometimes called a server. For specific examples, see DDE; FILE SERVER; WEB SERVER; X SERVER.

server-side application a computer program that runs on a network server rather than on the client PC. For instance, Java servlets are server-side applications; when you view a web page that contains a servlet, the computation is done on the server rather than on your PC. *Contrast* CLIENT-SIDE APPLICATION.

service in Windows, a program that runs continuously, unseen by the user, such as a Web or FTP server, or a program with a more mundane function such as updating the system clock; the equivalent of a UNIX DAEMON.

service bureau a business that provides services to computer users, such as high-quality color printing, disk format conversions, or the like.

service pack a set of updates to a software package, delivered together or even delivered with the original software.

Usage note: The phrase *Windows XP Service Pack 2* can mean either "Service Pack 2 for Windows XP" or "Windows XP with Service Pack 2 included."