

FEB 7 2007

Dictionary of Computer and Internet Terms

Ninth Edition

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All inquiries should be addressed to:

Barron's Educational Series, Inc.
250 Wireless Boulevard
Hauppauge, New York 11788
<http://www.barronseduc.com>

Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 2005052175

ISBN-13: 978-0-7641-3417-3

ISBN-10: 0-7641-3417-5

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Downing, Douglas.

Dictionary of computer and Internet terms / Douglas A. Downing, Michael A. Covington, Melody Mauldin Covington.—9th ed.

p. cm.
ISBN-13: 978-0-7641-3417-3

ISBN-10: 0-7641-3417-5

1. Computers—Dictionaries. 2. Internet—Dictionaries. I. Covington, Michael A., 1957– II. Covington, Melody Mauldin. III. Title.

QA76.15.D667 2006
004'.003—dc22

2005052175

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

987654321

en dash a short dash (-). *See* DASH.

end-of-file mark a symbol that indicates the end of a file. For example, in CP/M, all text files ended with ASCII character 26 (Ctrl-Z) because the computer did not otherwise keep track of the exact length of the file, only the number of disk sectors. In Windows and OS/2, Ctrl-Z is often used the same way even though the computer knows exactly where the file ends whether or not an end-of-file mark is present. The UNIX end-of-file mark is Ctrl-D (ASCII 4).

end user the person ultimately intended to use a product, as opposed to people involved in developing or marketing it.

Energy Star a set of guidelines proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 to reduce the amount of electricity consumed by personal computers. An Energy Star-compliant computer consumes less than 30 watts of power when idling (i.e., when turned on but not in use) and switches automatically into low-power mode if several minutes elapse without any keyboard activity. *See* GREEN PC.

engine

1. the part of a computer program that implements a special technique; *see* INFERENCE ENGINE, MONTE CARLO ENGINE, SEARCH ENGINE.
2. the printing mechanism of a laser printer, not including the computer control circuitry. Many laser printers use an engine made by Canon in Japan.

ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator And Calculator) one of the first electronic computers, built at the University of Pennsylvania in the mid-1940s. It contained about 18,000 vacuum tubes. Initially, the ENIAC was programmed by plugging cables into circuit boards. Today, one of the Internet nodes at the University of Pennsylvania is named eniac but is, of course, not the same machine.

Enter key the key on a computer keyboard that you press at the end of each line in order to send the contents of that line into the computer. On most keyboards, the Enter key is the same as the Return key. However, IBM 3270-series terminals make a distinction: the Return key starts a new line, but the Enter key sends the contents of the whole screen to the computer.

Under windowed operating systems, pressing the Enter key is usually equivalent to clicking on the currently selected icon or other highlighted item.

enumerator a device driver or operating system component that identifies all hardware devices of a particular type. *See* BIOS ENUMERATOR.