

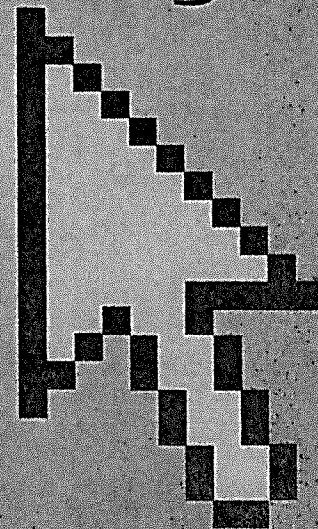


Microsoft

Computer Dictionary

Fifth Edition

- Fully updated with the latest technologies, terms, and acronyms
- Easy to read, expertly illustrated
- Definitive coverage of hardware, software, the Internet, and more!



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significantly to the user-friendliness of graphical user interfaces and to PCs in general. *See also* graphical user interface. **2.** A high-level programming language designed to process non-numerical data structures and character strings using a Pascal-like syntax.

iconic interface *n.* A user interface that is based on icons rather than on typed commands. *See also* graphical user interface, icon.

icon parade *n.* The sequence of icons that appears during the boot-up of a Macintosh computer.

ICP *n.* Acronym for **I**nternet **C**ache **P**rotocol. A networking protocol used by cache servers to locate specific Web objects in neighboring caches. Typically implemented over UDP, ICP also can be used for cache selection. ICP was developed for the Harvest research project at the University of Southern California. It has been implemented in SQUID and other Web proxy caches.

ICQ *n.* A downloadable software program developed by Mirabilis, and now owned by AOL Time-Warner Inc., that notifies Internet users when friends, family, or other selected users are also on line and allows them to communicate with one another in real time. Through ICQ, users can chat, send e-mail, exchange messages on message boards, and transfer URLs and files, as well as launch third-party programs, such as games, in which multiple people can participate. Users compile a list of other users with whom they want to communicate. All users must register with the ICQ server and have ICQ software on their computer. The name is a reference to the phrase "I seek you." *See also* instant messaging.

ICSA *n.* Acronym for **I**nternational **C**omputer **S**ecurity **A**ssociation. An education and information organization concerned with Internet security issues. Known as the NCSA (National Computer Security Association) until 1997, the ICSA provides security assurance systems and product certification; disseminates computer security information in white papers, books, pamphlets, videos, and other publications; organizes consortiums devoted to various security issues; and maintains a Web site that provides updated information on viruses and other computer security topics. Founded in 1987, the ICSA is currently located in Reston, VA.

ID *n.* Acronym for **I**ntrusion **D**etection. *See* IDS.

IDE *n.* **1.** Acronym for **I**ntegrated **D**evice **E**lectronics. A type of disk-drive interface in which the controller electronics reside on the drive itself, eliminating the need for a separate adapter card. The IDE interface is compatible with the controller used by IBM in the PC/AT computer but offers advantages such as look-ahead caching. **2.** *See* integrated development environment.

identifier *n.* Any text string used as a label, such as the name of a procedure or a variable in a program or the name attached to a hard disk or floppy disk. *Compare* descriptor.

IDL *n.* Acronym for **I**nterface **D**efinition **L**anguage. In object-oriented programming, a language that lets a program or object written in one language communicate with another program written in an unknown language. An IDL is used to define interfaces between client and server programs. For example, an IDL can provide interfaces to remote CORBA objects. *See also* CORBA, MIDL, object-oriented programming.

idle *adj.* **1.** Operational but not in use. **2.** Waiting for a command.

idle character *n.* In communications, a control character transmitted when no other information is available or ready to be sent. *See also* SYN.

idle interrupt *n.* An interrupt that occurs when a device or process becomes idle.

idle state *n.* The condition in which a device is operating but is not being used.

IDS *n.* Acronym for **I**ntrusion-**D**etection **S**ystem. A type of security management system for computers and networks that gathers and analyzes information from various areas within a computer or a network to identify possible security breaches, both inside and outside the organization. An IDS can detect a wide range of hostile attack signatures, generate alarms, and, in some cases, cause routers to terminate communications from hostile sources. *Also called:* intrusion detection. *Compare* firewall.

IDSL *n.* Acronym for **I**nternet **d**igital **s**ubscriber **l**ine. A high-speed digital communications service that provides Internet access as fast as 1.1 Mbps (megabits per second) over standard telephone lines. IDSL uses a hybrid of ISDN and digital subscriber line technology. *See also* digital subscriber line, ISDN.