

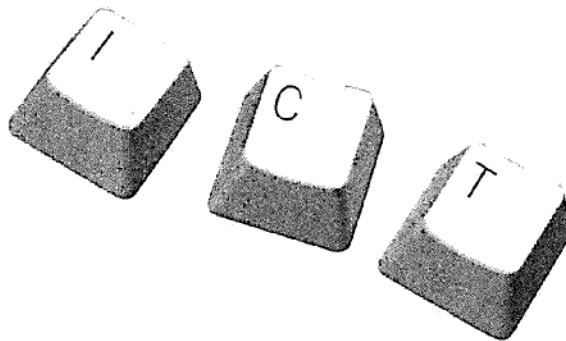


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Dictionary of ICT

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DICTIONARY OF ICT

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Preface

This dictionary provides a vocabulary used in information technology, including programming, networks, electronic mail, word processing, multimedia, desktop publishing. In addition, the dictionary covers video, TV and radio.

The entries are each given an example. Examples are given in context. General concepts or ideas or hardware or software. Quotations from a reference source are used where the words are used in a specific context. Provides extra information on communications studies.

container /kən'teɪnə/ *noun* 1. a box or bottle or can, etc. which can hold goods ○ *The ink is sold in strong metal containers.* ○ *The container burst while it was being loaded.* 2. a very large metal case of a standard size for loading and carrying goods on trucks, trains and ships ○ *container ship* ○ *container port* ○ *container terminal* ○ *to ship goods in containers* 3. something that can be set to a value; e.g., a variable is a container, as is an object's colour or position or other properties

containerisation /kən'teɪnəraɪz/ *noun* the process of putting into containers, or carrying goods in containers

containerize /kən'teɪnəraɪz/ *verb* to put goods into containers; to ship goods in containers

content /'kɒntent/ *noun* information, ideas, text, images or data that form a letter, document, web page, database or book

content-addressable addressing /kɒntent ˌædresəb(ə)l ˌə'dresɪŋ/ *noun* same as **associative addressing**

contention /kən'tenʃən/ *noun* a situation that occurs when two or more devices are trying to communicate with the same piece of equipment

content provider /'kɒntent prəˌvaɪdə/ *noun* a company that supplies information, e.g. text, news stories, images, video, software, for a publication in a website or other medium

contents /'kɒntents/ *plural noun* things contained or what is inside something ○ *The contents of the bottle poured out onto the computer keyboard.*

context /'kɒntekst/ *noun* words and phrases among which a word is used ○ *The example shows how the word is used in context.*

context-sensitive /kɒntekst 'sensɪtɪv/ *adjective* that relates to the particular context

context-sensitive help /kɒntekst 'sensɪtɪv 'help/ *noun* a help message that gives useful information about the particular function or part of the program you are in rather than general information about the whole program

context-switching /'kɒntekst swɪtʃɪŋ/ *noun* a process in which several programs are loaded in memory, but only one at a time can be executed

COMMENT: Unlike a true multitasking system which can load several programs into memory and run several programs at once, context-switching only allows one program to be run at a time.

contiguous /kən'tɪɡjuəs/ *adjective* which touches

'If you later edit the file again, some of the new data clusters will not be contiguous with the original clusters but spread around the disk.' [Computing]

contiguous graphics /kən'tɪɡjuəs 'ɡræfɪks/ *plural noun* graphic cells or characters which touch each other ○ *Most display units do not provide contiguous graphics: their characters have a small space on each side to improve legibility.*

contingency plan /kən'tɪndʒənsi plæn/ *noun* a secondary plan that will be used if the first fails to work

continual /kən'tɪnjuəl/ *adjective* which happens again and again ○ *The continual system breakdowns have slowed down the processing.*

continually /kən'tɪnjuəli/ *adverb* again and again

continuation /kən'tɪnjuː'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of continuing

continue /kən'tɪnjuː/ *verb* to go on doing something or to do something which you were doing earlier

continuity /kən'tɪnjuːti/ *noun* 1. a clear conduction path between two points 2. the process of checking that the details of one scene in a film continue into the next scene to be shown, even if the two have been shot at different times

continuous /kən'tɪnjuəs/ *adjective* with no end or with no breaks: which goes on without stopping

continuously /kən'tɪnjuəsli/ *adverb* without stopping ○ *The printer overheated after working continuously for five hours.*

continuous tone /kən'tɪnjuəs təʊn/ *noun* an image such as a photograph that uses all possible values of grey or colours.

contouring /kən'tʊərɪŋ/ *noun* 1. (in a graphics application) a process that converts a wire-frame drawing into a solid-looking object by adding shadows and texture 2. (in a graphics application) a function that creates realistic-looking ground, e.g. in a virtual-reality system, or a surface

contrast *noun* /'kɒntrɑːst/ 1. the difference between black and white or between colours ○ *The control allows you to adjust brightness and contrast.* 2. a control knob on a display that alters the difference between black and white tones or between colours ■ *verb* /kən'treɪst/ to examine the differences between two sets of information ○ *The old data was contrasted with the latest information.*

contrasting /kən'treɪstɪŋ/ *adjective* which show a sharp difference ○ *a cover design in contrasting colours*

contrast setting /'kɒntrɑːst ,setɪŋ/ *noun* TV contrast control position

control /kən'trəʊl/ *verb* to be in charge of something or to make sure that something is kept in check ■ *noun* 1. the process of restricting or checking something or making sure that something is kept in check 2. conditional program statements 3. a key on a computer keyboard which sends a control character 4. power or being able to direct something ○ *The company is under the control of three directors.* ○ *The family lost control of its business.*

controllable /kən'trəʊləb(ə)l/ *adjective* which can be controlled

controller /kən'trəʊlə/ *noun* a hardware or software device that controls a peripheral such as a printer, or that monitors and directs the data transmission over a local area network

'...a printer's controller is the brains of the machine. It translates the signals coming from your computer into printing instructions that result in a hard copy of your electronic document' [Publish]

control panel /kən'trəʊl pæŋ(ə)l/ *noun* 1. a panel with indicators and switches that allows an operator to monitor and control the actions of a computer or peripheral 2. a utility that displays the user-definable options such as keyboard, country-code and type of mouse

control unit /kən'trəʊl juːɪt/ *noun* the section of the CPU which selects and executes instructions

conventional memory /kənˌvenʃ(ə)n(ə)l 'mem(ə)rɪ/ *noun* (in an IBM-PC compatible system) the random access memory region installed in a PC from 0 up to 640Kb. This area of memory can be directly controlled by MS-DOS. Compare **high memory**, **expanded memory**

convergence /kənˈvɜːdʒəns/ *noun* 1. the combination of two or more different technologies producing a new technology. For example, fax machines are the product of the convergence of telephone, scanning and printing technologies. 2. (in a colour monitor) the accuracy with which the picture beam strikes the three colour dots that form each colour pixel ▶ **picture beam**, **pixel**

conversational mode /kənˌvɜːʃ(ə)n(ə)l məʊd/ *noun* a method of operating that provides immediate responses to a user's input. **interactive mode**. Compare **batch mode**

conversion /kənˈvɜːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a change from one system to another