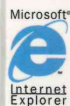


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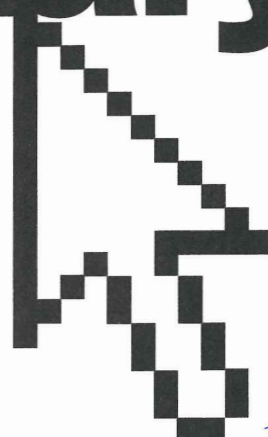
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G

G \gig'ə, jig'ə\ *prefix* See giga-.

G3 *n.* See PowerPC 750.

GaAs *n.* See gallium arsenide.

gain *n.* The increase in the amplitude of a signal, as of voltage, current, or power, that is produced by a circuit. Gain can be expressed as a factor or in decibels. *See also* decibel.

gallium arsenide *n.* A semiconductor compound used in place of silicon to make devices that perform faster, require less power, and are more tolerant of temperature changes and radiation than those made with silicon. *Also called* GaAs.

game *n.* See computer game.

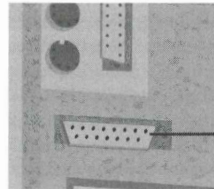
game card *n.* See ROM card.

game cartridge *n.* See ROM cartridge.

Game Control Adapter *n.* In IBM personal computers and compatibles, a circuit that processes input signals at a game port. Devices such as joysticks and game paddles use potentiometers to represent their positions as varying voltage levels; the Game Control Adapter converts these levels to numbers using an analog-to-digital converter (ADC). *See also* analog-to-digital converter, game port, potentiometer.

game pad *n.* An action-control device used with arcade-type games played on PCs and game consoles such as the Nintendo 64 and Sony PlayStation. A game pad, unlike a joystick, is meant to be held in the player's hands. Buttons on the game pad allow the player to control direction, speed, and other actions on screen.

game port *n.* In IBM personal computers and compatibles, an I/O port for devices such as joysticks and game paddles. The game port is often included with other I/O ports on a single expansion card. *See the illustration. See also* Game Control Adapter.



Game port.

game theory *n.* A mathematical theory, ascribed to John von Neumann, that considers strategy and probability in terms of competitive games in which all players have partial control and each seeks the most advantageous moves in relation to the others.

Gantt chart \gant' chärt\ *n.* A bar chart that shows individual parts of a project as bars against a horizontal time scale. Gantt charts are used as a project-planning tool for developing schedules. Most project-planning software can produce Gantt charts.

gap *n.* See inter-record gap.

garbage *n.* 1. Incorrect or corrupted data. 2. Gibberish displayed on screen, either due to faulty hardware or software or because a program is unable to display a file's content. For example, an executable file is not meant to be displayed by a text editor and so is indecipherable on screen.

garbage collection *n.* A process for automatic recovery of heap memory. Blocks of memory that had been allocated but are no longer in use are freed, and blocks of memory still in use may be moved to consolidate the free memory into larger blocks. Some programming languages require the programmer to handle garbage collection. Others, such as Java, perform this task for the programmer. *See also* heap (definition 1).

garbage in, garbage out *n.* A computing axiom meaning that if the data put into a process is incorrect, the data output by the process will also be incorrect. *Acronym:* GIGO.

gas-discharge display *n.* A type of flat-panel display, used on some portable computers, containing neon between a horizontal and a vertical set of electrodes. When one electrode in each set is charged, the neon glows (as in a neon lamp) where the two electrodes intersect, representing a pixel. *Also called* gas-plasma display. *See also* flat-panel display, pixel.

gas-plasma display *n.* *See* gas-discharge display.

gate *n.* **1.** An electronic switch that is the elementary component of a digital circuit. It produces an electrical output signal that represents a binary 1 or 0 and is related to the states of one or more input signals by an operation of Boolean logic, such as AND, OR, or NOT. *Also called* logic gate. *See also* gate array. **2.** The input terminal of a field-effect transistor (FET). *Also called* gate electrode. *See also* drain (definition 1), FET, MOSFET, source (definition 2). **3.** A data structure used by 80386 and higher microprocessors to control access to privileged functions, to change data segments, or to switch tasks.

gate array *n.* A special type of chip that starts out as a nonspecific collection of logic gates. Late in the manufacturing process, a layer is added to connect the gates for a specific function. By changing the pattern of connections, the manufacturer can make the chip suitable for many needs. This process is very popular because it saves both design and manufacturing time. The drawback is that much of the chip goes unused. *Also called* application-specific integrated circuit, logic array.

gated *adj.* **1.** Transmitted through a gate to a subsequent electronic logic element. **2.** Transmitted through a gateway to a subsequent network or service. For example, a mailing list on BITNET may be gated to a newsgroup on the Internet.

gate electrode *n.* *See* gate (definition 2).

gateway *n.* A device that connects networks using different communications protocols so that information can be passed from one to the other. A gateway both transfers information and converts it to a form compatible with the protocols used by the receiving network. *Compare* bridge.

gating circuit *n.* An electronic switch whose output is either on or off, depending on the state of two or more inputs. For example, a gating circuit may be used to pass or not pass an input signal, depending on the states of one or more control signals. A gating

circuit can be constructed from one or more logic gates. *See also* gate (definition 1).

GB \gig'ə-bit', jig'ə-bit\ *n.* *See* gigabyte.

Gbps *n.* *See* gigabits per second.

GDI *n.* Acronym for Graphical Device Interface. In Windows, a graphics display system used by applications to display or print bitmapped text (TrueType fonts), images, and other graphical elements. The GDI is responsible for drawing dialog boxes, buttons, and other elements in a consistent style on screen by calling the appropriate screen drivers and passing them the information on the item to be drawn. The GDI also works with GDI printers, which have limited ability to prepare a page for printing. Instead, the GDI handles that task by calling the appropriate printer drivers and moving the image or document directly to the printer, rather than reformatting the image or document in PostScript or another printer language. *See also* bitmapped font, dialog box, driver, PostScript.

geek *n.* **1.** Generally, a person who enjoys cerebral activities (such as wordplay or computer programming) more than the mainstream population does. Geeks in this sense increasingly claim the word with pride, but it may give offense when used by others, suggesting inadequacy in normal social relationships. **2.** A computer expert or specialist. For issues of etiquette, see definition 1. *Compare* guru, techie, wizard.

gender bender *n.* *See* gender changer.

gender changer *n.* A device for joining two connectors that are either both male (having pins) or both female (having sockets). *See* the illustration. *Also called* gender bender.



Gender changer.

General Protection Fault *n.* The error condition that occurs in an 80386 or higher processor running in protected mode (such as Windows 3.1) when an application attempts to access memory outside of its

issues often associated with the Year 2000 term include 2-digit year shortcut issues, leap-year issues, special dates within the operational range, and others.

Year 2000 ready *adj.* See Year 2000 compliant.

Year 2000 rollover *n.* The moment when the year in a computer system changes from 1999 to 2000. Also called date rollover, millennium transition, rollover, Year 2000 transition.

Year 2000 time problem *n.* See Year 2000 problem.

Year 2000 transition *n.* See Year 2000 rollover.

YY *n.* The form in which the year part of a date is stored in some computer systems. Because those systems have a 2-digit year for the date, the possibility exists that they will incorrectly interpret the year 2000 (year 00) as the year 1900, disrupting the computer's operation.

YYYY *n.* Symbolic of providing fully distinguished dates including 4-digit years. Using 4-digit years is an important step in many remediation programs—especially those focused on data.

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