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Microsoft

Computer Dictionary

Fifth Edition

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for microcomputers based on Intel microprocessors. The first system, CP/M-80, was the most popular operating system for 8080- and Z80-based microcomputers. Digital Research also developed CP/M-86 for 8086/8088-based computers, CP/M-Z8000 for Zilog Z8000-based computers, and CP/M-68K for Motorola 68000-based computers. When the IBM PC and MS-DOS were introduced, common use of CP/M by end users dwindled. DRI continues to enhance the CP/M line, supporting multitasking with the Concurrent CP/M and MP/M products. *See also* MP/M.

CPM *n.* *See* critical path method.

CPRM *n.* Acronym for **C**ontent **P**rotection for **R**ecordable **M**edia. Technology developed to control the use of copyrighted digital music and video material by blocking the transfer of protected files to portable media such as zip disks and smart cards. CPRM would be added to storage devices and provide data scrambling and identification codes to block the copying of copyrighted files.

cps *n.* *See* characters per second.

CPSR *n.* Acronym for **C**omputer **P**rofessionals for **S**ocial **R**esponsibility. A public advocacy organization of computer professionals. CPSR was originally formed out of concern over the use of computer technology for military purposes but has extended its interest to such issues as civil liberties and the effect of computers on workers.

CPU *n.* Acronym for **c**entral **p**rocessing **u**nit. The computational and control unit of a computer. The CPU is the device that interprets and executes instructions. Mainframes and early minicomputers contained circuit boards full of integrated circuits that implemented the CPU. Single-chip central processing units, called *microprocessors*, made possible personal computers and workstations. Examples of single-chip CPUs are the Motorola 68000, 68020, and 68030 chips and the Intel 8080, 8086, 80286, 80386, and i486 chips. The CPU—or microprocessor, in the case of a microcomputer—has the ability to fetch, decode, and execute instructions and to transfer information to and from other resources over the computer's main data-transfer path, the bus. By definition, the CPU is the chip that functions as the “brain” of a computer. In some instances, however, the term encompasses both the processor and the computer's memory or, even more broadly, the main computer console (as opposed to peripheral equipment). *See* the illustration. *See also* microprocessor.



CPU.

CPU-bound *adj.* *See* computation-bound.

CPU cache *n.* A section of fast memory linking the CPU (central processing unit) and main memory that temporarily stores data and instructions the CPU needs to execute upcoming commands and programs. Considerably faster than main memory, the CPU cache contains data that is transferred in blocks, thereby speeding execution. The system anticipates the data it will need through algorithms. *Also called:* cache memory, memory cache. *See also* cache, CPU, V-CACHE.

CPU cycle *n.* **1.** The smallest unit of time recognized by the CPU (central processing unit)—typically a few hundred-millionths of a second. **2.** The time required for the CPU to perform the simplest instruction, such as fetching the contents of a register or performing a no-operation instruction (NOP). *Also called:* clock tick.

CPU fan *n.* An electric fan usually placed directly on a CPU (central processing unit) or on the CPU's heat sink to help dissipate heat from the chip by circulating air around it. *See also* CPU, heat sink.

CPU speed *n.* A relative measure of the data-processing capacity of a particular CPU (central processing unit), usually measured in megahertz. *See also* CPU.

CPU time *n.* In multiprocessing, the amount of time during which a particular process has active control of the CPU (central processing unit). *See also* CPU, multiprocessing.

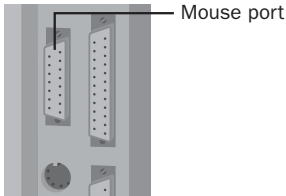
CR *n.* *See* carriage return.

crack *vb.* **1.** To gain unauthorized access to a network by breaching its security. **2.** To decipher encrypted information.

cracker *n.* A person who overcomes the security measures of a computer system and gains unauthorized access. The goal of some crackers is to obtain information ille-

gram with which it is working, the area of the screen where the mouse pointer appears serves as the target for an action when the user presses one of the mouse buttons. *See also* block cursor, cursor (definition 3).

mouse port *n.* **1.** In many PC-compatible computers, a dedicated connector where a mouse or other pointing device plugs into the computer. If a mouse port is not available, a serial port can be used to connect the mouse to the computer. *See* the illustration. *See also* connector, mouse, pointing device, serial port. **2.** In a Macintosh, the Apple Desktop Bus port. *See also* Apple Desktop Bus.



Mouse port.

mouse scaling *n.* *See* mouse sensitivity.

mouse sensitivity *n.* The relationship of mouse movement to screen cursor movement. A more sensitive mouse signals to the computer more “mouse moves” per inch of physical mouse movement than does a less sensitive mouse. Increasing the sensitivity of the program or mouse driver can result in smaller cursor moves for a given mouse move, making it easier for the user to position the cursor precisely. High sensitivity is good for exacting work, such as CAD/CAM and graphic art; low sensitivity is good for tasks in which getting around the screen quickly is important and for applications such as Web browsers, word processors, and spreadsheets, in which the cursor is used mostly to select buttons or text. *Also called:* mouse scaling, mouse tracking.

mouse tracking *n.* *See* mouse sensitivity.

mouse trails *n.* The creation of a shadowlike trail following the mouse pointer on screen in order to make it easier to see. Mouse trails are useful for laptops and notebooks, particularly ones with passive matrix displays or older models with monochrome screens. The relatively low resolution and contrast of these screens made it easy to lose sight of a small mouse pointer. *See also* mouse pointer, submarining.

mousetrapping *n.* A practice employed by some Web sites in which the back and exit buttons of a visitor’s Web browser are disabled and attempts to leave the site are redirected to other pages on the site or to other sites against the visitor’s will. Mousetrapping is most often associated with adult-oriented Web sites. *Compare* page-jacking.

.mov *n.* A filename extension for a movie file in Apple’s QuickTime format. *See also* QuickTime.

move *n.* A command or an instruction to transfer information from one location to another. Depending on the operation involved, a move can affect data in a computer’s memory or it can affect text or a graphical image in a data file. In programming, for example, a move instruction might transfer a single value from one memory location to another. In applications, on the other hand, a move command might relocate a paragraph of text or all or part of a graphic from one place in a document to another. Unlike a copy procedure, which duplicates information, a move indicates that information either is or can be deleted from its original location. *Compare* copy.

.movie *n.* *See* .mov.

Moving Picture Experts Group *n.* *See* MPEG (definition 1).

Mozilla *n.* **1.** A nickname for the Netscape Navigator (later, Netscape Communicator) Web browser, coined by the Netscape Corporation. *See also* Mosaic, Netscape Navigator. **2.** Since 1998, when the Communicator source code was released for free, for use by any interested parties, the name Mozilla has been extended as a generic reference to any Web browser based on Navigator source code.

mozilla.org *n.* The name of the group charged by the Netscape Corporation to act as a clearinghouse for Mozilla-related matters, such as questions, changes to code, bug reporting, forums, and so on.

MP3 *n.* Acronym for **MPEG Audio Layer-3**. A digital audio coding scheme used in distributing recorded music over the Internet. MP3 shrinks the size of an audio file by a factor of 10 to 12 without seriously degrading the quality (CD-recording level) of the sound. MP3 files are given the file extension .mp3. Although MP3 is part of the MPEG family, it is audio-only and is not the same as the now-defunct MPEG-3 standard. *See also* MPEG-3.

MP3 encoder *n.* *See* encoder.

