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(Continued on back flap)

The Computer Desktop Encyclopedia



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The Computer Desktop Encyclopedia

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To my mother,
who had the vision to send me
to "automation school" in 1960

burn in

To test a new electronic system by running it for some length of time. Weak components often fail within the first few hours of use.

burster

A mechanical device that separates continuous paper forms into cut sheets. A burster can be attached to the end of a collator, which separates multipart forms into single parts.

burst mode

A high-speed transmission mode in a communications or computer channel. Under certain conditions, the system sends a burst of data at higher speed. For example, a multiplexor channel may suspend transmitting several streams of data and send one high-speed transmission using the entire bandwidth.

bursty

Refers to data that is transferred or transmitted in short, uneven spurts. LAN traffic is typically bursty. Contrast with *streaming data*.

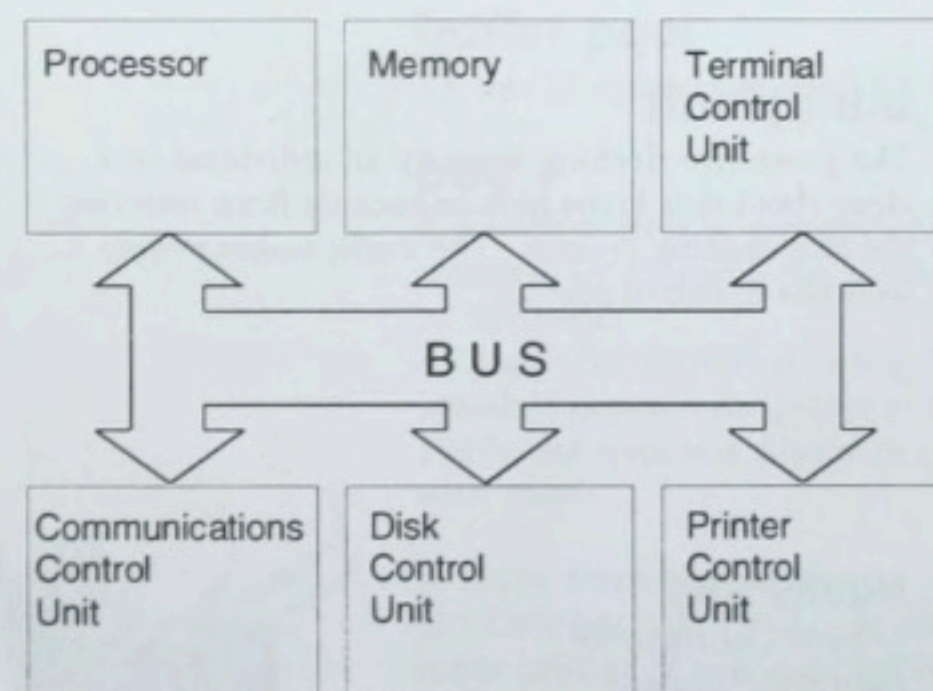
bus

A common pathway, or channel, between multiple devices. Buses are generally hardware, although software can be designed and linked via a so called "software bus."

The computer's internal bus is known as the local bus, or processor bus. It connects the CPU to its main memory and to other buses. In a PC, the local bus connects to the ISA, EISA and Micro Channel buses, which run at slow speeds compared to the CPU. It also connects to the higher-speed PCI and VL-bus buses, which are also called *local buses*. Examples of other computer buses used in the industry are NuBus, TURBOchannel, VMEbus, MULTIBUS and STD bus.

A computer bus provides parallel data transfer; for example, a 16-bit bus transfers two bytes at a time over 16 wires, a 32-bit bus uses 32 wires, etc. The bus is comprised of two parts: the address bus and the data bus. Addresses are sent over the address bus to signal a memory location, and the data is transferred over the data bus to that location.

Another common use of a bus is a network bus. For example, Ethernet uses a serial bus, which is a common cable connecting all stations. Data is transmitted serially (one bit after the other) over the cable. A data packet, which contains the address of the destination station, is broadcast to all nodes at the same time, and the recipient computer responds by accepting it.

**Why Is It Called a Bus?**

The term was coined after a real bus, because a bus stops at all the bus stops on the route. The same goes for an electronic bus. All signals on the bus go to all stations or devices connected to it.

bus bridge

A device that connects two similar or dissimilar busses together, such as two VMEbuses or a VMEbus and a Futurebus. This is not the same as a communications bridge, which connects network segments together. See *bridge*.

bus card

An expansion board (card) that plugs into the computer's expansion bus.

bus extender

(1) A board that pushes a printed circuit board out of the way of surrounding boards for testing purposes. It plugs into an expansion slot, and the expansion board plugs into the bus extender.

(2) A device that extends the physical distance of a bus. See *repeater*.

(3) A device that increases the number of expansion slots. It is either an expansion board containing multiple expansion slots, or an expansion board that cables to a separate housing that contains the slots and its own power supply.

business analyst

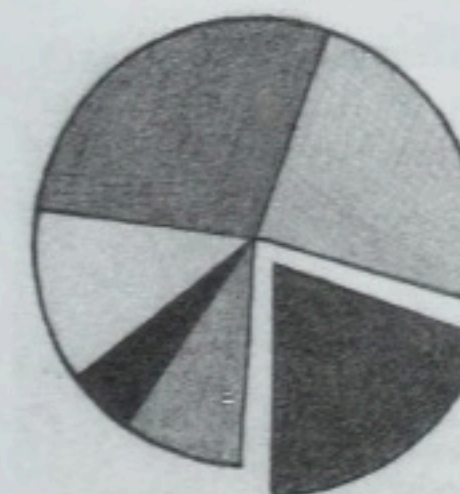
An individual who analyzes the operations of a department or functional unit with the purpose of developing a general systems solution to the problem that may or may not require automation. The business analyst can provide insights into an operation for an information systems analyst.

Business Basic

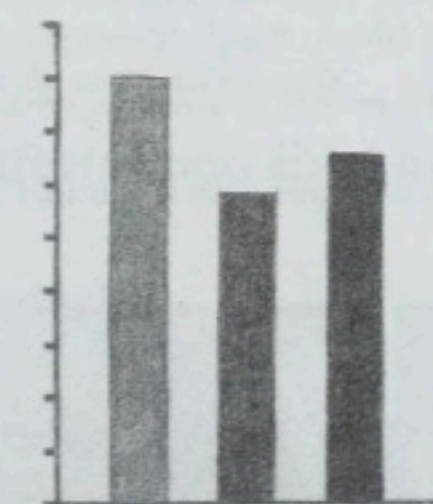
A version of the BASIC programming language derived from the original Dartmouth BASIC created by Kemeny and Kurtz. It was first developed by MAI Systems Corporation with later versions known as Thoroughbred Basic from Thoroughbred Software International, Inc., Somerset, NJ, and BBxPROGRESSION/4 from Basis International, Ltd, Irvine, CA.

business graphics

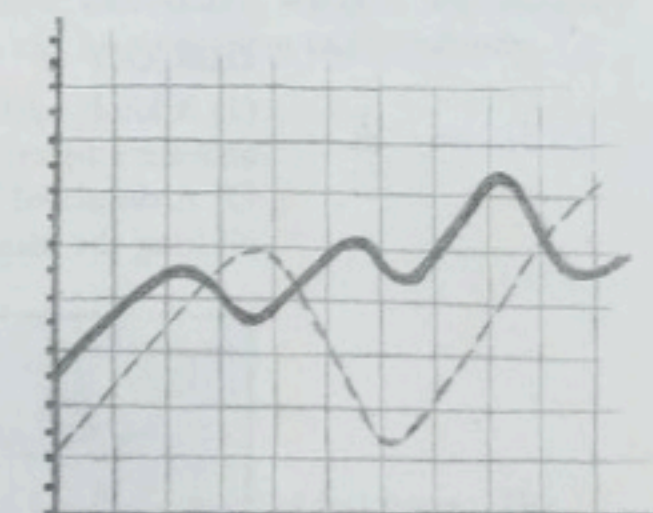
Numeric data represented in graphic form. While line graphs, bar charts and pie charts are the common forms of business graphics, there are dozens of others types. The ability to generate business graphics is often included in spreadsheet and presentation graphics programs.



PIE CHART



BAR CHART



GRAPH