

# Glossary

## of computing terms and abbreviations

- (Microsoft) Access** /'æksɪs/ noun U [5] a database program developed by the Microsoft Corporation
- access point** /'æksɪs pɔɪnt/ noun C [16] a wireless network device that connects a wireless network to a wired network
- account** /ə'kaʊnt/ noun C [12,13,14,20] a registration for a user of a network system. It is used for controlling access to the system.
- active window** /'æktɪv 'wɪndəʊ/ noun C [7] the window in a WIMP system that is currently being used. It is usually on top of any other open windows.
- actuator** /'æktɪ'juːtə/ noun C [23] a mechanism that converts signals into mechanical movements
- address bus** /ə'dres bʌs/ noun C [2] the set of conductors that carry the memory address signals between different parts of a computer system
- ADSL** /'eɪ di: es 'el/ noun U [16,23] abbreviation for asymmetric digital subscriber line. A form of DSL that has a different bandwidth for the upstream and the downstream.
- AI** /eɪ 'aɪ/ noun U [3,23,24] abbreviation for artificial intelligence
- algorithm** /'ælgərɪðm/ noun C [2,9] a set of precise rules or instructions for solving a problem
- Alt (key)** /'ælt, 'ɒlt ki:/ noun C [7] the alternative key on a computer keyboard that changes the function of the other keys when it is held down
- ALT text caption** /'ælt, 'ɒlt 'tekst 'kæpʃn/ noun C [14] text displayed in a webpage as an alternative to a graphic when the facility for displaying graphics is not available or is switched off
- AltaVista** /'æltə'vɪstə/ noun U [13] the name of a well-known search engine website
- analogue signal** /'ænəlɒg 'sɪgnəl/ noun C [11,16] a type of signal that can take any value between a maximum and a minimum
- analyst programmer** /'ænalɪst 'prəʊgræmə(r)/ noun C [22] a person whose job is a combination of systems analysis and computer programming
- anorak** /'ænərək/ noun C [20] a slang term for an eccentric socially inept person with little or no fashion sense and having an obsessive interest in a hobby or subject
- ANSI** /eɪ en si: ai / noun U [19] acronym for American National Standards Institute. An organisation that approves US standards for computing and communications
- antenna** /æn'tenə/ noun C [23] American term for an aerial, i.e. a device that enables signals to be detected and transmitted in air
- anti-static** /æntɪ 'stætɪk/ adj [12] prevents the build up of static electricity
- anti-virus (program or software)** /'æntɪ 'vaɪrəs/ noun C/U [12,19,20] a computer program or set of programs used to detect, identify and remove viruses from a computer system
- Apple** /'æpl/ noun U [25] the common name for Apple Computer Incorporated, a well-known producer of computers that introduced the WIMP interface on computers such as the Apple Macintosh
- Apple Macintosh** /'æpl 'mæktɪntɒʃ/ noun C [6,25] a family of personal computers produced by Apple Computer Inc.
- applet** /'æplət/ noun C [23] a very small self-contained computer program
- application** /'æplɪ'keɪʃn/ noun C [3,5,6, 18,21,22,25] see applications program
- application layer** /'æplɪ'keɪʃn 'leɪə(r)/ noun C [11] the only part of a network communications process that a user sees. It prepares a message for sending over a network by converting the message from human-readable form into bits and attaching a header identifying the sending and receiving computers.
- application port** /'æplɪ'keɪʃn pɔ:t/ noun C [12] a path available for a particular type of application data to enter or leave a network system
- application service provider** /'æplɪ'keɪʃn 'sɜ:vɪs prə'vaɪdə(r)/ noun C [8] a company that makes applications programs available over the Internet usually charging a fee for access to programs
- applications (program or software)** /'æplɪ'keɪʃnz/ noun C/U [6,8,22] a computer program designed to be used for a particular purpose, e.g. a wordprocessor spreadsheet or database program
- applications programmer** /'æplɪ'keɪʃnz 'prəʊgræmə(r)/ noun C [22] a person who writes applications programs using a computer language
- architecture** /'ɑ:kɪtektʃə(r)/ noun C [5] the general specification of a system
- archive bit** /'ɑ:kɑɪv bɪt/ noun C [19] a digital bit stored with a file indicating if the file has been backed up since it was last edited
- artificial intelligence** /ɑ:tɪfɪʃl ɪn'telɪdʒəns/ noun U [3,21,23,24] an area of computing concerned with developing computer programs that perform tasks that can normally only be done using human intelligence
- ASCII** /'æski/ noun U [11,18] acronym for American Standard Code for Information Interchange. A standard character encoding scheme.
- ASP** /'eɪ es 'pi:/ noun C [8,22] abbreviation for application service provider
- assembly language** /ə'sembli 'læŋgwɪdʒ/ noun C [21] a low-level computer language that uses mnemonics rather than only numbers making it easier than machine code for humans to read and write
- asymmetric** /'eɪsɪ'metrɪk/ adj [16,23] having a different signal bandwidth in each direction, i.e. the bandwidth for sending is different from the bandwidth for receiving
- asynchronous** /'eɪsɪŋkrənəs/ adj [11,12] not synchronised, i.e. occurring at irregular intervals
- AT&T** /'eɪ ti: ən 'ti:/ noun U [6] abbreviation for American Telephone and Telegraph Company. One of the world's largest IT suppliers.
- ATI (Technologies)** /'eɪ ti: 'aɪ/ noun U [17] the name of a well known company that produces computer graphics cards
- ATM** /'eɪ ti: 'em/ noun C [2,3,16] common abbreviation for automatic teller machine. The type of machine used by banks for enabling customers to withdraw money from their bank accounts.
- ATM** /'eɪ ti: 'em/ noun C [19] abbreviation for asynchronous transfer mode. A method of transferring fixed size data packets across a network. It is suitable for transferring video, audio and computer data
- authentication** /ɔ:θɒntɪ'keɪʃn/ noun U [18] a process that checks the identity of a user or an object
- avatar** /'ævətə:(r)/ noun C [23] a graphical icon that represents a real person in a cyberspace system

### B

- B channel** /'bi: 'tʃænl/ noun C [16] the common name for a bearer channel in an ISDN system
- back up** /bæk 'ʌp/ verb [5,19] to store a copy of data on a storage device to keep it safe

- backbone** /'bækbaʊn/ noun C [11,15] the main transmission path handling the major data traffic connecting different LANs together
- backend** /'bækend/ noun C [14] the server part of a client-server configuration that provides a service on a network at the request of a client
- backup** /'bækʌp/ noun C [11,17,19,20,24,25] the process of storing a copy of data on a storage device to keep it safe / the term used for the copied data
- bandwidth** /'bændwɪdθ/ noun C [8,13,16,20,23,24] the range of frequencies that can be transmitted over a communications channel
- barcode** /'bɑ:kəʊd/ noun C [2,3,10,23] a sequence of vertical parallel lines used to give items a unique identification number
- barcode reader** /'bɑ:kəʊd ˌri:də(r)/ noun C [10] an optical input device that uses the reflection of a light beam to read barcode labels
- BASIC** /'beɪsɪk/ noun U [22,25] acronym for Beginners' All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code
- batch mode** /'bætʃ məʊd/ noun U [13] a process in which all the data is collected and processed together in a batch rather than one at a time as they become available
- BBC micro** /'bi: bi: 'mɪkrəʊ/ noun C [25] the name of one of the first microcomputers produced in the United Kingdom and used in schools. Its development was sponsored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.
- bearer channel** /'beərə ˌtʃænl/ noun C [16] the common name for the part of an ISDN line that carries the data
- Beginners' All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code** /bɪˌɡɪnəz əd ˌpɜ:pəs sɪmˌbɒlɪk ɪn'strʌkʃn kəʊd/ noun U [21] a simple high-level computer language often used for teaching programming
- B-frame** /'bi: freɪm/ noun C [9] the common name for a bi-directional frame in an MPEG compressed file
- bi-directional frame** /baɪ dɪ'rekʃənl, dɪ-, daɪ- 'freɪm/ noun C [9] a type of image frame used in MPEG compression. It is situated between I and P frames and stores the differences in the image compared with the I or P frame both before and after it.
- binary** /'baɪnəri/ noun U [5,9] a number system that only uses two digits, i.e. 1 and 0
- biometric device** /ˌbaɪəmetrɪk dɪ'vaɪs/ noun C [16,19] a security device that measures some aspect of a living being, e.g. a fingerprint reader or an eye scanner
- BIOS** /'baɪəʊs/ noun C [15] acronym for Basic Input Output System. A part of the operating system stored on a ROM chip that controls the input and output of data to peripherals
- biotechnology** /ˌbaɪəʊteknɒlədʒi/ noun U [24] the industrial application of biological science techniques
- bit** /bɪt/ noun C [2,9,11,12,13,18,23] a small unit of storage capacity. One of the eight binary digits that make up a byte. The term comes from an abbreviation of binary digit.
- bitmap compression** /'bɪtmæp kəmˌpreʃn/ noun C [9] a way of reducing the size of a stored image where different digital bits or collections of bits are used to describe each element of an image
- (data) block** /'blɒk/ noun C [11,17] a collection of data stored together and treated as a single unit
- Bluetooth** /'blu:tʊθ/ noun U [23,24] the name of a high-speed microwave wireless network system developed by a group of companies consisting of Ericsson, IBM, Intel, Nokia and Toshiba. It is used with portable equipment.
- bookmark** /'bʊkmɑ:k/ verb [13] to store a link to a webpage to make it easier to find in the future
- boot** /bu:t/ verb [5] to copy a part of the operating system into memory to allow a computer to start up
- boot sector virus** /bu:t ˌsektə 'vaɪrəs/ noun C [18] a self-replicating program that stores itself in the part of a disk containing the programs used to start up a computer
- bot** /'bɒt/ noun C [23] from the word robot. A computer program that runs automatically. Bots are often used for searching for information on the Internet
- bracketing** /'brækətɪŋ/ verb [11] to set the boundaries of a message or part of a message by marking its beginning and its end with special control bits
- bridge** /brɪdʒ/ noun C [11,15] a hardware and software combination used to connect the same type of networks or to partition a large network into two smaller ones
- broadband** /'brɔ:dbænd/ adj [8,16,23] able to carry signals transmitted over a wide range of frequencies
- broadcast** /'brɔ:dkɑ:st/ verb [16,19] to transmit signals that can be picked up by a large number of receivers
- browse** /braʊz/ verb [14,16] to move from webpage to webpage using a Web browser program
- (Web) browser** /'braʊzə(r)/ noun C [7,9,13,14,17,20,21] a program used for displaying webpages
- BT** /bi: 'ti:/ noun U [24] abbreviation for British Telecom. The organisation that provides the telephone system in Great Britain.
- buffering** /'bʌfəɪŋ/ noun U [13] a process of temporarily storing data from a fast source so that it can be fed at a steady rate to a slower system
- bug** /bʌg/ noun C [6,20] a fault in a system
- bulletin board** /'bʊlətɪn bɔ:d/ noun C [15,16] an electronic noticeboard system that enables users to display messages for other users to read
- bus** /bʌs/ noun C [2,5] a set of conductors that carry signals between different parts of a computer
- byte** /baɪt/ noun C [2,9,11,17,18,25] a unit of storage capacity. A byte is made up of eight bits and stores one character, i.e. a letter, a number, a space or a punctuation mark.

## C

- C** /si:/ noun U [21,22] a general purpose computer programming language that was originally designed for writing Unix systems programs
- C drive** /'si: draɪv/ noun C [10] the first hard disk in a personal computer
- C++** /ˌsi: plʌs 'plʌs/ noun U [5,21,22] an object-oriented superset of the C programming language commonly used for writing applications programs for the Microsoft Windows operating system
- cache** /kæʃ/ verb [2] to temporarily store frequently-used data in fast memory so that it can be accessed more quickly
- cache** /kæʃ/ noun C [2,13] fast memory used to temporarily store frequently-used data to allow it to be accessed more quickly
- cache coherency** /kæʃ kəʊ'hɪərənsi/ noun U [2] a system that ensures that any changes written to main memory are reflected within the cache and vice versa
- cache controller** /'kæʃ kən'trɒlə(r)/ noun C [2] the set of electronic logic circuits that control the operation of cache memory
- cache hit** /kæʃ 'hɪt/ noun C [2] the process of successfully finding the required data stored in cache memory
- callback system** /'kɔ:lbæk sɪstəm/ noun C [19,20] a system that automatically disconnects a telephone line after receiving a call and then dials the telephone number of the system that made the call to reconnect the line. It

- is used in remote access systems to make sure that connections can only be made from permitted telephone numbers.
- cathode ray tube** /ˌkæθəd reɪ ˈtjuːb/ noun C [16] a display device that uses an electron gun to fire a beam of electrons at a phosphor-coated screen
- CCNA** /ˌsiː siː en ˈeɪ/ noun U [22] abbreviation for Cisco Certified Network Associate. A starting level networking qualification offered by Cisco, a major network equipment vendor.
- CD (-ROM) (disk)** /siː ˈdiːz/ noun C [1,2,8,9,12,22,25] abbreviation for compact disk read only memory. A read only storage device in the form of a disk that is read using laser light.
- CD-ROM drive** /ˌsiː diː ˈrɒm draɪv/ noun C [9,11] a storage device for reading CD-ROM disks
- cellphone** /ˈselfˌfəʊn/ noun C [23] the common name for a cellular phone
- cellular network** /ˈseljələ ˌnetwɜːk/ noun C [16] a radio communications systems that divides a region into cells so that each region becomes a network with every point connected to a local transmitter within the cell
- cellular phone** /ˈseljələ ˈfəʊn/ noun C [23] a cellular telephone. A mobile telephone that communicates with a local transmitter located within a small geographic area called a cell.
- central processing unit** /ˌsentərəl ˈprəʊsesɪŋ juːnɪt/ noun C [6] the electronic processor at the centre of a computer. The term is sometimes used to refer to the combination of the processor and the main memory.
- channel** /ˈtʃænl/ noun C [16,23] a path for the transmission of data
- chat room** /ˈtʃæt ru:m/ noun C [12,23] a virtual space on a website where on-line discussions organised around specific interests are held in real-time by users typing text messages
- check data** /ˈtʃek deɪtə/ noun U [17] information written to disks in a RAID system which is used to restore data if one of the array drives fail
- checksum** /ˈtʃeksʌm/ noun C [11] a calculated value that is stored with data to detect any errors that may occur when the data is copied or transmitted
- chip** /tʃɪp/ noun C [1,2,5,19,23,24] common name for a microchip. An electronic integrated circuit in a small package.
- Cisco** /ˈsɪskəʊ/ noun U [22] the name of a company that makes networking system hardware such as that used to operate the Internet
- class** /klaːs/ noun C [21] the term used for a collection of objects in object oriented programming
- cleanse** /klenz/ verb [3] a term used in data mining meaning to remove duplicate information and erroneous data
- (left) click** /kɪk/ verb [1,7,13,14,15] to press and release the (left-hand) button on a mouse
- client** /ˈklaɪənt/ noun C [6,11,15,16,18] a network computer used for accessing a service on a server
- client-server application** /ˌklaɪənt ˈsɜːvə ˌæplɪ keɪʃn/ noun C [6] a program that is accessed from a client computer but most of the processing is carried out on a server computer
- clipart** /ˈklɪpɑːt/ noun U [1,15] professionally-prepared graphical images stored on a computer system
- Clipboard** /ˈklɪpbɔːd/ noun U [7] the name used in Microsoft Windows for the section of memory that temporarily stores data while it is being copied and pasted
- clock** /klɒk/ noun C [2] the set of electronic circuits used to control the timing of signals and synchronise different parts of a computer system
- cluster** /ˈklʌstə(r)/ noun C [3] a term used in data mining meaning a group of data that has similar features or is based on a limited data range
- clustering** /ˈklʌstərɪŋ/ noun U [3] a method used in data mining that divides data into groups based on similar features or limited data ranges
- CMC** /ˌsiː em ˈsiː/ noun C [12] abbreviation for computer mediated communication, i.e. the transfer of messages using a computer system
- CNE** /ˌsiː en ˈiː/ noun U [22] abbreviation for Certified Novell Engineer. A qualification aimed at people interested in installing and planning the rollout of Novell based networks.
- coax(ial) (cable)** /ˈkəʊæks/ noun C [16] a type of shielded cable for carrying signals. It is often used with radio frequency and video signals.
- COBOL** /ˈkəʊbəl/ noun U [5,21,22,25] acronym for Common Business-Oriented Language
- code** /kəʊd/ noun U [16,18,21,22] a piece of program text written in a programming language
- code** /kəʊd/ verb [21,23] to write the text of a program or part of a program using a computer language
- codec** /ˈkəʊdeɪk/ noun C [16] abbreviation for coder/decoder. A program used for converting sound and video signals for use in a computer
- COM program** /ˈkɒm ˌprəʊgræm/ noun C [18] a DOS program with a .com filename extension that loads and runs in 64 kilobytes or less of memory
- command interpreter** /kəˈmɑːndɪn ˌtɜːprɪtə(r)/ noun C [6] the part of an operating system that processes commands that are part of a program or are input using a keyboard
- Commodore 64** /ˌkɒmədɔː ˌsɪksɪ ˈfɔː(r)/ noun U [8] the model name of one of the first popular personal computers to be made available in the United Kingdom. It had a very good graphics system and was particularly suited to running computer games programs.
- Common Business-Oriented Language** /ˌkɒmən ˌbɪznɪs ˌɔːrɪəntɪd ˈlæŋɡwɪdʒ/ noun U [21] a high-level computer programming language. It is the principal transaction processing language used to process the records of large organisations on mainframe computers.
- compatible** /kəmˈpætəbl/ adj [6,14] able to operate on the same type of system or run the same software
- compile** /kəmˈpaɪl/ verb [6,22] to convert a program written in a high-level language into machine code using a compiler
- compiler** /kəmˈpaɪlə(r)/ noun C [5] a program that converts the whole of a program into machine code before the program is used
- compress** /kəmˈpres/ verb [11] to reduce to a much smaller size
- compression (scheme)** /kəmˈpreʃn/ noun C [9,11] the process used for reducing a file to a much smaller size
- computer** /kəmˈpjʊtə(r)/ noun C [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,17,20,22,23,24,25] a general purpose machine that can be programmed to process data in a variety of ways
- computer consultant** /kəmˈpjʊtə kənˌsʌltənt/ noun C [22,25] a person who is paid to advise on computing system issues
- computer engineer** /kəmˈpjʊtə ɛndʒɪˌnɪə(r)/ noun C [17,22] a person who designs and develops computer systems
- computer lab** /kəmˈpjʊtə læb/ noun C [19] a room full of computers used for study
- computer language** /kəmˈpjʊtə ˌlæŋɡwɪdʒ/ noun C [22] a language used for writing computer programs
- computer operator** /kəmˈpjʊtə ˌɒpəreɪtə(r)/ noun C [18] a person whose job it is to operate part of a computer system

**computer salesperson** /kəmˈpjʊ:təˈseɪlspəːsn/ noun C [22] a person whose job it is to sell computers

**computer science** /kəmˈpjʊ:təˈsaɪəns/ noun U [5] the study of computers and their use

**computer services engineering technician** /kəmˈpjʊ:təˈsɜːvɪsɪz enʃɪˈnærɪŋ tekˌnɪʃn/ noun C [22] a person who provides a service of maintaining and troubleshooting computers

**computer-aided design** /kəmˈpjʊ:tərˌeɪdɪd dɪˈzaɪn/ noun U [22] the process of designing using a computer program

**computer-aided manufacture** /kəmˈpjʊ:tərˌeɪdɪd mænʃəˈfæktʃə(r)/ noun U [22] the process of manufacturing goods using a computer

**computerised** /kəmˈpjʊ:təraɪzɪd/ adj [21,22] changed so that it can be operated or controlled using a computer

**computer-mediated communication** /kəmˈpjʊ:təˌmɪdiətɪd kəˌmjʊːnɪˈkeɪʃn/ noun C [12,16] a process of transferring messages using computers

**computing** /kəmˈpjʊ:tɪŋ/ noun U [5,22] the theory and practice of computers

**computing science** /kəmˈpjʊ:tɪŋˈsaɪəns/ noun U [22] see computer science

**computing support** /kəmˈpjʊ:tɪŋ səˈpɔ:t/ noun U [5,17,22] a field of work that provides a service including setting up, maintaining and troubleshooting computing systems and providing technical advice to users

**computing support officer** /kəmˈpjʊ:tɪŋ səˈpɔ:t ɒfɪsə(r)/ noun C [10] a person whose job it is to provide support to computer users including setting up, maintaining and troubleshooting computer systems and giving technical advice

**configure** /kənˈfɪgə(r)/ verb [12,17,22] to adjust the settings

**connectivity** /kənektɪˈvɪtɪ/ noun U [16] the characteristic of being connected

**control bit** /kənˈtrəʊl bɪt/ noun C [11] a data bit used to mark parts of a transmitted signal so that the transmission can be controlled, e.g. a 'start' bit marks the beginning of a character and a 'stop' bit marks its end

**control bus** /kənˈtrəʊl bʌs/ noun C [10] the set of conductors that carry the control signals between the Control Unit and other parts of a computer

**corrupt** /kəˈrʌpt/ verb [18] to damage in such a way that prevents normal use

**cp** /siːˈpiː/ noun U [6] a Unix command for copying a file

**CPU** /ˌsiː piːˈjuː/ noun C [2,5] abbreviation for central processing unit

**crack** /kræk/ verb [18,19] to break into a computer system in order to steal information or cause damage

**crash** /kræʃ/ verb [17,19] to fail suddenly and completely usually referring to the failure of a hard disk

**CRT** /ˌsiː ɑːˈtiː/ noun C [24] abbreviation for cathode ray tube

**Ctrl + Alt + Del** /kənˈtrɒl plʌs ælt (ɒlt) plʌs dɪˈliːt/ noun U [10] set of symbols that signify pressing the combination of the control-alternative and delete keys on a computer keyboard at the same time

**cursor** /ˈkɜːsə(r)/ noun C [2,10] a symbol on the monitor screen that indicates the point on the screen that is being used

**cut and paste** /ˌkʌt ænd ˈpeɪst/ verb [7] to remove some data from a file and temporarily store it in the computer's memory then insert a copy of the data in another position in the same or in another file

**cyberbabe** /ˈsaɪbəbeɪb/ noun C [23] a digital image of an attractive female that is used in programs on the Internet

**cybernetics** /ˌsaɪbəˈnetɪks/ noun U [23] the study of control and communication in animals and machines. It is used in the design of robots.

**cyberspace** /ˈsaɪbəspeɪs/ noun U [20,24] the combination of all the data on all the computer networks throughout the world accessed using the Internet

**cyborg** /ˈsaɪbɔːg/ noun C [23] a man-machine system or a person made superhuman by a machine or external system that changes the way the body functions

## D

**D channel** /ˈdiː ʃtʃænl/ noun C [16] the common name for a data channel in an ISDN system

**data** /ˈdeɪtə/ noun U [1,2,5,6,12,15,17,18, 19,21,22,23] the information processed by a computer

**data bank** /ˈdeɪtə bæŋk/ noun C [23] a large collection of data that can be accessed by many users and enables them to copy or store data on a particular topic

**data bus** /ˈdeɪtə bʌs/ noun C [2] the set of conductors that carry the data signals between different parts of a computer

**data centre** /ˈdeɪtə ˌsentə(r)/ noun C [8] a facility for storing large amounts of information

**data channel** /ˈdeɪtə ʃtʃænl/ noun C [16] the common name for the part of an ISDN line that carries signalling and supervisory information to the network

**data communications** /ˌdeɪtə kəmˈjʊːnɪˈkeɪʃnz/ noun U [5] the transmission and reception of data signals using a communications network and appropriate protocols

**data integrity** /ˌdeɪtə ɪnˈtegrətɪ/ noun U [17] a measure of how resistant a system is to causing corruption in data while it is being stored or transferred

**data mart** /ˈdeɪtə mɑːt/ noun C [3] a storage system that archives large amounts of data in a way that makes it easy to access

**data mining** /ˈdeɪtə ˌmɑɪnɪŋ/ noun U [3] a process of analysing a large amount of stored data to find new useful information

**data stream** /ˈdeɪtə striːm/ noun C [9] the flow of data

**data warehouse** /ˌdeɪtə ˈweɪhɑʊs/ noun C [3] a computing centre that provides a large collection of data gathered from different sources for data mining

**database (program)** /ˈdeɪtəbeɪs/ noun C [1,3,5,8,15,17,19,20,21,22,23,24] a type of applications program used for storing information so that it can be easily searched and sorted

**data-delivery system** /ˌdeɪtə dɪˈlɪvəriˌsɪstəm/ noun C [12] a system for transmitting data from one computer to another

**data-link layer** /ˈdeɪtə lɪŋk ˌleɪə(r)/ noun C [11] the part of a network communications system that supervises the transmission. It confirms the checksum then addresses and duplicates the packets. This layer keeps a copy of each packet until it receives confirmation from the next point along the route that the packet has arrived undamaged.

**date** /deɪt/ noun U [6] a Unix and MS-DOS command for displaying the current date

**DDR** /diː diː ɑː/ adj [2] abbreviation for double data rate. A type of memory that transfers data on both the up and down cycles of the control signal, making it faster than earlier types of memory

**debug** /ˌdiː bʌg/ verb [21] to find and fix faults in a program or system

**DEC VAX** /ˈdek væks/ noun U [6] a range of computers produced by the Digital Equipment Corporation using their Vax range of processors

**decipher** /dɪˈsaɪfə(r)/ verb [18] to change coded information into normal text

- decision table** /di'siʒn 'teɪbl/ noun C [21] a type of grid used in computer program design to show what actions should be taken by the program under different conditions
- decision tree** /di'siʒn tri:/ noun C [3] an AI technique used in data mining that separates data into subsets then further divides the subsets into smaller subsets until the subsets are small enough to allow the mining process to find interesting patterns and relationships within the data
- decode** /di:'kəʊd/ verb [9] to decide what a program instruction means
- decompress** /di:kəm'pres/ verb [9] to remove the compression, i.e. to expand to its original size
- decrypt** /di:'kript/ verb [11,18] to recover the original text from an encrypted message
- defacing** /di'feɪsɪŋ/ noun U [18] a computer crime that involves changing the information shown on another person's website without permission
- default** /di'fɔlt, -fɔ:lt/ noun C [10] an initial setting that can be changed by the user
- denial of service attack** /di'naɪəl əv 'sɜ:vɪs ə,tæk/ noun C [18] a type of computer crime that involves swamping a server with large numbers of requests
- desktop** /'deskɪtɒp/ noun C [3,5,6,7,9] the main graphical user interface background screen that displays icons for other programs
- desktop (PC)/(computer)** /'deskɪtɒp/ noun C [1,2,3,5,6,13,22] a personal computer that is designed to be used on an office desk
- desktop application** /'deskɪtɒp ,æplɪ'keɪʃn/ noun C [22] a computer program designed to be used on a desktop computer
- desktop organiser** /'deskɪtɒp 'ɔ:gənəɪzə(r)/ noun C [1] a small computer providing a variety of tools for organising work, e.g. a calendar, to do list, diary, address list, calculator, etc.
- development life cycle** /di'veləpmənt 'laɪf 'saɪkl/ noun C [5] the phases a software product goes through from when it is first thought of until it becomes obsolete. This typically includes: requirements analysis, design construction, testing (validation), installation, operation, maintenance and retirement.
- DHTML** /,di: eɪtʃ ti: em 'el/ noun U [22] abbreviation for dynamic hypertext markup language. A development of HTML that allows the creation of more dynamic and user-interactive web pages.
- dial-up networking** /,daɪl ʌp 'netwɜ:kɪŋ/ noun U [12,17] a communications system that allows computers to connect together using a telephone line
- differential backup** /,dɪfə'renʃl 'bækʌp/ noun C [19,25] a type of backup that copies all the selected files on a system that have been changed since the last time a full backup was carried out
- digital** /'dɪdʒɪtəl/ adj [9,16,18,23] an electronic system that has only two states, e.g. off or on
- digital camera** /'dɪdʒɪtəl 'kæməərə/ noun C [1,3,5,13,23] an input device for taking pictures. It has an electronic lens and uses electronics for storing the images rather than chemical film.
- digital cash** /'dɪdʒɪtəl 'kæʃ/ noun U [19] electronic currency that is stored on electronically sensitive cards or exists in cyberspace and is used for making electronic purchases over the Internet
- digital certificate** /'dɪdʒɪtəl sə'tɪfɪkət/ noun C [18] an electronic message used to show a transaction is trustworthy. It contains information about the company processing the transaction including their public key and is electronically 'signed' by a trusted digital-certificate issuer.
- digital subscriber line** /'dɪdʒɪtəl səb'skrɪbə lɪn/ noun U [16] a broadband communications system that allows digital signals to be transferred across an ordinary analogue telephone line
- digitise** /'dɪdʒɪtaɪz/ verb [16] to convert an analogue wave into a digital pulse
- directory** /'dɪ'rektəri, dɪ-, daɪ-/ noun C [6] a storage area used for grouping files so that they can be easily located. A directory is sometimes called a folder.
- disk** /dɪsk/ noun C [6,17,19] a flat circular storage device
- disk array** /dɪsk ə'reɪ/ noun C [19] a linked collection of storage devices that work together to act like a much larger disk
- disk drive** /'dɪsk draɪv/ noun C [6,17] a storage device for reading from and writing to disks
- divider** /di'vaɪdə(r)/ noun C [10] a vertical bar that divides a Windows Explorer window into two parts. One part shows the drive folders and the other part shows the filenames of the files in the selected folder.
- DNS** /,di: en 'es/ noun C [13] abbreviation for domain name system
- domain name** /də'meɪn neɪm/ noun C [15,20] an identifier used on the Internet in place of the numerical Internet address. It identifies the host, the type and the country code, e.g. holyrood.ed.ac.uk
- domain name server** /də'meɪn neɪm ,sɜ:və(r)/ noun C [13] a network server computer used for operating and controlling the domain name system
- domain name system** /də'meɪn neɪm ,sɪstəm/ noun C [13] a system of associating the name of a device on a network such as the Internet with its numerical address so that the name can be used by the user and the numerical address can be used by the network system
- dot-matrix printer** /dɒt 'meɪtrɪks ,prɪntə(r)/ noun C [8] a printer that prints by hammering pins onto an inked ribbon
- double click** /,dʌbl 'klɪk/ verb [7] to press and release the left-hand button on a mouse two times in rapid succession
- download** /'daʊnləʊd/ verb [1,8,12,13,15,16,17,20,23,25] to copy a file from a server to a client computer in a network
- download** /'daʊnləʊd/ noun C [13,16,23] a process of copying a file from a server to a client computer in a network
- downstream** /'daʊnstri:m/ noun U [16] the signal path for receiving communications from a server to a client computer in a network
- drag and drop** /,dræg ən 'drɒp/ verb [7,10,21] to move data from one location to another with a mouse. Holding down the mouse button while moving the mouse moves the selected data. Releasing the mouse button drops the data in the new location.
- drive array** /'draɪv ə'reɪ/ noun C [17] a set of hard disks that are used in a RAID system
- driver** /'draɪvə(r)/ noun C [15,17] a systems program that controls a peripheral device
- DSL** /,di: es 'el/ noun U [16] abbreviation for digital subscriber line
- DTP** /,di: ti: 'pi:/ noun U [8] abbreviation for desktop publishing. A process of designing documents for publishing using a computer system.
- duplex** /'dju:pleks/ adj [16] able to transfer data in both directions, i.e. can send and receive data
- DVD (-ROM)** /,di: vi: 'di:/ noun C [2,9] abbreviation for digital versatile disk read only memory. An optical disk storage device that can hold a large amount of video data.

**DVD +/-RW** /di: vi: di: 'mænəs ə: pləs ə: 'dʌblju:/ noun C [2] abbreviation for digital versatile disk +/- re-writable. A type of optical disk that uses either the - or + standard for reading and writing data

## E

**EAN** /i: eɪ 'en/ noun U [3] abbreviation for European Article Number system. The European price and item codes commonly used in barcode systems

**earphone** /'ɛəfəʊn/ noun C [24] sound output device that fits into the ear of the user

**earth** /ɜ:θ/ noun U [12] a common name for an electrical ground point or zero voltage point

**ebook** /'i:bʊk/ noun C [25] common name for an electronic book

**ebook reader** /'i:bʊk ri:də(r)/ noun C [25] common name for an electronic book reader

**e-business** /'i:bɪznɪs/ noun U [14] common term for electronic business, i.e. business that is carried out using the Internet

**e-cash** /'i:kæʃ/ noun U [24] common name for electronic cash

**ECC memory** /i: si: si: 'meməri/ noun U [2] abbreviation for error code correcting memory. A type of memory often used in server computers that automatically fixes simple memory errors without requiring the rebooting of the computer.

**e-commerce** /'i: kɔ:mɜ:s/ noun U [8,14,22,23] the business of buying and selling goods and services on the Internet

**editor** /'editə(r)/ noun C [5,25] a computer program for making changes to text in computer programs or data

**edutainment** /,edju'teɪnmənt/ noun U [1] a system that has both educational and entertainment value

**electronic (book) reader** /elek'trɒnɪk 'ri:də(r)/ noun C [18,25] a computing device that displays the text and images of an electronic book

**electronic book** /elek'trɒnɪk 'bʊk/ noun C [25] a book that is displayed using a computing device instead of being printed on paper

**electronic cash/money** /elek'trɒnɪk 'kæʃ, 'mʌni/ noun U [24] data that represents real money that is stored and transferred on computing devices connected to the Internet in e-commerce systems

**electronic publisher** /elek'trɒnɪk 'pʌblɪʃə(r)/ noun C [25] an organisation that produces ebooks

**electronic virtual assistant** /elek'trɒnɪk ,vɜ:tʃʊəl ə'sɪstənt/ noun C [23] a computer program represented by an animated screen image that is used to help the user perform particular tasks such as searching the Internet for useful data

**email** /'i:meɪl/ noun C [1,5,7,8,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,20,23,24] the common name for an electronic mail message, i.e. a text message sent electronically using a computer

**email** /'i:meɪl/ verb [1,23] to send an email message

**email address** /'i:meɪl ə,dres/ noun C [12,18] the unique address code used to contact someone using electronic mail

**email attachment** /'i:meɪl ə,tætʃmənt/ noun C [1,15,19] a file that is attached to an email message

**email program** /'i:meɪl ,prəʊgræm/ noun C [13] a computer program used for reading and sending email

**email service** /'i:meɪl ,sɜ:vɪs/ noun C [20] an Internet service that allows user to send and receive emails

**encapsulation** /en,kæpsjʊ'leɪʃn/ noun U [21] a key feature of object-oriented programming that bundles data and program instructions into modules called objects

**encode** /en'kəʊd/ verb [9,11,14,18] to write information in a coded form

**encoder** /,en'kəʊdə(r)/ noun C [9] a computer program that converts WAV files into MP3 files or vice versa

**encrypt** /,en'krɪpt/ verb [11,18,19] to transform data into coded form to make it secure

**encryption** /,en'krɪptʃn/ noun U [18,20,23,24] the transformation of data into coded form to make it secure

**Enter (key)** /'entə(r)/ noun C [10,13] another name for the RETURN key on a computer keyboard. Pressing the ENTER key inserts the data into the memory of the computer.

**enterprise resource planning tool** /,entəpraɪz rɪ,zɔ:s 'plænɪŋ tu:l/ noun C [8] a type of computer program for planning and organising business functions in an enterprise. It can help companies manage everything from sales and marketing to human resources.

**EPOS till** /'i:pɔs tɪl/ noun C [3] acronym for electronic point-of-sale till. A computerised cash register that edits records in sales and stock control databases.

**e-publishing** /'i: ,pʌblɪʃɪŋ/ noun U [25] the production of ebooks

**ERP** /,i: ə: 'pi:/ noun U [22] abbreviation for enterprise resource planning

**e-solution** /'i: sə,lju:ʃn/ noun C [22] common term for electronic solutions, i.e. ways of solving a problem or providing a service using the Internet

**Ethernet** /'i:θənet/ noun U [2,12] a widely-used local area network standard that broadcasts packets of data that are addressed to particular devices on the network. Each device on the network reads the address and passes it on to the correct device.

**(Microsoft) Exchange** /ɪks'tʃeɪndʒ/ noun U [7,22] a Microsoft Windows program that includes an email program, a calendar task list and address list

**exe program** /,eks'i: ,prəʊgræm/ noun C [18] an MS-DOS executable program that has an .exe filename extension. It can use more than 64 kilobytes of memory and can be located anywhere in the memory.

**executable** /,eksɪ'kjʊ:təbl/ adj [21] containing instructions that can be run or executed by the processor

**execute** /'eksɪkjʊ:t/ verb [6,18,21] to perform a computer operation by processing a program instruction

**expansion card** /ɪk'spænʃn kɑ:d/ noun C [1,10] an electronic circuit board used for adding facilities to a computer

**expansion slot** /ɪk'spænʃn slɒt/ noun C [2] a long thin connector that is used for adding additional electronics in the form of expansion cards

**expert system** /'ekspɑ:t ,sɪstəm/ noun C [1] an artificial intelligence program that collects and uses human expertise to allow non-experts to solve specialised problems

**extensible** /ɪk'stensəbl/ adj [14] able to be added to, e.g. in an extensible language a developer can add their own terms

**extensible markup language** /ɪk'stensəbl 'mɑ:k əp ,læŋgwɪdʒ/ noun U [14,16,21] a metalanguage that allows developers to create their own set of customised tags that identify the meaning and structure of data. It is used for creating files that are program-independent, platform-independent and able to be used with different languages.

## F

**FAQ** /,ef eɪ 'kju:/ noun C [14,17] acronym used on websites for frequently-asked question

**fault tolerance** /'fɔlt, 'tɔ:ləns/ noun U [17] a computer's ability to recover from hardware errors

- fetch** /fɛtʃ/ verb [21] to go and get the next instruction or piece of data from memory
- Fibre Channel** /'faɪbə 'tʃænəl/ noun U [19] a high speed interconnection standard used in storage area networks
- fibre-optics cable** /'faɪbə 'ɒptiks 'keɪbl/ noun C [19] a type of plastic or glass connector that enables signals to be carried using laser light
- field** /fi:ld/ noun C [13] a section of a database where an item of data is stored
- file** /faɪl/ noun C [5,6,12,15,18,19,22,23,24] a computer program or data stored on a storage device
- file server** /'faɪl ,sɜ:və(r)/ noun C [8,11,17,22] a main computer that provides a storage area for data files on a network
- file transfer protocol** /'faɪl ,trænsfɜ: 'prəʊtəkɒl/ noun U [12] an Internet service that allows users to transfer files from one computer to another
- file virus** /'faɪl ,vaɪrəs/ noun C [18] a virus that attaches itself to a program file
- filestore** /'faɪlstɔ:(r)/ noun C [5] a collection of computer files stored centrally on a network server
- firewall** /'faɪəwɔ:l/ noun C [19,20] a combination of hardware and software used to control the data going into and out of a network. It is used to prevent unauthorised access to the network by hackers.
- flag** /flæg/ verb [2] to mark in a way that indicates that a particular condition has occurred
- flash drive** /'flæʃ draɪv/ noun C [4] an electronic memory storage device that plugs into a computer and acts like a disk drive
- flat file database** /,flæt faɪl 'deɪtəbeɪs/ noun C [3] a simple database in which all the data is stored in one table which is not related to any other table
- floppy (disk)** /'flɒpi/ noun C [4] a magnetic storage device in the form of a small plastic disk. Also known as a diskette.
- floppy (disk) drive** /'flɒpi draɪv/ noun C [4,10] a common magnetic storage device that reads and writes data on a floppy disk. Also known as a diskette drive.
- flowchart** /'fləʊtʃɑ:t/ noun C [21] a kind of diagram used by programmers to show the logical steps in a program or by systems analysts to show logical steps in the design of a system
- folder** /'fəʊldə(r)/ noun C [7,13] see directory
- FORTRAN** /'fɔ:triæn/ noun U [21,22] acronym for Formula Translator. A high-level computing language that was designed by scientists in 1954 and is oriented toward manipulating formulas for scientific, mathematical and engineering problem-solving applications.
- forward** /'fɔ:wəd/ verb [13] to pass on without changing the content, e.g. a received email can be passed on to or forwarded to another address
- frame** /freɪm/ noun C [14] a section of a webpage that acts as an independent browser window. Clicking on a link in one frame can cause a webpage to be displayed in another frame, e.g. a menu in one frame can provide links to webpages that are displayed in another frame.
- Free Software Foundation** /'fri: ,sɒftweə faʊn'deɪʃn/ noun U [6] an organisation that is dedicated to producing software that can be used by anyone who wants to use it at no cost. It depends on the voluntary effort of a large number of programmers throughout the world creating and improving programs and making their work freely available to others.
- free up** /'fri: 'ʌp/ verb [5] to make space available, e.g. by deleting files on a hard disk
- freeware** /'fri:wɛə(r)/ noun U [15] computer programs that are made available to anyone who wants to use them at no cost to the user
- frequency band** /'fri:kwənsi bænd/ noun C [23] a set of frequencies that are used together to provide a path for the transmission of signals
- frequency display** /'fri:kwənsi dɪ'spleɪ/ noun C [9] an electronic device for showing the frequency of a signal
- frequency hopping** /'fri:kwənsi ,hɒpɪŋ/ noun U [23] a process of changing frequencies within a fixed bandwidth during a transmission so that other transmissions can use the same bandwidth at the same time without interfering with each other
- FSB** /'ef es bi:/ noun C [2] abbreviation for front-side bus. The set of connectors on a motherboard that carry data signals between the processor and memory
- FTP** /'ef ti: 'pi:/ noun U [12,20] abbreviation for file transfer protocol
- full backup** /fʊl 'bækʌp/ noun C [19] a type of backup that copies all the selected files on a system whether or not they have been edited or backed up before
- full-duplex** /'fʊl ,dju:pleks/ adj [11,23] able to transfer data in both directions simultaneously, i.e. data can be transmitted and received at the same time
- futurologist** /'fju:tʃə'rɒlədʒɪst/ noun C [24] a person who studies and predicts what technology will be like and what effects it will have in the future

## G

**games console** /'geɪmz ,kɒnsəʊl/ noun C [23] an electronic device used for playing computer games

**gateway** /'geɪtweɪ/ noun C [11,12,13,15,18] an interface that enables dissimilar networks to communicate such as two LANs based on different topologies or network operating systems

**Gb/GB** /'gɪgəbaɪt/ noun C [2,9,11] abbreviation for a gigabyte

**geek** /gi:k/ noun C [20] although it was originally a derogatory term used for an expert lacking in social skills, it is now used in computing to mean a dedicated expert

**general packet radio service** /,dʒenrəl ,pækɪt 'reɪdɪəʊ ,sɜ:vɪs/ noun U [16] a GSM data transmission technique that transmits and receives data in packets

**general-purpose language** /,dʒenrəl ,pɜ:pəs 'læŋgwɪdʒ/ noun C [21] a computer language that can be used to write different types of programs

**get listed** /get 'lɪstɪd/ verb [15] to register the Web address of a website on an Internet search engine

**GHz** /'gɪgəhɜ:ts/ noun C [2,23] abbreviation for gigahertz

**GIF** /dʒi aɪ eɪ/ noun U [13] acronym for graphics interchange format. A way of storing images in a compressed form.

**gigabit** /'gɪgəbɪt/ noun C [23] a unit of storage capacity equal to 1 073 741 824 bits

**gigabyte** /'gɪgəbaɪt/ noun C [2] a unit of storage capacity equal to 1 073 741 824 bytes

**gigahertz** /'gɪgəhɜ:ts/ noun C [3] a unit of frequency equal to one thousand million hertz (cycles every second)

**global positioning system** /,glɔ:bl pə'zɪʃnɪŋ ,sɪstəm/ noun C [16] a system that determines the user's location by comparing radio signals from several satellites

**Gnome** /'gɔ:nɒm/ noun U [6] a project to build a complete user-friendly Unix-like desktop system based entirely on free software. It is part of the GNU project and part of the OpenSource movement.

**GNU** /'gɔ:nu:/ noun U [6] a freely distributed portable Unix compatible software system

**Google** /'gu:gl/ noun U [13,20] the name of a popular website that provides a keyword search engine to enable user to search for relevant websites

**GPRS** /ˌdʒiː piː aɪr 'es/ noun U [16] abbreviation for general packet radio service

**GPS** /ˌdʒiː piː 'es/ noun C [16,20] abbreviation for global positioning system

**graphic equaliser** /ˌgræfɪk 'iːkwəˌleɪzə(r)/ noun C [9] an electronic device that uses slider controls to adjust the frequency response of an audio system

**graphical (user) interface** /ˌgræfɪkəl 'ɪntəfeɪs/ noun C [6,7,21] the part of an operating system that allows the user to interact with a computer using graphic images and a cursor

**grep** /ɡrep/ noun U [6] a Unix command for searching through one or more text files for a specific text string

**GUI** /'ɡuːi/ noun C [7] acronym for graphical user interface

## H

**hack** /hæk/ verb [6,20,23] to gain unauthorised access to a network system

**hacker** /'hækə(r)/ noun C [18,20] a skilled programmer who attempts to gain unauthorised access to a network system

**half-duplex** /'hɑːf ˌdjuːpleks/ adj [11] able to transfer data in both directions but only in one direction at a time, i.e. data can be transmitted or received but not at the same time

**handheld (computer)** /'hændheld/ noun C [1,7,16] a small portable computer that can be held in one hand

**hang** /hæŋ/ verb [17] to suddenly and unexpectedly stop processing during the execution of a program

**hard (disk) (drive)** /hɑːd (disk) (draɪv)/ noun C [1,2,5,8,15,17,18] a common magnetic storage device that reads and writes data on metal disks inside a sealed case

**hardware** /'hɑːdweə(r)/ noun U [1,5,6,16,17,19,21,22,23,24] the physical components of a computer system

**(disk drive) head** /hed/ noun C [2] the part of a disk drive that reads and writes data to the disk

**header** /'hedə(r)/ noun C [11,13] the first section of a message that contains information about the content and transmission of the message including the sending and destination addresses

**headphone** /'hedfəʊn/ noun C [23] sound output device that fits over the ears of the user

**help-desk/helpline** /'helpdesk, 'helplam/ noun C [12,22] a telephone service for helping users solve

problems that occur on computer systems

**high-end package** /,haɪ 'end ˌpækɪdʒ/ noun C [8] a set of computer programs with a wide variety of complex features

**Higher National Certificate** /,haɪə ˌnæʃənl sə'tɪfɪkət/ noun U [5] a British college qualification that can be gained through part-time or full-time study. It is usually obtained before studying for an HND.

**Higher National Diploma** /,haɪə ˌnæʃənl dɪ'plɒmə/ noun U [5] a British college qualification that usually requires a period of full-time study. It is more advanced than an HNC and not as advanced as a degree.

**high-level language** /,haɪ ˌleɪvl ˌlæŋɡwɪdʒ/ noun C [21] a programming language closer to human language than low-level computer languages such as machine code or assembly language

**high-level program** /,haɪ ˌleɪvl ˌprəʊɡrəm/ noun C [12] a computer program written using a high-level language

**highlight** /'haɪlaɪt/ verb [10,15] to select by marking on the display screen

**hijacking** /'haɪdʒækɪŋ/ noun U [18] a computer crime that involves redirecting anyone trying to visit a certain website elsewhere

**HNC** /,eɪtʃ ˌen 'siː/ noun U [22] abbreviation for Higher National Certificate

**HND** /,eɪtʃ ˌen 'diː/ noun U [22] abbreviation for Higher National Diploma

**Home button** /'həʊm ˌbʌtən/ noun C [13] the button icon on a Web browser program that takes you to the starting webpage

**homepage** /'həʊmpeɪdʒ/ noun C [20] the main start page of a website

**host** /həʊst/ noun C [13,18] a computer that provides a service on a network / a program that carries a virus

**hotspot** /'hɒtspɒt/ noun C [16] the location of a wireless access point. Often found in public places such as airports, stations and hotels to provide a connection to the Internet

**hover** /'hɒvə(r)/ verb [7] to hold a cursor over an icon for a short period of time

**HTML** /,eɪtʃ ˌtiː ˌem 'el/ noun U [6,13,14,16,21,22,25] abbreviation for hypertext markup language. A page description language that uses a system of tags for creating web pages.

**hub** /hʌb/ noun C [11,15] an electronic device at the centre of a star network topology

**hub** /hʌb/ noun C [19] a common connection point for devices on a network

**humanoid** /'hjuːmənɔɪd/ noun C [23] a robot with human characteristics

**hyperlink** /'haɪpəlnɪk/ noun C [7,13,20] a text or image in a webpage that causes a related webpage to be displayed or another program to be started when the user clicks on the hyperlink using the mouse

**hypertext markup language** /,haɪpətekst ˌmɑːkʌp ˌlæŋɡwɪdʒ/ noun U [14,16,21] a page description language that has a set of tags that can be inserted into a document to make it act as a webpage. The tags determine how the document is displayed on the screen and marks the position of hyperlinks.

## I

**I/O** /aɪ 'əʊ/ noun C [17] abbreviation for input/output

**IBM** /,aɪ biː 'em/ noun U [6,22,23,25] abbreviation for International Business Machines, the largest computer company in the world. It launched the first personal computer called the IBM PC which quickly became the standard.

**IC** /aɪ 'siː/ noun C [12] abbreviation for integrated circuit. A complete electronic circuit built on a single silicon chip.

**icon** /'aɪkɒn/ noun C [7,21] a small picture used in a WIMP system to represent a program folder or file

**IEEE 802.11** /,aɪ iː ɪː 'iː ˌeɪ əʊ ˌtuː ˌpɔɪnt wʌn 'wʌn/ noun U [23] a wireless networking system standard approved by the American regulating organisation called the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers

**I-frame** /'aɪ freɪm/ noun C [9] the common name for an intra frame in an MPEG compressed file

**image editor** /'ɪmɪdʒ ˌedɪtə(r)/ noun C [8] a computer program that allows the user to make changes to images

**image map** /'ɪmɪdʒ ˌmæp/ noun C [14] a graphic image with separate areas that contain hyperlinks to different parts of a website

**IMAP** /'aɪmæp/ noun U [13] acronym for Internet mail access protocol

**inbox** /'ɪnbɒks/ noun C [13] the folder in an email program where emails are stored when they are first received

**incremental backup** /ˌɪnkɹəˌmentəl ˌbækʌp/ noun C [19] a type of backup that copies all the selected files that have been changed since the last full differential or incremental backup



- industrial scientific and medical band** /m,dʌstriəl saɪəntɪfɪk ɒnd 'medɪkl bænd/ noun U [23] a set of radiowave frequencies centred around 2.45GHz used for industrial scientific and medical devices and for Bluetooth devices
- information superhighway (the)** /,ɪnfə'meɪʃn 'su:pə'haɪweɪ/ noun U [1,24] an informal term for a global high-speed network providing communication services that are freely available to everyone, i.e. a highly-developed Internet system
- information technology** /,ɪnfə'meɪʃn tek'nɒlədʒi/ noun U [22,23,24,25] the study and practice of techniques or use of equipment for dealing with information
- inheritance** /ɪn'herɪtəns/ noun U [21] a key feature of object-oriented programming that allows specific instances of a class to inherit all the properties of the class, e.g. squares are a specific instance of rectangles and inherit all the properties of rectangles
- in-house** /ɪn 'haʊs/ adj [22] done by employees of an organisation rather than people outside the organisation
- initialise (the hard disk)** /ɪ'nɪʃlaɪz/ verb [18] to reboot or restart the computer
- input** /'ɪnpʊt/ verb [2,4,6] to put data into a system
- input** /'ɪnpʊt/ noun U [2,6,7,21,23] data put into a system
- input device** /'ɪnpʊt dɪ'vaɪs/ noun C [2,7] a piece of equipment used for putting data into a computer
- instruction** /ɪn'strʌkʃn/ noun C [18,21] one line of a computer program
- integrated services digital network** /,ɪntɪɡreɪtɪd 'sɜ:vɪsɪz dɪ'dʒɪtəl 'netwɜ:k/ noun U [16] a broadband network communications system that allows the ordinary analogue telephone system to carry digital signals including voice, data, text, graphics and video
- Intel** /'ɪntel/ noun U [2,23,25] the American company that designs and produces the electronic processors used in most of the computers in the world
- intelligent agent** /ɪn,telɪdʒənt 'eɪdʒənt/ noun C [7,24] a computer utility program that uses artificial intelligence to perform tasks for the user such as retrieving and delivering information and automating repetitive tasks
- interactive** /ɪntə'ræktɪv/ adj [21,24] allows two-way communication so that the user can respond or interact with the system
- interface** /'ɪntəfeɪs/ noun C [6,7,9,11,16,24] the hardware or software that connects two systems and allows them to communicate with each other
- Internet (protocol) address** /'ɪntənət ə,dres/ noun C [12,13] a 32-bit code number assigned to every node on the Internet. It consists of a series of numbers that identify the major network and the sub-networks to which a node is attached and provides a path that gateways can use to route information from one machine to another.
- (Microsoft) Internet Explorer** /,ɪntənət ɪk'splɔ:ɾə(r)/ noun U [17] a free browser program developed by the Microsoft Corporation
- Internet mail access protocol** /,ɪntənət 'meɪl ,ækses 'prəʊtəkɒl/ noun U [13] a set of standards for accessing email messages stored on an email server. Initially only message headers are retrieved. Users can then organise or delete messages on the server and download individual messages.
- Internet protocol** /,ɪntənət 'prəʊtəkɒl/ noun U [12] the basic set of standards for enabling computers to communicate over the Internet
- Internet service provider** /,ɪntənət 'sɜ:vɪs prə'vaɪdə(r)/ noun C [14,23] an organisation that provides Internet connections for a fee
- Internet (the)** /'ɪntənət/ noun U [1,5,6,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,20,21,22,23,24,25] the connection of computer networks across the world
- interpreter** /ɪn'tɜ:pɪtə(r)/ noun C [5] a program that converts other programs into machine code line by line as the programs are being used
- intra frame** /'ɪntrə freɪm/ noun C [9] a type of image frame used in MPEG compression which contains only information in the picture itself
- intranet** /'ɪntrənət/ noun C [7,23] a computer network that is internal to an organisation and uses the TCP/IP protocol in the same way as the Internet
- IP** /aɪ 'pi:/ noun U [12] abbreviation for Internet protocol. A part of the TCP/IP protocol used on the Internet.
- IP address** /,aɪ 'pi: ə,dres/ noun C [13] abbreviation for Internet protocol address
- IP-layer** /,aɪ 'pi: ,leɪə(r)/ noun C [12] the IP part of a TCP/IP system
- IRC** /,aɪ ɑ: 'si:/ noun U [12,20] abbreviation for Internet relay chat. An Internet service that allows user to have a conversation by sending text messages to each other in real-time.
- iris recognition** /'aɪrɪs rekəg,nɪʃn/ noun U [16] a process of identifying a user by scanning their eyes
- IS Manager** /,aɪ 'es ,mæniʒə(r)/ noun C [22] an abbreviated form of information systems manager. A person who manages a computer-based service that provides information that is useful to a particular organisation.
- ISDN** /,aɪ es di: 'en/ noun U [16] abbreviation for integrated services digital network
- isolation adapter** /,aɪsə'leɪʃn ə,dæptə(r)/ noun C [11] an electronic device that isolates a network system from high voltages and allows it to use the mains electricity cables for connecting computers together and transferring data
- ISP** /,aɪ es 'pi:/ noun C [12,13,14,20] abbreviation for Internet service provider
- IT** /aɪ 'ti:/ noun U [5,8,22,23,24] abbreviation for information technology
- iteration** /ɪtə'reɪʃn/ noun C [21] a process that is repeated as long as certain conditions remain true

## J

- Java** /'dʒɑ:və/ noun U [21,22,23] an object-oriented computer programming language that was developed by Sun Microsystems in the mid-1990s. Programs written in Java can be used on a wide range of operating systems. It is widely used for developing interactive applications for the Internet.
- JavaScript** /'dʒɑ:vəskɪrɪpt/ noun U [22] a scripting language that allows simple programs to be embedded into HTML documents
- joystick** /'dʒɔɪstɪk/ noun C [23] a cursor control device in the form of a movable stick that is usually used for controlling computer games
- JPEG** /'dʒeɪ peɪ/ noun U [9] abbreviation for joint photographic expert group – the committee that devised a common standard for image file format and compression. JPEG compression is commonly used for photographic images in webpages because it creates very small files.
- JUMP command/instruction** /'dʒʌmp kə'mə:nd, ɪn'strʌkʃn/ noun C [18] a programming instruction that causes a program to change its normal sequence
- junk email** /dʒʌŋk 'i:meɪl/ noun U [12] unwanted and unsolicited email that is normally advertising or trying to sell something

## K

- Kb/KB** /'kiləbaɪt/ noun C [2] abbreviation for a kilobyte. A unit of storage capacity equal to 1024 bytes.
- Kbit/s** /'kiləbɪts/ noun C [16,23] abbreviation for kilobits per second. A unit of signal speed equal to 1024 bits every second. A more common form is kbps.
- kbps** /,kiləbɪts pə 'sekənd/ noun C [23] abbreviation for kilobits per second. A unit of signal speed equal to 1024 bits every second.
- KDE** /,keɪ di: 'i:/ noun U [6] a graphical user interface used with the Linux operating system
- kernel** /'kɜ:nəl/ noun C [6,24] the lowest level layer at the core of an operating system. It deals with allocating hardware resources to the rest of the operating system and the application programs.
- keyboard** /'ki:bɔ:d/ noun C [1,2,6,11,16,19,23,24] the main electronic input device that has keys arranged in a similar layout to a typewriter
- keystroke** /'ki:stɹɔ:k/ noun C [18] the process of pressing and releasing a key on a keyboard
- keyword** /'ki:wɜ:d/ noun C [13] a word used to categorise documents or records in a file. Keywords can be used by a search engine to find relevant links on the Internet.
- kHz** /'kiləhɜ:ts/ noun C [9] abbreviation for kilohertz. A unit of frequency equal to 1000 cycles every second.
- killer application** /'kɪlə 'æplɪ,keɪʃn/ noun C [23] an application program that is particularly useful and popular, making a computer system very successful
- knowledge base** /'nɒlɪdʒ beɪs/ noun C [17,22] a collection of information that can be easily modified, revised and manipulated to enable the user to solve particular problems

## L

- LAN** /læn/ noun C [5,8,11,15,17,23] acronym for local area network
- language processor** /'læŋgwɪdʒ ,prəsesə(r)/ noun C [5] software that performs computer language translation
- laptop (computer)** /'læptɒp/ noun C [23] the largest type of portable computer
- laser printer** /'leɪzə ,prɪntə(r)/ noun C [8,16,17,21,25] a printer that prints using toner powder and laser light on a photosensitive drum
- LCD** /,el si: 'di:/ noun C [10] abbreviation for liquid crystal display. An electronic display device that uses liquid crystal cells to control the reflection of light.
- leased line** /,li:st 'laɪn/ noun C [8] a cable connection that is rented for use in a communications system
- library** /'laɪbrəri/ noun C [21,22] a set of programmed functions that are made available for use by any program
- line size** /'laɪn saɪz/ noun C [2] the amount of data transferred each time there is a transfer between the main memory and cache memory
- link** /lɪŋk/ noun C [13,14,15] a common term used for a hyperlink, i.e. the connection of a webpage to another webpage or file
- Linux** /'laɪnɪks/ noun U [6] a clone of the Unix operating system created by Linus Torvalds for use on personal computers
- Linux distribution** /'laɪnɪks dɪstrɪ,bju:ʃn/ noun C [6] the Linux-user term for a complete operating system kit complete with the utilities and applications needed to make it do useful things, e.g. command interpreters, programming tools, text editors, typesetting tools and graphical user interfaces
- load** /ləʊd/ verb [6,18] to copy a program from a storage device into the computer's memory
- local area network** /,ləʊkl ,eəriə 'netwɜ:k/ noun C [8,11] computers connected together over a small area such as a company department
- log** /lɒg/ verb [11] to record the time that an event happened
- log** /lɒg/ noun C [20] a record of when an event happened
- log on** /lɒg 'ɒn/ verb [6,12,18,19,20,23] to connect to a network system account normally using a password
- logic bomb** /'lɒdʒɪk bɒm/ noun C [18,20] destructive code introduced into a program that is triggered by some event taking place on the computer system at a later time
- logic circuit** /'lɒdʒɪk ,sɜ:kɪt/ noun C [2] a digital electronic circuit that compares two or more inputs and gives an output according to a particular rule of logic
- look-up table** /'lʊk ʌp ,teɪbl/ noun C [12,13] a method by which a program uses two sets of related records to find a required value. It is quicker than calculating the value using a formula but takes up more memory space.
- loop structure** /'lu:p ,strʌktʃə(r)/ noun C [21] see iteration

- low-level language** /,ləʊ levl 'læŋgwɪdʒ/ noun C [22] a computer language such as machine code or assembly language that is closer to the form that a computer understands than to that of a human language
- loyalty card** /'lɔɪəlti kɑ:d/ noun C [2] an electronic card that gives the owner discount on purchases at a particular store depending on how much they spend
- lpr** /,el pi: 'ɑ:(r)/ noun U [6] a Unix command for printing a file
- ls** /,el 'es/ noun U [6] a Unix command for displaying a list of files in a directory

## M

- m** /em/ noun C [23] abbreviation for metre. An international unit for distance.
- mA** /'mɪli:æmp/ noun C [23] abbreviation for milliamp. A unit of current equal to one thousandth of an amp.
- (Apple) Mac** /mæk/ noun C [7] the common name for the Apple Macintosh range of computers. A type of personal computer manufactured by Apple Computer Incorporated.
- MAC** /mæk/ noun C [18] acronym for message-authentication code
- machine code** /mə'ʃi:n kɔd/ noun C [22] a computer language that consists entirely of a combination of 1s and 0s
- machine intelligence** /mə'ʃi:n ɪn'telɪdʒəns/ noun U [24] another name for artificial intelligence
- Mac OS** /mæk əʊ 'es/ noun C [6] the family of operating systems used on the Apple Macintosh range of computers
- macro virus** /'mækrəʊ ,vaɪrəs/ noun C [18] a virus program in the form of a macro program
- magnetic tape** /mæɡ,netɪk 'teɪp/ noun U [19,24,25] a magnetic storage medium in the form of a thin plastic ribbon wound on a reel or a cassette. It is commonly used for backing up data.
- mail bombing** /'meɪl ,bɒmɪŋ/ noun U [18] a computer crime that involves inundating an email address with thousands of messages slowing or even crashing the server
- mail client** /'meɪl ,klaɪənt/ noun C [13] an email program that connects to an email server to send and receive email
- mail server** /'meɪl ,sɜ:və(r)/ noun C [13] a network service that stores email messages and enables email clients to send and receive emails
- mailbox** /'meɪlbɒks/ noun C [13] a folder used by an email server to store a user's emails

- mailmerge** /'meɪlmɑːtʃ/ noun C [3,8] a wordprocessing facility that causes a mailing list to be automatically combined with a standard letter to produce a separate copy of the letter addressed to each person on the mailing list
- main memory** /,meɪn 'meməri/ noun U [2] the electronic memory that holds the programs and data being used
- mainframe (computer)** /'memfrɛɪm/ noun C [2,5,6,21,22] the largest and most powerful type of computer. It is operated by a team of professionals.
- mains line** /'meɪnz laɪn/ noun C [11] the main electricity supply
- man** /mæn/ noun U [6] a Unix command for viewing the online manual pages on a Unix system
- markup language** /'mɑːkʌp ,læŋgwɪdʒ/ noun C [14] a set of tags that can be inserted into a document to indicate its layout and appearance
- massively parallel** /,mæsɪvli 'pærələ/ adj [24] being part of a system in which an application is processed by up to 200 or more processors at the same time. Each processor using its own operating systems and memory and working on a different part of the program.
- Mb/MB** /'megəbaɪt/ noun C [2,12] abbreviation for a megabyte
- Mbit/s** /,megəbaɪt pə 'sekənd/ noun C [23] abbreviation for megabit per second. A unit of signal speed equal to 1 048 576 bits every second.
- Mbps** /,megəbaɪts pə 'sekənd/ noun C [23] abbreviation for megabits per second. A unit of signal speed equal to 1 048 576 bits every second.
- megabyte** /'megəbaɪt/ noun C [2,9,17] a unit of storage capacity equal to 1 048 576 bytes
- megahertz** /'megəhɜːts/ noun C [2] a unit of frequency equal to 1 million cycles every second
- megohm** /'megəʊm/ noun C [12] a unit of electrical resistance equal to 1 million ohms
- memory** /'meməri/ noun U [2,5,6,15, 18,19,24] the electronic part of a computer system that is used for temporarily storing the programs and data that are being used by the processor
- menu** /'menjuː/ noun C [2,7,21] a list of options displayed on a computer screen
- menu bar** /'menjuː bɑː(r)/ noun C [10,16] a row of icons on a display screen that open up menus when selected
- message-authentication code** /,mesɪdʒ əːθentɪ'keɪʃn kəʊd/ noun C [18] a number produced by a message-digest function that is used to make a message tamper-proof and provide message integrity
- message-digest function** /,mesɪdʒ 'daɪdʒest ,fʌŋkʃn/ noun C [18] a program function that processes a message to produce a number called a message-authentication code. This number is then used to make a message tamper-proof.
- message-integrity scheme** /,mesɪdʒ ɪn'teɡrəti skiːm/ noun C [18] a system that allows the receiver of a message to detect whether someone has tampered with the message in transit
- metadata** /'metədəɪtə/ noun U [14] data about data in a document
- metalanguage** /'metələŋgwɪdʒ/ noun C [14,21] a language from which you can create other languages
- MHz** /'megəhɜːts/ noun C [2,23] abbreviation for megahertz
- microchip** /'maɪkrəʊtʃɪp/ noun C [22] an electronic integrated circuit in a small package
- microcomputer** /'maɪkrəʊkəm,pjuːtə(r)/ noun C [6,11] a personal computer. Smaller and less powerful than a mainframe or a minicomputer.
- microprocessor** /,maɪkrəʊ'prəʊsesə(r)/ noun C [3,16,25] the main electronic chip in a computer. It can be thought of as the 'brain' of the computer because it does the main processing and controls the other parts of the computer. It is sometimes called the CPU.
- Microsoft** /'maɪkrəʊsɒft/ noun U [2,5,6,18,20,22,25] the common name for the Microsoft Corporation. The company founded by Bill Gates that developed the MS-DOS and Windows operating systems and a variety of software commonly used on desktop computers.
- microwave** /'maɪkrəʊeɪv/ noun C [23] a high-frequency electromagnetic wave used in data communication systems
- MIDI** /'mɪdi/ noun U [9,17,18] acronym for musical instrument digital interface. A standard for connecting musical instruments to computer systems.
- minicomputer** /'mɪnɪkəm,pjuːtə(r)/ noun C [6] a computer that is slightly less powerful and a little smaller than a mainframe
- Minix** /'mɪnɪks/ noun U [6] a compact Unix clone written as a teaching aid by Professor Andy Tannenbaum
- mirroring** /'mɪrərɪŋ/ noun U [17] a technique used in RAID 1 systems where at least two hard disks are paired in such a way that the hard disk controller writes each byte of data to both disks. This ensures that a backup exists should the primary disk drive fail.
- misdirection routine** /mɪsdə'rekʃn, dɪ-, dɪə- ruːtiːn/ noun C [18] the part of a computer virus that enables it to hide itself by altering the normal sequence of instructions in another program
- mixing desk** /'mɪksɪŋ desk/ noun C [9] an electronic device used in audio recording that allows a number of audio inputs to be mixed together
- mkdir** /,em keɪ 'dɪə(r)/ noun U [6] a Unix and MS-DOS command for creating a directory
- mobile phone** /,məʊbaɪl 'fəʊn/ noun C [15,16,23] a wireless telephone that operates over a wide area
- modem** /'mɒdəm/ noun C [2,5,10,11,12,16,23] short for modulator/demodulator. An electronic device that converts signals to enable a computer to be connected to an ordinary telephone line.
- modulation** /,mɒdjuː'leɪʃn/ noun U [23] a process of combining a data signal with a carrier wave by causing the data signal to modify the amplitude frequency or phase of the carrier wave
- monitor** /'mɒnɪtə(r)/ noun C [1,2,9,16,17,18,24] the main output device used to display the output from a computer on a screen. See VDU.
- MOO** /muː/ noun C [12,16] acronym for multi-user object oriented. An Internet virtual environment developed from multi-user adventure games that allows many users to interact.
- motherboard** /'mʌðəbɔːd/ noun C [5,16] the main electronic circuit board inside a computer that holds and connects together all the main electronic components
- mouse** /maʊs/ noun C [1,2,7,11,17,21, 23,25] a common cursor control input device used with a graphical user interface. It commonly has two or three button switches on top and a ball underneath that is rolled on a flat surface.
- mouse button** /'maʊs ,bʌtən/ noun C [10] a switch on a mouse that is pressed to select an object on the screen
- mouse pointer** /'maʊs ,pɔɪntə(r)/ noun C [15] a cursor image in the shape of an arrow that is controlled by a mouse and is used for pointing and selecting icons on the screen

**MouseKeys** /'maʊski:z/ noun U [7] a Microsoft Windows operating system feature that changes the function of the numeric keypad keys on a computer keyboard so that they can be used to control the screen cursor

**MP3** /,em pi: 'θri:/ noun U [9,23] abbreviation for MPEG Audio Layer 3. A Motion Picture Experts Group standard for audio compression.

**MPEG** /'empeg/ noun U [9,23] a standard video compression scheme. The term is an acronym for Motion Picture Experts Group a committee that develops standards for audio and video file formats and compression.

**MS-DOS** /,em es 'dɒs/ noun U [25] abbreviation for Microsoft disk operating system. The command line operating system that was used in the first PCs.

**multimedia** /,mʌlti'mi:diə/ noun U [1,2,13,15,21] the combination of text graphics animation sound and video

**multimodal input** /,mʌlti,məʊdəl 'ɪnpʊt/ noun U [7] the process of operating a user interface using a combination of types of input, e.g. keyboard and speech recognition

**MVS** /,em vi: 'es/ noun U [6,22] abbreviation for multiple virtual storage. It is the name given to a family of operating systems used on IBM mainframe computers.

**mW** /'miliwɒt/ noun C [23] abbreviation for milliwatt. A unit of power equal to one thousandth of a watt.

**My Briefcase** /maɪ 'bri:fkeɪs/ noun U [7] a Microsoft Windows feature that simplifies the process of copying and synchronising files between a desktop and a portable computer

## N

**NAS** /'næs/ noun C [19] acronym for network attached storage. A device that can be plugged into a network to provide a storage service

**natural-language programming** /,nætʃrəl ,læŋgwɪdʒ 'prəʊgræmɪŋ/ noun U [21] the process of writing programs using a computer language that is very similar to natural human language

**Net (the)** /net/ noun U [12,15,24] the common name for the Internet

**Netscape Communicator** /,netskeɪp kə'mju:nikeɪtə(r)/ noun U [11,15] a widely used web browser package

**NetWare** /'netweə(r)/ noun U [6,22] a widely-used LAN operating system produced by Novell Incorporated

**network** /'netwɜ:k/ verb [7,21] to connect a number of computers and peripheral devices together

**network** /'netwɜ:k/ noun C [1,2,3,4,5,6,7, 8,11,12,15,16,17,18,19,20,22,23,24] a combination of a number of computers and peripheral devices connected together

**network computer** /'netwɜ:k kəm,pju:tə(r)/ noun C [11] a computer designed using the industry specification from Oracle and Sun Microsystems for a low-cost basic personal computer that can have an Intel processor or another type of processor and can use a Java-based operating system. It is designed for use on a multi-user network system and is managed centrally. It has no floppy disk drive, CD-ROM drive or hardware expansion slots, i.e. it is a type of thin client.

**network guru** /'netwɜ:k ,gɒru:/ noun C [22] a person who is an expert in networking and gives talks and advice on the future development of networking

**network layer** /'netwɜ:k ,leɪə(r)/ noun C [11] the part of a network communications system that forms the data into packets and selects a route for the message

**network operating system** /,netwɜ:k 'ɒpəreɪtɪŋ ,sɪstəm/ noun C [11] an operating system that is used to administer and control a network allowing computers to share hardware and software while providing file security and backup facilities

**neural net(work)** /'nju:ərəl ,net(wɜ:k)/ noun C [3,23] an artificial intelligence system that is capable of developing rules from given input so that it learns how to deal with more complex input

**newsgroup** /'nju:zgru:p/ noun C [12,14,22] an Internet discussion group that uses a restricted area on a server computer to display messages about a common interest

**node** /nəʊd/ noun C [11,12] a network terminal or point where a computer is connected to a network

**notebook (computer)** /'nəʊtbɒk/ noun C [23] a portable computer that is about the same size as a piece of writing paper

**Novell** /nəʊ'vel/ noun U [22] the common name for Novell Incorporated. The American company that designs and produces the Netware network operating system.

**numeric keyboard** /nju:merɪk 'ki:bɔ:d/ noun C [7] the section of a computer keyboard that includes keys for entering numerical digits (0-9) and mathematical operators (+, -, /)

## O

**object** /'ɒbdʒekt/ noun C [21] an object-oriented programming module that has its own properties created by bundling data and program instructions together

**object-oriented programming** /,ɒbdʒekt ,ɔ:rientɪd 'prəʊgræmɪŋ/ noun U [21] a type of programming where programs are made from combinations of predefined modules that can be used over and over again

**OCR** /,əʊ si: 'ɑ:(r)/ noun U [3] abbreviation for optical character recognition

**(Microsoft) Office** /'ɒfɪs/ noun U [8,22] a widely-used application package developed by the Microsoft Corporation that includes programs used in a typical office, e.g. a wordprocessor and spreadsheet

**office application / suite** /'ɒfɪs æplɪ,keɪʃn, ,swi:t/ noun C [5,8] a computer program or set of programs that are used in a typical office, e.g. a wordprocessor, spreadsheet and database

**offline** /ɒ'flaɪn/ adj [12] disconnected from a computer system or the Internet

**online** /ɒn'laɪn/ adj [12,13,14,16,22, 23,24] connected to a computer system or the Internet

**OOP** /,əʊ əʊ 'pi:/ noun U [21] acronym for object-oriented programming

**Open Source** /,əʊpən 'sɔ:s/ adj [6] part of a system of software development where anyone is free to take a copy of the source code and extend, develop or fix bugs in it

**operating system** /'ɒpəreɪtɪŋ ,sɪstəm/ noun C [2,5,6,17,18,19,21,22,25] the set of programs that control the basic functions of a computer and provide communication between the application programs and the hardware

**optical character recognition** /ɒptɪkl ,kærɪktə rekəg'nɪʃn/ noun U [3] a process that enables a computer to scan and recognise printed characters using the reflection of light

**optical drive** /ɒptɪkl draɪv/ noun C [2] a type of storage device that reads or writes data using laser light, e.g. CD-ROM, DVD-RW

**optical fibre** /ɒptɪkl 'faɪbə(r)/ noun C [23] a common name for glass fibre cable used in high speed networks. It enables data signals to be transmitted using laser light.

**optical media** /ɒptɪkl 'mi:diə/ noun U [19] data storage material that is written to or read from using laser light

**ORACLE** /'ɒrəkl/ noun U [22] a widely used database management system

- OS** /əʊ 'es/ noun C [6] abbreviation for operating system
- OS X** /əʊ es 'ten/ noun U [25] version 10 of the Apple Macintosh operating system. It is a modular OS and has a desktop with a 3-D appearance. It includes support for UNIX-based applications as well as older Mac applications.
- Outlook Express** /ˌaʊtlɒk ɪk'spres/ noun U [17] a free graphical interface email program integrated into the Internet Explorer browser developed by the Microsoft Corporation
- output** /'aʊtpʊt/ noun U [2,8,21,23] the processed data or signals that come out of a computer system
- P**
- pA** /'pi:kəʊæmp/ noun C [23] abbreviation for picoamp. A unit of current equal to a millionth of a millionth of an amp.
- (software) package** /'pækɪdʒ/ noun C [6,12,16,22] an application program or collection of programs that can be used in different ways
- packet** /'pækɪt/ noun C [11,12,13] a fixed size unit of data prepared for transmission across a network. Messages are normally divided into packets before transmission.
- packet-switching** /'pækɪt ,swɪtʃɪŋ/ noun U [23] a method of transferring data across a network by dividing it into packets and transferring the packets individually from node to node then putting the packets together again when they arrive at the destination
- page-description language** /'peɪdʒ dɪs'krɪpʃn ,læŋgwɪdʒ/ noun C [21] a type of programming language that uses tags to define the layout of a document, e.g. HTML is a page-description language used to design webpages
- pager** /'peɪdʒə(r)/ noun C [16,20] a small radio receiver which beeps to alert the wearer of messages or telephone calls. It displays the telephone number of the caller so the wearer can call back. Some pagers can display very short messages.
- Palm Pilot** /'pɑ:m ,paɪlət/ noun U [11] a popular handheld personal organiser produced by 3Com
- palm-size PC** /'pɑ:m saɪz pi: 'si:/ noun C [7] another name for a handheld IBM compatible computer
- palmtop (computer)** /'pɑ:mtɒp/ noun C [16] a portable computer that is small enough to be held in the palm of one hand. See handheld computer.
- pane** /peɪn/ noun C [10] a subsection of a graphical user interface window
- parity data** /'pærəti ,deɪtə/ noun U [17] extra data bits added to the end of units of data before transmission and then checked and added after transmission to see if the data has arrived accurately
- Pascal** /'pæs'kæl/ noun U [5,21] a high-level structured computer language named after the mathematician Blaise Pascal. It is often used in college computing courses to teach programming.
- password** /'pɑ:swɜ:d/ noun C [6,12,16,19, 20,21] a secret code used to control access to a network system
- paste** /peɪst/ verb [21] to insert a copy of data held in a computer's memory at a chosen position
- patch** /pætʃ/ verb [18] to insert programming code into a computer program to fix or modify it in some way
- payload** /'peɪləʊd/ noun C [18] the part of a virus that carries out the threat such as displaying a slogan on the screen
- payroll package** /'peɪrɔ:l ,pækɪdʒ/ noun C [8] a set of computer programs used for calculating pay cheques
- PC** /pi: 'si:/ noun C [1,2,5,6,17,19,21,23, 25] abbreviation for an IBM type of personal computer
- PCI Express** /pi: 'si: ɪt rɪ'kspres/ noun U [2] (Peripheral Component Interconnect Express) an interface for connecting peripherals to the processor. It is faster than the standard PCI interface.
- PCMCIA** /'pi: si: ,em si: ət 'ei/ noun U [2] a type of interface for connecting credit-sized electronic upgrade cards to portable computers. Devised by the Personal Computer Memory Card International Association.
- PDA** /'pi: di: 'ei/ noun C [2,23] abbreviation for personal digital assistant. A small handheld computer providing a variety of tools for organising work, e.g. a calendar, to do list, diary, address list, calculator, etc.
- pen-based computer** /,pen beɪst kəm'pjʊ:tə(r)/ noun C [2,6] a small computer that has a pen input device instead of a keyboard
- Pentium** /'pentɪəm/ noun C [2,17,25] a family of processors produced by the Intel Corporation
- peripheral** /pə'rɪfərəl/ noun C [2,15,16, 23] a piece of equipment that is connected to the central processing unit of a computer system
- personal computer** /,pɜ:sənəl kəm'pjʊ:tə(r)/ noun C [1,7,22,23,25] a computer designed to be used by one person at a time
- personal organiser** /,pɜ:sənəl 'ɔ:ɡənɪzə(r)/ noun C [23] see PDA
- P-frame** /'pi: f'reɪm/ noun C [9] the common name for a predicted frame in an MPEG compressed file
- phishing** /'fɪʃɪŋ/ noun U [20,18] pretending to be someone that can be trusted, in order to steal personal information such as passwords or credit card details
- Photoshop** /'fəʊtəʊʃɒp/ noun U [23] an image-editing computer program produced by Adobe Systems Inc.
- physical layer** /'fɪzɪkl ,leɪə(r)/ noun C [11] the part of a network communications system that encodes the packets into the medium that will carry them and sends the packets along that medium
- piconet** /'pi:kəʊnet/ noun C [23] a set of very small low power wireless links consuming only picoamps of electricity that are set up between Bluetooth devices when they are within 10 metres of each other
- piggybacking** /'pɪɡɪbækɪŋ/ noun U [18] a computer crime that involves using another person's identification code or using that person's files before he or she has logged off
- PIM** /pɪm/ noun C [8] acronym for personal information manager. A computer program that provides a variety of tools for organising work, e.g. a calendar, to do list, diary, address list, calculator, etc.
- PIN** /pɪn/ noun C [16] an acronym for personal identification number. A unique number used by electronic systems to indicate who a person is.
- platform** /'plætfɔ:m/ noun C [14,22] a distinctive type of computer system that needs software to be written specifically for it, e.g. PC, Apple Mac, etc.
- PlayStation** /'pleɪsteɪʃn/ noun U [8] a games console developed by the Sony Corporation
- pointer** /'pɔɪntə(r)/ noun C [7] an arrow-shaped cursor
- polymorphism** /,pɒli'mɔ:fɪzəm/ noun U [21] a key feature of OOP programming by which different objects can receive the same instructions but deal with them in different ways
- POP** /pɒp/ noun U [12,13,14] acronym for post office protocol
- port** /pɔ:t/ verb [6] to convert for use in another operating system or computer platform
- port replicator** /'pɔ:t ,replɪkətə(r)/ noun C [2] a device that connects to a

portable computer to make it easier to connect peripheral devices

**portable (computer)** /'pɔ:təbl/ noun C [2] a computer that is small and light enough to be carried from place to place. It can usually be powered by batteries.

**post** /pəʊst/ verb [12] to display a message in a computer newsgroup or bulletin board

**post office protocol** /,pəʊst 'ɒfɪs 'prəʊtəkəl/ noun U [13] a message-retrieval protocol used by many mail clients to get messages from a server. It only allows you to download all messages in your mailbox at once and works in 'pull' mode, i.e. the receiving PC initiating the connection.

**predicted frame** /prɪ'dɪktɪd freɪm/ noun C [9] a type of image frame used in MPEG compression. A predicted frame only stores the differences in the image compared to the previous I frame or P frame.

**presentation layer** /,prezən'teɪʃn ,leɪə(r)/ noun C [11] the part of a network communications system that ensures the message is transmitted in a language that the receiving computer can interpret

**primary disk drive** /'praɪməri disk draɪv/ noun C [17] the main disk drive in a computer. In a PC this is usually a hard disk known as the C drive.

**Print Screen (key)** /prɪnt 'skri:n/ noun C [7,10] the computer keyboard key that copies the current display screen image to memory or to the printer

**printed circuit board** /,prɪntɪd 'sɑ:kɪt bɔ:d/ noun C [22] an electronic board that holds and connects the components of an electronic circuit

**printer** /'prɪntə(r)/ noun C [1,2,5,6,17,21,23] a common output device used for printing the output of a computer on paper

**private key** /,praɪvət 'ki:/ noun C [18] secret code known only to the owner that is used for encrypting and decrypting messages

**procedural language** /prə'sɪ:dʒərəl ,læŋgwɪdʒ/ noun C [5] a computer programming language that enables programs to be written using sections of code known as procedures. Each procedure performs a specific task.

**processor** /'prəʊsesə(r)/ noun C [2,7,17,23,25] the part of a computer that processes the data

**program** /'prəʊgræm/ noun C [1,2,5,6,18,21,22,23,24,25] a set of instructions written in a computer language that control the behaviour of a computer

**program** /'prəʊgræm/ verb [1,6,11,16,20,21,23] to write a set of instructions for controlling a computer using a computer language

**programmer** /'prəʊgræmə(r)/ noun C [4,5,6,8,18,19,21,22,25] a person who writes computer programs

**programming** /'prəʊgræmɪŋ/ noun U [5,21,22] the processes of writing a computer program using a computer language

**programming language** /'prəʊgræmɪŋ ,læŋgwɪdʒ/ noun C [21] a computer language used for writing computer programs

**protocol** /'prəʊtəkəl/ noun C [12,13,23] a set of agreed standards

**pseudocode** /'sju:dəʊkəʊd/ noun C [21] a way of writing a description of a computer program using a mixture of natural language and computer language code

**public domain** /,pʌblɪk də'meɪn/ noun U [19] a condition in which there is no copyright on a work such as a computer program allowing it to be freely copied and used

**public key** /,pʌblɪk 'ki:/ noun C [18] a secret code the owner makes available to others so that they can encrypt messages they are sending to the owner

**public-key cryptography** /,pʌblɪk ki: kɹɪp'tɒgrəfi/ noun U [18] a method of coding messages using public and private keys to prevent others from reading them

**pull mode** /'pʊl məʊd/ noun U [13] a type of communication where the receiving computer initiates the connection

**pull-down menu** /,pʊl daʊn 'menju:/ noun C [14] a list of choices that appear below a menu title on a display screen when the user clicks on the menu title using a mouse

**push operation** /'pʊʃ ɒpə'reɪʃn/ noun U [13] a communication where the sending computer initiates the connection

## R

**radar** /'reɪdɑ:(r)/ noun U [3,15] a system of using the reflection of radio waves to detect an object and determine its location

**radio button** /'reɪdɪəʊ ,bʌtən/ noun C [13] one of a set of mutually exclusive options in a dialog box, i.e. the user can only select one, causing the others to be deselected

**RAID** /reɪd/ noun U [2,17] acronym for redundant array of inexpensive disks

**RAID level** /'reɪd ,levl/ noun C [17] a particular arrangement of RAID array disks. Each RAID level is given a number with higher numbers indicating more elaborate methods for ensuring a computer can recover from hardware errors. The best known are RAID 0 to RAID 5.

**RAM** /ræm/ noun U [2,17] acronym for random access memory

**random access memory** /,rændəm 'æksɛs ,meməri/ noun U [2] a type of memory that can be accessed in any order. RAM is the main electronic memory of a personal computer and is used for storing the programs and data being used.

**raw data** /rɔ: 'deɪtə/ noun U [24] data that has not been processed

**RDBMS** /,ɑ: di: bi: em 'es/ noun C [22] abbreviation for relational database management system. A database system that links files together as required.

**real-time** /'ri:l taɪm/ noun U [12,23,24] the immediate processing of computer data enabling interactive applications

**reboot** /,ri:'bu:t/ verb [17] to restart a computer operating system

**record** /'rekɔ:d/ noun C [8,19,21] a section of a database made up of related database fields

**recorder (program)** /rɪ'kɔ:də(r)/ noun C [9] a computer program that allows the user to create their own audio CDs with a writeable CD-ROM drive

**Recycle Bin** /,ri:'saɪkl bɪn/ noun U [7] the folder in Microsoft Windows operating systems where deleted files are stored

**redundant array of inexpensive disks**

/rɪ,dʌndənt ə'reɪ əv ,ɪnk,spensɪv 'dɪskz/ noun U [17] a storage system consisting of a set of hard disks that can be combined in different arrangements to store data in such a way that the data can be recovered if one or more of the disks fail

**reliable stream service** /rɪ,ləɪəbl 'stri:m ,sɜ:vɪs/ noun U [12] a data management system provided by the TCP protocol to ensure that data is transferred across a network correctly. It structures and buffers the data flow, looks for responses, and takes action to replace missing data blocks.

**resident** /'rezɪdənt/ adj [6,18] is kept in the computer's memory

**resistor** /rɪ'zɪstə(r)/ noun C [12] an electronic component that reduces the flow of current in a circuit

**resolution** /,rezə'lju:ʃn/ noun C [2,24] a measure of the quality of a display screen in terms of the amount of

graphical information that can be shown on the screen. This partly depends on the number of dots that make up the image.

- resolution protocol** /ˌrezɒluːʃn 'prɒtəkɒl/ noun U [12] a set of standards for software used with internal look-up tables in a TCP/IP network for routing data through a gateway between networks
- restore** /rɪ'stɔː(r)/ verb [17,19] to put data back into its original location
- reverse engineering** /rɪˌvɜːs ɛnʤɪ'nɪərɪŋ/ noun U [24] to take an object apart to discover how it was originally designed and put together
- RF** /ɑːr 'ef/ noun U [23] abbreviation for radio frequency
- RFID** /ɑːr 'ef aɪ diː/ noun C [23] abbreviation for radio frequency identification device. A label that stores information to identify an object and can be read using radio signals.
- right click** /raɪt 'klɪk/ verb [7,21] to press and release the right-hand button on a mouse
- ring main** /'rɪŋ meɪn/ noun C [23] the main electrical supply circuit in a building
- rip** /rɪp/ verb [9] to extract songs from a CD and turn them into WAV files
- ripper** /'rɪpə(r)/ noun C [9] a program that extracts songs from a CD and turns them into WAV files
- rm** /ɑːr 'em/ noun U [6] a Unix command for deleting a file
- rmdir** /ɑːr 'em 'dɪə(r)/ noun U [6] a Unix and MS-DOS command for deleting a directory
- robot** /'rɒbɒt/ noun C [16,21,23,24] a mechanical device controlled by a computer
- robotics** /rɒb'ɒtɪks/ noun U [23] the study of robot systems
- rocket science** /'rɒkɪt ˌsaɪəns/ noun U [24] something requiring great intelligence or technical ability
- ROM** /rɒm/ noun U [2] acronym for read only memory
- route** /ruːt/ noun C [11,12] the path that is used to transfer data in a network
- route** /ruːt/ verb [9,11,12] to move data from node to node on a network
- router** /'ruːtə(r)/ noun C [11,13,15,20] an electronic device that links different networks or parts of a network. It determines the path that a signal should take to reach its destination.
- rpm** /ɑː piː 'em/ noun C [2] abbreviation for revolutions per minute
- rule** /ruːl/ noun C [3] the name given to patterns found in data when using neural networks

**run** /rʌn/ verb [5,6,17,18] to execute a program, i.e. to get a program to process the data

**rwho** /ɑː 'huː/ noun U [6] a Unix command for displaying a report of who is currently logged in to the local network

## 5

**s/w** /'sɒftweə(r)/ noun U [22] abbreviation for software

**salami shaving** /sə'lɑːmi ʃeɪvɪŋ/ noun U [18] a computer crime that involves manipulating programs or data so that small amounts of money are deducted from a large number of transactions or accounts and accumulated elsewhere

**SAN** /sæn/ noun C [19] acronym for storage area network. A high-speed interconnection of shared storage devices

**SAP** /sæp/ noun U [8,22] a widely used enterprise resource planning tool program

**SATA** /sætə/ noun U [2] acronym for Serial ATA

**save** /seɪv/ verb [1,10,15,18] to copy a program or data to a storage device

**scan** /skæn/ verb [1,3,16,19] to copy text or graphics using a scanner

**scanner** /'skæɪnə(r)/ noun C [2,3,19] an optical input device that uses the reflection of light to copy text or graphics into a computer

**(monitor)(display) screen** /skriːn/ noun C [1,2,7,11,16,17,18,21,24,25] a computer output device used for displaying text and graphic images

**scroll** /skrɔːl/ verb [16,17] to move through displayed information smoothly on the screen either horizontally or vertically

**scrollbar** /'skrɔːlbɑː(r)/ noun C [14] the part of a graphical user interface window that allows the user to move through a document by clicking or dragging with the mouse

**SCSI** /ˌes siː es 'aɪ/ noun U [19] acronym for small computer systems interface. A standard way of connecting peripheral devices to a personal computer system. It is often used to connect hard disks and CD-ROM drives in server computers.

**SDRAM** /ˌes diː 'ræm/ noun U [2] abbreviation for synchronous dynamic random access memory. A type of fast memory that uses a separate clock signal in addition to the normal control signals.

**search engine** /'sɜːtʃ ɛnʤɪn/ noun C [1,6,13,14,15,23] a program designed to find information on the World Wide Web according to data entered by the

user. Search engines are usually accessed from special websites.

**sector** /'sektə(r)/ noun C [2,17] a formatted section of a circular magnetic track used for storing data on a disk

**seek time** /'siːk taɪm/ noun C [17] the amount of time taken by a disk drive to find a particular track on a disk

**segment** /'segmɛnt/ noun C [11] a subdivision of data created by a network communications transport layer for which a checksum is generated

**serial** /'sɪəriəl/ adj [24] designed to transfer data sequentially, i.e. one data bit after another

**Serial ATA** /'sɪəriəl ætə/ noun U [2] (Serial Advanced Technology Attachment) a drive interface that feeds signals one after the other along the same connector, in contrast to the earlier, slower, parallel ATA standard that fed signals at the same time along a set of connectors

**serial number** /'sɪəriəl ˌnʌmbə(r)/ noun C [17] a number that uniquely identifies a product

**serial port** /'sɪəriəl pɔːt/ noun C [12] the small connector at the back of the system unit of a personal computer that is used to connect a serial device such as a serial mouse or a modem. Two serial ports labelled COM1 and COM2 are usually provided on a PC.

**server** /'sɜːvə(r)/ noun C [6,8,11,12,13,15,17,18,22] a main computer that provides a service on a network

**server farm** /'sɜːvə fɑːm/ noun C [19] a large collection of networked server computers that work together by sharing the service workload

**service tag number** /'sɜːvɪs tæg ˌnʌmbə(r)/ noun C [17] a number used to identify a computer for maintenance agreements

**session layer** /'seɪʃn ˌleɪə(r)/ noun C [11] the part of a network communications system that opens communications and has the job of keeping straight the communications among all nodes on the network. It sets boundaries for the beginning and end of a message and establishes whether the messages will be sent half-duplex or full duplex.

**SGML** /ˌes dʒiː ɛm 'el/ noun U [14] abbreviation for Standard Generalised Markup Language

**shareware** /'ʃeəweə(r)/ noun U [15,19] software that is distributed freely and only paid for if the user decides to keep it

**shell** /ʃel/ noun C [6] a graphical user interface for an operating system

- shell script** /'ʃel skript/ noun C [22] a text file that contains a sequence of commands for a UNIX-based operating system. In DOS operating systems a shell script is called a batch file.
- shift key** /'ʃift ki:/ noun C [7] the computer keyboard key that is held down to produce uppercase letters
- sign up** /sam 'ʌp/ verb [12,14] to register with a service
- SimCity** /sm'siti/ noun U [18] a well-known computer simulation game in which the users control various aspects of running a virtual city
- simple mail transfer protocol** /,sɪmpəl meɪl 'trænsfə: 'prəʊtəkɒl/ noun U [12,13] a set of standards for sending email from an email client and transferring email between server computers on the Internet
- simulation** /,sɪmjə'leɪʃn/ noun C [12] a programmed virtual environment that imitates a real or planned system
- site** /saɪt/ noun C [11,12,13,15,18] a common name for a website
- site map** /'saɪt məp/ noun C [14,15] a webpage that is used to show the overall layout of a website
- skin** /skɪn/ noun C [9] a computer program that is used to change the interface of another program, e.g. to change the screen display on an MP3 player program
- SM band** /es 'em bænd/ noun U [23] common name for the Industrial Scientific and Medical frequency band
- smart card** /'smɑ:t kɑ:d/ noun C [1,3,19,20] a plastic card containing a processor and memory chip. It can be used to store large amounts of confidential data.
- smart card reader** /'smɑ:t kɑ:d 'ri:də(r)/ noun C [19] a device used for reading smart cards
- smart device** /'smɑ:t dɪ'vaɪs/ noun C [1] a device that contains an embedded processor and memory
- smart phone** /'smɑ:t fəʊn/ noun C [24] a telephone that contains an embedded processor and memory and can process data, e.g. translate English into German, Japanese and French in real time
- SMS** /es em 'es/ noun U [16] abbreviation for Short Message Service. A method of sending text messages that are 160 characters in length or shorter over a mobile phone.
- SMTP** /es em ti: 'pi:/ noun U [12,13] abbreviation for simple message transfer protocol
- software** /'sɒftweə(r)/ noun U [1,2,5,6,14,17,18,19,21,22,23,24,25] the programs and data used in a computer
- software engineering** /'sɒftweə ɛndʒɪ,nəʊrɪŋ/ noun U [21] the discipline of designing high quality software solutions
- software house** /'sɒftweə haʊs/ noun C [25] a company that designs and produces software
- software piracy** /'sɒftweə 'paɪəsɪ/ noun U [18] a computer crime that involves unauthorised copying of a program for sale or distributing to other users
- soundcard** /'saʊndkɑ:d/ noun C [2,9] the electronic circuit expansion board in a computer that is used to process audio signals and connect to and control a microphone loudspeaker or headphone
- source code** /'sɔ:s kəʊd/ noun C [6] programming code that has to be processed by a compiler or translator to make object code for use in a computer
- spam** /spæm/ noun U [12] unsolicited email sent to large numbers of people indiscriminately usually advertising or trying to sell a product
- speaker** /'spi:kə(r)/ noun C [9] common term for a loudspeaker. An output device for providing sound output.
- spectrum analyser** /'spektrəm ,ænləɪzə(r)/ noun C [9] an instrument that plots a graph of frequency parameters for a complete frequency band
- spit** /spɪt/ noun U [16] the term used for spam on a VoIP system i.e. unsolicited telephone calls made using VoIP on the Internet
- splitter-based service** /'splɪtə beɪst ,sɜ:vɪs/ noun C [16] a DSL system that separates the data signal from the phone line as it enters a building and sends it to a DSL modem
- spread spectrum** /'spred ,spektrəm/ noun U [23] a radiowave system that switches rapidly between different frequencies in a frequency band allowing a number of devices to share the same frequency band without interfering with each other
- spreadsheet (program)** /'spredʃi:t/ noun C [5,6,8,16,17] a type of application program with an array of cells that is used for calculating formulas
- SQL** /es kju: 'el/ noun U [22] abbreviation for structured query language. A language used for searching databases.
- standalone** /'stændəlɔ:n/ adj [5,9] not connected to a network
- standard generalised markup language** /,stændəd dʒenrəlaɪzd 'mɑ:kəp ,læŋgwɪdʒ/ noun U [14] the complex metalanguage from which both HTML and XML were created
- Start (button)** /'stɑ:t/ noun C [10] an icon on the bottom left corner of Microsoft Windows operating system desktops that allows the user to access programs and data and to close down the system
- start bit** /'stɑ:t bɪt/ noun C [11] a data bit that marks the beginning of a data block in a network transmission
- Start menu** /'stɑ:t ,menju:/ noun C [10] the list of choices that opens up on the display screen when the user clicks the Start button in a Microsoft Windows desktop
- start-stop transmission** /'stɑ:t ,stɒp træn'zɪmjən/ noun C [11] another name for asynchronous transmission where data is sent one byte (or character) at a time
- static earthing band** /,stætɪk 'ɑ:θɪŋ bænd/ noun C [12] a strip of material that is wound round the wrist of a repair technician and connected to earth to prevent the build up of static electricity which could destroy electronic components
- status bar** /'steɪtəs bɑ:(r)/ noun C [10] a narrow band displayed across the bottom of a window in a Microsoft Windows application to display useful information for the user, e.g. number of pages in a document
- stealth virus** /'stelθ ,vaɪrəs/ noun C [18] a type of virus that hides itself making it hard to detect
- stop bit** /'stɒp bɪt/ noun C [11] a data bit that marks the end of a data block in a network transmission
- storage device** /'stɔ:riɔ:dʒ dɪ'vaɪs/ noun C [2] a piece of equipment used for reading from and writing to a storage medium
- storage medium** /'stɔ:riɔ:dʒ ,mɪ:diəm/ noun C [19] a material used for storing programs and data
- streaming** /'stri:mɪŋ/ noun U [13,16] a process of downloading and storing the next part of a data signal while the first part is being used. In this way the data signal, e.g. an audio or video is fed to the slower destination device at a steady rate.
- string** /strɪŋ/ noun C [6,11] a series of data characters which can be a mixture of letters or numbers
- striping** /'straɪpɪŋ/ noun U [17] a process where data is spread across all drives in a RAID array rather than filling up one disk with data before writing to the next disk in the array



- structured language** /ˌstrʌktʃəd ˈlæŋɡwɪdʒ/ noun C [21] a computer programming language that requires the programmer to write programs made up of self-contained units or procedures
- structured programming** /ˌstrʌktʃəd ˈprəʊɡræmɪŋ/ noun U [21] the process of writing a program using a structured programming language
- subfolder** /ˈsʌbˌfəʊldə(r)/ noun C [10] a storage area that provides a subdivision of a folder so that stored files can be organised into smaller groups
- submenu** /ˈsʌbˌmenjuː/ noun C [7] a list of choices that is displayed when the user clicks on an item in a menu
- sub-network** /ˈsʌbˌnetwɜːk/ noun C [12] a self-contained part of a larger network
- subpage** /ˈsʌbpeɪdʒ/ noun C [14] a webpage that gives further detailed information about part of the information on a main webpage
- sub-program** /ˈsʌbˌprəʊɡræm/ noun C [22] a small program that performs a specific function and is part of a larger program
- subset** /ˈsʌbset/ noun C [3] a small group of related data that is part of a larger set of data
- supercomputer** /ˈsuːpəˌkəmˌpjʊːtə(r)/ noun C [2,24] the most powerful type of mainframe computer
- superset** /ˈsuːpəset/ noun C [21] a larger group of objects that include a smaller set of objects
- supervisor (program)** /ˈsuːpəvaɪzə(r)/ noun C [6] the most important program in the operating system. It is resident and controls the entire operating system. It loads other operating system programs into memory when they are needed.
- support analyst** /səˈpɔːt ˌænəlɪst/ noun C [22] a person who provides help to computer users by studying their requirements and designing systems to provide for their needs
- support engineer** /səˈpɔːt ɛnʃɪˌnɪə(r)/ noun C [22,25] a professional who provides help for computer users by designing, building, and maintaining computer systems
- support line** /səˈpɔːt laɪn/ noun C [12] a telephone line that can be used to get help with hardware or software problems. See helpdesk/helpline.
- support technician** /səˈpɔːt tekˌnɪʃn/ noun C [22] a person who maintains and troubleshoots problems with computers
- surf** /sɜːf/ verb [15,23] to browse webpages on the Internet in an unplanned way
- surge protector** /ˈsɜːdʒ ˌprəˌtektə(r)/ noun C [19] an electronic device that protects equipment from damage due to sudden high voltage or current in the power supply
- swipe card** /ˈswaɪp kɑːd/ noun C [2] a plastic card with a magnetic strip running across it containing confidential data
- synch byte** /ˈsɪŋk baɪt/ noun C [] a start or stop bit pattern that marks the beginning or end of a transmitted data block
- synchronise** /ˈsɪŋkrənaɪz/ verb [11,21,23] to cause different processes to occur at the same time
- synchronous** /ˈsɪŋkrənəs/ adj [2,11,12,15] occurring at regular intervals and in step with other systems usually controlled by an electronic clock circuit
- synthesiser** /ˈsɪnθəˌsaɪzə(r)/ noun C [9] a device that uses electronic circuits to generate sounds
- system tray** /ˈsɪstəm treɪ/ noun C [7,10] a section at the far right of a Microsoft Windows task bar that holds icons for the clock and other programs that run constantly in the background
- systems administrator** /ˈsɪstəmz ədˌmɪnɪstreɪtə(r)/ noun C [19] a person who maintains a multi-user computer system
- systems analysis** /ˈsɪstəmz əˌnæləsɪs/ noun U [5,22] the study of a system to determine how it can be computerised
- systems analyst** /ˈsɪstəmz ˌænəlɪst/ noun C [21,22] a person who designs or modifies information systems to meet users' requirements. This includes investigating feasibility and cost-producing documentation and testing prototypes of the system.
- systems manager** /ˈsɪstəmz ˌmænɪdʒə(r)/ noun C [20,22] a person who manages a computer system
- systems program / software** /ˈsɪstəmz ˌprəʊɡræmˌ ˌsɒftweə(r)/ noun C/U [5,6,21,22] a program or set of programs that is used to control the basic functions of a computer system, e.g. operating system programs
- systems programmer** /ˈsɪstəmz ˌprəʊɡræmə(r)/ noun C [21,22] a person who specialises in writing systems software such as operating system programs
- systems programming** /ˈsɪstəmz ˌprəʊɡræmɪŋ/ noun U [22] the writing of systems programs

## T

- TA** /tiː ˈeɪ/ noun C [16] abbreviation for terminal adapter
- tab** /tæb/ noun C [8] a dialog box component that is used to switch between different sets of data
- tab (key)** /tæb/ noun C [7] the computer keyboard key that is used to move the cursor to the next tabulation point in a wordprocessor program so that data can be spaced evenly on the screen
- tag** /tæg/ noun C [9,14] a label used in a markup language such as HTML. It is attached to a piece of text to mark the start or the end of a particular function.
- tape** /teɪp/ noun U [19] a magnetic storage medium commonly used for storing backup files
- taskbar** /ˈtɑːskbɑː(r)/ noun C [7,10] a Microsoft Windows desktop component that indicates what programs are currently being used and allows the user to switch between them
- TCP** /tiː siː ˈpiː/ noun U [12] abbreviation for transfer control protocol. A part of the TCP/IP protocol used on the Internet.
- TCP/IP** /tiː siː piː ˈaɪ piː/ noun U [12,22] abbreviation for transmission control protocol/Internet protocol. The official set of standards for determining the form of the signals used for transmitting data on the Internet.
- technophobic** /tekˌnəˈfəʊbɪk/ adj [24] having a fear or strong dislike of technology and technological devices
- telecomms** /ˈtelɪkɒmz/ noun U [24] common term for telecommunications
- telecommunications** /ˌtelɪkəmjuːnɪˈkeɪʃnz/ noun U [5,22] branch of technology concerned with communications over long distances
- telecommunications engineer** /ˌtelɪkəmjuːnɪˈkeɪʃnz ɛnʃɪˌnɪə(r)/ noun C [25] a person who works with systems concerned with communications over long distances
- telecommute** /telɪkəˈmjʊːt/ verb [1] to communicate with your office by computer, telephone and fax while working a distance from your office, e.g. at home
- telephony** /təˈlefəni/ noun U [16] the science of audio communication through electric devices. It commonly refers to software that will make a computer act like a telephone.
- teleworking** /ˈteliwɜːkɪŋ/ noun U [24] the process of working at home while communicating with your office by computer, telephone and fax. See telecommute.

- teller machine** /'telə məʃi:n/ noun C [25] a machine used for taking payments in large shops and supermarkets
- telnet** /'telnet/ noun U [12] acronym for teletype network. An Internet service that allows a user to connect to a multi-user server using a computer as a terminal.
- terabit** /'terəbit/ noun C [23] a unit of storage capacity equal to 1 009 511 627 776 bits
- terminal adapter** /'tɑ:mɪnəl ə,dæptə(r)/ noun C [16] a device for connecting an ISDN system to an existing telephone line
- text editor** /'tekst ,edɪtə(r)/ noun C [6] a computer program for editing basic data or program text, i.e. like a basic wordprocessor
- TFT display** /,ti: ef 'ti: dɪ'spleɪ/ noun C [2] abbreviation for thin film transistor display. A type of LCD screen display commonly used in portable computers. It uses a separate transistor to control each pixel on the display.
- thin client** /'θɪn ,klaɪənt/ noun C [11,15] a low-cost centrally-managed basic computer with a keyboard and display screen processor and memory but no CD-ROM drive, floppy disk drive or expansion slots, e.g. a NetPC or a network computer (NC)
- third-generation GSM** /,θɜ:d dʒenə'reɪʃn ,dʒi: es 'em/ noun U [23] the third generation of the Global System for Mobile communication standard. It is the standard for mobile users around the world.
- throughput** /'θru:pʊt/ noun U [17] the amount of data that passes through a system in a given period of time
- toggle-box** /'tɒglbɒks/ noun C [10] a screen icon in Windows Explorer that opens or closes a folder to show or hide its subfolders when the user clicks on it using a mouse
- tooltip** /'tu:ltɪp/ noun C [7] a label that appear on the screen when the user holds the mouse pointer over an icon in a Microsoft Windows system
- topology** /tə'pɒlədʒi/ noun C [5,11] the physical layout of a network
- tower chassis** /'taʊə ,ʃæsi/ noun C [2] a personal computer case that stands on end and can be placed on the floor unlike the normal desktop case that sits flat on a desk under the monitor
- track** /træk/ noun C [2] a formatted circular magnetic storage area on a computer disk
- traffic** /'træfɪk/ noun U [11,16] the volume of signals or data that passes through a network system
- transaction processing** /trænz'ækʃn ,prəʊsesɪŋ/ noun U [21] the processing of computer transactions by updating the computer file as each transaction takes place rather than storing them until later to be processed as a batch
- transceiver** /træn'si:və/ noun C [23] short form of transmitter/receiver. A device that both sends and receives signals
- transistor** /træn'zɪstə(r)/ noun C [23] a solid state electronic switch or amplifier
- transmission control protocol** /trænz,mɪʃn kən'trəʊl 'prəʊtəkɒl/ noun U [12] a set of standards for the delivery of error-free data in communications between computers. It comes into operation once a data packet is delivered to the correct Internet address and application port. It manages the communication exchanges and provides reliable stream service by structuring and buffering the data flow looking for responses and taking action to replace missing data blocks.
- transponder** /træns'pɒndə(r)/ noun C [23] a device that responds to received coded radio signals by automatically transmitting a different coded signal
- transport layer** /'trɑ:ns'pɔ:t ,leɪə(r)/ noun C [11] the part of a network communications system that protects the data being sent. It subdivides the data into segments and creates checksum tests. It can also make backup copies of the data.
- trapdoor** /,træp'dɔ:(r)/ noun C [18] a technique used in a computer crime that involves leaving within a completed program an illicit program that allows unauthorised – and unknown – entry
- Trojan (horse)** /'trɔʊdʒən/ noun C [18,20] a technique used in a computer crime that involves adding concealed instructions to a computer program so that it will still work but will also perform prohibited duties. In other words it appears to do something useful but actually does something destructive in the background.
- troubleshoot** /'trʌblʃu:t/ verb [22] to find and fix faults in a system
- troubleshooter** /'trʌbl ,ʃu:tə(r)/ noun C [22] a person who finds and fixes faults in a system
- TTS** /,ti: ti: 'es/ noun U [7] abbreviation for text to speech. A system where a computer reads text to the user using a speech synthesiser.
- tuned** /tju:nd/ adj [11] set to operate on the same frequency
- TV (set)** /ti: 'vi:/ noun C [16,23,24] abbreviation for television. A television set is the actual television device used for displaying the video signals.
- twisted-pair (cabling)** /,twɪstɪd 'peə(r)/ noun U [11,16] a common type of network cable that uses two wires twisted together to reduce interference from external signals
- typesetting** /'taɪpsetɪŋ/ noun U [6] preparation for printing

## U

- UDP** /,ju: di: 'pi:/ noun U [12] abbreviation for user datagram protocol
- undo** /,ʌn'du:/ verb [10] to restore a file to the condition it was in before the last change was made
- unencrypt** /,ʌn'en'kript/ verb [18] to remove the encryption from a file
- uniform resource locator** /,ju:nɪfɔ:m rɪ'zɔ:s ləʊ ,keɪtə(r)/ noun C [13] the unique address of a webpage
- uninterruptible power supply** /,ʌnɪntə,rʌptəbl 'paʊə sə'plai/ noun C [19] a battery backup system that automatically provides power to a computer when the normal electricity source fails
- universal mobile telecommunications system** /,ju:nɪvɜ:sl məʊbail ,telɪkə,mju:nɪ'keɪʃnz ,sɪstəm/ noun U [16] a third-generation, broadband, packet-based communications system based on the Global System for Mobile (GSM) communication standard. It provides the same services including the transmission of text-digitised voice video and multimedia to mobile computer and phone users throughout the world.
- Unix** /'ju:nɪks/ noun U [5,6,13,14,21,22, 25] a popular multi-user multitasking operating system originally designed for mainframe computers. A wide variety of versions exist.
- update** /'ʌpdeɪt/ noun C [5,15,22] a change that provides the latest version
- update** /,ʌp'deɪt/ verb [5,15,22] to bring up to date, i.e. to change into the latest version
- upgrade** /'ʌpgreɪd/ noun C [2] a change that improves the features or performance of a system
- upgrade** /,ʌp'greɪd/ verb [2,5,6,16,22] to add components to improve the features or performance of a system
- upload** /,ʌp'ləʊd/ verb [5,16,24] to copy a file from a client computer to a server in a network
- UPS** /,ju: pi: 'es/ noun C [2] abbreviation for uninterruptible power supply
- upstream** /'ʌpstri:m/ noun U [16] the signal path for receiving

communications from a client computer to a server in a network

**URL** /ˈju: ɑ:r 'el/ noun C [9,13,20,22] abbreviation for uniform (or universal) resource locator

**USB** /ˈju: es bi:/ noun U [4] abbreviation for universal serial bus. A connector interface standard for attaching peripheral devices to a computer

**Usenet** /'ju:znet/ noun U [12,20] an Internet service that allows users to communicate by means of newsgroups

**user** /'ju:zə(r)/ noun C [1,5,6,18,21,22, 23,25] the person using a computer

**user datagram protocol** /ˈju:zə ,deɪtəgræm 'prəʊtəkɒl/ noun U [12] a set of standards for creating a data address in a TCP/IP message. It is used to indicate what application the message is supposed to contact and provides the final routing for the data within the receiving system.

**user-authentication system** /ˈju:zər ə,θɒntɪ'keɪʃn ,sɪstəm/ noun C [18] a system that identifies users. This can be done using digital certificates.

**username** /'ju:zənɛɪm/ noun C [19] the network account name assigned to a particular user

**utility (program)** /ju:'tɪlɪti/ noun C [6,25] a program included with an operating system that can perform useful common routine tasks or housekeeping operations, e.g. formatting disks or copying files

**UTMS** /ˈju: ti: em 'es/ noun U [16] abbreviation for Universal Mobile Telecommunications System

## V

**V** /vɒlt/ noun C [23] abbreviation for volt, the international unit of voltage

**VB** /vi: 'bi:/ noun U [22] abbreviation for Visual Basic

**VCR** /ˈvi: si: 'ɑ:(r)/ noun C [1] abbreviation for video cassette recorder

**VDU** /ˈvi: di: 'ju:/ noun C [2] abbreviation for visual display unit. Another name for a computer monitor.

**verify** /'veri,faɪ/ verb [11] to check for accuracy

**video** /'vɪdɪəʊ/ noun U [2,9,16,17] signals containing picture information

**video (cassette) recorder** /'vɪdɪəʊ rɪ,kɔ:də(r)/ noun C [16,23] a device for recording video signals onto magnetic tape cassettes

**video memory** /'vɪdɪəʊ ,meməri/ noun U [2] the memory used to store graphics data on a graphics card

**videoconferencing** /ˌvɪdɪəʊ 'kɒnfərənsɪŋ/ noun U [1,24] a form of communication over a network that

uses video cameras so that the people taking part can see and hear each other

**virtual** /'vɜ:tʃʊəl/ adj [12,23,24] computer-simulated enabling the user to experience something without needing its physical presence

**virtual reality** /ˌvɜ:tʃʊəl rɪ'æləti/ noun U [12] a simulated three-dimensional environment that surrounds the user and is generated by a computer

**virus** /'vaɪrəs/ noun C [1,8,10,11,15,17, 18,19,20] a program written with the purpose of causing damage or causing a computer to behave in an unusual way

**virus-check** /'vaɪrəs tʃek/ verb [10,15] to check for viruses

**Visual Basic** /ˌvɪʒʊəl 'beɪsɪk/ noun U [21,22] a general-purpose programming language with a graphical interface. It is particularly suitable for use by beginners learning how to program.

**visualisation technology** /ˌvɪʒʊəlaɪ,zetʃn tek'nɒlədʒi/ noun U [24] systems and devices used to create a virtual reality environment

**VMS** /ˈvi: em 'es/ noun U [6] an operating system used by DEC VAX minicomputers

**voice clip** /'vɔɪs klɪp/ noun C [21] a short sound recording of the human voice

**voice recognition** /'vɔɪs rekəŋ,nɪʃn/ noun U [7,19] a system that can respond to words spoken by a human being

**voice synthesis** /'vɔɪs ,sɪnθəsɪs/ noun U [24] the generation of a human-sounding voice using electronic circuits

**voice synthesiser** /'vɔɪs ,sɪnθəsɪsə(r)/ noun C [24] an electronic device that generates sounds that represent the human voice

**VoIP** /vɔɪp/ noun U [16] abbreviation for voice over Internet protocol. A set of standards for enabling phone calls to be made across the Internet.

**VR** /vi: 'ɑ:(r)/ noun U [23] abbreviation for virtual reality

## W

**wallpaper** /'wɔ:lpeɪpə(r)/ noun C [9] the background graphics on a Microsoft Windows desktop

**Wap** /wæp/ noun U [16] acronym for wireless application protocol. A set of standards for allowing users to send emails and access information including video transmissions from the Internet on a mobile phone.

**WAV** /wæv/ noun U [9] an audio file format

**Web address** /'web ə,dres/ noun C [5,13,20] the Internet address of a webpage

**Web developer** /'web dɪ,veləpə(r)/ noun C [22] a person who is employed to create websites

**Web mail** /'web meɪl/ noun U [13] a type of email that is accessed from webpages

**Web server** /'web ,sɜ:və(r)/ noun C [13] a server computer that stores and provides access to websites

**Web space** /'web speɪs/ noun U [12,14] disk storage space on a web server used for storing webpages

**Web (the)** /web/ noun U [1,5,7,12,13,14, 15,16,18,19,20,22,23,24,25] common name for the World Wide Web

**Webmaster** /'webmɑ:stə(r)/ noun C [14,22] a person who administers a Web server

**webpage** /'webpeɪdʒ/ noun C [6,12,13,14,15,16,17,21,22] a hyperlinked document in a web network system

**web-ready appliances protocol** /'web ,redi ə,plɑ:nsɪz 'prəʊtəkɒl/ noun U [23] a set of standards for enabling domestic appliances to be connected to the Web and to communicate with each other

**website** /'websaɪt/ noun C [1,5,8,12,14, 15,16,17,18,20,21,23,25] a set of related pages on the World Wide Web

**WEP** /wep/ noun U [11] acronym for Wired Equivalent Privacy. A set of standards used to convert data on a wireless network to provide privacy and security

**WiFi** /waɪ fi/ noun U [11] abbreviation for Wireless Fidelity. A set of standards for radio-based wireless networks.

**wildcard** /'waɪldkɑ:d/ noun C [13] a symbol used in computer commands and for searching databases. It represents any character or combination of characters, e.g. using an asterisk searching for \*ed would find all words ending in ed.

**window** /'wɪndəʊ/ noun C [7] a rectangular screen area containing a program folder or file in a WIMP system

**(Microsoft) Windows** /'wɪndəʊz/ noun U [2,6,12,17,19,22,25] a graphical user interface operating system front-end to MS-DOS developed by the Microsoft Corporation. It has been gradually developed into a full operating system.

**Windows Explorer** /ˌwɪndəʊz ɪk'splɔ:ɪə(r)/ noun U [9] a Microsoft Windows program that allows the user to see the files and folders on all the disks attached to the computer. It can be used for general housekeeping such as moving or deleting files.

**Windows Media Player** /ˌwɪndəʊz 'mi:diə ,pleɪə(r)/ noun U [9] a Microsoft Windows program for playing multimedia files including audio and video

**wipe (a disk)** /waɪp/ verb [18] to delete all the files stored on a disk

**wirelessly** /'waɪələsli/ adj [23] using radio signals without the need for connecting wires or cables

**wireless network** /'waɪələs 'netwɜ:k/ noun C [11] the interconnection of computers using signals carried through the air (usually radio waves) instead of through connecting cables

**WLAN** /ˌdʌblju:'elɪən/ noun C [11] abbreviation for wireless local area network. A network that uses radio waves to connect computers in a small area

**WML** /ˌdʌblju: em 'el/ noun U [16] abbreviation for wireless markup language. A language similar to HTML used for designing webpages suitable for mobile phones.

**(Microsoft) Word** /wɜ:d/ noun U [1,10,22] a widely-used wordprocessing program developed by the Microsoft Corporation. It is a component of the Microsoft Office package.

**wordprocessing** /ˌwɜ:d'prəʊsesɪŋ/ noun U [5,6,25] the process of typing and editing text using a wordprocessor

**wordprocessor** /ˌwɜ:d'prəʊsesə(r)/ noun C [16,18] a type of computer application program used for typing and editing text documents

**workstation** /'wɜ:ksteɪʃn/ noun C [2,6,22] a powerful desktop computer used by power users for work that requires a lot of processing, e.g. graphic design

**World Wide Web (the)** /ˌwɜ:ld ,waɪd 'web/ noun U [7,13,20,22] an information service on the Internet that allows document pages to be accessed using hyperlinks

**worm** /wɜ:nm/ noun C [20] a program that performs unwanted actions and replicates itself across a network

**WRAP** /ræp/ noun U [23] acronym for Web-ready appliances protocol. A set of communications system standards that enable web-connected appliances to communicate.

**writeable CD-ROM drive** /ˌraɪtəbl si: di: 'rɒm draɪv/ noun C [9] a compact disk drive that allows the user to write data onto a CD as well as read data stored on the CD

**write-back cache** /'raɪt bæk ,kæʃ/ noun C [2] a buffer storage system where the processor writes changes only to the cache and not to main memory. Cache entries that have changed are flagged

as 'dirty' telling the cache controller to write their contents back to main memory before using the space to cache new data.

**write-through cache** /'raɪt θru: ,kæʃ/ noun C [2] a buffer storage system where the processor writes directly to both the cache and main memory at the same time

**WWW** /ˌdʌblju: ,dʌblju: 'dʌblju:/ noun U [12] abbreviation for the World Wide Web. The Internet service used for connecting to multimedia webpages.

**WXGA** /weksɡə/ noun U [2] abbreviation for wide extended graphics array. A standard screen resolution of (1024 x 768) pixels that is particularly suitable for displaying video films.

## X

**X (windowing) (system)** /eks/ noun U [6] a windowing system used with different versions of Unix

**X.25** /ˌeks ˌtwenti 'faɪv/ noun U [12] the International Telegraphic Union packet-switching data communications standard for connecting computers and a public network

**XGA** /ˌeks dʒi: 'eɪ/ noun U [2] abbreviation for extended graphics array. An IBM display screen standard with a resolution of 1024x768 pixels and up to 65,536 colours.

**XML** /ˌeks em 'el/ noun U [7,14,16,20,21,25] abbreviation for extensible markup language

## Y

**Yahoo** /jæ'hu:/ noun U [15,20] the name of a popular Internet search engine website