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Webster's New World™

Dictionary of Computer Terms, 6th Edition

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64 **Boolean operator**

**Boolean operator** A word, generally typed in capital letters, that indicates how search terms should be combined in a *Boolean search*. Synonymous with logical operator.

**Boolean Operators**

If you link two search terms with:	The search retrieves:
AND ("Chardonnay AND Zinfandel")	Only those records or documents that contain both of these terms
OR ("Chardonnay OR Zinfandel")	Any record or document that contains either of these terms
NOT ("Chardonnay NOT Zinfandel")	Any record or document that contains "Chardonnay," except those that also contain "Zinfandel"

**Boolean search** A search that involves the use of Boolean operators (AND, OR, and NOT). In a Boolean search, you can use these operators to refine the scope of your search.

**boot** 1. To initiate an automatic routine that clears the memory, loads the *operating system (OS)*, and prepares the computer for use. Included in the computer's *read-only memory (ROM)* is the *Power-On Self-Test (POST)*, which executes when the power is switched on (a *cold boot*). After a system *crash* or lockup occurs, you usually must boot the computer again, or reboot, by pressing the Reset button or a key combination such as Ctrl+Alt+Del (IBM PCs and compatibles) or Ctrl+Command+Start (Macintoshes) (a *warm boot*). The term is derived from the expression "pulling oneself up by the bootstraps." 2. The process of starting the computer (cold boot) or restarting (warm boot).

**BOOTP** Acronym for Bootstrap Protocol, an *Internet* protocol that enables workstations on a *local area network (LAN)* to find their *IP address* dynamically.

**boot sector** The first track on an *IBM PC-compatible hard or floppy disk* (track 0). During the *boot* process, *read-only memory (ROM)* tells the computer to read the first block of data on this