

DICTIONARY OF **COMPUTING**

SIXTH EDITION

A & C Black • London

www.acblack.com

First published in Great Britain
by *Peter Collin Publishing* 1988
This sixth edition published in 2010
Fifth edition published 2004
Reprinted 2008, 2009
Fourth edition published 2002
Third edition published 1998
Second edition published 1994

A & C Black Publishers Ltd
36 Soho Square, London W1D 3QY

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A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978 1 408 1 2807 7

A & C Black uses paper produced with elemental chlorine-free pulp,
harvested from managed sustainable forests.

Text typeset by A & C Black
Printed and bound in Spain by GraphyCems.

bit-slice architecture /ˌbɪt slɑːs 'ɑːkɪtektʃəl/ *noun* the construction of a large word size CPU by joining a number of smaller word size blocks ○ *The bit-slice design uses four four-bit word processors to make a sixteen-bit processor.*

bit-slice microprocessor /ˌbɪt slɑːs 'mɪkrəprəsesəl/ *noun* a large word size CPU constructed by joining a number of smaller word size blocks ○ *The bit-slice microprocessor uses four 4-bit processors to make a 16-bit word processor.*

bits per inch /ˌbɪts pɜː 'ɪntʃ/ *noun* full form of **BPI**

bits per pixel /ˌbɪts pɜː 'pɪks(ə)l/ *noun* full form of **BPP**

bits per second /ˌbɪts pɜː 'sekənd/ *noun* a measure of the number of binary digits transmitted every second. Abbr **bps**

bit stream /ˌbɪt striːm/ *noun* a binary data sequence that does not consist of separate, distinct character codes or groups

bit stuffing /ˌbɪt 'stʌfɪŋ/ *noun* the addition of extra bits to a group of data to make up the length required for transmission

bit track /ˌbɪt træk/ *noun* a track on a magnetic disk along which bits can be recorded or read back

bitwise /ˌbɪtwaɪz/ *adverb* carried out on each bit in a byte, one bit at a time

BIX /ˌbiː ɪ 'eks/ *noun* a commercial online system founded by Byte magazine

biz /bɪz/ *noun* a type of newsgroup that contains business discussions and opportunities (NOTE: For example 'biz.opportunities' contains messages from users that are offering ways of making money. Only the biz series of newsgroups are supposed to discuss commercial aspects; the rest of the newsgroups are for technical or academic discussion.)

black and white /ˌblæk ən 'waɪt/ *noun* 1. the use of shades of grey to represent colours on a monitor or display 2. an image in which each pixel is either black or white with no shades of grey

BlackBerry /ˌblækbəri/ trade name for a smartphone widely used in business for its wireless email, Internet and scheduling capability. ◇ **CrackBerry**

black box /ˌblæk 'bɒks/ *noun* a device that performs a function without the user knowing how

black level /ˌblæk 'lev(ə)l/ *noun* a level of a video signal that represents absolutely no light: total blackness

black matrix /ˌblæk 'meɪtrɪks/ *noun* a CRT monitor tube in which the colour phosphor dots are surrounded by black for increased contrast

black writer /ˌblæk 'raɪtə/ *noun* a printer in which toner sticks to the points hit by the laser beam when the image drum is scanned ○ *A black writer produces sharp edges and graphics, but large areas of black are muddy.*

blank cell /ˌblæŋk 'sel/ *noun* an empty cell in a spreadsheet

blank character /ˌblæŋk 'kærɪktə/ *noun* a character code that prints a space

blank disk /ˌblæŋk 'dɪsk/ *noun* a disk that does not have data stored on it

blanking /ˌblæŋkɪŋ/ *noun* a state in which a screen displays nothing, in between two images or during the picture beam flyback

blanking interval /ˌblæŋkɪŋ ɪntəvəl/ *noun* the period during which a screen displays nothing, in between two images or during the picture beam flyback

blank instruction /ˌblæŋk ɪn'strʌkʃən/ *noun* an instruction in a program that is only there to satisfy language syntax or to make up a block length

blank string /ˌblæŋk 'strɪŋ/ *noun* same as **null string**

blank tape /ˌblæŋk 'teɪp/ *noun* a tape that does not have data stored on it

blast /blɑːst/ *verb* 1. to write data into a programmable ROM device 2. to free sections of previously allocated memory or resources

blast-through alphanumeric /ˌblɑːstθruː 'ælphəˌnʊmərɪks/ *plural noun*

characters that can be displayed on a video-text terminal when it is in graphics mode

blaudience /ˌblɔːdiəns/ *noun* a term meaning blog audience, referring to the audience or readers of a blog

bleed /bliːd/ *noun* 1. a line of printing that runs off the edge of the paper 2. a badly adjusted colour monitor in which colours of adjoining pixels blend

bleeding edge /ˌbliːdɪŋ 'edʒ/ *adjective* used to describe technology that is very new and has not yet fully tested to see whether it works correctly

blessed folder /ˌblesɪd 'fəʊldə/ *noun* the Apple Mac System Folder that contains files loaded automatically when the Mac is switched on

output is true if either of two inputs is true, and false if both inputs are the same

sync /sɪŋk/ *noun* (informal) □ **in sync** synchronised □ **the two devices are out of sync** the two devices are not properly synchronised

sync bit /sɪŋk bɪt/ *noun* a transmitted bit used to synchronise devices

sync character /sɪŋk 'kærɪktə/ *noun* a transmitted character used to synchronise devices

synchronisation /ˌsɪŋkrənəɪ'zeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the action of synchronising two or more devices

synchronisation pulses /ˌsɪŋkrənəɪ 'zeɪʃ(ə)n ˌpʌlsɪz/ *plural noun* transmitted pulses used to make sure that the receiver is synchronised with the transmitter

synchronise /ˌsɪŋkrəˈnaɪz/, **synchronize** *verb* to make sure that two or more devices or processes are coordinated in time or action

synchronised dynamic RAM /ˌsɪŋkrənəɪzd daɪˌnæmɪk 'ræm/ *noun* full form of **SDRAM**

synchroniser /ˌsɪŋkrənəɪzə/, **synchronizer** *noun* a device that will perform a function when it receives a signal from another device

synchronous /ˌsɪŋkrənəs/ *adjective* which runs in sync with something else (such as a main clock)

synchronous cache /ˌsɪŋkrənəs kæʃ/ *noun* a high-speed secondary cache system used in many computers that use the Pentium processor chip

synchronous computer /ˌsɪŋkrənəs kəm'pjʊ:tə/ *noun* a computer in which each action can only take place when a timing pulse arrives

synchronous data link control /ˌsɪŋkrənəs 'deɪtə lɪŋk kənˌtrəʊl/ *noun* full form of **SDLC**

synchronous data network /ˌsɪŋkrənəs 'deɪtə ˌnetwɜ:k/ *noun* a communications network in which all the actions throughout the network are controlled by a single timing signal

synchronous DRAM /ˌsɪŋkrənəs dræm/ *noun* new high-speed memory technology in which the memory components work from the same clock signal as the main processor, so are synchronised

synchronous idle character /ˌsɪŋkrənəs ˌaɪd(ə)l 'kærɪktə/ *noun* a character transmitted by a DTE to ensure correct

synchronisation when no other character is being transmitted

synchronous mode /ˌsɪŋkrənəs məʊd/ *noun* a system mode in which operations and events are synchronised with a clock signal

synchronous network /ˌsɪŋkrənəs 'netwɜ:k/ *noun* a network in which all the links are synchronised with a single timing signal

synchronous system /ˌsɪŋkrənəs 'sɪstəm/ *noun* a system in which all devices are synchronised to a main clock signal

synchronous transmission /ˌsɪŋkrənəs trænzmɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the transmission of data from one device to another, where both devices are controlled by the same clock, and the transmitted data is synchronised with the clock signal

sync pulses /sɪŋk 'pʌlsɪz/ *plural noun* transmitted pulses used to make sure that the receiver is synchronised with the transmitter

syntactic error /sɪnˌtæktɪk 'erə/ *noun* a programming error in which the program statement does not follow the syntax of the language

syntax /ˈsɪntæks/ *noun* grammatical rules which apply to a programming language

syntax analysis /ˈsɪntæks əˌnæləsɪs/ *noun* a stage in compilation where statements are checked to see if they obey the rules of syntax

syntax error /ˈsɪntæks ˌerə/ *noun* an error resulting from incorrect use of programming language syntax

synthesis /ˈsɪnθəɪsɪs/ *noun* the process of producing something artificially from a number of smaller elements

synthesise /ˈsɪnθəsaɪz/, **synthesize** *verb* to produce something artificially from a number of smaller elements

‘...despite the fact that speech can now be synthesized with very acceptable quality, all it conveys is linguistic information’ [*Personal Computer World*]

synthesised voice /ˌsɪnθəsaɪzd ˈvɔɪs/ *noun* speech created by an electronic device that uses phonemes

synthesiser /ˈsɪnθəsaɪzə/, **synthesizer** *noun* a device which generates signals, sound or speech

synthetic address /sɪnˌθetɪk əˈdres/ *noun* a location used by a program produced by instructions within the program

synthetic language /sɪnˌθetɪk ˈlæŋɡwɪdʒ/ *noun* programming language in which the source program is written

electronic mail /,elektrɒnɪk 'meɪl/ *noun*
same as **email**

electronic mailbox /,elektrɒnɪk 'meɪlbɒks/ *noun* a system for storing messages sent by email until the person to whom they were sent is ready to read them ○ *When I log on to the network, I always check my electronic mailbox for new messages.*

electronic pen /,elektrɒnɪk 'pen/ *noun*
1. a light pen or wand 2. a stylus used to draw on a graphics tablet ► also called **electronic stylus**

electronic point-of-sale /,elektrɒnɪk ,pɔɪnt əv 'seɪl/ *noun* full form of **EPOS**

electronic publishing /,elektrɒnɪk 'pʌblɪʃɪŋ/ *noun* 1. the use of desktop publishing packages and laser printers to produce printed matter 2. the process of using computers to write and display information, as in *viewdata*

electronic pulse /,elektrɒnɪk 'pʌls/ *noun* a short voltage pulse

electronics /,elek'trɒnɪks/ *noun* the application of knowledge of electrons and their properties to manufactured products such as computers and telephones ○ *the electronics industry*

electronic shopping /,elektrɒnɪk 'ʃɒpɪŋ/ *noun* a system of shopping from the home, using computerised catalogues and paying by credit card, by means of a home computer terminal

electronic signature /,elektrɒnɪk 'sɪɡnɪtʃə/ *noun* a piece of text in code, attached to an email, that confirms the identity of its sender

Electronics Industry Association Interface /,elektrɒnɪks ,ɪndəstri ə ,səʊsɪəf(ə)n 'ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* a standard defining interface signals, transmission rate and power usually used to connect terminals to modems. Abbr **EIA**

Electronics Industry Standards Association /,elektrɒnɪks ,ɪndəstri 'stændədz ə ,səʊsɪəf(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **EISA**

electronic smog /,elektrɒnɪk 'smɒɡ/ *noun* excessive stray electromagnetic fields and static electricity generated by large numbers of electronic equipment (NOTE: This can damage equipment or a person's health.)

electronic stylus /,elektrɒnɪk 'stɑːləs/ *noun* same as **electronic pen**

electronic traffic /,elektrɒnɪk 'træfɪk/ *noun* data transmitted in the form of electronic pulses

electronic wand /,elektrɒnɪk 'wɒnd/ *noun* same as **electronic pen**

electrophotographic /,elektroʊ'fəʊtə ,græfɪk/ *adjective* used to describe a printing technique used in many laser printers in which a laser beam creates an image on a charged drum (NOTE: The drum then attracts particles of fine black toner to the charged areas and transfers the image to paper which is then passed near a heater to melt the toner on to the paper.)

electrosensitive paper /,elektroʊsensɪtɪv 'peɪpə/ *noun* metal-coated printing paper which can display characters using localised heating with a special dot-matrix print head

electrosensitive printing /,elektroʊsensɪtɪv 'prɪntɪŋ/ *noun* printing using electrosensitive paper

electrostatic /,elektroʊ'stætɪk/ *adjective* used to describe devices using the properties of static electrical charge

electrostatic printer /,elektroʊ'stætɪk 'prɪntə/ *noun* a type of printer which forms an image on the paper by charging certain regions to provide character shapes and other images and using ink with an opposite charge which sticks to the paper where required. Also called **electrographic printer**

electrostatic screen /,elektroʊ'stætɪk 'skrin/ *noun* a metal cage surrounding sensitive equipment and connected to earth to protect it from interference

electrostatic storage /,elektroʊ'stætɪk 'stɔːrɪdʒ/ *noun* storage of data in the form of small electrically charged regions on a dielectric material

electrothermal printer /,elektroʊθɜːməl 'prɪntə/ *noun* a printer that uses a printing head with a dot matrix of heating elements to form characters on electrosensitive paper

elegant programming /,elɪɡənt ,prəʊ 'græmɪŋ/ *noun* the writing of well-structured programs using the minimum number of instructions

element /'elɪmənt/ *noun* 1. a small part of an object which is made up of many similar parts 2. one number or cell of a matrix or array

elementary /,elɪ'ment(ə)ri/ *adjective* made of many similar small sections or objects

elevator /'elɪveɪtə/ *noun* a small, square indicator displayed within a scroll bar that indicates where you are within a long docu-