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Microsoft Press
**Computer
User's
Dictionary**

- **Clear, up-to-date definitions of the terms you need to know**
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traditional newsgroup hierarchy *n.* The seven standard newsgroup categories in Usenet: comp., misc., news., rec., sci., soc., and talk. Newsgroups can be added within the traditional hierarchy only following a formal voting process. *See also* comp. newsgroups, misc. newsgroups, newsgroup, news. newsgroups, rec. newsgroups, Request for Discussion, sci. newsgroups, soc. newsgroups, talk. newsgroups, Usenet. *Compare* alt. newsgroups.

traffic *n.* The load carried by a communications link or channel.

trailer *n.* Information, typically occupying several bytes, at the tail end of a block (section) of transmitted data, often containing a checksum or other error-checking data for confirming the accuracy and status of the transmission. *See also* checksum. *Compare* header (definition 2).

transaction *n.* A discrete activity within a computer system, such as an entry of a customer order or an update of an inventory item. Transactions are usually associated with database management, order entry, and other online systems.

transaction file *n.* A file that contains the details of transactions, such as items and prices on invoices. It is used to update a master database file. *See also* transaction. *Compare* master file.

transaction log *n.* *See* change file.

transaction processing *n.* A processing method in which transactions are executed immediately after they are received by the system. *Acronym:* TP. *See also* transaction. *Compare* batch processing (definition 3).

transceiver *n.* Short for **transmitter/receiver**. A device that can both transmit and receive signals. On LANs, a transceiver is the device that connects a computer to the network.

transceiver cable *n.* A cable used to connect a host adapter within a computer to a LAN. *See also* LAN.

transfer rate *n.* The rate at which a circuit or a communications channel transfers information from source to destination, as over a network or to and from a disk drive. Transfer rate is measured in units of information per unit of time—for example, bits per second or characters per second—and can be measured either as a raw rate, which is the maximum transfer speed, or as an average rate, which includes gaps between blocks of data as part of the transmission time.

transfer time *n.* The time elapsed between the start of a data transfer operation and its completion.

transform *vb.* **1.** To change the appearance or format of data without altering its content; that is, to encode information according to predefined rules. **2.** In computer graphics, to alter the position, size, or nature of an object by moving it to another location, making it larger or smaller (scaling), turning it (rotation), changing its description from one type of coordinate system to another, and so on.

transient *adj.* **1.** Fleeting, temporary, or unpredictable. **2.** Of or pertaining to the region of memory used for programs, such as applications, that are read from disk storage and that reside in memory temporarily until they are