DICTIONARY OF
COMPUTING

FIFTH EDITION

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private key cryptography /ˌpraɪvət kiː krɪpˈtɒɡrəɡi/ *noun* a method of encrypting Internet messages that uses a single key both to encode and decode them

privilege /ˈprɪvɪlɪdʒ/ *noun* the status of a user as regards to the type of program he or she can run and the resources he or she can use

privileged account /ˌprɪvəlɪdʒd əˈkaʊnt/ *noun* a computer account that allows special programs or access to sensitive system data

privileged instructions /ˌprɪvəlɪdʒd ɪnˈstrʌkʃənz/ *plural noun* computer commands that can only be executed via a privileged account

privileged mode /ˈprɪvəlɪdʒd məʊd/ *noun* a mode of an Intel 80286 processor that is in protected mode and allows a program to modify vital parts of the operating environment

PRN /ˌpiː ɔː ˈen/ *noun* an acronym used in MS-DOS to represent the standard printer port. Full form **printer**

problem /ˈprɒbləm/ *noun* a malfunction or fault with hardware or software

problem definition /ˈprɒbləm ˌdefəntʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the clear explanation, in logical steps, of a problem that is to be solved

problem diagnosis /ˈprɒbləm ˌdaɪəɡnəʊsɪs/ *noun* the process of finding the cause of a fault or error and finding the method of repairing it

problem-orientated language /ˌprɒbləm ˌɔːriənteɪtɪd ˈlæŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* a high-level programming language that allows certain problems to be expressed easily. Abbr **POL**

procedural /prəˈsiːdʒərəl/ *adjective* using a procedure to solve a problem

procedural language /prəˌsiːdʒ(ə)rəl ˈlæŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* a high-level programming language in which the programmer enters the actions required to achieve the result wanted

procedure /prəˈsiːdʒə/ *noun* 1. a small section of computer instruction code that provides a frequently used function and can be called upon from a main program ○ *This procedure sorts all the files into alphabetical order.* ◊ **subroutine** 2. a method or route used when solving a problem ○ *You should use this procedure to retrieve lost files.*

procedure declaration /prəˈsiːdʒə

ing and declaring the variable types of procedure used and the routine name and location

procedure-orientated language /prəˌsiːdʒə ˌɔːriənteɪtɪd ˈlæŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* a high-level programming language that allows procedures to be programmed easily

process /prəʊˈses/ *noun* a number of tasks that must be carried out to achieve a goal ○ *The process of setting up the computer takes a long time.* ■ *verb* to carry out a number of tasks to produce a result ○ *We processed the new data.*

process bound /ˈprəʊses baʊnd/ *noun* a program that spends more time executing instructions and using the CPU than in I/O operations

process chart /ˈprəʊses tʃɔːt/ *noun* a diagram that shows each step of the computer procedures needed in a system

process control /ˈprəʊses kənˌtrəʊl/ *noun* the automatic control of a process by a computer

process control computer /ˌprəʊses kənˌtrəʊl kəmˈpjuːtə/ *noun* a dedicated computer that controls and manages a process

process control system /ˌprəʊses kənˈtrəʊl ˌsɪstəm/ *noun* a system that completely monitors, manages and regulates a process, comprising input and output modules, a CPU with memory, a program and control and feedback devices such as A/D and D/A converters

processing /ˈprəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* the use of a computer to solve a problem or organise data ○ *Page processing time depends on the complexity of a given page.* ◊ **CPU**

processor /ˈprəʊˌsesə/ *noun* a hardware or software device that is able to manipulate or modify data according to instructions

processor controlled keying /ˌprəʊsesə kənˌtrəʊld ˈkiːɪŋ/ *noun* data entry by an operator which is prompted and controlled by a computer

processor interrupt /ˌprəʊsesə ˈɪntərʌpt/ *noun* the process of sending an interrupt signal to a processor requesting attention, usually causing it to stop what it is doing and attend to the calling device

processor-limited /ˌprəʊsesə ˈlɪmɪtɪd/ *adjective* referring to operation time that is set by the speed of or execution time

structured programming /ˌstrʌktʃəd 'prəʊgræmɪŋ/ *noun* a style of computer programming in which a program consists of a hierarchy of simple sub-routines

structured query language /ˌstrʌktʃəd 'kwɪəri ˌlæŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* full form of **SQL**

structured wiring /ˌstrʌktʃəd 'waɪərɪŋ/ *noun* the planned installation of all the cables that will be required in an office or building for computer networks and telephone

STT /ˌes tiː 'tiː/ *noun* a system developed to provide a secure link between a user's browser and a vendor's Website to allow the user to pay for goods over the Internet. Full form **secure transaction technology.** ⧫ **PGP, SEPP, SET, S-HTTP, SSL**

stub /stʌb/ *noun* a short program routine which contains comments to describe the executable code that will, eventually, be inserted into the routine

stuck beacon /stʌk 'biːkən/ *noun* an error condition in which a station continuously transmits beacon frames

STX *abbr* start of text

style /staɪl/ *noun* the typeface, font, point size, colour, spacing and margins of text in a formatted document

style sheet /staɪl ʃiːt/ *noun* a template which can be preformatted to generate automatically the style or layout of a document such as a manual, book or newsletter

stylus /'staɪləs/ *noun* a pen-like device which is used in computer graphics systems to dictate cursor position on the screen

stylus printer /'staɪləs ˌprɪntə/ *noun* ⧫ **dot-matrix printer**

sub- /sʌb/ *prefix* less than, less important than or lower than

subaddress /'sʌbəˌdres/ *noun* a peripheral identification code, used to access one peripheral. This is then followed by address data to access a location within the peripheral's memory.

subclass /'sʌbklɑːs/ *noun* a number of data items related to one item in a master class

subdirectory /'sʌbdɪˌrekt(ə)ri/ *noun* a directory of disk or tape contents contained within the main directory

'...if you delete a file and then delete the subdirectory where it was located, you cannot restore the file

sub-domain /sʌb dəʊ'meɪn/ *noun* a second level of addressing on the Internet that normally refers to a department name within a larger organisation

subdomain name /ˌsʌbdə'meɪn ˌneɪm/ *noun* an organisational name consisting of two or three letters, e.g. ac or .com, that precedes the two-letter country domain name in an Internet address, as in '.com.au', the address for Australian commercial sites.

subject line /'sʌbdʒɪkt laɪn/ *noun* a line in an e-mail that indicates the subject of the message

submenu /'sʌbmenjuː/ *noun* a secondary menu displayed as a choice from a menu

submit button /səb,mɪt 'bʌt(ə)n/ *noun* a button displayed on a webpage that sends information entered by a user on a web form to a program running on a web server for processing, e.g., the submit button could be used to start a search query

subnet /'sʌbnet/ *noun* a self-contained part of a large network, normally referring to one, independently-managed part of the Internet

subnet address /'sʌbnet əˌdres/, **subnet number** /'sʌbnet ˌnʌmbə/ *noun* the part of an IP address that identifies a subnet that is connected to a larger network. The first part of the IP address identifies the network, the next part of the IP address identifies the subnet and the last part of the IP address identifies a single host server. ◊ **IP address**

subnet mask /'sʌbnet mɑːsk/ *noun* a filter that is used to select the portion of an IP address that contains the subnet address

subnotebook /sʌb'nəʊtbʊk/ *noun* a very small portable computer, smaller and lighter than a standard full-size notebook or laptop computer. A subnotebook often has a smaller keyboard and display and often only includes a hard disk drive with any floppy disk drive or CD-ROM drive in a separate, external unit that can be plugged in when needed.

subprogram /'sʌbprəʊgræm/ *noun* **1.** a subroutine in a program **2.** a program called up by a main program

subroutine /'sʌbruːˌtiːn/ *noun* a section of a program which performs a required function and can be called upon at any time from inside the main program □

can be called at any time, with control being returned on completion to the next instruction after the call

> COMMENT: A subroutine is executed by a call instruction which directs the processor to its address; when finished it returns to the instruction after the call instruction in the main program.

subroutine call /'sʌbruːˌtiːn kɔːl/ *noun* a computer programming instruction which directs control to a subroutine

subscribe /səb'skraɪb/ *verb* to add your name to a mailing list or listserv list so that you will receive any messages for the group

subscriber /səb'skraɪbə/ *noun* **1.** a person who has a telephone **2.** a person who pays for access to a service such as a BBS

subscript /'sʌbskrɪpt/ *noun* a small character which is printed below the line of other characters. ◊ **superscript** (NOTE: used in chemical formulae: CO_2)

subscripted variable /ˌsʌbskrɪptɪd 'veəriəb(ə)l/ *noun* an element in an array, which is identified by a subscript

subsegment /'sʌbsegmənt/ *noun* a small section of a segment

subset /'sʌbˌset/ *noun* a small set of data items which forms part of a another larger set

substitute /'sʌbstɪtjuːt/ *verb* to put something in the place of something else (NOTE: you substitute one thing **for** another)

substitute character /ˌsʌbstɪtjuːt 'kærɪktə/ *noun* a character which is displayed if a received character is not recognized

substitution error /ˌsʌbstɪ'tjuːʃ(ə)n ˌerə/ *noun* an error made by a scanner which mistakes one character or letter for another

substitution table /ˌsʌbstɪ'tjuːʃ(ə)n ˌteɪb(ə)l/ *noun* a list of characters or codes which are to be inserted instead of received codes

substrate /'sʌbstreɪt/ *noun* a base material on which an integrated circuit is constructed. ◊ **integrated circuit**

subsystem /'sʌbsɪstəm/ *noun* one smaller part of a large system

subtraction /səb'trækʃən/ *noun* the

subtrahend /'sʌbtrəhend/ *noun* in a subtraction operation, the number to be subtracted from the minuend

sub-woofer /sʌb 'wʊfə/ *noun* a large loudspeaker that can reproduce very low frequency sounds, normally with frequencies between 20 to 100Hz, used with normal loudspeakers to enhance the overall sound quality

suffix notation /ˌsʌfɪks nəʊ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* mathematical operations written in a logical way, so that the symbol appears after the numbers to be acted upon. ◊ **postfix notation**

suitcase /'suːtkeɪs/ *noun* (*in the Apple Macintosh environment*) an icon which contains a screen font and allows fonts to be easily installed onto the system

suite of programs /ˌswiːt əv 'prəʊgræmz/ *noun* **1.** a group of programs which run one after the other ○ *The word-processing system uses a suite of three programs, editor, spelling checker and printing controller.* **2.** a number of programs used for a particular task

sum /sʌm/ *noun* total of a number of items added together

summation check /sʌ'meɪʃ(ə)n tʃek/ *noun* an error detection check performed by adding together the characters received and comparing with the required total

Sun Microsystems /ˌsʌn 'maɪkrəʊsɪstəmz/ a company that developed the Java programming system used to extend webpages

super- /'suːpə/ *prefix* very good or very powerful

super bit mapping /ˌsuːpə 'bɪt ˌmæpɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **SBM**

supercomputer /ˌsuːpəkəm'pjuːtə/ *noun* a very powerful mainframe computer used for high speed mathematical tasks

superimpose /ˌsuːpərɪm'pəʊz/ *verb* to place something on top of something else

superior number /suːˌpɪəriə 'nʌmbə/ *noun* a superscript figure

super large scale integration /ˌsuːpə ˌlɑːdʒ skeɪl ˌɪntɪ'greɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an integrated circuit with more than 100,000 components. Abbr **SLSI**

superscript /'suːpəˌskrɪpt/ *noun* a small character printed higher than the normal line of characters. Compare **sub-**