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COMPUTER DICTIONARY

TENTH EDITION

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BRYAN PFAFFENBERGER

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COMPUTER DICTIONARY

10TH EDITION

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goods and the accounting department writes checks. The reengineering strategy for this kind of setting may be to put computers in the receiving department so that the receiving staff can confirm what has been received and then write the checks on the spot. Experience in industry suggests that reengineering may fail if management ignores the need to enlist employee support for the significant and often threatening changes reengineering entails. See *software engineering*.

reflective liquid crystal display An LCD (liquid crystal display) with no edge-lighting or backlighting to enhance readability in bright-light conditions. Reflective LCDs are generally unsuitable for outdoor use.

reformat In operating systems, to repeat a formatting operation on a floppy or hard disk. In word processing or page layout programs, to change the arrangement of text elements on the page.

refresh To repeat the display or storage of data to keep it from fading or becoming lost. The monitor and random access memory (RAM) must be refreshed constantly.

refresh rate See *vertical refresh rate*.

REGEDIT A Microsoft Windows utility that enables knowledgeable users to edit the Registry directly. This should not be attempted by novices.

regexp See *regular expression*.

Regional Bell Operating Companies (RBOC) The regional telephone companies (Baby Bells) that were created as a result of the 1982 breakup of AT&T, which forced the former telephone monopoly to leave the local and regional telephone business.

register A memory location within a microprocessor, used to store values and external memory addresses while the microprocessor performs logical and arith-

metic operations on them. A larger number of registers enables a microprocessor to handle more information at one time.

register renaming A means of enabling software designed to run on x86 microprocessors, which can recognize only 8 registers, to use the 32 or more registers available in more advanced microprocessors with superscalar architecture. A microprocessor capable of register renaming differentiates between the registers an x86 program can address and the actual number of registers available, and will divert information sent to an occupied register to one that is not in use.

registration fee An amount of money that must be paid to the author of a piece of shareware to continue using it beyond the duration of the evaluation period.

Registry In Microsoft Windows, a hierarchically-structured database that provides programs a way to store configuration data, program file locations, and other information that is needed for the programs to execute correctly. The Registry replaces the text-based *.INI files used with Windows 3.1 applications. It is contained in two vital system files (user.dat and system.dat); if these files become corrupted and backups are not available, reinstallation is required. See *REGEDIT*.

regular expression (regexp) A notation system for describing text patterns in search and search-and-replace procedures. Originally developed for the text-processing tools included with the Unix operating system (such as awk and sed), regular expressions are now supported by numerous programming languages and applications. Although the notation is difficult to learn, it is much more powerful than the text searching options normally supplied with end-user applications or operating systems.

A regular expression contains ordinary characters as well as metacharacters, which

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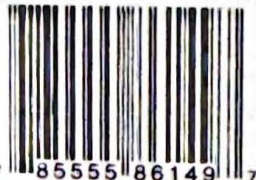
Whether you're a computer novice or a computer professional, *Webster's New World Computer Dictionary* is one of the most useful references you can buy.

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Bryan Pfaffenberger, Ph.D., author of *HTML 4 Bible* and more than 75 books on personal computing, teaches technical writing and the sociology of technology at the University of Virginia's Division of Technology, Culture, and Communication.



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