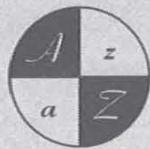


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The Dictionary of Multimedia

Terms & Acronyms

1998 Edition



Brad Hansen



Chicago • London

Dedication

For my son, Graham.

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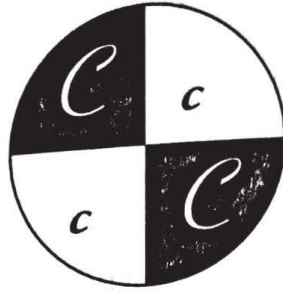
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C (n.) A high-level, procedural programming language that runs faster than other high-level languages because it allows embedding of instructions. It is highly portable to platforms for which there is a C compiler.

cable 1. (n.) All types of wires and cords used to transmit signals or connect equipment. Cables may contain single or multiple wires and may be shielded to reduce interference. Most cables allocate at least one wire to be used as a ground. Coaxial cable is used for video applications. **2. (adj.)** Describes local television service delivered over cable rather than broadcast through the air.

cable modem (n.) A device that enables a user to connect a computer with a special circuit board to existing coaxial cable provided by a cable TV network and access digital services inserted into the vertical blanking interval of a television signal. Each interval is able to carry the amount of data approximately equivalent to a 9600 baud modem. Transmission is one-way from the cable provider and is not interactive unless a modem on a telephone line is connected simultaneously.

cable tap (n.) In an Ethernet network, a device that connects a transceiver to the main cable.

cable television See *CATV*.

cache (n.) A temporary block of computer memory that is allocated for frequent or rapid data access.

caching (n.) The use of memory or disk storage to speed data processing by storing data that will be accessed later.

CAD/CAM (n.) Computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing; software applications used by engineers for the graphic design of components and systems. Once components are built, they may be manipulated on screen and evaluated. CAM applications extrapolate manufacturing specifications from the CAD designs and may control manufacturing processes.

CADD Computer-aided design and drafting.

caddy (n.) The case or cartridge that protects CD-ROM discs while they are

home page (n.) A document that is accessed via the World Wide Web by using a browser, or universal client. A home page, or Web page, is typically written in Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), which provides the capacity to link "hot words" to other words, graphics, or pages.

horizontal blanking interval See *HBI*.

host adapter (n.) A controller card (such as a SCSI adapter) that routes data between the CPU and peripherals, such as CD-ROM drives, printers, or disk drives.

host computer (n.) Any computer that provides the processing power for terminals and peripherals connected to it.

hot 1. (adj.) Describes a defined region on the monitor (in an interactive program) that responds to a mouse click or a touch. Activating the area initiates an action or causes a process to be performed. 2. (adj.) In audio terms, describes a tape recorded at the maximum possible signal level. 3. (adj.) In video production, describes a camera that is in use, or "on air."

hot fix (n.) A "hot swap"; the replacement of a failed disk drive in a multiple drive system with a "hot spare," while the remaining drives are online.

hot links 1. (n.) This includes text, buttons, or icons that are specially tagged in an interactive program, making it possible to connect instantly to information

in another location or to execute instructions simply by clicking on them or otherwise activating the links. 2. (n.) A connection between two or more programs that updates data in linked programs automatically when it is changed in one of the associated programs. For example, making a change in a database file linked to a graph will cause a corresponding change in the graph representing the data.

Houston Advanced Research Center-C
See *HARC-C*.

HPGL (n.) Hewlett-Packard Graphics Language; a bitmapped graphic file format used by IBM-compatible graphics programs.

HQX (n.) A Macintosh program that converts binary files into the 7-bit BinHex format so they can be transferred to another user as text.

HSV (n.) Hue, saturation, and value; a system of defining colors.

H.320 (n.) The standard that applies to a broad range of video conferencing applications. It defines how data flows among conferencing devices over network or telephone lines. The image size, or resolution, under this standard is 352 × 288 pixels, and it is sometimes referred to as Common Intermedia Format.

HTML (n.) Hypertext Markup Language; a set of commands for marking a document so that it can be read by a

Web browser, such as Netscape Navigator. All home pages on the World Wide Web are HTML documents. HTML is a subset of Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML). HTML codes, or tags, specify the function of a text string (title, heading, body, etc.), but they do not instruct a parser on how to display information. As a result, different browsers format documents differently.

HTTP (n.) Hypertext Transfer Protocol; a standard on the Internet that enables the creation of hyperlinks between documents. A hyperlink automatically and transparently transfers a file to the user when it is activated.

H.261 (n.) A common International Telephone and Telegraph Consultative Committee (CCITT) standard for compressed video.

hub (n.) A network repeater that does not provide retiming functions.

hue (n.) A color, such as cyan, yellow, magenta, red, blue, or green.

Huffman coding (n.) A type of compression that requires one or more sets of Huffman code tables to be specified by the application for coding as well as decoding to decompress data. The Huffman tables may be predefined and used within an application as defaults or computed specifically for a given file. It is a lossless algorithm.

the logical disc format and contains ISO 9660 and HFS data structures. 2. (n.) Usually, it is the term for a CD-ROM in the Orange Book format, a multisession disc. Developed by Philips and Eastman Kodak, this format allows information to be added to previously recorded data. A Kodak Photo-CD is an example.

Hybrid Fiber Coax See *HFC*.

HyperCard (n.) An interactive authoring environment developed by Apple Computer. HyperTalk is the scripting language that consists of English commands and creates the links between words, buttons, and diverse media. Programs (stacks) consist of frames (cards) with routines (scripts). XCMDs (external commands) and XFCNs (external functions) are used to extend the functionality.

hypermedia (n.) Another word for multimedia, new media, or digital media. It refers to a dimensional environment with text, graphics, audio, animation, and video elements that are linked.

hypertext (n.) Indexed words that are linked to graphics, audio, or other words not located in close proximity. Theodore Nelson is credited with the first usage of the term in 1963. The World Wide Web is based on Hypertext Markup Language, or HTML. The hypertext links are like the strands of a spider web.

Hypertext Markup Language See *HTML*.

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