



The Ultimate Computer Reference

*The Comprehensive Standard for Business,
School, Library, and Home*



Microsoft Press

Computer Dictionary

Third
Edition

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IBM PC.

I-CASE \I'kās, I'C-A-S-E\ *n.* Acronym for **I**ntegrated **C**omputer-**A**ided **S**oftware **E**ngineering. Software that performs a wide variety of software engineering functions, such as program design, coding, and testing parts or all of the completed program.

ICM \I'C-M\ *n.* See image color matching.

ICMP \I'C-M-P\ *n.* Acronym for **I**nternet **C**ontrol **M**essage **P**rotocol. A network-layer (ISO/OSI level 3) Internet protocol that provides error correction and other information relevant to IP packet processing. For example, it can let the IP software on one machine inform another machine about an unreachable destination. See also communication protocol, IP, ISO/OSI model, packet (definition 1).

icon \I'kon\ *n.* A small image displayed on the screen to represent an object that can be manipulated by the user. By serving as visual mnemonics and allowing the user to control certain computer actions without having to remember commands or type them at the keyboard, icons are a significant factor in the user-friendliness of graphical user interfaces. See the illustration. See also graphical user interface.



Recycle Bin

Icon.

iconic interface \I-ko-nik in'tər-fās\ *n.* A user interface that is based on icons rather than on typed commands. See also graphical user interface, icon.

icon parade \I'kon pər-ād\ *n.* The sequence of icons that appears during the boot-up of a Macintosh computer.

.id \dot I-D\ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address is located in Indonesia.

IDE \I'D-E\ *n.* **1.** Acronym for **I**ntegrated **D**evice **E**lectronics. A type of disk-drive interface in which the controller electronics reside on the drive itself, eliminating the need for a separate adapter card. The IDE interface is compatible with the controller used by IBM in the PC/AT computer but offers advantages such as look-ahead caching. **2.** See integrated development environment.

identifier \I-den'tə-fī'ər, ə-den'tə-fī'ər\ *n.* Any text string used as a label, such as the name of a procedure or a variable in a program or the name attached to a hard disk or floppy disk. Compare descriptor.

idle \I'dl\ *adj.* **1.** Operational but not in use. **2.** Waiting for a command.

idle character \I'dl kâr'ək-tər\ *n.* In communications, a control character transmitted when no other information is available or ready to be sent. See also SYN.

idle interrupt \I'dl in'tər-upt\ *n.* An interrupt that occurs when a device or process becomes idle.

idle state \I'dl stāt\ *n.* The condition in which a device is operating but is not being used.

IDSL \I'D-S-L\ *n.* Acronym for **I**nternet **d**igital **s**ubscriber **l**ine. A high-speed digital communications service that provides Internet access as fast as 1.1 Mbps (megabits per second) over standard telephone lines. IDSL uses a hybrid of ISDN and digital subscriber line technology. See also digital subscriber line, ISDN.

.ie \dot I-E\ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address is located in Ireland.

IE \I-E\ *n.* **1.** Acronym for **i**nformation **e**ngineering. A methodology for developing and maintaining information-processing systems, including computer systems and networks, within an organization. **2.** See Internet Explorer.

IEEE \I'E-E-E', I'trip-I-E\ *n.* Acronym for **I**nstitute of **E**lectrical and **E**lectronics **E**ngineers. An organization of engineering and electronics professionals