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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.

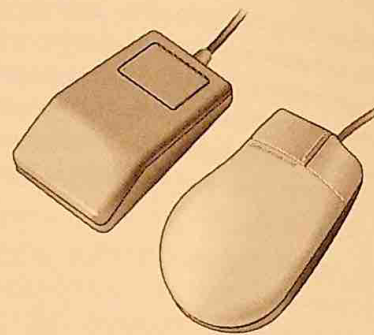
Motion JPEG \mō`shən J`peg\ *n.* A standard for storing motion video, proposed by the Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG), that uses JPEG image compression for each frame. See also JPEG (definition 1). *Compare* MPEG (definition 1).

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.

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.

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.

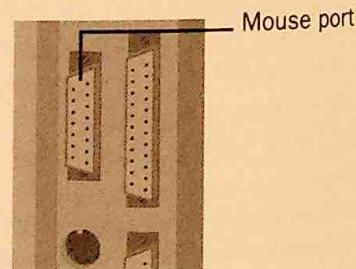
mouse pad *n.* A surface on which a mouse can be moved, typically a rectangular rubber pad covered with fabric, providing more traction than a wooden or glass desktop or tabletop. See also mouse.



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

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 program with which it is working, the area of the screen where the mouse pointer appears serves as the target for an action when the user presses one of the mouse buttons. See also block cursor, cursor (definition 3).

mouse port *n.* 1. In many PC-compatible computers, a dedicated connector where a mouse or other pointing device plugs into the computer. If a mouse port is not available, a serial port can be used to connect the mouse to the computer. See also connector, mouse, pointing device, serial port. See the illustration. 2. In a Macintosh, the Apple Desktop Bus port. See also Apple Desktop Bus.



Mouse port.

mouse scaling *n.* See mouse sensitivity.

mouse sensitivity *n.* The relationship of mouse movement to screen cursor movement. A more sensitive mouse signals to the computer more "mouse moves" per inch of physical mouse movement than does a less sensitive mouse. Increasing the sensitivity of the program or mouse driver can result in smaller cursor moves for a given mouse move, making it easier for the user to position the cursor precisely. High sensitivity is good for exacting work, such as CAD/CAM and graphic art; low sensitivity is good for tasks in

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