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Microsoft

Computer Dictionary

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Acquisitions Editor: Alex Blanton

Project Editor: Sandra Haynes

Body Part No. X08-41929

Contributors

Peter Aiken
Bart Arenson
Janice Borzendowski
Jerome Colburn
Duane Hanson
Andrew Himes
Robert Howecton
Annette B. Jackson
Larry S. Jackson
Thomas A. Jackson
Chris Kinata
Ilana Kingsley
Robin Lombard
Thomas A. Long
William G. Madison

Thomas P. Magliery
David Mason
Terrence M. McLaren
Wallace Parker
Charles Petzold
Phil Rose
John Ross
David Rygmyr
Aimée Truchard
Michael Vose
Bruce Webster
Judson D. Weeks
Tom Winn
JoAnne Woodcock

Illustrators

Travis Beaven
David Holter
Alton Lawson

Rob Nance
Joel Panchot

X.25's error detection for the sake of speed. *See also* ATM (definition 1), X.25.

frame relay access device *n.* *See* frame relay assembler/disassembler.

frame relay assembler/disassembler *n.* A combination channel service unit/digital service unit (CSU/DSU) and router that connects an internal network to a frame relay connection. The device converts data (which may be in the form of IP packets or conform to some other network protocol) into packets for transmission over the frame relay network and converts such packets back to the original data. Since this type of connection is direct—without a firewall—other network protection is necessary. *Acronym:* FRAD. *See also* firewall, frame relay, IP.

frame source *n.* In the HTML frames environment, a contents document that will look for the source document to display within a frame drawn by the local browser. *See also* HTML.

frames page *n.* A Web page that divides a Web browser window into different scrollable areas that can independently display several Web pages. One window can remain unchanged, while the other windows change based on hyperlinks that the user selects.

frames per second *n.* *See* frame rate.

framework *n.* In object-oriented programming, a reusable basic design structure, consisting of abstract and concrete classes, that assists in building applications. *See also* abstract class, object-oriented programming.

FRC *n.* *See* functional redundancy checking.

fred *n.* **1.** An interface utility for X.500. *See also* CCITT X series. **2.** A placeholder string used by programmers in syntax examples to stand for a variable name. If a programmer has used *fred*, the next placeholder needed is likely to be *barney*. *Compare* foo.

free block *n.* A region (block) of memory that is not currently being used.

FreeBSD *n.* A freely distributed version of BSD UNIX (Berkeley Software Distribution UNIX) for IBM and IBM-compatible PCs. *See also* BSD UNIX.

free-form language *n.* A language whose syntax is not constrained by the position of characters on a line. C and Pascal are free-form languages; FORTRAN is not.

freenet or **free-net** *n.* A community-based computer BBS and Internet service provider, usually operated by volunteers and providing free access to subscribers in the community or access for a very small fee. Many freenets are operated by public libraries or universities. *See also* ISP.

free software *n.* Software, complete with source code, that is distributed freely to users who are in turn free to use, modify, and distribute it, provided that all alterations are clearly marked and that the name and copyright notice of the original author are not deleted or modified in any way. Unlike freeware, which a user might or might not have permission to modify, free software is protected by a license agreement. Free software is a concept pioneered by the Free Software Foundation in Cambridge, Massachusetts. *Compare* freeware, open source, public-domain software, shareware.

Free Software Foundation *n.* An advocacy organization founded by Richard Stallman, dedicated to eliminating restrictions on people's right to use, copy, modify, and redistribute computer programs for noncommercial purposes. The Free Software Foundation is the maintainer of GNU software, which is UNIX-like software that can be freely distributed. *See also* GNU.

free space *n.* Space on a floppy disk or a hard drive not currently occupied by data. *See also* floppy disk, hard disk.

freeware *n.* A computer program given away free of charge and often made available on the Internet or through user groups. An independent program developer might offer a product as freeware either for personal satisfaction or to assess its reception among interested users. Freeware developers often retain all rights to their software, and users are not necessarily free to copy or distribute it further. *Compare* free software, public-domain software, shareware.

freeze-frame video *n.* Video in which the image changes only once every few seconds. *Compare* full-motion video.

frequency *n.* The measure of how often a periodic event occurs, such as a signal going through a complete cycle. Frequency is usually measured in hertz (Hz), with 1 Hz equaling 1 occurrence (cycle) per second. In the United States, household electricity is alternating current with a frequency of 60 Hz. Frequency is also measured in kilohertz (kHz, or 1000 Hz), megahertz (MHz, or 1000 kHz), gigahertz (GHz, or 1000 MHz), or terahertz (THz, or 1000 GHz). *See the illustration.* *Compare* wavelength.

