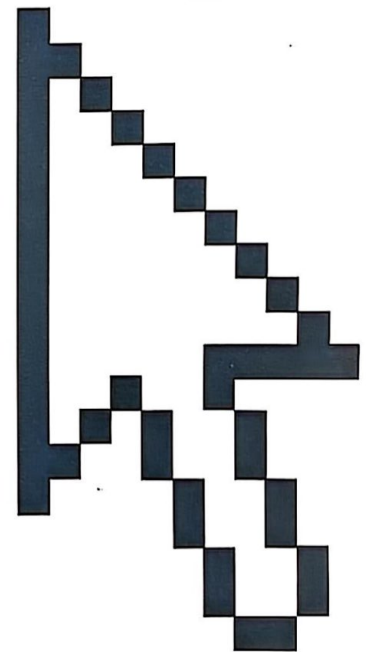


Microsoft

Computer Dictionary

Fifth Edition



PUBLISHED BY
Microsoft Press
A Division of Microsoft Corporation
One Microsoft Way
Redmond, Washington 98052-6399

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Microsoft Computer Dictionary.--5th ed.

p. ; cm.
ISBN 0-7356-1495-4
1. Computers--Dictionaries. 2. Microcomputers--Dictionaries.

AQ76.5. M52267 2002
004'.03--dc21

200219714

Printed and bound in the United States of America.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 QWT 7 6 5 4 3 2

Distributed in Canada by Penguin Books Canada Limited.

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

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Project Editor: Sandra Haynes

Body Part No. X08-41929

work users request files and make changes to them. To deal with the tasks of handling multiple—sometimes simultaneous—requests for files, a file server contains a processor and controlling software as well as a disk drive for storage. On local area networks, a file server is often a computer with a large hard disk that is dedicated only to the task of managing shared files. *Compare* disk server.

File Server for Macintosh *n.* An AppleTalk network integration service that allows Macintosh clients and personal computers clients to share files. *Also called:* MacFile. *See also* Print Server for Macintosh, Services for Macintosh.

file sharing *n.* The use of computer files on networks, wherein files are stored on a central computer or a server and are requested, reviewed, and modified by more than one individual. When a file is used with different programs or different computers, file sharing can require conversion to a mutually acceptable format. When a single file is shared by many people, access can be regulated through such means as password protection, security clearances, or file locking to prohibit changes to a file by more than one person at a time.

file size *n.* The length of a file, typically given in bytes. A computer file stored on disk actually has two file sizes, logical size and physical size. The logical file size corresponds to the file's actual size—the number of bytes it contains. The physical size refers to the amount of storage space allotted to the file on disk. Because space is set aside for a file in blocks of bytes, the last characters in the file might not completely fill the block (allocation unit) reserved for them. When this happens, the physical size is larger than the logical size of the file.

filespec *n.* *See* file specification (definition 1).

file specification *n.* **1.** The path to a file, from a disk drive through a chain of directory files to the file name that serves to locate a particular file. Abbreviated filespec. **2.** A file name containing wildcard characters that indicate which files among a group of similarly named files are requested. **3.** A document that describes the organization of data within a file.

file structure *n.* A description of a file or group of files that are to be treated together for some purpose. Such a description includes file layout and location for each file under consideration.

file system *n.* In an operating system, the overall structure in which files are named, stored, and organized. A file system consists of files, directories, or folders, and the information needed to locate and access these items. The term can also refer to the portion of an operating system

that translates requests for file operations from an application program into low-level, sector-oriented tasks that can be understood by the drivers controlling the disk drives. *See also* driver.

file transfer *n.* The process of moving or transmitting a file from one location to another, as between two programs or over a network.

File Transfer Protocol *n.* *See* FTP¹ (definition 1).

file type *n.* A designation of the operational or structural characteristics of a file. A file's type is often identified in the file name, usually in the file name extension. *See also* file format.

fill¹ *n.* In computer graphics, the colored or patterned "paint" inside an enclosed figure, such as a circle. The portion of the shape that can be colored or patterned is the fill area. Drawing programs commonly offer tools for creating filled or nonfilled shapes; the user can specify color or pattern.

fill² *vb.* To add color or a pattern to the enclosed portion of a circle or other shape.

fill handle *n.* The small black square in the lower-right corner of a cell selection. When you point to the fill handle, the pointer changes to a black cross.

film at 11 *n.* A phrase sometimes seen in newsgroups. An allusion to a brief newsbreak on TV that refers to a top news story that will be covered in full on the 11 o'clock news, it is used sarcastically to ridicule a previous article's lack of timeliness or newsworthiness. *See also* newsgroup.

film recorder *n.* A device for capturing on 35-mm film the images displayed on a computer screen.

film ribbon *n.* *See* carbon ribbon.

filter *n.* **1.** A program or set of features within a program that reads its standard or designated input, transforms the input in some desired way, and then writes the output to its standard or designated output destination. A database filter, for example, might flag information of a certain age. **2.** In communications and electronics, hardware or software that selectively passes certain elements of a signal and eliminates or minimizes others. A filter on a communications network, for example, must be designed to transmit a certain frequency but attenuate (dampen) frequencies above it (a lowpass filter), those below it (a highpass filter), or those above and below it (a bandpass filter). **3.** A pattern or mask through which data is passed to weed out specified items. For instance, a filter used in e-mail or in retrieving newsgroup messages can allow users to filter



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out messages from other users. *See also* e-mail filter, mask. **4.** In computer graphics, a special effect or production effect that is applied to bitmapped images; for example, shifting pixels within an image, making elements of the image transparent, or distorting the image. Some filters are built into a graphics program, such as a paint program or an image editor. Others are separate software packages that plug into the graphics program. *See also* bitmapped graphics, image editor, paint program.

filtering program *n.* A program that filters information and presents only results that match the qualifications defined in the program.

FilterKeys *n.* A Windows 9x accessibility control panel feature that enables users with physical disabilities to use the keyboard. With FilterKeys, the system ignores brief and repeated keystrokes that result from slow or inaccurate finger movements. *See also* accessibility. *Compare* MouseKeys, ShowSounds, SoundSentry, StickyKeys, ToggleKeys.

Final-Form-Text DCA *n.* A standard in Document Content Architecture (DCA) for storing documents in ready-to-print form for interchange between dissimilar programs. A related standard is Revisable-Form-Text DCA (RFTDCA). *Acronym:* FFTDCA. *See also* DCA (definition 1). *Compare* Revisable-Form-Text DCA.

finally *n.* A keyword used in the Java programming language that executes a block of statements regardless of whether a Java exception, or run-time error, occurred in a previous block defined by the "try" keyword. *See also* block, exception, keyword, try.

find *vb.* *See* search².

Finder *n.* The standard interface to the Macintosh operating system. The Finder allows the user to view the contents of directories (folders); to move, copy, and delete files; and to launch applications. Items in the system are often represented as icons, and a mouse or similar pointing device is used to manipulate these items. The Finder was the first commercially successful graphical user interface, and it helped launch a wave of interest in icon-based systems. *See also* MultiFinder.

finger¹ *n.* An Internet utility, originally limited to UNIX but now available on many other platforms, that enables a user to obtain information on other users who may be at other sites (if those sites permit access by finger). Given an e-mail address, finger returns the user's full name, an indication of whether or not the user is currently logged

on, and any other information the user has chosen to supply as a profile. Given a first or last name, finger returns the logon names of users whose first or last names match.

finger² *vb.* To obtain information on a user by means of the finger program.

fingerprint¹ *vb.* To scan a computer system to discover what operating system (OS) the computer is running. By detecting a computer's OS through fingerprinting, a hacker is better able to specify attacks on system vulnerabilities and therefore better able to plan an attack on that system. A hacker may use several different fingerprinting schemes separately and in tandem to pinpoint the OS of a target computer.

fingerprint² *n.* Information embedded or attached to a file or image to uniquely identify it. *Compare* digital watermark.

fingerprint reader *n.* A scanner that reads human fingerprints for comparison to a database of stored fingerprint images.

fingerprint recognition *n.* A technology used to control access to a computer, network, or other device or to a secure area through a user's fingerprints. The patterns of an individual's fingers are scanned by a fingerprint reader or similar device and matched with stored images of fingerprints before access is granted. *See also* biometric.

FIPS *n.* *See* Federal Information Processing Standards.

FIPS 140-1 *n.* Acronym for Federal Information Processing Standard 140-1. A U.S. Government standard, issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), entitled Security Requirements for Cryptographic Modules. FIPS 140-1 defines four levels of security requirements related to cryptographic hardware and software modules within computer and telecommunications systems used for sensitive but unclassified data. The four security levels range from basic module design through increasingly stringent levels of physical security. The standard covers such security-related features as hardware and software security, cryptographic algorithms, and management of encryption keys. FIPS 140-1 products can be validated for federal use in both the United States and Canada after independent testing under the Cryptographic Module Validation (CMV) Program, developed and jointly adopted by NIST and the Canadian Communication Security Establishment. *See also* cryptography.

firewall *n.* A security system intended to protect an organization's network against external threats, such as hackers, coming from another network, such as the Internet.