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but it's hilarious!"**

— Julia Holman, Richfield, MN, on the *Illustrated  
Computer Dictionary For Dummies*®



# ILLUSTRATED COMPUTER DICTIONARY FOR DUMMIES® 2ND EDITION

By Dan Gookin &  
Wallace Wang

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for the  
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## Illustrated Computer Dictionary For Dummies<sup>®</sup>, 2nd Edition

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*flag*

**Pronunciation:** *fla-ga*.

**Meaning:** A term used by programmers for a status indicator within a program (or hardware). Most flags use Boolean (true or false, yes or no) values. For example, a flag may be used to keep track of whether or not a certain input has been received from a user, and, if it has been received, to output an error message.



**Sentence:** "Dorothy wrote a program that she feels is very patriotic: All it does is to raise all the microprocessor's *flags*. Now if she could just program the modem to whistle a salute."

*flame*

**Pronunciation:** *flay-ma*.

**Meaning:** An angry, often nasty, brutal, and unsportsmanlike letter found only on electronic mail messages.

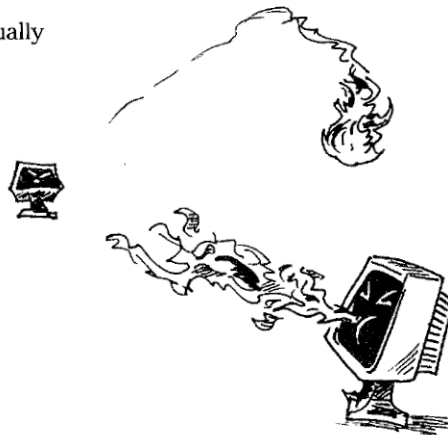
**Sentence:** "Ignore any on-line *flame* that links you to the Nazis or compares you to Adolf Hitler."

*flame wars*

**Pronunciation:** *flay-ma wars*.

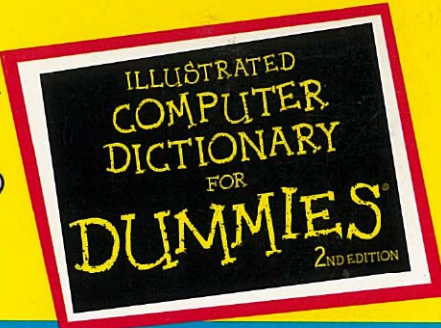
**Meaning:** A series of angry electronic mail messages, usually between two people who sincerely hope the other person gets run over by a train as soon as possible. (See also *flame*.)

**Sentence:** "The first time I got a flame, I ignored it. But the guy pestered me so much that I got into a *flame war* with him. Trust me, it's worse than paintball."





Practical  
and Fun!



## A Dictionary for the Rest of Us!™

by Dan Gookin & Wallace Wang

**"Like all Dummies books, it makes learning fun."**

— Garth Reid, Thorold, Ontario, on the Illustrated Computer Dictionary For Dummies

At last! Now you can understand the computer jargon that techno-jocks have used to keep us all in the dark. With over 1900 light-hearted entries and 100s of humorous and informative illustrations, the *Illustrated Computer Dictionary For Dummies*, 2nd Edition, is as practical as it is enlightening.

Look inside for plain English explanations of terms such as PCX, BBS, and TIFF, and suggestions for properly using them, plus keys to pronunciation and word history. Never again will you mispronounce terms and acronyms like ASCII and SCSI!

Illustrated by Drew R. Moore

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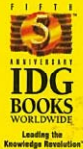
### Sample entry: algorithm

Pronunciation:  
*Al-Gore-rhythm.*

Meaning: A step-by-step set of instructions that actually does something

worthwhile. Often used to describe the instructions written in a programming language such as C, BASIC, or Pascal. (See also *billclintonrhythm.*) Sentence: "Johnson claims his program works perfectly because his algorithms are flawless. And as long as nobody uses his program, it will keep on working perfectly too."

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