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Dictionary of Computer Terms, 7th Edition

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in tenths (3.2) or hundredths (2.01), to distinguish them from major program revisions. Synonymous with *interim update* and *bug fix release.*

Majordomo   A popular freeware mailing list manager for Unix computer systems. See *LISTSERV* and *mailing list manager.*

male connector   In cables, a cable terminator and connection device in which the pins protrude from the connector's surface. Male connectors plug into female connectors.

mall   On the World Wide Web, a shopping service that provides Web publishing space for business storefronts (Web pages that describe retail or service offerings). Malls typically offer credit-card ordering by means of secure servers and shopping carts, which enable users to select purchases and pay for them all when they are finished shopping.

management information base   In a computer network, a database of the various network devices, such as routers, that enables network administrators to detect malfunctions and optimize network performance. See *Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP).*

management information system (MIS)   A computer system, based on a mainframe, minicomputer, local area network (LAN) or wide area network (WAN), designed to provide business managers with up-to-date information on the organization's performance.

man page   In Unix, a page of online documentation concerning a given command.

manual recalculation   In a spreadsheet program, a recalculation method that suspends the recalculation of values until you issue a command that forces recalculation to take place.

map   A representation of data stored in memory.

MAPI   See *Messaging Application Program Interface.*

mapping   **1.** The process of converting data encoded in one format to another format. In database management, for example, the database index provides a way of mapping the actual data records (which are stored on disk in a fixed order) to the display screen in useful ways. **2.** In a local area network (LAN), mapping refers to assigning drive letters to specific volumes and directories.

markup language   In text processing, a system of codes for marking the format of a unit of text that indicates only that a particular unit of text is a certain part of the document, such as an abstract, a title, or an author's name and affiliation. The actual formatting of the document part is left up to another program, called a viewer, which displays the marked document and gives each document part a distinctive format (fonts, spacing, etc.). An international standard language for creating markup languages is the Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML), which was little-known until an SGML-crafted markup language, the HyperText Markup Language (HTML), came into widespread use on the Web. HTML is a markup language, and the Web browsers in use by millions today are viewers for HTML.

marquee   **1.** In Web pages, a scrolling banner containing information or advertising. **2.** In Microsoft Excel, a moving dotted line that surrounds a cell or a range of cells that you've cut or copied. **3.** In programs, an initial screen or banner that gives the program and publisher's names.

mask   **1.** A pattern of symbols or characters that, when imposed on a data field, limits the kinds of characters that you can type into the field. In a database management program, for example, the mask AZ lets you type any alphabetical character, uppercase or lowercase, but not numbers or other symbols. Synonymous with input mask. **2.** In computer graphics, a pattern that enables a graphic designer to eliminate detail or isolate an image from its background.

massively parallel processing   A type of parallel processing architecture that employs more than 1,000 inexpensive but fast microprocessors to tackle an unusually complex scientific or engineering problem.

mass storage   See *secondary storage.*

master   The first disk in a string of two attached to an IDE host adapter. Though the master disk does not control the slave disk, it interprets commands from the host adapter for it.

master document   In word processing, a document that contains commands that tell the program to print additional documents at the commands' locations. The program prints all the documents as though they were one, with consistent running headers/footers and page numbering. See *chain printing.*

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