Glossary

#

+12V Wire	A +12V wire is a wire that carries the +12V current from the power supply.
+15V Wire	A +15V wire is a wire that carries the +15V current from the power supply.
16-Bit	A 16-bit computer system allows information to be transferred at a rate of 16 bits at a time.
256 Colors	256 colors refers to the total number of colors that can be display on the screen at one time, using the current settings.
3½-inch Floppy Drive	A 3½-inch floppy drive uses disks that can hold up to 1.44 MB of information. The case for the disk measures 3½ inches on each side.
32-Bit	A 32-bit computer system allows information to be transferred at a rate of 32 bits at a time or twice as fast as a 16-bit system.
32-Bit Flat Memory Mode	32-bit flat memory mode is a protected processing mode for the CPU that can process programs written in 32-bit code. NT is a full 32-bit operating system.
386 Enhanced Dialog Box	Use the 386 Enhanced dialog box to configure Windows 3.x multitasking options and Virtual Memory Settings.
386 Enhanced Icon	Use the 386 Enhanced Icon to open the 386 Enhanced dialog box.
386 Enhanced Mode	In 386 Enhanced Mode, Windows runs more than one DOS application because memory and CPU time are shared with all of the applications running. DOS applications can run in full-screen display or in a window. Compare to **Standard Mode**.
3D RAM	3D RAM is a special video RAM that is designed to improve 3D graphics simulation.
5¼-inch Floppy Drive	A 5¼-inch floppy drive uses disks that can hold up to either 360 KB or 1.2 MB of storage capacity. The disk case measures 5¼ inches on each side.

A

A/D	*See* **Analog-To-Digital Converter**.
A+ Certification	A+ Certification is awarded by CompTIA (the Computing Technology Industry Association) and measures a PC technician's knowledge of the skills and behaviors expected of entry-level PC technicians. Many companies require that their service technicians have A+ Certification.
AC	*See* **Alternating Current**.
Accessories Group	The Accessories program group contains icons for some of the applications that come with Windows.
Active Partition	The active partition is the partition that is used to boot DOS, usually drive C.
Active Partition	The active partition is the section of the hard disk that contains the operating system. The operating system be loaded when you start or restart the computer.
Actuator	The actuator is the arm that moves the read/write head to the proper position on the surface of the hard drive platter.
Adapter Address	An adapter address is a 6-byte hex hardware address that is unique to each NIC card and is assigned by manufacturers. The address is usually printed on the adapter. An example is 00 00 0C 08 2F 35.
Adapter Card	An adapter card, also called an interface card or expansion card, is a small circuit board that is inserted in an expansion slot and permits communication between the system bus and a peripheral device.
Add Button	Use the Add button on the Configuration card of the Network dialog box to open the Select Network Component Type dialog box.
Add Printer Wizard Dialog Box	Use the Add Printer Wizard dialog box to select the printer drivers to install during setup.
Add/Remove Programs Icon	Use the Add/Remove Programs icon to open the Add/Remove Programs properties dialog box.

Add/Remove Programs Properties Dialog Box	The Add/Remove Programs Properties dialog box allows you to install Dial-Up Networking.
Address Resolution Protocol	Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) is a method used by TCP/IP that dynamically or automatically translates IP addresses into physical network addresses such as Ethernet IDs or Token Ring MAC addresses.
Administrator Account	An administrator account, in Windows NT, grants to the administrator(s) rights and permissions to all hardware and software resources, such as the right to add, delete, and change accounts, as well as to change hardware configurations.
Advanced Button	Use the Advanced button to view the advanced options.
Advanced Properties Dialog Box	Use the advanced properties dialog box to select your monitor, video controller card and other video controls.
Advanced SCSI Programming Interface	Advanced SCSI programming interface (ASPI) is a popular device driver that enables operating systems to communicate with the SCSI host adapter. (The *A* originally stood for Adaptec.)
Alternate Gateway	An alternate gateway is an alternate router that is used if the default gateway is down. *See* **Gateway**.
Alternating Current	Alternating current (AC) cycles back and forth rather than traveling in one direction. Normally, between 110 and 115 AC volts are supplied from a standard wall outlet.
Ammeter	An ammeter is a meter that measures electrical current in amps.
Ampere Or Amp	An ampere (A), or amp, is a unit of measurement for electrical current. One volt across a resistance of 1 ohm will produce a flow of 1 amp.
Amplifier Repeater	An amplifier repeater amplifies what it receives, regardless of its source.

Analog Signals	Analog signals have an infinite number of values within a range of possible values. An example is the transmission of sound, in wave format, over traditional telephone lines. Compare to **Digital Signals**.
Analog-To-Digital Converter	An analog-to-digital converter (A/D or ADC) is a component on a sound card that samples and converts analog sound into digital values that can be stored on hard drives.
Anti-Virus Software	Anti-virus (AV) software are utility programs that prevent infection or scan a system to detect and remove viruses. Norton AntiVirus and McAfee Associates VirusScan are two popular AV packages.
API	API, or Advanced Program Interface, is a method by which one program calls another program to perform a task.
Application Layer	The Application layer is the layer of the OSI model that is responsible for interfacing with the user or application that uses the network.
Application Software	Application software are programs that perform specialized tasks, such as word processing, database management, or mathematical calculations. Examples are Word, WordPerfect, and Excel.
Apply Button	Use the Apply button to apply the changes made in the Date/Time Properties dialog box.
ARP	*See* **Address Resolution Protocol**.
ASPI	*See* **Advanced SCSI Programming Interface**.
Asynchronous SRAM	Asynchronous SRAM is a slow version of SRAM that does not simultaneously work with CPU clock speed.
AT Commands	AT commands are used by a PC to control a modem. AT is the Attention command, which alerts a modem to receive additional commands. For example, ATDT means attention and listen for a dial tone.
ATDT	Use the ATDT command to instruct the modem to listen for a dial tone.

ATH	The ATH command tells a modem to disconnect from the telephone line.
ATTRIB Command	The ATTRIB command is a DOS command that can display file attributes and even lock files so that they are “read-only” and therefore cannot be modified; for example, ATTRIB +R FILENAME makes FILENAME a read-only file.
ATZ	Use the ATZ command to instruct the modem to reset and restore the configuration to that defined at power on.
Authoring Software	Authoring software allows the user to incorporate text, sound, graphics, photos, animations, and video into one continuous show.
Auto-answer	Auto-answer is a modem feature that makes it possible for a modem to receive incoming calls while the computer is unattended.
Auto-Detecting BIOS	Auto-detecting BIOS is a feature on newer system BIOS and hard drives that provides for auto-detection when identifying and configuring a new hard drive in the CMOS setup.
AUTOEXEC.BAT	AUTOEXEC.BAT is a batch file that contains a series of startup commands that execute during the boot process.
Autorange Meter	An autorange meter is a multimeter that assesses the quantity of input and sets the range accordingly.
AV Software	*See* **Anti-Virus Software**.
Avg Seek Time	The avg seek time is the average amount of time it takes to move a disk drive’s read/write head to a specific place on a disk.

B

Back End	Back end, in a client/server environment, is the application on the server that processes clients' data requests.
Back Up (V), Backup (N)	To back up (verb) is to make a second copy of files or data. Backups (noun) can be made by saving a file under a different name or by copying files to a different disk or to a tape drive.
Backbone	A backbone is a network used to link several networks together. For example, several Token Rings and Ethernets may be connected by using a single FDDI backbone.
Backup Catalog	A backup catalog is a set that displays a list of the files and folders previously backed up. *See* **Backup Set**.
Backup Domain Controller	A backup domain controller (BDC) is a computer on a network that holds a read-only copy of the SAM (Security Accounts Manager) database.
Backup Set	Backup set is the name for the set of files that are backed up. For example, perhaps only the C:\data and C:\mail directories were backed up. DATA and MAIL might be used as the backup set names.
Backup Set Label Dialog Box	Use the Backup Set Label dialog box to name the files which contains all of the backup information.
Backup Windows Nt Domain Controller	Backup Windows NT domain controller is a computer on a network that holds a read-only copy of the SAM (Security Accounts Manager) database.
Backward Compatibility	Backward compatibility is the ability for newer software to run on the same basic hardware and is able to run the same software as its predecessors.
Bandwidth	Bandwidth is the range of frequencies that a communications cable or channel can carry. In general use, the term refers to the data volume that can travel on a bus or over a cable.
Bank	Banks, typically labeled bank 0, 1, 2, and 3, are areas on the systemboard that contain memory module slots.

Base File Record	A base file record is the first MFT record that holds the location of the other MFT records for this file.
Basic Input/Output System	*See* **BIOS**.
Batch File	A batch file is a text file containing a series of DOS instructions to the computer telling it to perform a specific task; for example, AUTOEXEC.BAT is a batch file that contains a series of startup commands.
Baud Rate	Baud rate is the line speed of communication between two devices, such as a computer and a printer or a computer and a modem. This speed is measured by the number of times a signal changes in 1 second.
BDC	*See* **Backup Domain Controller**.
Beam Detect Mirror	A beam detect mirror detects the initial presence of a laser printer's laser beam by reflecting the beam to an optical fiber.
Benchmark	A benchmark is a test that tries to quantify the performance of hardware or software. This is usually done in terms of reliability, speed, or accuracy.
Binding	Binding is the process by which an OSI layer is associated with a layer above or below it.
BIOS	BIOS (basic input/output system) is firmware that controls many of a computer's input/output functions, such as communicating with disk drives, the printer, RAM chips, and the monitor.
Bit	A bit is a numeral in the binary number system which uses only 0 and 1. Computers use these bits to store and communicate with each other.
Bitmap File	A bitmap file is a type of graphics file in which the image is created by filling pixels. These files have the extension .BMP and can be loaded into paint programs to be edited and printed.
Blank	A blank is a metal plate that is used to cover an empty expansion slot in the back of the computer to keep debris out of the case.

BNC Connector	A BNC connector is a connector with a half-turn locking device. It is used in networks that use coaxial cable.
BNC Port	The BNC port on a network interface card is the port that connects to the network cable through the BNC connector.
BNC Terminator	A BNC terminator is a BNC connector that only has one connecting end. It is used on the last node in a network.
Boot	Booting is the process of powering up and looking for an operating system. Booting can be either a hard boot or a soft boot. A hard boot involves turning on the power with the on/off switch, and a soft boot involves pressing the reset button or pressing [CTRL+ALT+DELETE].
Boot Disk	A boot disk is used to load and start an operating system.
Boot Loader Menu	The boot loader menu, in Windows NT, is the startup menu that gives the user the choice between Windows NT and another operating system, such as Windows 95.
Boot Partition	A boot partition is the hard drive partition where the Windows NT operating system is stored. The system partition and the boot partition may be different partitions.
Boot Record	The boot record contains the operating system loading program and some other information needed to start the computer. The Windows 95 or DOS format writes the boot record in the first sector of each partition. This boot record is sometimes called the DOS boot record (DBR) or volume boot record. DOS or Windows 95 identifies this sector as sector 0 for each “drive” or partition.
Boot Sector Virus	A boot sector virus is an infectious program that can replace the boot program with a modified, infected version of the boot command utilities, often causing boot and data retrieval problems.

Bootable Disk	A bootable disk, in DOS, is a disk that can upload the operating system files necessary for computer startup. It must have the two hidden system files, IO.SYS and MSDOS.SYS, as well as COMMAND.COM.
Break Code	A break code is produced when a key is released. *See* **Make Code**.
Bridge	A bridge is a hardware device or box, coupled with software at the Data Link layer, that is used to connect similar networks and network segments. *See* **Router**.
Buck-Boost Regulator	A buck-boost regulator is a line-interactive UPS that offers good line conditioning and has an automatic voltage regulator that boosts the voltage during electrical sags.
Buffer	A buffer is a temporary memory area where data is kept before being written to a hard drive or sent to a printer, thus reducing the number of writes when devices communicate at different speeds.
Burst SRAM	Burst SRAM is memory that is more expensive and slightly faster than pipelined burst SRAM. Data is sent as a two-step process: the data address is sent and then the data itself is sent without interruption.
Burst Transfer	Burst transfer is a means of sending data across the bus, with one packet immediately following the next, without waiting for clock beats and/or addressing of the information being sent.
Bus	Buses are strips of parallel wires or printed circuits used to transmit electronic signals on the systemboard to other devices. Most Pentium systems use a 32-bit bus.
Bus Enumerator	A bus enumerator is a component of Windows 95 Plug-and-Play that locates all devices on a particular bus and inventories the resource requirements for these devices.
Bus Master	A bus master is an intelligent device (i.e., it has a microprocessor installed that manages the device) that, when attached to the PCI bus, can gain access to memory and other devices on the bus without interrupting the action of the CPU.

Bus Mouse	A bus mouse is a mouse that plugs into a bus adapter card and has a round, 9-pin mini-DIN connector.
Bus Network Architecture	A bus network architecture is a network design in which nodes are connected in line with one another, with no centralized point of contact.
Bus Speed	The bus speed is the speed at which the data on the systemboard moves.
Byte	A byte is equal to 8 bits. In ASCII, each character is assigned a byte.

C

Cable Select Position	The Cable Select position is a setting of the jumpers on a hard drive so that dual hard drives can be connected using a single cable.
Cache	The cache is an area of memory that stores frequently accessed data and helps speed up data retrieval by passing information directly to the CPU. If the information is not found in the cache, the information is accessed normally by RAM.
Cache Controller	A cache controller is the microchip on the systemboard that controls the memory cache to static RAM.
Cache On A Stick	*See* **COAST**.
Call Tracking	A call-tracking system tracks the dates, times, and transactions of help-desk or on-site PC support calls, including the problem presented, the issues addressed, who did what, and when and how each call was resolved.
CAM	*See* **Common Access Method**.
Cards	Cards, or adapter boards or interface cards, are placed into expansion slots to expand the functions of a computer, allowing it to communicate with external devices such as monitors or printers.
Carrier	A carrier is a reference signal that activates a phone line to confirm a continuous frequency. It is used to indicate that two computers are ready to receive or transmit data via modems.
Carrier Sense Multiple Access With Collision Detection	A Carrier Sense Multiple Access with Collision Detection (CSMA/CD) feature is used in Ethernet networks whereby packets are sent after listening for a silence and are re-sent if a collision is detected.
Cascade	Use the Cascade command on the Window menu to arrange open windows so that they cascade on top of each other and you can only see the title bars of the windows in the background.

Cathode Ray Tube (CRT)	A cathode ray tube is a device in which the filaments at the back of the tube shoot an electron beam to the screen at the front of the tube to produce an image on the screen. Most monitors today use cathode ray tube technology.
CAU	*See* **Controlled-Access Unit**.
CCITT	*See* **Comité Consultatif Internationale De Télégraphie Et Téléphonie**.
CD Command	Use the CD command to change the current directory.
CD Or CHDIR Command	The CD or CHDIR command is used in DOS to change directories; for example, CD\WINDOWS changes the directory to the Windows directory, and CD\ returns to the root directory.
CD..	Use the CD.. command to move to the directory one level above the current directory.
Central Processing Unit	*See* **CPU**.
Chain	A chain is a group of clusters used to hold a single file.
Change Button	Use the Change Button in the virtual memory dialog box to reveal the configuration controls.
Change Button	Use the change button to start the update device driver wizard to select a new monitor.
Chassis	The chassis is the framework of a computer that contains its parts.
Chat Rooms	Chat rooms provide online, interactive communication among Internet users.
Checksum	A checksum is a method of transmitted data error checking whereby the digits are added up and their sum is compared to an expected sum.
Child Directory	A child directory is a directory within another directory in a hierarchical structure.

Child, Parent, Grandparent Backup Method	The child, parent, grandparent backup method is a plan for backing up and reusing tapes or removable disks by rotating them each week (child), month (parent), and year (grandparent).
Chip Set	A chip set is a set of chips on the systemboard that controls the memory cache, external buses, and some peripheral devices.
CHKDSK Command	The CHKDSK command, in DOS, checks for some hard drive errors and displays possible problems; for example, CHKDSK C: is used to check drive C.
Choose Directory Dialog Box	Use the Choose Directory dialog box to select the directory Windows 95 is to be installed.
CHS	CHS (cylinders, heads, sectors) is the traditional method by which BIOS reads and writes to hard drives by addressing the correct cylinder, head, and sector.
Circuit Boards	Circuit boards are computer components, such as the main systemboard or an adapter board, that have electronic circuits and chips.
Clamping Voltage	Clamping voltage is the maximum voltage allowed through a surge suppressor, such as 175 or 330 volts.
Classify Command (/C)	Use this MEM command to classify programs by the memory each uses.
Classless Addresses	Classless addresses are class C network addresses that a service provider subleases to small companies.
Clean Line	A clean line is a line that consistently produces high-quality results.
Client	A client is a device or program that uses a server.
Clock Speed	Clock speed represents the speed at which the CPU operates, usually expressed in megahertz. A Pentium may have a speed of 150 MHz, while a Pentium II may operate at 233 MHz.
Clone	Originally, a clone was a computer that was compatible with IBM computer hardware and MS-DOS software. Today, the word clone often refers to no-name Intel and Microsoft compatibles.

Close Button	Click the Close button on a window's title bar to close a window or application.
Cluster	Clusters are one or more sectors that constitute the smallest unit of space on a disk for storing data (also referred to as a file allocation unit). Files are written to the disk as groups of whole clusters.
Cluster Chain	A cluster chain is a series of clusters used to hold a single file.
CLV	*See* **Constant Linear Velocity**.
CMD Files	CMD files, in Windows NT, are batch files that contain a list of commands to be executed as a group.
CMOS Chip	A CMOS (complementary metal oxide conductor) chip is a microchip that requires relatively less electricity and produces less heat than other types of chips. The configuration chip on the systemboard is an example of a CMOS chip.
COAST	COAST (cache on a stick) represents chips on a module available for pipelined burst synchronous SRAM.
Coaxial Cable	Coaxial cable can be used to connect computers in a broadband or baseband network. It provides high transmission rates over long distances.
CODEC	CODEC (COder/DECoder) is a method of compressing and later decompressing sound, animation, and video files. MPEG is a common example.
Coder/Decoder	*See* **CODEC**.
Collision	Collision, in an Ethernet network, occurs when transmitted packets of data are sent at the same time and collide. The Ethernet will first listen for silence before it transmits, and it will stop and re-send if a collision occurs.
Color Depth	Color depth is the number of possible colors used by the monitor. It determines the number of bits used to compose one pixel. It is one of two characteristics (the other is screen resolution) that determine the amount of data sent to the video card to build one screen.

Color Palette	The color palette is a collection of colors that is stored and made easily accessible.
Color Space Conversion	Color space conversion is the process of converting images to RGB (red, green, blue) values before they are displayed. Processing is faster if the video card does the conversion instead of the CPU.
COM Port	A COM port is a serial port that sends and receives data one bit at a time.
Combo Card	A combo card is an Ethernet card that contains more than one transceiver, each with a different port on the back of the card, to accommodate different cabling media.
Comité Consultatif Internationale De Télégraphie Et Téléphonie	Comité Consultatif Internationale de Télégraphie et Téléphonie (CCITT) are the industry-approved standards for international communication. In 1992, the CCITT organization was incorporated into the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).
Command Line Text Box	Use the Command Line text box to enter the path to the file or application to which the shortcut refers.
Comment Lines	Comment lines are documentation lines that are ignored by the operating system or software that is executing a list of instructions. An REM in front of a line will turn an AUTOEXEC command into a comment, and a semicolon will turn an *.ini file line into a comment.
Common Access Method	The common access method (CAM) is a standard adapter driver used by SCSI.
Communications Command	Use the Communications command to open the Communications dialog box.
Communications Dialog Box	The Communications dialog box allows you to configure Terminal to use the modem.
Complementary Metal Oxide Conductor Chip	*See* **CMOS Chip**.
Compressed Drive	A compressed drive is a drive that has been reorganized in order to store more data. A compressed drive is not really a drive; it is a type of file, typically with a host drive called H.

CompTIA	*See* **Computing Technology Industry Association**.
Computer Properties Dialog Box	Use the Computer Properties dialog box to view the resource settings for each device on the computer.
Computer Time/Date Fields	Use the Time/Date fields in CMOS to set the date and time on the computer clock. The computer uses the date and time to stamp files when they are saved.
Computing Technology Industry Association	The Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) is a membership trade association that sponsors A+ Certification.
CONFIG.SYS	CONFIG.SYS is a configuration file that contains DOS information about the number of files that can be open, the number of buffers to create, and loading information about device drivers.
Configuration Data	Configuration data, also called setup information, is information about the computer's hardware, such as what type of hard drive, floppy drive, or monitor is present, as well as other detailed settings.
Configuration Manager	The configuration manager is a Windows 95 Plug-and-Play component that controls the configuration process of all devices and communicates these configurations to the devices.
Configuration Parameter	The configuration parameter is another name for the value names and values of the registry, which is information in the Windows registry.
Conflicting Device List	Use the Conflicting device list on the Resources card to see if there are any other devices trying to use the same resources.
Connection Protocol	Connection protocol, in networking, is the processes to confirm that a good connection is made before transmitting data to the other end. To accomplish this, most network applications use TCP rather than UDP.

Connectionless Protocol	Connectionless protocol occurs when UDP is used and a connection is not required before sending a packet. Consequently, there is no guarantee that the packet will arrive at its destination. An example of a UDP transmission is a broadcast to all nodes on a network.
Connector	Connectors are pieces on the ends of cables or cords that are physically attached to other pieces of hardware.
Constant Linear Velocity	Constant linear velocity (CLV) is a CD-ROM format in which the spacing of data is consistent on the CD, but the speed of the disc varies depending on whether the drive is reading near the center or the edge of the disc.
Contention-Based System	A contention-based system is one in which each computer contends for the opportunity to transmit on the network. If there is a collision, a computer waits a random amount of time and re-sends.
Continue Setup And Replace Your Current Version Of DOS Option	Select the Continue Setup and replace your current version of DOS option to proceed with the DOS installation.
Continuity	Continuity is a continuous, unbroken path for the flow of electricity. A “continuity test” can determine whether internal wiring is still intact.
Control Blade	A control blade is a laser printer component that prevents too much toner from sticking to the cylinder surface.
Control Button	Double-click the Control button on a window to close the window.
Control Panel	The Control Panel provides options for setting up and modifying parts of the computer system.
Control Panel Icon	Use the Control Panel icon in the Main program group to open the Control Panel program group window.
Control Panel Program Group	The Control Panel program group contains icons that control the settings in the Windows 3.x environment.

Controlled-Access Unit	A controlled-access unit (CAU) is a centralized hub on a Token Ring network. *See* **Multistation Access Unit**.
Controller Board	A controller board is an adapter board that is used to interface between the computer and another device, such as a scanner.
Conventional Memory	Conventional memory, also known as base memory, is the first 640K of memory addresses.
Coprocessor	A coprocessor is a chip or a portion of the CPU that helps the microprocessor perform calculations; it dramatically speeds up computations and data manipulations.
Copy Backup	A copy backup is a backup that does not change the archive attributes of files and folders, so that incremental and differential backups do not "sense" this backup.
Copy Command	The DOS COPY command copies files from one location to another; for example, COPY FILE.EXT A: is used to copy the file named FILE.EXT to the disk in drive A.
Corrupted Files	Corrupted files are data and program files that are damaged for any reason, ranging from power spikes to user error.
CPU	The CPU (central processing unit), also called a microprocessor, is the heart and brain of the computer, receiving data, processing information, and executing instructions.
CPU Fan	A CPU fan is used in Pentium computers to cool the CPU.
Create Directory Command	Use the Create Directory command on the File menu to open the Create Directory dialog box that is used to create a directory.
Create DOS Partition Or Logical DOS Drive Menu	Use the Create DOS Partition or Logical DOS Drive menu to begin creating a partition.

Create DOS Partition Or Logical DOS Drive Menu	Use the Create DOS Partition or Logical DOS Drive menu to begin creating a partition.
Create Primary DOS Partition	Use the Create Primary DOS Partition option to create a bootable partition.
Create Shortcut Dialog Box	Use the Create Shortcut dialog box to begin choosing the file or application to which a shortcut refers.
Cross-Linked Clusters	Cross-linked clusters are caused when files appear to share the same disk space, according to the file allocation table.
Crosstalk	Crosstalk is the interference that one wire, in a twisted pair, may produce in the other.
CRT	A CRT, Cathode-Ray Tube, is used in computer monitors and televisions to display an image on the screen.
CSMA/CD	*See* **Carrier Sense Multiple Access With Collision Detection**.
[CTRL+Click-and-drag]	Use [CTRL+Click-and-drag] to copy a selected item from one place to another. To [CTRL+Click-and-drag], simply point to the item you want to copy, then hold down both the [CTRL] key and the left mouse button while moving the pointer in the direction you want.
Customer Information Dialog Box	Use the Customer Information dialog box to add contact information about the computer's owner to the MSD report.
Cut Command	Use the Cut command to remove a file or a portion of a file and place it in a temporary storage area called the Clipboard.
Cylinders, Heads, Sectors	*See* **CHS**.

D

DAC	A DAC (digital-to-analog converter) converts digital data into analog signals just before it is output from the computer; for example, DAC technology is used to convert digital sound to analog sound just before playback to the speakers.
Daily Copy Backup	Daily copy backup backs up all files that changed during a day, but does not change the archive attributes of files; therefore, incremental and differential backups do not “sense” the backup.
Data Bits	Data bits refers to the number of bits used to make up a transmitted character or value. PC communication will typically use 8 data bits and 1 stop bit for communicating data over telephone lines.
Data Cable	The data cable is used to transfer data between a floppy drive and the floppy drive controller.
Data Cartridge	A data cartridge is a type of tape that is used for backups.
Data Communications Equipment	Data communications equipment (DCE) is the hardware, usually a dial-up modem, that provides the connection between a data terminal and a communication line.
Data Compression	Data compression reduces the size of files by various techniques, such as using a shortcut code to represent repeated data.
Data Line Protectors	Data line protectors are surge protectors designed to protect the telephone line to a modem.
Data Link Layer	The Data Link layer is the OSI layer that disassembles packets and reassembles data into packets.
Data Path	Data path refers to the size of a bus, such as a 32-bit-wide data path in a PCI bus.
Data Terminal Equipment	Data terminal equipment (DTE) refers to both the computer and a remote terminal, or another computer to which it is attached.

Data Throughput	Data throughput is a measure of the actual data transmitted by the bus, not including error-checking bits or redundant data.
Data Transfer	In data transfer mode, the remote PC requests data from the host PC, and the host PC sends the requested data to the remote PC. File transfer is one example of this type of communication. This method passes requests for data from the remote PC to the host.
Datagrams	Datagrams are packets of data that travel between networks from a sender to a receiver. A datagram typically includes an IP header, address information, a checksum, and data.
Date/Time Properties Dialog Box	Use the Date/Time Properties dialog box to set the system's date, time, and time zone.
DC	*See* **Direct Current**.
DCE	*See* **Data Communications Equipment**.
De Facto Standard	A de facto standard is any type of industry standard that does not have an official backing, but is considered a standard because of widespread industry use and acceptance.
DEBUG Utility	The DEBUG utility is a DOS utility that is used to view or change executable files.
Default Drive	The default drive is the drive that DOS automatically uses to save and retrieve files.
Default Gateway	The default gateway is the main gateway or unit that sends or receives packets addressed to other networks.
Default Windows Printer	The default Windows printer is the printer that Windows software uses unless the user specifies another.
Defragment	Defragmenting rewrites a file to a disk in one continuous chain, thus speeding up data retrieval.
DEL Command	The DEL DOS command deletes files; for example, DEL A:FILE.EXT deletes the file named FILE.EXT from drive A.

Delete Message Box	Use the Delete message box to verify that you want to delete the selected icon.
DELTREE Command	The DELTREE DOS command deletes a directory, all its subdirectories, and all files within it. For example, DELTREE DIRNAME deletes the directory named DIRNAME and everything in it.
Demodulation	Demodulation converts digital data that has been transformed to analog data back to digital data. *See* **Modulation**.
Description Text Box	Use the Description text box in the Program Group Properties dialog box to enter the description of the new program group that will appear in Program Manager.
Desktop Dialog Box	Use the Desktop dialog box to personalize the look of your Desktop by selecting such preferences as wallpaper, screen saver, border widths, and more.
Desktop Icon	Use the Desktop icon in the Control Panel program group to open the Desktop dialog box.
Desktop Publishing	Desktop publishing refers to the use of a microcomputer to produce professional-quality, camera-ready output.
Detcrash.log	The Detcrash.log file records any errors that occur while trying to detect hardware during a Windows 95 installation.
Detlog.txt	The Detlog.txt file records all of the hardware detected during a Windows 95 installation.
Device Driver	A device driver is a small program that tells the computer how to communicate with an input/output device, such as a printer or a modem.
Device Manager	Device Manager is a Windows 95 program that allows the user to view and set hardware configurations.
DHCP	*See* **Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol**.
Diagnostic Cards	Diagnostic cards are adapter cards designed to discover and report computer errors and conflicts at POST time (before the computer boots up), often by displaying a number on the card.

Diagnostic Software	Diagnostic software are utility programs that help troubleshoot computer systems. Some DOS diagnostic utilities are CHKDSK and SCANDISK. Nuts&Bolts and Norton Utilities are examples of third-party diagnostic programs.
Diagnostics	Diagnostics information allows you to test whether your computer is working correctly and to detect faults before they become a real problem.
Dial Command	Use the dial command to dial a predetermined number or the number entered in the phone number dialog box.
Dial-Up Adapter	A Dial-Up adapter is a modem that acts as a network card using Dial-Up Networking.
Dial-Up Networking	Dial-Up Networking (DUN) is a Windows application that allows a PC to remotely connect to a network through a phone line.
Dial-Up Networking (DUN)	Dial-Up Networking is a Windows application that allows a PC to remotely connect to a network through a phone line.
Differential Backup	Differential backup backs up only files that have changed or have been created since the last *full* backup. When recovering data, only two backups are needed: the full backup and the last differential backup.
Differential SCSI Device	A differential SCSI device is a device with a cable up to 75 feet long that sends signals through a pair of wires and is less vulnerable to noise than single-ended SCSI devices. *See* **Single-Ended SCSI Device**.
Digital Signals	Digital signals have a finite number of values within a range of possible values. An example is the transmission of data over a serial cable as bits, where there are only two values: 0 and 1.
Digital Video Disc	A digital video disc, or DVD, is a faster, larger CD-ROM format that can read older CDs, store more than 4 gigabytes of data, and hold full-length motion picture videos.
Digital-To-Analog Converter	*See* **DAC**.

DIMM	A DIMM, or dual in-line memory module, is a miniature circuit board that is used in newer computers in place of traditional RAM chips. At this writing a DIMM holds 8 to 128 MB on a single module.
DIP Switch	A DIP switch, or dual in-line packet switch, has only two settings: on and off or 0 and 1. Dip switches can be used to set configurations such as modem COM ports or printer setup.
Direct Current	Direct current (DC) travels in only one direction (the type of electricity provided by batteries). Computer power supplies transform AC current to low DC current.
Direct Memory Access (DMA) Option	Select the Direct memory access (DMA) option on the View Resources card in the Computer Properties dialog box to see a list of the current DMA channels.
Direct Memory Access Controller	*See* **DMA Controller**.
Directory	A directory is a DOS table that contains file information such as name, size, time, and date of last modification, as well as the cluster number of the file's beginning location.
Dirty Line	*See* **Noisy Line**.
Discover Button	Use the Discover button to open the Discover dialog box.
Discover Dialog Box	The Discover dialog box allows you to view information about the computer, such as memory, software, and drives.
Disk Cache	Disk cache is a method whereby recently retrieved data and adjacent data from a hard drive are read into memory in advance, anticipating the next CPU request. Also, disk cache is a process by which data written to the hard drive is accumulated in memory to reduce the number of writes to the drive.
Disk Compression	Disk compression is the process of compressing data on a hard drive to allow more data to be written to the drive.

Disk Defragmenter	The Disk Defragmenter is a system tool that makes a computer disk more efficient by grouping all of the parts of a file into contiguous clusters on a disk.
Disk Duplexing	Disk duplexing is an improvement of disk mirroring, whereby redundant data is written to two or more drives, and each hard drive has its own adapter card. This provides greater protection than disk mirroring.
Disk Editor	Disk Editor is a powerful tool for editing any part of a disk, including the partition table, directory entries, DOS boot record, and FAT.
Disk Minder	Disk Minder, part of the Nuts & Bolts utility software, diagnoses and repairs hard drive problems, including the partition table, boot record, FAT, files, and directories.
Disk Mirroring	Disk mirroring is a strategy in which the same data is written to two hard drives in a computer to safeguard against hard drive failure. Disk mirroring uses only a single adapter for two drives.
Disk Striping	Disk striping refers to treating multiple hard drives as a single volume. Data is written across the multiple drives in small segments in order to increase performance and logical disk volume, and, when parity is also used, to provide fault tolerance. RAID 5 is disk striping with an additional drive for parity.
Disk Thrashing	Disk thrashing is a condition that results when the hard drive is excessively used for virtual memory because RAM is full. It dramatically slows down processing and can cause premature hard drive failure.
DISKCOPY Command	The DISKCOPY DOS command copies the entire contents of one disk to another disk of the same type, while formatting the destination disk so that the two will be identical. For example, DISKCOPY A: A: makes a duplicate floppy disk using drive A.
Display Adapter	Display adapter is another name for a video controller card.
Display Power Management Signaling	Display power management signaling, or DPMS, refers to Energy Star standard specifications that allow for the video card and monitor to go into sleep mode simultaneously.

Display Properties Dialog Box	Use the Display Properties dialog box to select and set options for the display settings, such as the wallpaper, screen saver, and screen resolution.
Display Readout	The display readout on an external modem is a feature that provides information about the modem's status.
DMA Channels	DMA channels are the pathways provided by the DMA controller between the device and memory. Most PCs provide 8 channels, numbered 0 through 7.
DMA Controller	A DMA (direct memory access) controller is a chip on the systemboard that provides channels that a device may use to send data directly to memory, bypassing the CPU.
DNS	*See* **Domain Name System**.
Docking Station	A docking station is a system that is designed to connect to a portable or notebook computer for downloading and uploading data, as well as for sharing local peripheral devices.
Documentation	Documentation includes manuals, tutorials, and help files that provide information a user needs in order to use a computer system or software application.
Domain	A domain is a logical group of networked computers, such as those on a college campus, that share a centralized directory database of user account information and security for the entire domain.
Domain Name	A domain name is a unique, text-based name that identifies an IP (Internet Protocol) address. Typically, domain names in the United States end in .edu, .gov, .com, .org, or .net. Domain names might also include a country code, such as .uk for the United Kingdom.
Domain Name Service	*See* **Domain Name System**.
Domain Name System	A domain name system or domain name service (DNS) is a database on a top-level domain name server that keeps track of assigned domain names and their corresponding IP addresses.

DOS Command Switch	A DOS command switch is text added to a DOS command that governs the actions taken by the command.
DOS Prompt	The DOS prompt indicates where to type commands. It usually shows the current drive and may include other information.
Dots Per Inch (dpi)	The dots per inch determine the quality of the printed material. The greater the number of dots, the sharper the output.
Double Conversion	Double conversion is the process by which the in-line UPS converts the AC power to battery power in DC form and then back to AC power.
Doze Time	Doze time is the amount of time before an Energy Star or "green" system will reduce 80% of its activity.
DPMS	*See* **Display Power Management Signaling**.
DRAM	*See* **Dynamic RAM**.
Drive Bay	A drive bay is an opening in the system unit. A floppy disk drive, hard disk drive, or tape drive can be installed here.
Drive Bay Blank	A drive bay blank is a strip of metal or plastic that covers an empty drive bay.
Drive C Icon	Use the drive C icon in the File Manager to move to and display the contents of drive C.
Driver Disk	A driver disk is the disk or disks that come with peripheral hardware and contain the drivers required to make the hardware work on a computer.
DriveSpace	DriveSpace is a utility that compresses files so that they take up less space on a disk drive, creating one large file on the disk to hold all the compressed files.
Drop Height	Drop height is the height that the manufacturer states that a drive can be dropped without making the drive unusable.
DTE	*See* **Data Terminal Equipment**.

Dual Boot	Dual boot is the ability to boot to different operating systems, such as Windows NT and Windows 95, on the same computer. (Programs cannot be shared between Windows NT and the other operating system.)
Dual In-Line Memory Module	*See* **DIMM**.
Dual In-Line Packet Switch	*See* **DIP Switch**.
Dual Ported	Dual ported refers to when the video chip set (input) and the RAM DAC (output) can access video memory at the same time. A specific video RAM is required.
Dual Voltage CPU	A dual voltage CPU requires two different voltages: one for internal processing and one for I/O processing.
DUN	*See* **Dial-Up Networking**.
DVD	*See* **Digital Video Disc**.
Dynamic Data Exchange	Dynamic data exchange allows one application to communicate with another and share data.
Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol	Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) is the protocol of a server that manages dynamically assigned IP addresses. DHCP is supported by both Windows 95 and Windows NT.
Dynamic IP Address	A dynamic IP address is an assigned IP address that is used for the current session only. When the session is terminated, the IP address is returned to the list of available addresses.
Dynamic Link Library Files	Dynamic link library files contain programming routines that are used by many application programs to perform common tasks such as opening a database file or displaying a dialog box on the screen. Windows comes with many of these .dll files already installed but, when the user installs an application program, it might place other *.dlls in the \Windows\System directory, or it might update an existing copy of a .dll file.

Dynamic RAM	Dynamic RAM, or DRAM, is the most commonly used type of system memory, requiring refreshing every few milliseconds.
Dynamic Routing	Dynamic routing refers to routing tables that are automatically updated as new information about routes becomes known and is shared by one router with another. Compare to **Static Routing**.

E

EDIT Command	Use the EDIT command to open the EDIT program.
EDIT Program	EDIT is a text editor program used to create and edit text files. EDIT is installed automatically with DOS.
EDO Memory	EDO (extended data output) memory is a type of RAM that may be 10-20% faster than conventional RAM because it eliminates delays before it issues the next memory address.
EEPROM Chip	An EEPROM (electrically erasable programmable ROM) chip is a type of chip in which higher voltage may be applied to one of the pins to erase its previous memory before a new instruction set is electronically written.
Eicar-Standard-AV-Test-File	Use the Eicar-Standard-AV-Test-File to verify that the VirusScan software is working correctly. The test file is not an actual virus.
EISA Bus	An EISA (Extended Industry Standard Architecture) bus is a 32-bit bus that can transfer 4 bytes at a time at a speed of about 20 MHz.
Electrically Erasable Programmable ROM Chip	*See* **EEPROM Chip**.
Electrostatic Discharge	Electrostatic discharge (ESD) is another name for static electricity, which can damage chips and destroy systemboards, even though it may not be felt or seen.
ELF	ELF (Extremely Low Frequency) is a very low-frequency monitor emission of magnetic fields. ELF guidelines are established to ensure that computers are safe and energy efficient.
E-Mail	E-mail provides electronic mail (which consists of text files) across the Internet or other networks.
Embedded Component	An embedded component is a component found on the systemboard.

Embedded SCSI Devices	Embedded SCSI devices contain their own host adapter, whereby the SCSI interface is built into the device.
Emergency Repair Disk	An Emergency Repair Disk (ERD) contains information unique to the operating system and hard drive. The user is given the opportunity to create the disk during installation. The ERD contains some of the registry information on Windows NT. In addition, information that is used to build an NTVDM to run DOS applications is also included on the disk.
EMM386.EXE	EMM386.EXE is a DOS utility that creates upper memory blocks (commonly used in pre-Windows 95 systems).
EMS	*See* **Expanded Memory Specification**.
Encrypting Virus	An encrypting virus is a type of virus that transforms itself into a non-replicating program to avoid detection. It transforms itself back into a replicating program in order to spread.
Energy Star Systems	Energy Star systems, also called “green” systems, satisfy EPA requirements to decrease electricity consumption.
Enhanced BIOS	Enhanced BIOS is a newer BIOS that has been written to accommodate larger-capacity gigabyte drives.
Enhanced IDE Technology	Enhanced IDE is a newer drive standard that allows systems to recognize drives larger than 528 MB and to handle up to four devices on the same adapter.
Environment Subsystems	Environment subsystems is a Windows NT user mode process in which a subsystem runs an application in its own private memory address space as a virtual machine. Compare to **Integral Subsystems**.
EPROM Chip	An EPROM (erasable programmable ROM) chip is a type of chip with a special window that allows the current memory contents to be erased with special ultraviolet light so that the chip can be reprogrammed. Many BIOS chips are EPROMs.

Equalization Stage	The equalization stage occurs after the carrier is established. During this stage, the modems test the line quality, and then compensate for poor quality by changing the way they transmit.
Erasable Programmable ROM Chip	*See* **EPROM Chip**.
ERASE Command	The ERASE DOS command deletes or erases files. For example, ERASE FILE.EXT deletes the file named FILE.EXT from the current disk.
ERD	*See* **Emergency Repair Disk**.
Error Beeps	A computer beeps when it is starting up to indicate errors such as keyboard or CPU problems.
Error Correction	Error correction refers to the ability of some modems to identify transmission errors and then automatically request another transmission.
[ESC]	Press [ESC] to stop the computer from processing commands or functions you have begun, but not completed. [ESC] will also close menus and dialog boxes.
Escalating	Escalating is the process of a technician passing a customer's problem to higher organizational levels if he or she cannot address the problem.
ESD	*See* **Electrostatic Discharge**.
Establishing Carrier	Establishing carrier occurs when the answering modem sends a carrier signal to communicate with the calling modem. This process sounds like static, which is also heard during handshaking.
Ethernet	Ethernet is the most popular network topology used today. It uses Carrier Sense Multiple Access with Collision Detection (CSMA/CD) and can be physically configured as a bus or a star network.
Event Viewer	Event Viewer is a Windows NT utility that tracks and logs events as they are performed by the applications, processes, or user actions. It can be accessed by clicking Start, tracing to Programs, tracing to Administrative Tools, then selecting Event Viewer.

Executive Services	In Windows NT, Executive Services is a subsystem running in kernel mode that interfaces between the user mode and HAL.
Exit Windows Command	Use the Exit Windows command on the Program Manager File menu to begin to close Windows.
Exit Windows Dialog Box	Use the Exit Windows dialog box to verify that you want to quit Windows.
Exit Windows Setup Dialog Box	The Exit Windows Setup dialog box informs the user that setup is complete and allows the user to select to restart Windows, or return to MS-DOS.
Expanded Memory Specification	Expanded memory specification, or EMS, is outside of the conventional linearly addressed memory that is accessed in 16K segments, or pages, by way of a window to upper memory.
Expansion Card	An expansion card is a circuit board that can be attached to an expansion slot to enhance the performance or the hardware of a computer.
Expansion Slot	An expansion slot is a slot or plug where the user can add interface cards to enhance the hardware of the computer.
Expert Systems	Expert systems is a type of software that uses a database of known facts and rules to simulate human reasoning and decision-making processes.
Extended Data Output Memory	*See* **EDO Memory**.
Extended Industry Standard Architecture Bus	*See* **EISA Bus**.
Extended Memory	Extended memory is above the initial 1024 KB, or 1 MB, area.
Extended Partition	An extended partition is a logical drive on a hard drive that is not a bootable partition.
External Cache	External cache, also called level 2 or L2 cache, is static cache memory, stored on the systemboard, that is not part of the CPU.

Extremely Low Frequency	*See* **ELF**.

F

Fake Parity Chip	A fake parity chip is a parity generator chip designed to simulate parity checking so that the user can use less expensive nonparity memory modules on a systemboard that expects parity memory.
Fast Page Mode Memory	*See* **FPM Memory**.
FAT	*See* **File Allocation Table**.
Fatal System Error	A fatal system error is an error that prevents the operating system from loading. An example is a damaged registry.
Fault Tolerance	Fault tolerance is the degree to which a system can tolerate failures. Adding redundant components, such as disk mirroring or disk duplexing, is a way to build fault tolerance.
FDDI	A FDDI (Fiber Distributed Data Interface, pronounced “fiddy”) is a ring-based network, similar to Token Ring, that does not require a centralized hub. FDDI often uses only fiber-optic cabling.
FDISK	FDISK is a utility used to view or configure hard disk partitions.
Ferroresonant Regulator	A Ferroresonant regulator is a UPS device containing a magnetic coil that retains a power charge that is used during a brownout to raise the voltage at switching time.
Fiber Distributed Data Interface	*See* **FDDI**.
Fiber Optic Cable	Fiber optic cable can be used to connect computers in a network. In a fiber optic system, data transmitted as pulses of light along the fiber optic cable.
FIFO	FIFO, or first-in, first-out, is a method of storing and retrieving data from a table or stack, whereby the first element stored is the first one retrieved.
FIFO Buffer	A FIFO buffer is a buffer on a 16550 UART chip that solves the problem of lost data, which sometimes occurred with the older 16450 UART chips.

File	A file is a collection of related records or lines that can be written to the disk and assigned a name; for example, a simple letter or a payroll file containing data about employees.
File Allocation Table	A file allocation table (FAT) is a DOS table at the beginning of a disk that tracks where files are stored on the disk according to the file allocation units used by the files.
File Allocation Units	*See* **Cluster**.
File And Print Sharing Dialog Box	Use the File and Print Sharing dialog box to enable the network access to folders or printers available on your system.
File Extension	A file extension is the second part of a file's name that contains up to three characters and is separated from the filename with a period.
File Manager	File Manager displays the directory and file organization visually and allows you to move, copy, and delete files, as well as change file names.
File System	The file system is the method used by the operating system to manage data on a drive.
File Transfer Protocol	*See* **FTP**.
File Virus	A file virus inserts virus codes into an executable program and can spread whenever that program is accessed.
Filename	A filename is the title of a single file. Under DOS, a filename can contain up to eight characters.
Firmware	Firmware is software that is permanently etched onto a chip.
First In, First Out	*See* **FIFO**.
Fixed Frequency	Fixed frequency refers to monitors that only support a single refresh rate. Compare to multiscan monitors, which support different video cards and different refresh rates.

Flash Memory	Flash memory is a type of RAM that electronically holds memory even when the power is off.
Flash ROM	Flash ROM is ROM that can be reprogrammed or changed without replacing chips.
Floppy Drive	A floppy drive is a device used to read data from and write data to a floppy disk.
Floppy Drive Controller	A floppy drive controller is a microchip located on the systemboard or an expansion card that manages the floppy drive and temporarily stores data being passed to and from the drive.
Floppy Drive Controller Connector	Use the floppy drive controller connector to attach the floppy drive data cable to the systemboard.
Flow Control	Flow control is a method of controlling the flow of data from a sending PC modem by having the receiving PC modem send a message to the sending device to stop or start data flow. Xon/Xoff is an example of a flow control protocol.
FM Method	The FM (Frequency Modulation) method is a method of synthesizing sound by making a mathematical approximation of the musical sound wave. MIDI may use FM synthesis or wavetable synthesis.
Folder	A folder acts as a Windows directory for a collection of related files; for example, a user may find it convenient to create a MYDATA folder in which to store personal files.
Format	Formatting is a process that prepares a disk for use by creating a FAT and root directory on the disk. During formatting, any data on the disk is lost.
Format Dialog Box	Use the Format dialog box to select formatting options.
Format Results Message Box	The Format Results message box announces the completion of the format process and displays information about the disk that has been formatted. This box only appears if you select the Display summary when finished option in the Format dialog box.

FPM Memory	FPM memory, or fast page mode memory, is an earlier memory mode used before the introduction of EDO memory. FPM memory is faster than conventional RAM, but it is slower than EDO memory.
Fragmentation	Fragmentation is the condition that occurs when files are not written in single chains on a disk.
Fragmented Files	Fragmented files are files that are spread out over different portions of the disk and therefore are not in contiguous clusters.
Frame	A frame is a small, standardized packet of data that also includes header and trailer information, as well as error-checking codes.
Frame Buffer	A frame buffer is an area of memory on a video controller that is used to store the data to be displayed on the screen.
Frequency Modulation Method	*See* **FM Method**.
Front End	In a client/server environment, front end is the application on the client that makes use of data stored on the server.
FTP	FTP (File Transfer Protocol) is an Internet standard that provides for the transfer of files from one computer to another. FTP can be used at a command prompt or with a GUI interface, which is available with FTP software or with a Web browser. When using a Web browser, enter the command "ftp" in the browser URL line instead of the usual "http://" used to locate a Web site.
FTP Server	An FTP server or FTP site is a computer that stores files that can be downloaded by FTP.
FTP Site	*See* **FTP Server**.
Full Backup	A full backup is a complete backup, whereby all of the files on the hard drive are backed up each time the backup procedure is performed. It is the safest backup method, but it takes the most time.

G

Gateway	A gateway is a device or process that connects networks with different protocols. *See* **Bridge** and **Router**.
General Card	The General card in the System Properties dialog box allows the user to view basic information about the computer, including the computer's operating system, the registration information, the CPU type, and the amount of RAM.
General Protection Fault Error	A General Protection Fault error, or GPF, is a Windows error that occurs when a program attempts to access a memory address that is not available or is no longer assigned to it.
Genlock	Genlock is a standard for video-capturing cards that refers to the ability of the card to capture a unique frame of video, rather than "sampling" pieces of adjoining frames.
Gigabyte	A gigabyte is approximately 1 billion bytes of data (exactly 2 to the 30th power, or 1,073,741,824 bytes).
GPF Error	*See* **General Protection Fault Error**.
Graphical User Interface	*See* **GUI**.
Graphics Accelerator	A graphics accelerator is a type of video card that has an on-board processor that can substantially increase speed and boost graphical and video performance.
Green Monitor	A green monitor is designed to conserve energy by using sleep or doze mode.
Green Standards	Green standards state that a computer or device can go into sleep or doze mode when not in use, thus saving energy.
Ground Line	A ground line connects the ground mat with an electrical ground either directly to the third prong of a wall outlet or through a plugged-in computer chassis.

Ground Mat	A ground mat is an antistatic mat designed for electronic workbenches to dissipate static electricity. It often uses a wire attached to the ground connection in a standard electrical outlet.
Ground Strap	A ground strap is an antistatic wrist strap used to dissipate static electricity. It is typically grounded by attaching an alligator clip to the computer chassis or to a nearby grounded antistatic mat.
Ground Wire	A ground wire is the wire from a power connector that is connected to the ground.
Group File Text Box	Use the Group File text box in the Program Group Properties dialog box to enter the name for the new program group file.
Group Files	Group files are Windows 3.x files with the *.grp file extension that contain information about a program group and related programs; program groups are displayed in Program Manager.
Guard Tone	A guard tone is the tone sent by the answering modem which the calling modem recognizes to be another modem and not a human voice. The calling modem then knows not to break the connection.
GUI	A GUI, or graphical user interface, such as the Windows interface, uses graphics or icons on the screen for running programs and entering information.

H

HAL	*See* **Hardware Abstraction Layer**.
Half-Life	A half-life is the time it takes for a medium storing data to weaken to half of its strength. Magnetic media, including traditional hard drives and floppy disks, have a half-life of 5 to 7 years.
Handshaking	Handshaking, also known as Training, is the initial agreement made between two communicating modems as to how to send and receive data. It often occurs when the user hears the modem making noises as the dial-up is completed.
Hard Boot	A hard boot is performed when the power is turned on initially with the on/off switch. The POST process occurs during a hard boot.
Hard Coded	Hard coded refers to a code that cannot be changed.
Hard Disk Removable Drives	Hard disk removable drives are high-capacity drives, such as Zip or Jaz drives, that have disks that can be removed like floppy disks.
Hard Drive Controller	A hard drive controller is a set of microchips containing software to manage the hard drive and hold data that is passed back and forth to the hard drive.
Hard Drive Controller Connector	Use the hard drive controller connector to attach the hard drive data cable to the systemboard.
Hard Drive Fields	Use the Hard Drive fields in CMOS to define the hard drive types and sizes.
Hard Drive Standby Time	Hard drive standby time is the amount of time before a hard drive will shut down to conserve energy.
Hard Drives List Box	Use the Hard Drives list box to select the drive to be benchmarked.
Hard-Disk Loading	Hard-disk loading is the illegal practice of installing unauthorized software on computers for sale. Hard-disk loading can typically be identified by the absence of original disks in the original system's shipment.

Hardware	Hardware is the physical machinery that constitutes the computer system, such as the monitor, the keyboard, the system unit, and the printer.
Hardware Abstraction Layer	The hardware abstraction layer, or HAL, is the low-level part of Windows NT, written specifically for each CPU technology so that only the HAL must change when platform components change.
Hardware Cache	Hardware cache is a disk cache that is contained in RAM chips built right on the disk controller.
Hardware Compatibility List	A Hardware Compatibility List, or HCL, is a list of all computers and peripheral devices that have been tested and are officially supported by Windows NT.
Hardware Profiles	Hardware profiles provide configuration information about the memory, CPU, and operating system. A PC may have more than one profile. For example, a docking station PC may have two profiles: one with and one without the notebook PC docked.
Hardware Tree	A hardware tree is a database built each time Windows 95 starts up that contains a list of installed components and the resources they use.
Have Disk Button	Use the have disk button to load the video driver that came with the monitor into Windows 95. Be sure that the driver is the most recent version available.
HCL	*See* **Hardware Compatibility List**.
HD Benchmark Icon	Use the HD Benchmark icon in the Benchmark list to open the HD Benchmark screen.
Header	A header is information sent ahead of data being transferred over a network to identify it to receiving protocols. An IP header consists of header and datagram length, flags, checksum, addresses, and so on.
Heap	A heap is a memory block set aside for a program's data. If the heap fills up, an "Out of memory" error may occur, even if there is plenty of regular RAM left, especially in 16-bit applications.
Heat Sink	A heat sink is a piece of metal, with cooling fins, that can be attached to or mounted on an integrated circuit (such as the CPU) to dissipate heat.

Hertz	Hertz (Hz) is the unit of measurement for frequency, calculated in terms of vibrations, or cycles, per second. For example, a Pentium CPU may have a speed of 233 MHz (megahertz). For 16-bit stereo sound, 44,100 Hz is used.
Hidden File	A hidden file is a file that has a hidden attribute and is not displayed in the directory list. Important system files are often hidden, such as IO.SYS and MSDOS.SYS in DOS.
High Memory Area	The high memory area, or HMA, is the first 64K of extended memory. The method of storing part of DOS in the high memory area is called loading DOS high.
High-Capacity Floppy Drives	High-capacity floppy drives are large storage devices such as the Iomega 3.5-inch Zip drive, which stores 100 MB of data.
High-Level Format	A high-level format is performed by the DOS FORMAT program; for example, FORMAT C:/S formats drive C and writes system files to the drive.
HIMEM.SYS	HIMEM.SYS is a utility that helps manage device drivers in the high memory area. It is often executed by the line DEVICE = C:\DOS\HIMEM.SYS in a Windows 3.x CONFIG.SYS file.
Hive	A hive is a physical segment of the NT registry that is stored in a disk file.
HMA	*See* **High Memory Area**.
Holographic Images	A holographic image is a three-dimensional image (created by holography) that is made up of a light interference pattern preserved in a medium such as photographic film and that changes when the angle of view changes. Because making unofficial copies of holographic images is extremely difficult, they are often used to tag products, such as software packages, as original.
Home Page	The home page of a Web site is the first page. It usually includes information about the Web site and contains links to other pages within the site.
Hop Count	A hop count is the number of routers a packet must pass through in a network to reach its destination.

Host Adapter	A host adapter is the circuit board that controls a SCSI bus that supports as many as eight separate devices, one of which is a host adapter that controls communication with the PC.
Host Drive	When a drive is compressed, one logical drive acts as the host drive and is typically drive H. *See* **Compressed Drive**.
Hot Swapping	Hot swapping is a system feature, desirable in file servers, whereby a hard drive can be removed and exchanged without powering down a computer.
HTTP	HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol) is the common transfer protocol used by Internet browsers on the World Wide Web.
Hub	A hub is a network device or box that provides a central location to connect cables.
Hypertext Transfer Protocol	*See* **HTTP**.
Hz	*See* **Hertz**.

I

I/O Address Table	The I/O (input/output) address table stores the memory addresses assigned to I/O devices controlled by the system BIOS or device drivers. It is sometimes called the interrupt descriptor table. Earlier PCs used a 4-byte table, called the interrupt vector table, which contained only the location in memory of the program that services the device issuing the interrupt. Beginning with 286 computers, the interrupt vector table was expanded to hold not only the memory address of the program that services the device, but also the addresses of data passed between the CPU and the device, as well as the commands (called tasks) communicated to the device. Most I/O address table entries are 8 bytes long.
I/O Card	An I/O (input/output) card often contains serial, parallel, and game ports on the same adapter board.
ICMP	*See* **Internet Control Message Protocol**.
IDE Drive	*See* **Integrated Device Electronics Drive**.
IDE Hard Drive	An IDE (integrated device electronics) hard drive has the controller integrated into the drive.
Inband Signaling	Inband signaling, a flow control method, uses the receiving device to transmit a message to the sending device, which pauses transmission by sending a special control character in the same channel that data is sent.
Incremental Backup	An incremental backup is a time-saving backup method that only backs up files changed or newly created since the last full or incremental backup. Multiple incremental backups might be required when recovering lost data.
Infestation	An infestation refers to any unwanted program that is unknowingly transmitted to a computer and is designed to do varying degrees of damage to data and software. There are a number of different types of infestations, including viruses, Trojan Horses, Worms, and time bombs, among others.

Infrared	Infrared is used to transmit data between computers and other devices without cabling. The data is transmitted as a beam of infrared light through specialized infrared ports.
Initialization Files	Initialization files provide configuration information for Windows. WIN.INI and SYSTEM.INI are the two most important Windows initialization files.
In-Line UPS	An in-line UPS continually provides power through a battery-powered circuit and, because it requires no switching, ensures continuous power to the user.
Input/Output (I/O) Option	Use the Input/output (I/O) option in the Computer Properties dialog box to view the I/O addresses assigned to each of the devices.
Input/Output Address Table	*See* **I/O Address Table**.
Input/Output Card	*See* **I/O Card**.
Install New Modem Wizard	Use the install new modem wizard to guide you through the setup process for a new modem.
Install New Modem Wizard	The Install New Modem wizard steps you through setting up a modem and modem drivers.
Instant Update Dialog Box	The Instant Update dialog box allows you to update your version of Nuts & Bolts to the most recent version.
Instruction Set	The instruction set is the set of instructions, on the CPU chip, that the computer can perform directly, such as ADD and MOVE.
Integral Subsystems	Integral subsystems are the Windows NT user mode processes used to provide services to the rest of the system and the applications the system supports. Compare to **Environment Subsystems**.
Integrated Device Electronics Drive	An Integrated Device Electronics (IDE) drive is a hard drive with a disk controller integrated into the drive, eliminating the need for a signal cable and thus increasing speed, as well as reducing price.
Integrated Services Digital Network	*See* **ISDN**.

Intelligent Hubs	Intelligent hubs are network hubs that can be remotely controlled at a console, using network software. These hubs can monitor a network and report errors or problems.
Intelligent UPS	An intelligent UPS is connected to a computer by a serial cable that can be monitored and controlled by software on the computer.
Interlace	Interlace is the process of drawing to the screen in two passes. On the first pass, the electronic beam strikes only the even lines and on the second pass the beam strikes only the odd lines. Interlace can make a monitor with a slower refresh rate appear less noticeable.
Interleave	Interleaving is writing data in nonconsecutive sectors around a track, so that time is not wasted waiting for the disk to make a full revolution before the next sector is read.
Internal Cache	Internal cache, also called level 1 or L1 cache, is static cache memory that is faster than external cache, and is contained inside the 80486 and Pentium chips.
International Telecommunications Union	The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) is an intergovernmental organization approved by the United Nations to be responsible for adopting standards governing telecommunications.
Internet	The Internet is a worldwide collection of more than a million hosts that can communicate with each other using TCP/IP. The lowercase *internet* simply means multiple networks connected together.
Internet Control Message Protocol	The Internet Control Message Protocol (ICMP) is part of the IP layer that is used to transmit error messages and other control messages to hosts and routers.
Internet Network Information Center	The Internet Network Information Center (InterNIC) is the central group that assigns and keeps track of all Internet IP addresses on the organizational level.
Internet Protocol Address	*See* **IP Address**.

Internet Service Provider	An Internet service provider (ISP) is a commercial group that provides a user with software for Internet access for a monthly fee. AOL, Prodigy, GTE, and CompuServe are four large ISPs.
Internetworking	Internetworking refers to connecting together two or more networks, such as a LAN and a WAN.
InterNIC	*See* **Internet Network Information Center**.
Interpolative Scaling	Interpolative scaling is a method used to fill in the gaps in an image to produce a more realistic-looking display when a small video window is enlarged to full-screen size.
Interrupt Descriptor Table	Interrupt descriptor table is another name for the I/O address table.
Interrupt Handler	An interrupt handler is a program that services a device when the CPU handles an IRQ request for service.
Interrupt Request Number	*See* **IRQ**.
Interrupt Vector Table	*See* **I/O Address Table**.
Intranet	An intranet is a private internet used by a large company over a fairly wide geographical area.
IP Address	An IP (Internet Protocol) address is a 32-bit “dotted-decimal” address consisting of four numbers separated by periods used to uniquely identify a device on a network that uses TCP/IP protocols. The first numbers identify the network; the last number identifies a host. An example of an IP address is 206.96.103.114.
IPX/SPX	IPX/SPX is a protocol developed and used by Novell NetWare for LANs. The IPX portion of the protocol works at the Network layer, which is responsible for routing, and the SPX portion of the protocol manages error checking at the Transport layer.
IRQ	An IRQ (interrupt request number) is a number that is assigned to a device and is used to ask the CPU for attention; for example, the normal IRQ number for COM1 is IRQ 4.

IRQ Status Screen	Use the IRQ Status screen in MSD to view the current interrupt settings.
ISA Bus	An ISA bus is an 8-bit Industry Standard Architecture bus used on the original 8088 PC. Sixteen-bit ISA buses were designed for the 286 AT. ISA buses are often used on Pentium systemboards.
ISDN	The ISDN (integrated services digital network) is a communications standard that can carry digital data simultaneously over two channels on a single pair of wires, at about five times the speed of regular phone lines.
ISP	*See* **Internet Service Provider**.
ITU	*See* **International Telecommunications Union**.

J

Joint Photographic Experts Group	*See* **JPEG**.
Joule	A joule is the measure of energy equal to the work done when a current of one ampere is passed through a resistance of one ohm for one second.
JPEG	JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) refers to a "lossy" graphical compression scheme that allows the user to control the amount of data that is averaged and sacrificed as file size is reduced. It is a common Internet file format. *See* **Lossy Compression**.
Jump	A jump, or program jump, is when an instruction causes control to be sent to a memory address other than the next one in sequential order.
Jumpers	Jumpers are small, plastic-coated conductive shorting blocks that are installed on pins on circuit boards to close or complete a circuit to configure the board. They are often labeled JP 1, JP 2, and so on.

K

Kernel Mode	Kernel mode is a Windows NT “privileged” processing mode that has access to hardware components.
Keyboard	A keyboard is a common input device through which data and instructions may be typed into computer memory.
Keyboard Port	Use the keyboard port to connect the keyboard to the systemboard.
Keys	Keys are section names of the Windows 95 registry. They are also known as subtrees.

L

Lands	Lands are microscopic flat areas on the surface of a compact disc that separate pits. Lands and pits are used to represent data as either a 0 or a 1.
Large Mode	Large mode is a format that supports hard drives that range from 504 MB to 1 GB, mapping the data to conform to the 504 MB barrier before the address information is passed to the operating system.
Large-Capacity Drives	Large-capacity drives are drives that exceed 1,024 cylinders and storage space of 528 MB.
Last Known Good	The Last Known Good is a copy of the hardware configuration from the registry saved by the operating system each time the operating system boots and the first logon is made without errors. The next time the PC boots, if an error occurs, the Last Known Good configuration can be used.
LBA	*See* **Logical Block Addressing**.
Legacy Device	A legacy device is an older device or adapter card that does not support Plug-and-Play and may have to be manually configured through jumpers or DIP switches.
Let Me Specify My Own Virtual Memory Settings Option	Use the let me specify my own virtual memory settings option to make adjustments to the virtual memory swap file.
Let Windows Manage My Virtual Memory Settings Option	Use the Let Windows manage my virtual memory settings option to select to allow Windows 95 to manage the settings for virtual memory.
Let Windows Manage My Virtual Memory Settings Option	Use the Let Windows manage my virtual memory settings option to select to allow Windows 95 to manage the settings for virtual memory.
Let-Through	Let-through refers to the maximum voltage allowed through a surge suppressor to the device being protected.

Level 1 Cache	*See* **Internal Cache**.
Level 2 Cache	*See* **External Cache**.
Limited Token	In a FDDI network, a limited token is a token sent that allows a receiving station to communicate only with the sending station, thus providing continuous communication between the two stations.
Line Conditioners	Line conditioners are devices that regulate, or condition, the power, providing continuous voltage during brownouts or spikes.
Line Protocol	Line protocol, also called bridging protocol, is a protocol used over phone lines to allow a connection to a network. The most popular line protocol is PPP (Point-to-Point Protocol).
Line-Interactive UPS	A line-interactive UPS is a variation of a standby UPS that shortens switching time by always keeping the inverter from AC to DC working so that there is no charge-up time for the inverter.
Liquid Crystal Display (LCD)	A liquid crystal display is a type of display which uses liquid crystal material between sheets of glass to produce an image on the screen. Laptop PCs use liquid crystal displays for its portability.
Load Size	The load size is the largest amount of memory that a driver needs to initialize itself and to hold its data. It is almost always a little larger than the size of the program file.
LOADHIGH (LH)Command	Use LOADHIGH, command to load terminate-and-stay-resident programs in the upper-memory area.
Loading High	Loading high is the process of loading a driver or TSR into upper memory.
Local Bus	A local bus is a bus connecting adapters directly to the local processor bus. On 80486 computers, it is usually a 32-bit bus running at the same clock speed as the CPU.
Logic Board	A logic board is a circuit board that performs a particular task.

Log On	When you log on to an ISP or online service, you connect your computer to the service through your account.
Log On Dialog Box	Use the Log on dialog box to enter your user name and password to connect to a Windows network. This box will not appear if your computer is not part of a network.
Logic Parity	Logic parity is a fake parity chip designed to simulate parity checking so that the user can use less expensive nonparity memory modules on a systemboard that expects parity memory.
Logical Block Addressing	Logical block addressing (LBA) is a method in which the operating system views the drive as one long linear list of LBAs, permitting larger drive sizes to be accessed by the operating system.
Logical Drive	A logical drive is a partition on a computer's hard drive. A single physical hard drive may contain many smaller logical drives.
Logical Unit Number	The logical unit number (LUN), also called SCSI ID, is a number from 0 to 7 assigned to each SCSI device attached to a SCSI chain.
Lossless Compression	Lossless compression is a compression method that substitutes special characters for repeating patterns without image degradation. A substitution table is used to restore the compressed image to its original form.
Lossy Compression	Lossy compression is a compression method that drops unnecessary data, but with image and sound loss. JPEG allows the user to control the amount of loss, which is inversely related to the image size.
Lost Allocation Units	*See* **Lost Clusters**.
Lost Clusters	Lost clusters, also called lost allocation units, are lost file fragments that, according to the file allocation table, contain data that does not belong to any file. In DOS, the command CHKDSK/F can free these fragments.

Low-Level Format	A low-level format is a process, usually performed at the factory, that electronically creates the hard drive cylinders and tests for bad spots on the disk surface.
LUN	*See* **Logical Unit Number**.

M

MAC	MAC (Media Access Control) is an element of Data Link layer protocol that provides compatibility with the NIC used by the Physical layer. An adapter address is often called a MAC address.
Macro	A macro is a small sequence of commands, contained within a document, that can be automatically executed when the document is loaded, or executed later by pressing a predetermined button or keystroke.
Macro Virus	A macro virus is a virus that can hide in the macros of a document file. Typically, viruses do not reside in data or document files.
Magneto-Optical Drives	Magneto-optical (MO) drives are removable, rewritable, high-capacity drives that combine magnetic and optical disc technology.
Main Group	The Main group contains icons for applications you use to manage windows and files.
Make Code	A make code is produced by pressing a key. *See* **Break Code**.
Make New Connection Wizard	Use the make new connection wizard to configure a new Windows 95 dial-up connection.
Manufacturers List Box	The Manufacturers list box in the Select Network Client dialog box contains a list of network clients by manufacturer name.
Master	A master drive is the drive that is the bootable drive in a master/slave configuration.
Master Boot Record	The master boot record (MBR) is the record written at the beginning of a disk that contains information about the disk and startup programs.
Master Boot Sector	The master boot sector is the partition table that is stored on the first physical sector of the hard drive, head 0, track 0, sector 1. It is exactly 512 bytes long and contains information about the other partitions on the drive.

Master File Table	The Master File Table, MFT, is the core component of the NTFS in Windows NT. MFT contains a list of the files on the drive in alphabetical order in order to speed file searches.
MAU	*See* **Multistation Access Unit**.
Maximize Button	Click the Maximize button on the Internet Explorer title bar to expand the application's window to the size of the computer screen.
MBR	*See* **Master Boot Record**.
MCA Bus	An MCA (Micro Channel Architecture) bus is a proprietary IBM PS/2 bus, seldom seen today, with a width of 16 or 32 bits and multiple master control, allowing for multitasking.
McAfee VirusScan	McAfee VirusScan is a program that scans the computer's memory and data searching for viruses. If detected, VirusScan can also inoculate or remove the detected virus from the system.
McAfee Vshield	McAfee Vshield is a program that automatically scans incoming data for viruses and alerts the user if any are detected.
MD Command	Use the MD DOS command to create a directory on a drive. For example, MD C:\MYDATA will create a directory on drive C called MYDATA.
MD Or MKDIR Command	The MD or MKDIR DOS command creates a directory on a drive. For example, MD C:\MYDATA will create a directory in drive C called MYDATA.
MDRAM	*See* **Multibank DRAM**.
Media Access Control	*See* **MAC**.
Megahertz	CPU speed is measured in MHz; for example, a Pentium II may have a speed of 233 MHz. One MHz is 1,000,000 cycles of the system clock, where a cycle is the smallest unit a CPU can process.

MEM Command	The MEM command is a DOS utility used to display program and driver usage, as well as conventional, extended, and HMA memory. For example, MEM/C/P displays a complete listing of memory one screen at a time.
MemMaker	MemMaker is a DOS utility that can increase the amount of conventional memory available to DOS-based software applications, by loading drivers and TSRs into upper memory.
Memory	Memory is a chip or chips located on a systemboard or expansion board that holds data and programming.
Memory Address	A memory address is an exact location in memory that stores data.
Memory Cache	Memory cache is a small amount of faster RAM that stores recently retrieved data, in anticipation of what the CPU will next request, thus speeding up access.
Memory Caching	Memory caching is using a small amount of faster RAM to store recently retrieved data, in anticipation of what the CPU will next request, thus speeding up access.
Memory Conflict	A memory conflict is a problem that occurs when two programs attempt to use the same memory address at the same time. This may cause the computer to "hang."
Memory Leak	A memory leak is a problem caused when an application does not release the memory addresses assigned to it when it unloads, causing the memory heaps to have less and less memory for new applications.
Memory Management	Memory management is the process of increasing available conventional memory, required by DOS-based programs. This is accomplished by loading device drivers and TSRs into upper memory.
Memory Mapping	Memory mapping is assigning addresses to both RAM and ROM during the boot process.
Memory Paging	Memory paging is swapping blocks of RAM to an area of the hard drive to serve as virtual memory when RAM is low.

Memory-Resident Virus	A memory-resident virus is a virus that can stay lurking in memory, even after its host program is terminated.
MFT	*See* **Master File Table**.
MHz	*See* **Megahertz**.
Micro Channel Architecture Bus	*See* **MCA Bus**.
Microsoft Backup	Use Microsoft Backup to store an archived copy of specified data to be restored later if the original data is lost or corrupted.
Middleware	Middleware is software necessary for an application on a client to pass requests to a server, and for a server to respond with data. Microsoft's Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) is an example of middleware.
MIDI	*See* **Musical Instrument Digital Interface**.
Minicartridge	A minicartridge is a small tape used in a mini-tape drive for backing up data.
Minifile System	In the Windows NT boot process, a minifile system is a simplified file system that is started so that Ntldr (NT Loader) can read files from either a FAT or an NTFS file system.
MIRROR Command	The MIRROR DOS command can be used to save the partition table of a hard drive to a floppy disk.
MMX Technology	MMX (Multimedia Extensions) technology is a variation of the Pentium processor designed to manage and speed up high-volume input/output needed for graphics, motion video, animation, and sound.
MO Drives	*See* **Magneto-Optical Drives**.
Modem	A modem is a device that modulates digital data from a computer to an analog format that can be sent over telephone lines, then demodulates it back into digital form.

Modem Speed	Modem speed is the speed at which a modem can transmit data along a phone line measured in bits per second (bps). Two communicating modems must operate at the same speed for data transmission to be successful.
Modem-Eliminator	A modem-eliminator is a "null modem" that allows two data terminal equipment (DTE) devices to communicate by means of a special cable.
Modems Icon	Use the Modems icon to open the Install New Modem wizard
Modulation	Modulation is the process of converting binary or digital data into an analog signal that can be sent over standard telephone lines. *See* **Demodulation**.
Monitor	A monitor is the most commonly used output device for displaying text and graphics on a computer; for example, a 15-inch SVGA monitor.
Mouse	A mouse is a pointing and input device that allows the user to move the cursor around the screen and select programs with the click of a button.
MOVE Command	Use the MOVE command to move a file from one location to another. It is the same as copying a file to a new location and then deleting the original file.
Moving Pictures Experts Group	*See* **MPEG**.
MPC Specifications	MPC (Multimedia Personal Computer) specifications are the minimum standards created by Microsoft and a consortium of hardware manufacturers for multimedia PCs.
MPEG	MPEG (Moving Pictures Experts Group) is a processing-intensive standard for data compression for motion pictures that tracks movement from one frame to the next and only stores the new data that has changed.
MSAU	*See* **Multistation Access Unit**.
MSDOS.SYS	MSDOS.SYS is a read-only, hidden MS-DOS system file that must be on the boot disk for a system to boot successfully.

Multibank DRAM	Multibank DRAM (MDRAM) is a special kind of RAM that is able to use a full 128-bit bus path without requiring the full 4 MB of RAM.
Multiframe Dialog	Multiframe dialog is when a token allows a receiving station to communicate only with the sending station, thus providing continuous communication between the two stations.
Multimedia	Multimedia is a type of computer presentation that combines text, graphics, animations, photos, sound, and/or video.
Multimedia Extensions Technology	*See* **MMX Technology**.
Multimedia Personal Computer Specifications	*See* **MPC Specifications**.
Multimeter	A multimeter, also known as a DVM (digital voltage meter), is either a voltmeter or an ammeter that can also measure resistance in ohms or as continuity, depending on a switch setting.
Multimeter Lead	A multimeter lead is one of the two probes extending from the multimeter, one red (+) and one black (-). When placed on a circuit, these leads check for voltage, amperage, resistance or continuity.
Multipartite Virus	A multipartite virus is a combination of a boot sector virus and a file virus. It can hide in either type of program.
Multiplier	A multiplier is the factor by which the bus speed is multiplied to get the CPU clock speed.
Multiscan Monitor	A multiscan monitor can work within a range of frequencies, and thus can work with different standards and video adapters. It offers a variety of refresh rates.
Multisession	Multisession is a CD feature that allows data to be read (or written) on a disc recorded in more than one session. This is important if the disc was only partially filled during the first write.

Multistation Access Unit	A multistation access unit (MSAU or MAU) is a centralized hub device used to connect IBM Token Ring network stations.
Multithreading	Multithreading is the ability of an application under Windows NT to pass more than one function (thread) to the kernel at the same time, such as when one thread is performing a print job while another reads a file.
Musical Instrument Digital Interface	Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI), pronounced “middy,” is a standard for transmitting sound from musical devices, such as electronic keyboards, to computers where it can be digitally stored.

N

NADN	*See* **Nearest Active Downstream Neighbor**.
Name Text Box	Use the Name text box in the Create Directory dialog box to enter the new directory name.
Name Text Box	Use the Name text box to enter the name that is registered to Windows 95.
National Television Standards Committee	*See* **NTSC**.
NAUN	*See* **Nearest Active Upstream Neighbor**.
NDD	*See* **Norton Disk Doctor**.
Nearest Active Downstream Neighbor	The nearest active downstream neighbor (NADN) is the next station to receive a token in a Token Ring.
Nearest Active Upstream Neighbor	The nearest active upstream neighbor (NAUN) is the station that has just sent a token to the nearest active downstream neighbor in a Token Ring.
NetBEUI	NetBEUI (NetBIOS Extended User Interface) is a proprietary Microsoft networking protocol used only by Windows-based systems that is limited to LANs because it does not support routing.
NetBEUI Protocol	NetBEUI (NetBIOS Extended User Interface) is a Microsoft networking protocol used by Windows based systems.
NetBIOS	NetBIOS is a protocol usually used on LANs for PC-based networking. It is also a network extension of the older DOS BIOS that is used by applications software to interact with hardware.
NetBIOS Extended User Interface	*See* **NetBEUI**.
NetBIOS Over TCP/IP	*See* **NetBT**.

NetBT	NetBT (NetBIOS over TCP/IP) is an alternative Microsoft NetBEUI component designed to interface with TCP/IP networks.
NetBT (NetBIOS over TCP/IP)	NetBT (NetBIOS over TCP/IP) is an alternative Microsoft NetBEUI component designed to interface with TCP/IP networks.
Network Components	Network component are items of computer equipment that are necessary to run or connect to a network.
Network Dialog Box	The Network dialog box allows you to configure network components and protocols.
Network Dialog Box	Use the Network dialog box to configure installed network components.
Network Drive	A network drive is hard drive space on one computer on the network made available to another computer as a virtual or logical drive for the remote computer.
Network Icon	Use the Network icon to open the Network dialog box.
Network Interface Card	A network interface card (NIC) is a network adapter board that plugs into a computer's systemboard and provides a port on the back of the card to connect a PC to a network.
Network Layer	The Network layer is the OSI layer responsible for routing packets.
Network Mask	The network mask is the portion of an IP address that identifies the network.
Networks Adapters	A network adapter is a hardware device that connects a PC to a network.
New Command	Use the New command on the File menu to create a new folder, shortcut, or other item.
New Program Object Dialog Box	Use the New Program Object dialog box to select the program object you wish to create.
New Settings Section	Use the New Settings section of the virtual memory dialog box to make adjustments to the virtual memory swap file.

NIC	*See* **Network Interface Card**.
Node	A node is an individual computer, workstation, or device on a network.
Noise	A noise is an extraneous, unwanted signal, often over an analog phone line, that can cause communication interference or transmission errors. Possible sources are fluorescent lighting, radios, TVs, or bad wiring.
Noisy Line	A noisy line is a reduction in line quality due to disturbances on the line, such as crackling noise that is caused by lines bumping against one another in the wind.
Non-Memory-Resident Virus	A non-memory-resident virus is terminated when the host program is closed. It is the opposite of a memory-resident virus.
Nonparity Memory	Nonparity memory is 8-bit memory without error checking, used on Macs and recently in DOS PCs.
Nonvolatile Memory	Nonvolatile memory is not lost when power is removed, such as that etched into ROM chips.
Normal Backup	Normal backup is a full backup that sets the archive attributes of all files and folders it backs up so that later backups can sense that a current backup exists.
Normal Mode	Normal mode is the traditional method of accessing a hard drive by which the BIOS reads and writes to hard drives by addressing the correct cylinder, head, and sector. *See* **CHS**.
Norton Disk Doctor	Norton Disk Doctor, or NDD, is a third-party utility designed to automatically repair many hard disk and floppy disk problems, including those in the drive's boot sector, FAT, and data areas.
Notepad	Notepad is a text editor that comes with Windows. It is used for creating and editing text files.
NT Hardware Qualifier	The NT Hardware Qualifier is a utility found on the Windows NT installation CD-ROM that examines the system to determine if all hardware present qualifies for Windows NT.
NT Loader	*See* **Ntldr**.

NT Virtual DOS Machine	An NT virtual DOS machine, or NTVDM, is an emulated environment in which a 16-bit DOS application or a Windows 3.x application resides within Windows NT with its own memory space or WOW (Win 16 application on a Win 32 platform). *See* **WOW**.
NTFS	*See* **Windows NT File System**.
Ntldr	Ntldr is the Windows NT component that loads the operating system on Intel-based systems.
NTSC	The NTSC, or National Television Standards Committee, is an organization that sets standards for devices such as video-capturing cards.
NTVDM	*See* **NT Virtual DOS Machine**.
Null Modem Cable	*See* **Modem-Eliminator**.
Nuts & Bolts	Nuts & Bolts by Helix Software, Co. is a comprehensive package of utilities including data recovery, security, system monitoring, and hard drive clean-up.

O

Object Linking	Object linking is a method by which the user can be in one application and execute a command on an object created by another application, causing the application that created the object to load.
Octet	Octet is a traditional term for each of the four 8-bit numbers that make up an IP address. For example, the IP address 206.96.103.114 has four octets.
ODBC Software	*See* **Open Database Connectivity Software**.
Ohm	An ohm is the standard unit of measurement for electrical resistance. Resistors are rated in ohms.
On-Board BIOS	On-board BIOS are the basic input/output system services found on a supporting circuit board such as a controller card.
On-Board Ports	On-board ports are ports that are directly on the systemboard, such as a built-in keyboard port or an on-board serial port.
Open Database Connectivity Software	Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) software is a front-end application in which a client passes a request to update or query a database on the server. The ODBC back-end version of the software processes the request on the dedicated server and returns an answer to the client.
Open Systems Interconnect	Open Systems Interconnect (OSI) is a seven-layer (Application, Presentation, Session, Transport, Network, Data Link, Physical) model of communications supported by a network. OSI refers to software and firmware only.
Operating System	An operating system is a program that controls a computer's input and output operations, such as saving files and managing memory. Windows, OS/2, Mac OS, and UNIX are examples of operating systems.
Operating System Format	A high-level format. *See* **High-Level Format**.
OSI	*See* **Open Systems Interconnect**.

Out-of-band Signaling	Out-of-band signaling is a flow control method that uses electrical signals, sent from a PC to the modem, to stop receiving data.
Out-Of-Band Signaling	Out-of-band signaling is the type of signaling used by hardware flow control that sends a message to pause transmission by using channels (or bands) not used for data.

P

P8 Connector	The P8 connector is a power connection to the systemboard. It has six leads, two of which are ground leads.
P9 +12V Wire	A P9 +12V wire is a wire that carries the P9 +12V current from the power supply.
P9 +5V Wire	A P9 +5V wire is a wire that carries the P9 +5V current from the power supply.
P9 Connector	The P9 connector is a power connection to the systemboard. It has six leads, two of which are ground leads.
Packet	Packets are network segments of data that include headers, destination addresses, and trailer information.
Packet Internet Groper	Packet Internet Groper, or PING, is a diagnostic tool for either Windows 95 or Windows NT that tests connectivity. PING sends a signal to a remote PC. If the remote PC is online to the network and hears the signal, it will respond.
Page	A page is a 4K segment of memory space. Each memory address is divided into 1,048,576 pages. These addresses exist even though the physical memory isn't available.
Page	A page is memory allocated in 4K or 16K segments within a page frame.
Page Command (/P)	Use this MEM command to pause after each screen of information.
Page Fault	A page fault is a program interrupt that occurs when an application requests data or instructions stored in virtual memory.
Page Frame	A page frame is a 64K upper memory area divided into four equal-size pages through which the memory manager swaps data.
Page-In	Page-in is the process by which the memory manager goes to the hard drive to return the data from a swap file to RAM.

Page-Out	Page-out is the process in which, when RAM is full, the memory manager takes a page and moves it to the swap file.
Parallel Configuration Section	Use the Parallel Configuration section of the CMOS setup to make adjustments to the parallel port settings.
Parallel Port	A parallel port is a female port on the computer that can transmit data in parallel, 8 bits at a time, and is usually used with a printer. The DOS names for parallel ports are LPT1 and LPT2.
Parent Directory	A parent directory is a directory that contains other directories in a hierarchical structure.
Parity	Parity is an error-checking scheme in which the bits in a byte are added to determine the value of a ninth, or "parity," bit. The value of the parity bit is set to either 0 or 1 to provide an even number of 1s for even parity or an odd number of 1s for odd parity.
Parity Error	Parity error is an error that occurs when the number of 1s in the byte is not in agreement with the expected number.
Parity Generator Chip	A parity generator chip is a fake parity chip designed to simulate parity checking so that the user can use less expensive nonparity memory modules on a systemboard that expects parity memory. *See* **Fake Parity Chip**.
Parity Memory	Parity memory is nine-bit memory in which the ninth bit is used for error checking. Older DOS PCs almost always use parity chips.
Partition Table	A partition table is written at the very beginning of a hard drive and describes the number and location of all partitions and identifies the boot partition.
Passive Network	A passive network, such as Ethernet, is one in which the computers, not dedicated network devices, drive the signals over the network.
Paste Command	Use the Paste command to insert a file or portion of a file from the Clipboard into the current location.

PATH Command	A PATH command is a DOS command that tells the operating system where to look for executable files. For example, the PATH command in an AUTOEXEC.BAT file might be PATH C:\DOS;C:\WINDOWS, which tells the operating system to look for executable files first in the DOS directory and then in the Windows directory.
PC Card	A PC card, also called a PCMCIA (Personal Computer Memory Card International Association) card, is a credit-card-size adapter card that can be slid into a slot on the side of many notebook computers and used for connection to modems, networks, and CD-ROM drives.
PC Card Slot	A PC card slot, also called a PCMCIA (Personal Computer Memory Card International Association) card slot, is an expansion slot on a notebook computer, into which a PC card is inserted.
PC-Compatible	A PC-compatible computer uses an Intel (or compatible) processor and can run DOS and/or Windows OS.
PCI Bus	PCI, or peripheral component interconnect, buses are common on Pentium computers that run at speeds of up to 33 MHz, with a 32-bit-wide data path.
PCI Expansion Card	A PCI expansion card fits into a 32- or 64- bit expansion slot on the systemboard and allows the CPU to communicate with peripheral devices through the PCI bus.
PCI Expansion Slot	PCI (peripheral component interconnect) expansion slots are found on most Pentium systemboards. They can accept 32- or 64-bit adapter cards, and they allow the card to interface with the PCI bus.
PCM	*See* **Pulse Code Modulation**.
PCMCIA Card	*See* **PC Card**.
PCMCIA Card Slot	*See* **PC Card Slot**.
PD Optical Drives	*See* **Phase-Dual Drives**.
PDC	*See* **Primary Domain Controller**.

Peripheral Component Interconnect Bus	*See* **PCI Bus**.
Peripheral Component Interconnect Expansion Slot	*See* **PCI Expansion Slot**.
Peripheral Devices	Peripheral devices, such as the monitor, printer, and mouse, are attached to a computer to enhance its capabilities. They are also known as input/output devices.
Phase-Dual Drives	Phase-dual or PD optical drives are a type of optical hard drive that is rewritable and may store several gigabytes of data, yet can also read traditional CD-ROMs.
Phone Number Dialog Box	Use the phone number dialog box to enter the number to be dialed by the modem and to set dialing properties.
Physical Layer	The Physical layer is the OSI layer that is responsible for interfacing with the network media (cabling).
PIF	*See* **Program Information File**.
PING	*See* **Packet Internet Groper**.
PING Command	The PING command, which stands for packet Internet groper, tests connectivity. The command sends a signal to a remote PC, if it is online, it responds.
Pipeline Burst Cache	The pipeline burst cache is the most common cache on systemboards today. It is slightly slower than other types of cache, but is also less expensive.
Pipelined Burst SRAM	Pipelined burst SRAM is a less-expensive SRAM that uses more clock cycles per transfer than nonpipelined burst SRAM, but does not significantly slow down the process.
Pipelining	Pipelining is a process that allows a CPU to begin processing a new instruction as soon as the preceding instruction moves to the next stage, thus providing faster throughput.

Pits	Pits are recessed areas on the surface of a compact disc, separating lands. Lands and pits represent data as either a 0 or a 1.
Pixels	Pixels are small dots on a fine horizontal scan line that are illuminated to create an image on a monitor.
Platter	The platter is the storage area of a hard drive. It consists of a round metallic plate covered with a magnetic substance that can record and play back data.
Plug-And-Play	Plug-and-Play, or PnP, is a technology in which the operating system and BIOS are designed to automatically configure new hardware devices to eliminate system resource conflicts, such as IRQ and port conflicts.
Plug-And-Play BIOS	Plug-and-Play BIOS is the basic input/output system for Plug-and-Play devices that are designed to be automatically recognized by the computer upon installation.
PnP	*See* **Plug-And-Play**.
Point-To-Point Protocol	*See* **PPP**.
Polling	Polling is a process by which a CPU checks the status of connected devices to determine if they are ready to send or receive data.
Polymorphic Virus	A polymorphic virus changes its distinguishing characteristics as it replicates itself. Mutations make it more difficult for AV software to recognize the viral presence.
Port	A port is a physical connector at the back of a computer that allows a cable from a peripheral device, such as a printer, mouse, or modem, to be attached.
Port Settings	Port settings are the configuration parameters of communications devices such as COM1, COM2, or COM3, including IRQ settings.

Port Speed	Port speed is the communication speed between a DTE (computer) and a DCE (modem). As a general rule, the port speed should be about four times as fast as the modem speed.
Portable Operating System Interface	Portable operating system interface, or POSIX, is a set of standards adopted to allow operating systems (such as UNIX and NT) and their applications to port from one platform to another.
POSIX	*See* **Portable Operating System Interface**.
POST	The POST, or power-on self test, is a self-diagnostic program used to perform a simple test of the CPU, RAM, and various I/O devices. The POST is performed when the computer is first turned on.
Power Conditioners	Power conditioners are line conditioners that regulate, or condition, the power, providing continuous voltage during brownouts.
Power Connector	The power connector is the plug that connects the power cable that supplies power to the floppy drive.
Power Supply	The power supply is a box inside the computer case that supplies power to the systemboard and other installed devices. Power supplies normally provide between 5 and 12 volts DC.
Power-On Self-Test	*See* **POST**.
PPP	PPP, or point-to-point protocol, is a common way that PCs with modems can connect to an internet. The Windows Dial-Up Networking utility, found under My Computer, uses PPP.
PPP (Point-to-Point Protocol)	PPP, or point-to-point protocol, is a common way that PCs with modems can connect to an internet. The Windows Dial-Up Networking utility, found under My Computer, uses PPP.
Presentation Layer	The Presentation layer is an OSI layer that compresses and decompresses data and interfaces with the Application layer and the Session layer.
Preventative Maintenance Plan	A Preventative Maintenance Plan is a written list of routine maintenance tasks to be performed on a particular computer to keep it running at optimal performance.

Preview Button	Use the Preview button to see what a screen saver looks like when it is activated.
Primary Cache	*See* **Internal Cache**.
Primary DNS	The DNS (Domain Name System) provides a naming system for TCP/IP hosts. The primary DNS is the server address that the networking will try to use first.
Primary Domain Controller	The primary domain controller, or PDC, is the computer that controls the directory database of user accounts, group accounts, and computer accounts on a Windows NT domain.
Primary Storage	Primary storage is RAM located on the systemboard that holds both data and programming instructions that the CPU processes.
Print Services	Print services refers to sharing printers across a network.
Printer	A printer is the peripheral output device that produces printed output to paper. Different types of printers include dot matrix, ink-jet, and laser. The printed output is often called hard copy.
Printer Driver	A printer driver is a device driver that controls how the operating system communicates with the printer.
Printer Installation Dialog Box	Use the printer installation dialog box to select and install the current system printer in Windows.
Process	A process is an executing instance of a program and its resources. There can be more than one process running for a program at the same time. One process for a program happens each time the program is loaded into memory or is executed.
Product ID Text Box	Use the Product ID text box to enter the registration number for Windows 95.
Profile	A profile is a special file with a *.usr file extension that contains information about which desktop configuration, sound, color, and resources should be made available to a particular user. The administrator can modify a user profile or group profile to control the types of changes a user can make to his or her environment, including the ability to install or configure software or hardware.

Program	A program is a set of step-by-step instructions to a computer. Some are burned directly into chips, while others are written in languages such as BASIC or C++.
Program Group Option	Select the Program Group option in the New Program Object dialog box to create a new program group.
Program Group Properties Dialog Box	Use the Program Group Properties dialog box to name and select other options for the new program group.
Program Groups	Program groups are graphical representations found in the Program Manager window that represent categories or groups of applications. The standard program groups in Windows 3.x are Main, Accessories, Games, and StartUp.
Program Information File	A program information file, or PIF, is a file used by a DOS application that describes the environment the DOS program uses.
Program Jump	A program jump is an instruction that causes control to be sent to a memory address other than the next sequential address.
Properties Button	Use the Properties button on the Device Manager card of the System Properties dialog box to view and change the settings for the selected device.
Proprietary	Proprietary refers to a situation where a company has exclusive rights to manufacture and/or market a product. Proprietary computer hardware or software is designed to operate in a particular environment, and it will not function under other conditions.
Protected Mode	Protected mode is used by 80286 and newer systems that can address more than 1 MB of memory. It controls memory addresses that a program can access. (Windows 95 runs in protected mode.)
Protocol	Protocol is a set of pre-established rules for communication. Examples of protocols are modem parity settings and the way in which header and trailer information in a data packet is formatted.

Pulse Code Modulation	Pulse code modulation, or PCM, is a method of sampling sound, in a reduced, digitized format, by recording differences between successive digital samples instead of their full values.

Q

Quarter-Inch Cartridge	*See* **Quarter-Inch Committee**.
Quarter-Inch Committee	Quarter-Inch Cartridge Drive Standards (QIC), or quarter-inch cartridge, is a standardized method used to write data to tape. Backups made with the Windows 95 System Tools Backup utility have a *.QIC extension.

R

RAID	RAID, or Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks or Redundant Array of Independent Disks, refers to several methods of configuring multiple hard drives to store data to increase logical volume size and improve performance, and so that if one hard drive fails, the data is still available from another hard drive.
Rails	Rails are used to fill space when installing a device into a bay that is larger than the device.
RAM	RAM, or random access memory, is temporary memory stored on chips or modules such as SIMMs inside the computer. Information in RAM disappears when the computer's power is turned off.
RAM Drive	A RAM drive is a memory area configured as a virtual hard drive, such as drive D, so that frequently used programs can be accessed faster. It is the reverse of virtual memory.
RAM Slots	Use RAM slots to connect random access memory modules.
Random Access Memory	*See* **RAM**.
RARP	*See* **Reverse Address Resolution Protocol**.
RD Or RMDIR Command	The RD or RMDIR command is a DOS command to remove an unwanted directory; for example, RD C:\OLDDIR. The user must delete all files in the directory before using this command.
Read/write Heads	The read/write heads of a hard drive are small electromagnets that read, write, and erase data on a hard drive or other secondary storage device.
Read-Only Memory Chips	*See* **ROM Chips**.
Real Mode	Real mode is used by older 8088 systems whereby the CPU can only address 1 MB of memory, and DOS programs can access memory addresses that may be used by other programs.

RECOVER Command	The RECOVER command is a DOS command that recovers files that were lost because of a corrupted file allocation table.
Rectifier	A rectifier is a device that converts alternating current to direct current.
Reduced Instruction Set Computer Chips	*See* **RISC Chips**.
Reduced Write Current	A reduced write current is a method whereby less current is used to write data to tracks near the center of the disk, where the bits are closer together.
Redundant Array Of Inexpensive Disks	*See* **RAID**.
Refresh	Refresh is the process of periodically rewriting the data on dynamic RAM.
Refresh Rate	The refresh rate, or vertical scan rate, is the time it takes for the electronic beam to fill the screen with lines from top to bottom.
Registration Database	A registration database is a Windows 3.x database used to store configuration information. REGEDIT loads REG.DAT and displays a list of applications that Windows has registered.
Re-Marked Chips	Re-marked chips have been used and returned to the factory, marked again, and sent out. The surface of the chips may be dull or scratched.
Remember Password	Select the Remember password check box if you want the software to remember your password the next time you log on.
Remote Control	Remote control is the act of controlling a computer or other device from a remote location; for example, when a person controls a computer from another computer connected by a phone line.
Removable Drives	Removable drives are high-capacity drives, such as Zip or Jaz drives, that have disks that can be removed like floppy disks.
REN Command	Use the REN command to change the name of a file.

Repeater	A repeater is a device that amplifies weakened signals on a network.
Report Information Dialog Box	Use the Report Information dialog box to select options for printing MSD information about the computer's configuration.
Rescue Disk	A rescue disk can be used to start up a computer when the hard drive fails to boot.
Resistance	Resistance is the degree to which a device opposes or resists the flow of electricity. As the electrical resistance increases, the current decreases. *See* **Ohm** and **Resistor**.
Resistor	A resistor is an electronic device that opposes the flow of electricity. It can be used to reduce the amount of electricity being supplied to an electronic component.
Resolution	Resolution is the sharpness of a printed or displayed image. The resolution is determined by the number of elements making up the image.
Resource Arbitrator	A resource arbitrator is a Plug-and-Play component that decides which resources are assigned to which devices.
Resource Management	Resource management is the Plug-and-Play process of allocating resources to devices at startup.
Resources Card	Use the Resources card in a device's Properties dialog box to view the system resources that the device is using and to determine if there are any other devices trying to use the same resources.
Retension	Retension is a tape maintenance procedure that fast forwards and then rewinds the tape to eliminate loose spots.
Retraining	Retraining occurs when a phone line is noisy and causes data to become corrupted. The modem sounds as if the handshaking has restarted, but actually the sending and receiving modems are trying to compensate for the noisy line.
Reverse Address Resolution Protocol	Reverse Address Resolution Protocol, or RARP, translates the unique hardware NIC addresses into IP addresses (the reverse of ARP).

RISC Chips	RISC, or reduced instruction set computer, chips incorporate only the most frequently used instructions so that the computer operates faster; for example, the PowerPC uses RISC chips.
Roaming Users	Roaming users can move from PC to PC within a Windows NT network, having their profiles following them.
ROM	ROM, or read-only memory, is memory permanently stored on chips or modules inside the computer. ROM cannot be changed once it is programmed.
ROM Chips	ROM, or read-only memory, chips contain programming code and cannot be erased.
Root Directory	The root directory is the main directory on a disk (often represented as C:\ on a hard drive), which typically contains other directories, such as Windows and MSOffice.
Route Discovery	Route discovery occurs when a router rebuilds its router tables on the basis of new information.
Router	A router is a device or box that connects networks. A router transfers a packet to other networks only when the packet is addressed to a station outside its network. The router can make intelligent decisions as to which network is the best route to use to send data to a distant network. *See* **Bridge**.
Router Tables	Router tables are tables of network addresses that include the best possible routes (regarding tick count and hop count) to these networks. *See* **Tick Count** and **Hop Count**.
RS-232	A serial port conforms to the standard interface called RS-232c (Reference Standard 232 revision c) and is sometimes called the RS-232 port. This interface standard originally called for 25 pins, but since microcomputers use only nine of those pins, a modified, 9-pin port was installed by the manufacturer. Today, some computers have a 9-pin serial port and some have a 25-pin serial port, or both. Both ports work the same way. The 25-pin port uses only nine pins—the other pins are unused.
Run Dialog Box	The Run dialog box allows you to directly enter commands to run in Windows 3.x.

Runs	Runs are the clusters where data is moved if it does not fit in the master file table in Windows NT.
Runtime Configuration	Runtime configuration is a Plug-and-Play ongoing process that monitors changes in system devices, such as the removal of a PC Card on a notebook computer or the docking of a notebook computer to a docking station.

S

Safe Mode	The Safe mode is the mode in which Windows 95 is loaded with minimum configuration and drivers in order to allow the correction of system errors. To enter Safe mode, press F8 when "Starting Windows 95" is displayed.
SAM Database	The SAM, or security accounts manager, database is a portion of the Windows NT registry that manages the account database that contains accounts, policies, and other pertinent information about the domain. SAM is also known as the directory database.
Sample Size	Sample size refers to samples taken when converting a signal from analog to digital. Sample size is a measure of the amount of storage allocated to storing a single measurement of a single sample. The larger the sample size, the more accurate the value and the larger the file sizes that are needed to store the data.
Sampling	Sampling is part of the process of converting sound or video from analog to digital format, whereby a sound wave or image is measured at uniform time intervals and saved as a series of smaller representative blocks. *See* **Sampling Rate**.
Sampling Rate	The sampling rate is taken of an analog signal over a period of time, usually expressed as samples per second or Hertz. For example, 44,100 Hz is the sampling rate used for 16-bit stereo.
Save As Dialog Box	Use the Save As dialog box to name and save a file.
SCAM	SCAM, or SCSI configuration automatically, is a method in which SCSI devices and the host adapter are Plug-and-Play-compliant, and the user does not need to manually set the ID on the device.
ScanDisk	Use the ScanDisk utility to check disks for errors in the file allocation table, or in the directory system, or for physical errors on the disk surface.
Scanning Mirror	A scanning mirror is a component of a laser printer. It is an octagonal mirror that can be directed in a sweeping motion to cover the entire length of a laser printer drum.

Screen Saver	A screen saver is software that is activated when the computer is completely inactive for a specified period of time. After the time has passed, the screen becomes either blank, or filled with some form of animation.
SCSI	SCSI, or small computer system interface, is a faster system-level interface with a host adapter and a bus that can daisy-chain as many as seven other devices.
SCSI BIOS Setup Program	Use the SCSI BIOS setup program to configure the SCSI host adapter's I/O addresses, SCSI IDs and other settings based on the versatility of the particular program.
SCSI Bus	A SCSI bus is a faster bus standard used for peripheral devices tied together in a daisy chain.
SCSI Bus Adapter Chip	The SCSI bus adapter chip is the chip mounted on the logic board of a hard drive that allows the drive to be a part of a SCSI bus system.
SCSI Cable	A SCSI cable is used to connect SCSI devices in a SCSI chain.
SCSI Chain Conflict	A SCSI chain conflict occurs when devices controlled by the host adapter have been set to the same ID address.
SCSI Configuration Automatically	*See* **SCAM**.
SCSI Conflict	A SCSI conflict is created when two or more devices on a SCSI chain have the same SCSI ID.
SCSI Controller	The SCSI controller selection in the Device Manager shows which SCSI device drivers have been installed.
SCSI Drive	A SCSI drive is designed to work in a SCSI chain controlled by a SCSI host adapter.
SCSI Drivers	SCSI drivers are programs that allow SCSI devices to communicate.
SCSI Host Adapter	A SCSI host adapter is used to communicate between the computer and the devices in a SCSI chain.
SCSI ID	*See* **Logical Unit Number**.

SCSI-1	SCSI-1 is the oldest SCSI bus standard, established in 1986. It requires an 8-bit parallel bus with optional parity checking.
SCSI-2	SCSI-2 is an improved version of SCSI-1 with several new features and options. However, the additional features will be ignored by SCSI-1 devices.
Secondary DNS	The secondary DNS is the server address that the networking will try to use if the primary DNS was not successful.
Secondary Storage	Secondary storage refers to devices such as hard drives and floppy disks that are found in locations remote from the CPU.
Security Accounts Manager Database	*See* **SAM Database**.
Segmentation	Segmentation means to split a large Ethernet into smaller segments that are connected to one another by bridges or routers. This is done to prevent congestion as the number of nodes increases.
Select A Name For The Shortcut Text Box	Use the Select a name for the shortcut text box to enter the name for the shortcut.
Select A Title For The Program Dialog Box	Use the Select a Title for the Program dialog box to select a name for the shortcut.
Select Device Dialog Box	Use the select device dialog box to choose the type of device to install.
Select Files To Back Up List	Use the Select File To Back Up list to specify the files to be backed up.
Select Network Client Dialog Box	Use the Select Network Client dialog box to begin selecting and installing a network client.
Select Network Component Type Dialog Box	Use the Select Network Component Type dialog box to begin selecting and installing a network component.
Select Network Protocol Dialog Box	Use the select network protocol dialog box to choose the appropriate protocol needed to by the dial-up network.

Select Program Folder Dialog Box	Use the Select Program Folder dialog box to select the folder into which you want a menu shortcut to appear.
Sequential Access	Sequential access is a method of data access used by tape drives whereby data is written or read sequentially from the beginning to the end of the tape or until the desired data is found.
Serial Configuration Section	Use the Serial Configuration section of the CMOS setup to make adjustments to the serial port settings.
Serial Devices	Serial devices send and receive data one bit at a time.
Serial Line Internet Protocol	*See* **SLIP**.
Serial Mouse	A serial mouse uses a serial port and has a female DB-9 plug.
Serial Port Conflict	A serial port conflict is an error that occurs when two or more serial devices are configured to use the same COM port.
Serial Ports	Serial ports are male ports on the computer used for transmitting data serially, one bit at a time. They are commonly used for modems and mice, and in DOS are called COM1 or COM2.
Server Type Card	Use the server type card to choose the desired server and to set any advanced options. The protocols allowed by the connection can also be set from this card.
Session Layer	The Session layer is the OSI layer that makes and manages a connection between two nodes of the network.
Set Up Applications Dialog Box	Use the set up applications dialog box to configure application information during the Windows installation.
Setup Wizard	The Setup Wizard lets you work through a series of dialog boxes to complete the Windows 95 installation.

Setuplog.txt	The Setuplog.txt file records all essential and pertinent information that it will need to successfully complete an installation of Windows 95.
SETVER.EXE	The SETVER.EXE program is used to make DOS provide the correct system for applications that are written for older versions of DOS.
SGRAM	SGRAM, or Synchronous Graphics RAM, is memory designed specifically for the video card processing that can synchronize itself with the CPU bus clock.
Shadow RAM	Shadow RAM, or shadowing ROM, is ROM programming code copied into RAM to speed up the system operation, because of the faster access speed of RAM.
Shadowing ROM	*See* **Shadow RAM**.
Short Circuit	A short circuit is a side circuit of very low resistance connecting two points in an electric circuit of higher resistance so that most of the current is diverted through this side circuit. It is also known as a short.
Shortcut	A shortcut is an icon that points to a program or document existing elsewhere on the system. Clicking the icon will launch the program or open the appropriate folder or window.
Shortcut Menu	Use a shortcut menu to choose from commonly used commands. Shortcut menus are context-sensitive and vary depending on where they are opened. These menus are opened by clicking the right mouse button.
Shut Down Command	Use the Shut Down command to begin shutting down a computer with Windows 95.
Shut Down Option	Select the Shut Down option in the Shut Down Windows dialog box to shut down a computer in Windows 95.
Signal-Regenerating Repeater	A signal-regenerating repeater “reads” the signal on a network and then creates an exact duplicate of the signal, thus amplifying the signal without also amplifying unwanted noise that is mixed with the signal.
SIMD	*See* **Single Instruction Multiple Data**.

SIMM	A SIMM, or single in-line memory module, is a miniature circuit board that is used in newer computers in place of traditional RAM chips. At this writing a SIMM holds 4 to 64 MB on a single module.
Simple Mail Transfer Protocol	*See* **SMTP**.
Single In-Line Memory Module	*See* **SIMM**.
Single Instruction Multiple Data	Single instruction multiple data (SIMD) is an MMX process that allows the CPU to execute a single instruction simultaneously on multiple pieces of data rather than by repetitive looping.
Single Threading	Single threading occurs when an application is not expecting both processes to be performed at the same time, but simply passes one request followed by another.
Single Voltage CPU	A single voltage CPU requires one voltage for both internal and I/O operations.
Single-Ended SCSI Device	A single-ended SCSI device uses half the number of wires in the cable that a differential device uses and is limited in cable length.
Skip Tutorial Button	Use the Skip Tutorial button on the Windows Setup dialog box to select to skip the Windows tutorial.
Slave	A slave drive is a drive that is not bootable in a master/slave configuration.
Slave	The slave hard drive is the second drive in a dual hard drive system. The computer will never boot from this drive.
Sleep Mode	Sleep mode is used in many “green” computers allowing them to be programmed through CMOS to suspend the monitor or even the drive if the keyboard and/or CPU have been inactive for a set number of minutes.
SLIP	SLIP, or Serial Line Internet Protocol, is an early version of line protocol that was designed for home users connecting to the Internet. SLIP lacks reliable error checking and has mostly been replaced by PPP.

Slot	A slot is a socket on the systemboard into which adapter boards or interface cards can be installed.
Small Computer System Interface	*See* **SCSI**.
SmartDrive	A SmartDrive is a hard drive cache program that comes with Windows 3.x and DOS that can be executed as a TSR from the AUTOEXEC.BAT file.
SMTP	SMTP, or Simple Mail Transfer Protocol, is a common protocol used to send e-mail across a network.
Socket	A socket is a virtual connection from one computer to another such as that between a client and a server. Higher-level protocols such as HTTP use a socket to pass data between two computers. A socket is assigned a number for the current session, which is used by the high-level protocol.
Soft Boot	A soft boot is performed when you press the Reset button or [CTRL+ALT+DEL]. The POST process doesn't occur during a soft boot.
Software	Software are computer programs or instructions that are used to perform a specific task. Software can be operating systems or applications software, such as a word-processing or spreadsheet program.
Software Cache	Software cache is a disk cache that is stored on the hard drive as software and uses RAM to hold the cache. It is usually loaded into memory as a TSR.
Software Copyrights	Software copyrights are legal concepts (covered by the Federal Copyright Act of 1976) that encompass the protection of the rights of an originator of a creative work, which includes software. With the exception of archival backups, copyrighted programs are illegal to copy without authorization from the copyright holder.
Software License Agreement Dialog Box	Use the Software License Agreement dialog box to view the software license and accept the terms of the license agreement.
Software Piracy	Software piracy is making unauthorized copies of original copyrighted software.

Sound Card	A sound card is a peripheral that enables the system to play or record sound files.
Sound Recorder	Sound Recorder is a Windows application that is used to record and play sounds.
Sound, Video and Game Controller Option	The Sound, Video, and Game Controller option is a new hardware wizard option to guide the user through the installation of a new sound card, video controller card, or game card to the system.
SRAM	*See* **Static RAM**.
Stack	A stack is a place in memory where information, such as addresses of pending tasks for the CPU, is kept.
Standard Mode	In Standard Mode, Windows does not try to run more than one DOS application at a time allowing the DOS application to use all of the computer's resources. The DOS application can only run in a full-screen display. Compare to **386 Enhanced Mode**.
Standby Time	Standby time is the time before a "green" system will reduce 92% of its activity.
Standby UPS	Standby UPS quickly switches from an AC power source to a battery-powered source during a brownout or outage.
Standoffs	Standoffs are small plastic spacers placed on the bottom of the main systemboard that are used to raise it off the chassis so that its components will not short out on the metal case.
Star Network Architecture	Star network architecture is a network design in which nodes are connected at a centralized location.
Start Bit	A start bit is used to signal the approach of data.
Start Button	Use the Start button on the Taskbar to open the Start menu.
Start Menu	Use the Start menu to start an application, shut down the computer, get help, begin finding a file or application, or begin changing the computer's settings.
Startup Disk Dialog Box	Use the Startup Disk dialog box to select the option to create a startup disk during setup.

StartUp Group	Use the StartUp group to add programs that you want to automatically run when Windows 3.x is loaded.
Start-Up Password	The start-up password, or power-on password, is used during booting or startup. The computer will ask for the password. If the user does not enter it correctly, the booting process is terminated. The password is stored on the CMOS chip and is changed by accessing the setup screen.
Static Electricity	*See* **Electrostatic Discharge**.
Static IP Addresses	Static IP addresses are permanently assigned to a workstation. In Windows 95, this can be done under Dial-Up Networking, Server Type, or TCP/IP settings. The user will specify an IP address.
Static RAM	Static RAM, or SRAM, is RAM that retains information without being refreshed, as long as the power is on. SRAM is more expensive than traditional DRAM.
Static Routing	Static routing occurs when routing tables do not automatically change and must be manually edited. Windows NT and Windows 95 support only static routing.
Static Shielding Bags	Static shielding bags protect computer components from static electricity.
Stealth Virus	A stealth virus actively conceals itself by temporarily leaving an infected file that is about to be examined, and then hides a copy of itself elsewhere.
Stop Bit	A stop bit is used to signal the end of a block of data.
Subdirectory	A subdirectory is listed within another directory. It is also known as a child directory.
Subkey	A subkey is a portion of the Windows NT registry database that contains registry information. It is located within another key or subkey.

Subnet Mask	A subnet mask defines which portion of an IP address identifies the network and which portion identifies the host. A 1 in the mask indicates that the bit is part of the network address, and a 0 indicates that the bit is part of the host address. For example, the subnet mask 255.255.192.0, in binary, is 11111111.11111111.11000000.00000000. Therefore, the network address is the first two octets and the first two bits of the third octet. The rest of the IP address refers to the host.
Subnetworks Or Subnets	Subnetworks, or subnets, are divisions of a large network, consisting of smaller separate networks (to prevent congestion). Each subnetwork is assigned a logical network IP name.
Subsystems	Subsystems are modules that are responsible for specific aspects of interaction with applications and users.
Subtree	A subtree is one of five main keys that make up the Windows NT registry. Examples are HKEY_CURRENT_USER and HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE.
Suite	Suites are software packages that combine various business applications into one product. Suites usually include a word processor and spreadsheet program, and sometimes include a database management program, a presentation program, an e-mail package, or a World Wide Web browser application.
Summary Button	Use the Summary button to switch to the summary options from the Advanced options.
Surface Scan	A surface scan examines the surface of a disk for errors such as bumps and scratches.
Surge Suppressor	A surge suppressor is a device or power strip designed to protect electronic equipment from power surges and spikes. It is also known as a surge protector.
Suspend Time	Suspend time is the time before a “green” system will reduce 99% of its activity. After this time, the system needs a warm-up time so that the CPU, monitor, and hard drive can reach full activity.

Swap File	A swap file is that space of a hard drive used as virtual memory.
Swapping	Swapping is a method of freeing some memory by moving a "page" of data temporarily to a swap file on the hard drive; it can later be copied from disk back into memory.
Synchronous DRAM	Synchronous DRAM is more expensive than SIMM modules and can operate at various speeds, depending on the bus speed, whereas SIMMs only operate at a single speed.
Synchronous Graphics Ram	*See* **SGRAM**.
Synchronous SRAM	Synchronous SRAM is faster and more expensive than asynchronous SRAM. It requires a clock signal to validate its control signals, enabling the cache to run in step with the CPU.
System Backup	A system backup is a backup of all of the contents of a hard drive.
System BIOS	System BIOS, or basic input/output system, chips reside on the systemboard and control normal I/O to such areas as system memory and video display. It is also known as Motherboard BIOS.
System Burn-In	The system burn-in is when the computer remains powered-on for a period of 24 to 48 hours after it is built. Possible problems with defective computer components can usually be found in this time frame. If the computer runs successfully during this time, it is ready to be used.
System Clock	A system clock is located on a systemboard. It times the activities of the chips on the systemboard and ensures that all activities are performed in a synchronized fashion by providing a beat much like a metronome.
System Configuration Editor (Sysedit)	The System Configuration Editor is a Windows 3.x and Windows 95 utility that allows you to view and edit the CONFIG.SYS, AUTOEXEC.BAT, and .INI files.

System Configuration Worksheet	Use a system configuration worksheet to record CMOS settings before making changes or replacing the CMOS battery.
System Disk	A system disk has all the necessary files for booting and starting an operating system.
System Icon	Use the System icon in the Control Panel to open the System Properties dialog box.
System Partition	The system partition is the active partition of the hard drive that contains the boot record and the specific files required to load Windows NT.
System Properties Dialog Box	Use the System Properties dialog box to view and modify hardware settings on a computer.
System Variable	A system variable is a variable that has been given a name and a value; it becomes available to the operating system, Windows, and application software programs.
Systemboard	The systemboard, also called the motherboard, is the main board in the computer. The CPU, ROM chips, SIMMs, and interface cards are plugged into the systemboard.
Systemboard Mouse	A systemboard or bus mouse plugs directly into a port on the systemboard rather than using a serial port.

T

TAPI	*See* **Telephony Application Programming Interface**.
Taskbar	Use the Taskbar to open and switch between applications. By default it is located at the bottom of the Windows screen.
Taskbar Properties Dialog Box	Use the Taskbar Properties dialog box to select options for the Taskbar and Start menu.
TCP/IP	TCP/IP, or Transmission Control Protocol/ Internet Protocol, is the suite of protocols that was developed to support the Internet. TCP is responsible for error checking, and IP is responsible for routing.
TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/ Internet Protocol)	TCP/IP, or Transmission Control Protocol/ Internet Protocol, is the suite of protocols that was developed to support the Internet. TCP is responsible for error checking, and IP is responsible for routing.
Technical Documentation	Technical documentation refers to the technical reference manuals included with software packages and peripheral devices. They provide directions for installation, usage, and troubleshooting.
Telephony	Telephony is the technology of converting sound into signals that can travel over telephone lines.
Telephony Application Programming Interface	Telephony Application Programming Interface, or TAPI, is a standard developed by Intel and Microsoft that can be used by 32-bit Windows 95 communications programs for communicating over phone lines.
Telnet	Telnet provides a console session from a UNIX computer to a remote computer.
Temp Directory	A temp directory is a location to which inactive applications and data can be moved as a swap file, while Windows continues to process active applications.
Temporary File	A temporary file is created by Windows applications to save temporary data that may or may not be deleted when the application is unloaded or exited.

Terminal	Terminal is a Windows application that provides the ability to connect to another computer through a modem.
Terminal Window	The terminal window displays the activities performed in the terminal application.
Terminate And Stay Resident (TSR) Program	A terminate and stay resident program, called a TSR, is loaded into memory but is not immediately executed, such as a screen saver or a memory-resident antivirus program.
Terminate And Stay Resident Program	*See* **TSR Program**.
Terminating Resistor	A terminating resistor is added at the end of a SCSI chain to dampen the voltage at the end of the chain. *See* **Termination**.
Termination	Termination is a process that is necessary to prevent interference of data transmission caused by an echo effect of power at the end of a chain. *See* **Terminating Resistor**.
Text Editor	A text editor is a program used to create text files.
Text File	A text file contains text characters without any formatting information. Text files can be used to give instructions to the operating system.
Thermal Grease	Thermal grease is a special compound placed on processors to facilitate the transfer of heat from the top of the CPU to a heat sink.
Thread	A thread is a single task that a process requests from the kernel, such as the task of printing a file.
Tick Count	The tick count is the time required for a packet to reach its destination. One tick equals 1/18 of a second.
Tile Option	Use the Tile option to arrange all open windows on the screen so that you can see the contents of each of them at one time.
Time Zone	Use the Time Zone list box to select the time zone for the area you are located.

To Text Box	Use the To text box in the Move dialog box to enter the name of the directory to which you are moving files.
Token	A token is a small frame on a Token Ring network that constantly travels around the ring in only one direction. When a station seizes the token, it controls the channel until its message is sent.
Token Ring	A token ring is a network that is logically a ring, but stations are connected to a centralized multistation access unit (MAU) in a star formation. Network communication is controlled by a token.
Toner Cavity	A toner cavity is a container in a laser printer that is filled with toner. The black resin toner is used to form the printed image on paper.
Traces	Traces, or data paths, appear on the systemboard as lines on either the top or the bottom of the board.
Trailer	A trailer is the part of a packet that follows the data and contains information used by some protocols for error checking.
Transceiver	A transceiver is the bi-directional (transmitter and receiver) component on a NIC that is responsible for signal conversion and monitors for data collision.
Transfer Rate	The transfer rate, or data transfer rate, is the speed at which a disk drive can transfer information from the drive to the processor. This speed is usually measured in megabits or megabytes per second.
Transformer	A transformer is a device that converts AC to DC or DC to AC. A computer power supply is an example of a transformer.
Translation Methods	Translation methods convert or translate the addressing of sectors when the hard drive addressing system does not conform to what the System BIOS expects. For instance, if System BIOS expects a fixed number of sectors per track, but a hard drive has a variable number of sectors per track, then translation is used so that the System BIOS can access the hard drive correctly.
Transmission Control Protocol	*See* **TCP/IP**.

Transport Layer	The Transport layer is the OSI layer that verifies data and requests a re-send when the data is corrupted.
TREE Command	A TREE command is a DOS command that shows the disk directories in a graphical layout similar to a family tree; for example, TREE/F shows every filename in all branches of the tree.
Trojan Horse	A Trojan horse is a type of infestation that hides or disguises itself as a useful program, yet is designed to cause damage at a later time.
Troubleshooting	Six steps: Let the customer explain the problem; Search for answers; Develop a hypothesis; Test your theory; Resolve the problem and explain your changes to the customer; Complete proper documentation.
TSR Program	A TSR program, or terminate and stay resident program, is loaded into memory but is not immediately executed. Examples are a screen saver or a memory-resident anti-virus program.
Turbo Mode	Turbo mode is a means of doubling the clock speed by pressing a button on the case of some older computers. (Actually the turbo switch cuts the speed in half to run slower applications.)
Type Drop-down Menu	Use the Type drop-down menu in the New Setting section of the virtual memory dialog box to choose the type of swap file to be used.

U

UART Chip	A UART, or universal asynchronous receiver transmitter, is a chip that controls serial ports. It sets protocol and converts parallel data bits coming from the system bus into serial bits.
UDP	*See* **User Datagram Protocol**.
Ultra-SCSI	Ultra-SCSI, or Fast-20, or Fast SCSI, is a technology that offers 20 MB/sec burst transfers across 8-bit paths and 40 MB/sec burst transfers across wide 16-bit paths.
UMB	*See* **Upper Memory Block**.
UNDELETE Command	The UNDELETE command is a DOS command that retrieves previously deleted files, provided that their locations have not been written over.
UNFORMAT Command	The UNFORMAT command is a DOS command that performs recovery from an accidental FORMAT, and may also repair a damaged partition table if the partition table was previously saved with MIRROR/PARTN.
Unformatted Disk	An unformatted disk contains no files to prepare it to record data.
Uninterruptible Power Supply	*See* **UPS**.
Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS)	An uninterruptible power supply provides backup power to a computer system in the case of power failure.
Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter Chip	*See* **UART Chip**.
Universal Resource Locator	*See* **URL**.
Universal Serial Bus	The Universal serial bus, or USB, was developed by Intel Corporation and is intended to be used by low-volume I/O devices such as modems, joysticks, touch pads, trackballs, and mice.

Upper Memory	Upper memory is the memory addresses from 640K up to 1024K that were originally reserved for system BIOS, but which now are used for device drivers and TSRs.
Upper Memory Block	An upper memory block, or UMB, is a group of consecutive memory addresses in RAM from 640K to 1 MB that can be used by device drivers and TSRs.
UPS	A UPS, or Uninterruptible Power Supply, is a device designed to provide a backup power supply during a power failure. Basically, a UPS is a battery backup system with an ultrafast sensing device.
URL	A URL, or Universal Resource Locator, is the unique address that identifies the domain name, path, or filename of a World Wide Web site.
USB	*See* **Universal Serial Bus**.
User Account	The user account is the portion of Windows NT that includes the information, stored in the SAM database, which defines an NT user. This information includes the user's name, password, memberships, and rights.
User Datagram Protocol	User Datagram Protocol, or UDP, is a connectionless protocol that does not require a connection to send a packet and does not guarantee that the packet arrives at its destination.
User Documentation	User documentation refers to manuals, online documentation, instructions, and/or tutorials that are designed specifically for the user.
User Information Dialog Box	Use the User Information dialog box to enter the name and company registration information.
User Mode	User mode is the portion of Windows NT that provides an interface between the operating system and applications or users. User mode has access to hardware resources through the kernel mode.
User Name	The user name is the name by which you are recognized by an ISP or online service.

User Profile	The user profile is the portion of Windows NT that provides a personal profile about the user, which is kept in the NT registry. This enables the user's desktop settings and other operating parameters to be retained from one session to another.
Utility Software	Utility software are software packages, such as Nuts & Bolts, Norton Utilities, and PC Tools, that provide the means for data recovery and repair, virus detection, and the creation of backups.

V

V.34 Standard	The V.34 standard is a communications standard that transmits at 28,800 bps and/or 33,600 bps.
Value Data	Value data in Windows 95 and NT is the name and the value of a setting for a key in the registry.
VCACHE	VCACHE is a built-in Windows 95 32-bit software cache that doesn't take up conventional memory space or upper memory space, as SMARTDrive does.
VCN	*See* **Virtual Cluster Number**.
VDD	*See* **Virtual Device Drivers**.
Vector Table	*See* **I/O Address Table**.
VESA VL Bus	The VESA, or Video Electronics Standards Association, VL bus is used on 80486 computers for connecting 32-bit adapters directly to the local processor bus.
VFAT	*See* **Virtual File Allocation Table**.
Video Card	A video card is an interface card that is installed in the computer and used to control the monitor.
Video Controller Card	A video controller card is installed in the computer and used to control the monitor. This is another name for display adapter.
Video Driver	A video driver is a program that tells the computer how to effectively communicate with the video adapter card and monitor. It is often found on a disk that is shipped with the card.
Video Electronics Standards Association VL Bus	*See* **VESA VL Bus**.
Video Memory	Video memory is the microchips on a video card that hold the data that is being passed from the computer to the monitor. Higher resolution often requires more video memory.

Video RAM	Video RAM, or VRAM, is RAM on video cards that allows simultaneous access from both the input and output processes.
Video-Capturing Card	A video-capturing card is a multimedia card that can capture input video and convert the frames into motion files or still clips that can be stored on disk.
Virtual Cluster Number	A virtual cluster number, or VCN, is a 64-bit number assigned to the data run, or cluster, assigned to the file.
Virtual Device Drivers	Virtual device drivers, also known as VDD or VxD drivers, are programs that emulate the DOS device drivers for hardware devices in Windows 95 and Windows NT.
Virtual File Allocation Table	The virtual file allocation table, or VFAT, is a variation of the original DOS 16-bit FAT that allows long filenames used in Windows 95.
Virtual Machines	Virtual machines, or VM, are multiple logical machines created within one physical machine by Windows. This allows applications to make serious errors without disturbing other programs.
Virtual Memory	Virtual memory is hard disk space used as though it is RAM in order to increase total RAM in a system. Because hard drives are much slower than RAM access, virtual memory is relatively slow.
Virtual Memory Button	Use the virtual memory button in the 386 Enhanced window to open the virtual memory dialog box.
Virtual Memory Button	Use the virtual memory button in the 386 Enhanced window to open the virtual memory dialog box.
Virtual Memory Dialog Box	Use the virtual memory dialog box to set and make adjustments to virtual memory swap file.
Virtual Memory Dialog Box	Use the virtual memory dialog box to set and make adjustments to virtual memory swap file.
Virtual Memory Manager	The virtual memory manager is a Windows 95 or NT program that controls the page table. It swaps 4K pages in and out of physical RAM to and from the hard drive.

Virus	A virus is a program that often has an incubation period, is infectious, and is intended to cause damage or user annoyance. A virus program might destroy data and programs or damage a disk drive's boot sector.
Virus Hoax	A virus hoax is a letter or e-mail warning about a nonexistent virus.
Virus Signature	Virus signatures are the distinguishing characteristics or patterns of a particular virus. Typically, AV signature updates for new viruses can be downloaded monthly from the Internet.
VM	*See* **Virtual Machines**.
Voice/Data Capability	Voice/data capability is a modem feature that allows the modem to work as a telephone.
Volatile Memory	Volatile memory is dependent on a continuous power supply and is lost every time power to the computer is interrupted. It is called volatile because it is temporary.
Volt	A volt is a measure of the potential difference in electrical "pressure." One volt is the potential generated by 1 ampere of current flowing through 1 ohm of resistance. A computer power supply usually provides four separate voltages: +12V, -12V, +5V, and -5V.
Voltage	Voltage is a potential difference in electrical "pressure" that causes current to flow. This is measured in volts. *See* **Volt**.
Voltage Regulator Module Socket	A voltage regulator module socket, or VRM, converts the system power supply voltage to the voltage required by the CPU.
Voltmeter	A voltmeter is a device used for measuring electrical voltage.
Volume Label	A volume label is a name assigned to a disk by a user. It will be displayed on the first line of the directory listing.
VRAM	*See* **Video RAM**.

VRM Socket	*See* **Voltage Regulator Module Socket**.

W

Wait State	A wait state is a clock cycle during which the CPU doesn't process any instructions. It is used to ensure that the microprocessor isn't getting ahead of slower components. A 0-wait state means that the CPU doesn't have to wait for components to catch up and can process instructions continuously.
Wait Text Box	Use the Wait text box to set the number of minutes of inactivity that must occur before the screen saver utility runs.
Wallpaper	Wallpaper is a picture or a pattern that is shown on your Desktop behind all open windows and icons.
Watt	A watt is the unit that is used to measure power. A typical computer may use a power supply that provides 200 watts.
Wattage	Wattage is the measurement of the total amount of power that is needed to operate an electrical device.
WAV File	WAV files (called "wave" files) are Windows sound files that can be played or recorded using Sound Recorder or a similar application.
Wave Table	A wave table is a grouping of stored sample sounds used to synthesize sound by reconstructing the sound from digital data by using actual samples from real instruments.
Web Browser	A Web browser provides navigation of the Internet.
Welcome Dialog Box	The Welcome dialog box appears when you start Windows 95, presenting a Windows 95 tip of the day and providing access to the Window's Tour, What's New, Online Registration, and to view more tips.
Welcome Screen	The welcome screen offer a number of options for exploring Windows 95, including Windows Tour, What's New, Online Registration, Product Catalog, and a "Did you know" tip.
Welcome Screen	The welcome screen of an online service lets you know you are logged on and is a starting point for using available services.

Wide SCSI	Wide SCSI allows for 16- to 32-bit parallel data transfer. It has not become a standard.
Win 16 On Win 32	*See* **WOW**.
Window RAM	*See* **WRAM**.
Windows 3.x	Windows 3.x is an environment for your computer that uses a graphical user interface to send commands to DOS. It also simulates multitasking by letting you run more than one application at a time.
Windows 95	Windows 95 is a 32-bit, multitasking operating system with the capability to run many different applications.
Windows 95 Setup Dialog Box	Use the Windows 95 Setup dialog box to enter information needed by the Windows setup.
Windows Components Dialog Box	Use the Windows Components dialog box to select the Windows components to install or allow Setup to install the most common components.
Windows Custom Setup	The Windows custom setup option allows users define what Windows options they want to install.
Windows Explorer	Use Windows Explorer to see a graphical view of the file and folder structure on drives, create and remove folders, and move, copy, delete, and rename files.
Windows Express Setup	The Windows express setup option automatically installs the most commonly used Windows components.
Windows Internet Naming Service	The Windows Internet Naming Service, or WINS, is a Microsoft resolution service with a distributed database that tracks relationships between domain names and IP addresses. Compare to **DNS**.
Windows NT File System	The Windows NT file system, or NTFS, was first introduced with Windows NT. It provides improved security, disk storage, file compression, and long filenames.
Windows NT Registry	The Windows NT registry is a database containing all configuration information, including the user profile and hardware settings. The NT registry is not compatible with the Windows 95 registry.

Windows Setup Card	The Windows Setup card in the Add/Remove Properties dialog box is where you can view and select operating system components. Dial-Up Networking is an accessory of the Communications component.
Windows Setup Dialog Box	Use the Windows setup dialog box to enter information needed by the Windows setup.
WinGauge Window	WinGauge is a reporting tool that keeps track of Windows applications and alerts you to potential problems before they occur.
WinIPcfg	WinIPcfg is a Windows application that allows you to view your Ethernet adapter information.
WINS	*See* **Windows Internet Naming Service**.
Word Size	Word size is the unit of storage. A word can be 8, 16, 32, or 64 bits.
Workgroup	A workgroup, in Windows NT, is a logical group of computers and users in which administration, resources, and security are distributed throughout the network without centralized management or security.
WORM	A worm is an infestation designed to copy itself repeatedly to memory, on drive space, or on a network until little memory or disk space remains.
WOW	WOW, or Win 16 on Win32, is a group of programs provided by Windows NT to create a virtual DOS environment that emulates a 16-bit Windows environment, protecting the rest of the NT operating system from 16-bit applications.
WRAM	WRAM, or window RAM, is dual-ported video RAM that is faster and less expensive than VRAM. It has its own internal bus on the chip, as well as a data path that is 256 bits wide.
Write Precompensation	Write precompensation is a method whereby data is written faster to the tracks that are near the center of a disk.

X

XCOPY Command	The XCOPY command is a faster external DOS COPY program that can copy subdirectories; for example, XCOPY *.* A:/S will copy all files from the current directory, including subdirectories and their files, to drive A.

Y

YUV	YUV is a scheme of determining color by specifying brightness or luminance (Y), the color or hue (U), and the intensity or saturation (V).

Z

Zero Insertion Force Socket	*See* **ZIF Socket**.
ZIF Socket	A ZIF socket, or zero insertion force socket, is a chip socket that has a small locking lever attached to its side. If the lever is raised, the CPU can be easily lifted out of its socket.
Zip Drive	A tape drive is a secondary storage unit primarily used for backing up hard drives and networks.
Zone Bit Recording	Zone bit recording is used in some drive technologies, such as IDE. The number of sectors per track near the outer edge of the disk is greater than that near the center of the disk.