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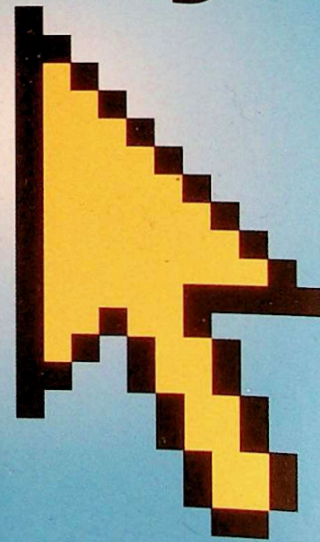
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# Computer Dictionary

Fifth Edition

- Fully updated with the latest technologies, terms, and acronyms
- Easy to read, expertly illustrated
- Definitive coverage of hardware, software, the Internet, and more!



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**LLC** *n.* Acronym for Logical Link Control. In the IEEE 802.x specifications, the higher of two sublayers that make up the ISO/OSI data link layer. The LLC is responsible for managing communications links and handling frame traffic. *See also* IEEE 802.x, MAC.

**Lmhosts file** *n.* A local text file that lists the names of network hosts (sometimes called NetBIOS names) to IP addresses for hosts that are not located on the local subnet. *See also* IP address, systemroot.

**load<sup>1</sup>** *n.* **1.** The total computing burden a system carries at one time. **2.** In electronics, the amount of current drawn by a device. **3.** In communications, the amount of traffic on a line.

**load<sup>2</sup>** *vb.* To place information from storage into memory for processing, if it is data, or for execution, if it is program code.

**load-and-go** *adj.* In reference to a routine, able to begin execution immediately, once loaded. The term is commonly used in reference to compilers and the machine code they generate.

**load balancing** *n.* **1.** In distributed processing, the distribution of activity across two or more servers in order to avoid overloading any one with too many requests from users. Load balancing can be either static or dynamic. In the former, the load is balanced ahead of time by assigning different groups of users to different servers. In the latter, software refers incoming requests at runtime to whichever server is most capable of handling them. **2.** In client/server network administration, the process of reducing heavy traffic flows either by dividing a busy network segment into multiple smaller segments or by using software to distribute traffic among multiple network interface cards working simultaneously to transfer information to a server. **3.** In communications, the process of routing traffic over two or more routes rather than one. Such load balancing results in faster, more reliable transmissions.

**loaded line** *n.* A transmission cable fitted with loading coils, usually spaced about a mile apart, that reduce amplitude distortion in a signal by adding inductance (resistance to changes in current flow) to the line. Loaded lines minimize distortion within the range of frequencies affected by the loading coils, but the coils also reduce the bandwidth available for transmission.

**loader** *n.* A utility that loads the executable code of a program into memory for execution. On most microcomputers, the loader is an invisible part of the operating system

and is automatically invoked when a program is run. *See also* loader routine, load module.

**loader routine** *n.* A routine that loads executable code into memory and executes it. A loader routine can be part of an operating system or it can be part of the program itself. *See also* loader, overlay<sup>1</sup> (definition 1).

**load module** *n.* An executable unit of code loaded into memory by the loader. A program consists of one or more load modules, each of which can be loaded and executed independently. *See also* loader.

**load point** *n.* The beginning of the valid data area on a magnetic tape.

**load sharing** *n.* A method of managing one or more tasks, jobs, or processes by scheduling and simultaneously executing portions of them on two or more microprocessors.

**load shedding** *n.* In electrical systems, the process of turning off power to some electronic equipment in order to maintain the integrity of the power supply to other connected devices. *See also* UPS.

**lobby page** *n.* A page of information about the broadcast that is displayed in the viewer's browser before the broadcast begins. It can contain a title, subject, host's name, information about the broadcast, and a countdown to the time of the broadcast.

**local** *adj.* **1.** In general, close at hand or restricted to a particular area. **2.** In communications, a device that can be accessed directly rather than by means of a communications line. **3.** In information processing, an operation performed by the computer at hand rather than by a remote computer. **4.** In programming, a variable that is restricted in scope, that is, used in only one part (subprogram, procedure, or function) of a program. *Compare* remote.

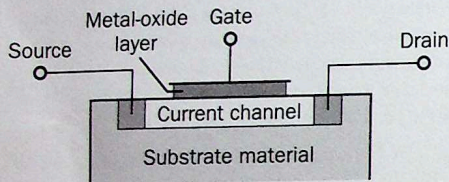
**local area network** *n.* *See* LAN.

**local bus** *n.* A PC architecture designed to speed up system performance by allowing some expansion boards to communicate directly with the microprocessor, bypassing the normal system bus entirely. *See also* PCI local bus, VL bus.

**local bypass** *n.* A telephone connection used by some businesses that links separate buildings but bypasses the telephone company.

**locale identifier** *n.* A 32-bit value that consists of a language identifier and a sort identifier. In code, a locale

metal gate from the semiconductor current channel. MOSFETs have extremely high input impedance and therefore require almost no driving power. They are used in many audio applications, including high-gain amplifier circuits. Like all metal-oxide semiconductor (MOS) devices, MOSFETs are easily damaged by static electricity. See the illustration. *See also* FET, MOS.

**MOSFET.**

**most significant bit** *n.* In a sequence of one or more bytes, the highest-order bit of a binary number, not including the sign bit. *Acronym:* MSB. *See also* high-order. *Compare* least significant bit.

**most significant character** *n.* The high-order, or leftmost, character in a string. *Acronym:* MSC. *See also* high-order. *Compare* least significant character.

**most significant digit** *n.* In a sequence of one or more digits, the highest-order digit, which is the leftmost digit. In 456.78, 4 is the most significant digit. *Acronym:* MSD. *Compare* least significant digit.

**MOTD** *n.* *See* message of the day.

**motherboard** *n.* The main circuit board containing the primary components of a computer system. This board contains the processor, main memory, support circuitry, and bus controller and connector. Other boards, including expansion memory and input/output boards, may attach to the motherboard via the bus connector. *See also* expansion slot. *Compare* daughterboard.

**Motion JPEG** *n.* A standard for storing motion video, proposed by the Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG), that uses JPEG image compression for each frame. *See also* JPEG (definition 1). *Compare* MPEG (definition 1).

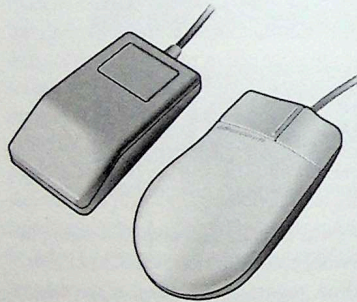
**motion path** *n.* The path that a specified object or text will follow as part of an animation sequence for a slide.

**mount** *vb.* To make a physical disk or tape accessible to a computer's file system. The term is most commonly used to describe accessing disks in Macintosh and UNIX-based computers.

**mount** *n.* In NFS, a folder or file retrieved from elsewhere on the network and accessed locally. *See also* NFS.

**MOUS** *n.* Acronym for **Microsoft Office User Specialist**. A certification from Microsoft that verifies an individual's skills with the Microsoft Office desktop programs. *See also* MCP.

**mouse** *n.* A common pointing device. The basic features of a mouse are a flat-bottomed casing designed to be gripped by one hand, one or more buttons on the top, a multidirectional detection device (usually a ball) on the bottom, and a cable connecting the mouse to the computer. By moving the mouse on a surface (such as a desk top), the user typically controls an on-screen cursor. A mouse is a relative pointing device because there are no defined limits to the mouse's movement and because its placement on a surface does not map directly to a specific screen location. To select items or choose commands on the screen, the user presses one of the mouse's buttons, producing a "mouse click." *See the illustration. See also* bus mouse, mechanical mouse, optical mouse, optomechanical mouse, relative pointing device, serial mouse. *Compare* trackball.



**Mouse.** Two types of mouse: for the Macintosh (left) and for the PC (right).

**MouseKeys** *n.* A feature in Windows that allows a user to use the numeric keyboard to move the mouse pointer. MouseKeys is primarily intended for people who may have physical limitations that make it difficult to move a conventional mouse. *See also* mouse.

**mouse pad** *n.* A surface on which a mouse can be moved, typically a rectangular rubber pad covered with fabric, providing more traction than a wooden or glass desktop or tabletop. *See also* mouse.

**mouse pointer** *n.* An on-screen element whose location changes as the user moves the mouse. Depending on the location of the mouse pointer and the operation of the pro-

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