



COMPUTER
ACRONYMS
AND
ABBREVIATIONS

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μA	microampere
μF	microfarad
μg	microgram
μH	microhenry
μL	microliter
μm	micrometer
μs	microsecond
4GL	Fourth Generation Language
A20	Address line 20
ABI	Application Binary Interface
ABIOS	Advanced BIOS [OS/2]
AC	Alternating Current
ACE	Advanced Computing Environment
ACIA	Asynchronous Communications Interface Adapter [chip controlling RS-232 serial interfaces]
AEC	Architecture Engineering Construction
ACPI	Advanced Configuration and Power Interface, a specification for power-management and PnP configuration.
AI	Artificial Intelligence
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
API	Application Programming Interface
APL	A Programming Language
APM	Advanced Power Management
APPC	Advanced Peer-to-Peer Communications
APPN	Advanced Peer-to-Peer Networking
ARM	Advanced RISC Machine
ASCII	American Standard Code for Information Exchange
ASCIIZ	A string of ASCII characters terminated by a NULL (0 byte).
ASIC	Application-Specific Integrated Circuit
ASPI	Advanced SCSI Programming Interface
AT	Advanced Technology [IBM PC architecture]
ATA	AT Attachment
ATM	Adobe Type Manager
ATN	Augmented Transition Network
AUI	Attachment Unit Interface
AVI	Audio Video Interleaved
b	bit
B	byte
b/s	bits per second
BAID	BIOS Aware IPL Device
BASIC	Beginner's All-Purpose Symbolic Instruction Code
BBLT	Bus Block Transfer

COMPUTER ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BBS	Bulletin Board System		detecting and allocating the resource requirements for PnP devices.
BCD	Binary Coded Decimal		
BCD	Boot Connection Device. Bootable Option ROM, e.g., SCSI card.		
BCG	BIOS Code Group		
BCP	BIOS Configuration Parameter		
BCV	Boot Connection Vector -points to boot code inside a BCD. Hookable.		
Bd	baud		
BDOS	Basic Disk Operating System		
BED	Boot Entry Device. Bootable Option ROM, e.g., LAN card.		
BEV	Boot Entry Vector-points to boot code inside BED. Not hookable.		
BIOS	Basic Input/Output System, the software embedded on a chip located on a PC's motherboard. The BIOS executes POST to test and initialize the system components and then loads (boots) the OS. After boot, the BIOS Run-Time Services provide the low-level operation of various devices and features such as DMI and power management.		
BITBLT	Bit Block Transfer		
BLMC	Buried Logic Macrocell		
BNC	Connector for coaxial cables		
BPB	BIOS Parameter Block		
BSD	Berkeley System Distribution [a version of UNIX]		
BSS	BIOS Setup Service		
BEV	Bootstrap Entry Vector points to code inside an option ROM that will directly load an O/S.		
CACP	Central Arbitration Control Point		
CAD	Computer-Aided Design		
CADD	Computer-Aided Design and Drafting		
CAE	Computer-Aided Engineering		
CAM	Computer-Aided Manufacturing		
CAMMU	Cache/Memory Management Unit		
CAS	Column-Address Strobe		
CASE	Computer-Aided Software Engineering		
CATV	Community Antenna TV [cable]		
CBIOS	Compatibility BIOS		
CBLT	Character Block Transfer		
CCD	Charge-Coupled Device		
CCITT	Consultative Committee for International Telephony and Telegraphy		
CD-I	Compact Disk Interactive		
CD-ROM	Compact Disk-Read Only Memory		
CDMA	Code Division Multiple Access		
CDR	Conflict Detection and Resolution, a BIOS method for		
		CGA	Color Graphics Adapter
		CGI	Common Gateway Interface, WWW interactive programming language
		CHS	Cylinder, Head, Sector [hard disk]
		CISC	Complex Instruction Set Computing
		CLI	Command-Line Interpreter
		CM	Configuration Manager [For PnP]
		CMOS	Complementary Metal-Oxide Semiconductor
		CODEC	Coder/Decoder
		CPU	Central Processing Unit
		CRC	Cyclic Redundancy Check
		CRT	Cathode-Ray Tube
		CSMA/CD	Carrier Sense Multiple Access/Collision Detection
		CSN	Card Select Number uniquely identifies a PnP ISA card,
		CUA	Common User Access
		d	day
		DAC	Digital-to-Analog Converter
		DASD	Direct Access Storage Device
		DAT	Digital Audiotape
		dB	decibel
		DC	Direct Current
		DCC	Display Combination Code
		DCE	Data Communications Equipment [opposite of DTE] protocol
		DCI	Display Control Interface (Windows)
		DDE	Dynamic Data Exchange (Windows)
		DDIM	Device Driver Initialization Model, a BIOS method of initializing an option ROM.
		DDL	Document Description Language
		DES	Data Encryption Standard
		DGIS	Direct Graphics Interface Card
		DIF	Data Interchange Format
		DIME	Dual Independent Map Encoding
		DLL	Dynamic Link Library (Windows)
		DMA	Direct Memory Access
		DMI	Desktop Management Interface
		DMTF	Desktop Management Task Force
		DPB	Drive Parameter Block
		dpi	dots per inch
		DPL	DOS Parameter List
		DPMI	DOS Protected Mode Interface
		DPMS	DOS Protected-Mode Services

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DRAM	Dynamic Random-Access Memory
DS/DD	Double-Sided/Double Density
DSP	Digital Signal Processor
DTA	Drive Transfer Address
DTE	Data Terminal Equipment [opposite of DCE]
DTMF	Dual-Tone Modulated Frequency
DTP	Desktop Publishing
DUT	Device Under Test
DV	Disconnect Vector points to code inside the option ROM for cleanup. An example of an option ROM with a DV is a PnP ISA SCSI controller.
DVD	Digital Video Disk
DVI	Digital Video Interactive
DWORD	Double Word [4 bytes]
EBCP	Extended BIOS Code Group
ECC	Error-Correction Code
ECL	Emitter-Coupled Logic
ECP	Extended Capabilities Port
ECU	EISA Configuration Utility
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange
ATM	Adobe Type Manager
EDO RAM	Extended Data-Out Random-Access Memory
EDRAM	Enhanced Dynamic Random-Access Memory
EEPROM	Electrically Erasable Programmable ROM
EGC	Enhanced Graphics Controller
EIDE	Enhanced Integrated (or Intelligent) Drive Electronics
EIS	Executive Information System
EISA	Extended Industry Standard Architecture [PC Plug-and-Play bus architecture]
EMM	Extended Memory Manager
EMS	Expanded Memory Specification
ENS	Enterprise Network Services [Banyan]
EOI	End Of Interrupt
EPLD	Electrically Programmable Logic Device
EPP	Enhanced Parallel Port
EPROM	Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory
EPS	Encapsulated PostScript
ER	Entity Relationship
erg	erg
ERLL	Enhanced Run-Length Limited
ESCD	Extended System Configuration Data
ESDI	Enhanced Small Device Interface
ESDI	Enhanced Small Device Interface [pre IDE]

eV	electronvolt
F	farad
FAT	File Allocation Table
fc	footcandle
FCB	File Control Block
FCP	Flash Control Parameter
FDDI	Fiber Distributed Data Interface
FDHD	Floppy Disk High Density
FDM	Frequency-Division Multiplexing
FDMA	Fast Direct Memory Access [hard disk]
FDP	Full-Page Display
FDx	Full Duplex
FIFO	First In, First Out
FM	Frequency Modulation
FPI	Floating-Point Interface
FPIO	Fast Programmed Input/Output [hard disk]
fps	[video] frames per second
FPU	Floating-Point Unit
ft	foot
FTP	File Transfer Protocol [Internet]
g	gram
gal	gallon
GAL	Generic Array Logic
GB	Gigabyte (1,024 megabytes)
GDDM	Graphical Data Display Manager
GDI	Graphical Device Interface
GEM	Graphics Environment Manager
GeV	gigaelectronvolt
GHz	Gigahertz
GIF	Graphic Interchange Format
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPI	Graphics Programming Interface
GPIB	General-Purpose Interface Bus
GPSS	General-Purpose Simulation System
GPU	Graphics Processing Unit
gr	grain
GUI	Graphical User Interface
H	henry
h or hr	hour
HAL	Hardware Abstraction Layer (NT)
HCI	Host Controller Interface
HDLC	High-Level Data-Link Control [OSI]
HDTV	High Definition Television

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HFS	Hierarchical File System [Apple]
HGC	Hercules Graphics Card
HIPPI	High-Performance Parallel Interface
HLLAPI	High-Level Language Application Programming Interface
HMA	High Memory Area
HMMU	Hardware Memory Management Unit
HOB	High-Order Byte
HP	Hewlett-Packard Company
hp	horsepower
HP-IB	Hewlett-Packard Interface Bus
HPFS	High-Performance File System [OS/2]
HPGL	Hewlett-Packard Graphics Language
HPPI	High Performance Peripheral Interface
HSYNC	Horizontal Synchronization
HTML	Hypertext Markup Language [subset of SGML]
HTTP	HyperText Transfer Protocol, for addressing WWW pages
Hz	hertz
I/O	Input/Output
IAC	Inter-Application Communication
ICE	In-Circuit Emulator [BIOS debugging device]
ICF	Item Control Function [BIOS Setup]
ICFL	Item Control Function Loader [BIOS Setup]
ICU	ISA Configuration Utility
IDA	Intelligent Drive Array
IDE	Integrated Device Electronics
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers
IFF	Interchange File Format
IFS	Installable File System
IGES	Initial Graphics Exchange Specification [ANSI]
in	inch
INT	Interrupt
I/O	Input and Output
IPC	Inter-Process Communication
IPL	Initial Program Load, any device in the system from which the operating system can be loaded. This can include floppy and hard drives, bootable CD-ROM, a network card, PCMCIA card, or a high-capacity floppy.
IPX	Internetwork Packet Exchange [Novell]
IPX/SPX	Internet Packet Exchange/Sequenced Packet Exchange
IR	Instruction Register
IRC	Intelligent Character Recognition
IRC	Interrupt Request Controller
IRQ	Interrupt Request line

IS	Information System
ISA	Industry Standard Architecture [PC bus architecture that pre-dates PCI and EISA]
ISAM	Indexed Sequential-Access Method
ISDN	Integrated Services Digital Network
ISO	International Standards Organization
ISR	Interrupt Service Routine
ISV	Independent Software Vendor
IT	Information Technology
J	joule
JIS	Japan Industrial Standard
JPEG	Joint Photographic Experts Group
K	kelvin
kb	kilobit [1000 bits]
kB	kilobyte [1000 bytes]
kb/s	kilobits per second
kg	kilogram
kHz	kilohertz
km	kilometer
l	liter
LAN	Local Area Network
LATA	Local Access and Transport Area
lb	pound
LBA	Logical Block Access [hard disk]
LCD	Liquid Crystal Display
LDT	Local Descriptor Table
LIFO	Last In, First Out
LIPS	Logical Instructions Per Second
LLC	Logical Link Control
lm	lumen
LOB	Low-Order Byte
LPT	Line Printer
LSB	Least Significant Bit (or Byte)
LSD	Least Significant Digit
LSI	Large-Scale Integration
LWC	Last Working Configuration
lx	lux
LZARI	Lempel, Ziv, Arithmetic [compression algorithm]
LZSS	Lempel, Ziv, Storer, Szymanski [dictionary compression algorithm]
LZW	Lempel-Ziv-Welch [compression algorithm]
m	meter
mA	milliampere

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MAC	Media Access Control
MAN	Metropolitan-Area Network
MAP	Manufacturing Automation Protocol
MAPI	Messaging API [Microsoft]
MASM	Macro Assembler [Microsoft]
MB	Megabyte
MB/sec	Megabytes per second
Mbit/sec.	Megabits per second
MCA	Micro Channel Architecture [IBM]
MCB	Memory Control Block
MCGA	Multicolor Graphics Array [PS/2 video adapter]
MCI	Media Control Interface
MDA	Monochrome Display Adapter
MDI	Multiple Document Interface
MDS	Macintosh Development System
MIDI	Musical Instrument Digital Interface
MFLOPS	Million Floating-Point Operations Per Second
MFM	Modified Frequency Modulation [disk storage method]
MFS	Macintosh File System
mg	milligram
MHz	Megahertz
MIDI	Musical Instrument Digital Interface
mil	mil [0.001 in]
MIMD	Multiple Instruction, Multiple Data
min	minute
MIPS	Million Instructions Per Second
MIS	Management Information Systems
ml	milliliter
mm	millimeter
MMU	Memory Management Unit
MNP	Microcom Networking Protocol
mo	month
Modem	Modulator and Demodulator
MP	Multi Processor
MPC	Multimedia PC [standard]
MPEG	Motion Picture Experts Group
MPU	Microprocessor Unit
MRCI	Microsoft Real-Time Compression Interface
ms	millisecond (one thousandth of a second)
MSB	Most Significant Bit (or Byte)
MSI	Medium-Scale Integration
MSR	Model-Specific Register
MTBF	Mean Time Between Failures

mV	millivolt
mW	milliwatt
NAPLPS	North American Presentation-Level Protocol Syntax
NAU	Network Access Unit
NCB	Network Control Block
NDIS	Network Driver Interface Specification
NDP	Numeric Data :Processor
NetBIOS	Network Basic Input/Output System
NFS	Network File System
NIC	Network Interface Card
NIU	Network Interface Unit
NLM	Netware-Loadable Module
nm	nanometer
NMI	Non-Maskable Interrupt
NOS	Network Operating System
ns	nanosecond (one millionth of a second)
NTFS	NT File System
NTSC	National Television Standards Committee [US TV standard]
NVRAM	Non-Volatile RAM, memory sustained by a battery when the computer is turned off. Stores end-user Setup selections.
OBC	On-Board Computer
OCR	Optical Character Recognition
ODBC	Open Database Connectivity [Windows extension]
ODI	Open Data-Link Interface
OEM	Original Equipment Manufacturer
OLE	Object Linking and Embedding
OOFS	Object-Oriented File System
OOP	Object-Oriented Programming
OPROM	Optical Programmable ROM
OS	Operating System
OS/2	Operating System/2 [IBM]
OSF	Open Software Foundation
OSI	Open Systems Interconnection [for LANs]
Pa	pascal
PABX	Private Automatic Branch Exchange
PAL	Phase Alternate Line [Europe TV standard]
PBX	Private Branch Exchange
PCI	Peripheral Component Interconnect [PC Plug and Play bus architecture]
PCL	Printer Control Language
PCMCIA	Personal Computer Memory Card International Association
PDA	Personal Digital Assistant
PDES	Product Data Exchange Specification

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PDL	Page-Description Language
PDN	Public Data Network
PEEL	Programmable Electrically Erasable Logic
PERT	Program Evaluation and Review Technique
pF	picofarad
PFA	PCI Function Address consists of a function number, a device number, and a bus number.
PGA	Pin Grid Array
PGA	Professional Graphics Adapter [IBM CAD]
PGC	Professional Graphics Controller
PGL	Professional Graphics Language
PHIGS	Programmer's Hierarchical Interactive Graphics Standard
PIA	Peripheral Interface Adapter
PIC	Programmable Interrupt Controller
PIF	Program Information File [Windows]
PIM	Personal Information Manager
PIN	Positive Intrinsic Negative
PIO	Programmed Input/Output [hard disk]
PIRQ	Programmable Interrupt Request line
PLA	Programmable Logic Array
PLC	Programmable Logic Controller
PLD	Programmable Logic Device
PLE	Programmable Logic Element
PM	Power Management
PMMU	Paged Memory Management Unit
PnP	Plug and Play
POS	Programmable Option Select
POSE	Picture-Oriented Software Engineering
POST	Power-On Self Test, BIOS routines that initialize and configure PC hardware before booting the operating system.
ppm	pages per minute
PROM	Programmable Read-Only Memory
PSP	Program Segment Prefix
PTL	Phoenix Technologies Ltd.
pW	picowatt
PWORD	Six Bytes
QEMM	Quarterdeck Expanded Memory Manager
QWORD	Quad Word [Eight bytes]
R	roentgen
r/min	revolution per minute
r/s	revolution per second
RAID	Redundant Arrays of Inexpensive Drives
RAM	Random Access Memory

RAS	Row-Address Strobe
rd	rad
RDBMS	Relational Database Management System
REGIS	Remote Graphics Instruction Set
RFS	Remote File System [AT&T]
RGB	Red-Green-Blue [video display]
RIP	Raster-Image Processor
RISC	Reduced Instruction Set Computing
RLL	Run Length Limited [hard disk method]
RMW	Read, Modify, Write
ROM	Read-Only Memory
RPC	Remote Procedure Call
RTC	Real-Time Clock
RTFM	Read the Fabulous Manual
RTN	Recursive Transition Network
RTS	Run Time Services
RTV	Real-Time Video
s	second
SAA	Systems Application Architecture [IBM]
SANE	Standard Apple Numeric Environment
SASI	Shugart Associates System Interface
SBS	Smart Battery System
SCSI	Small Computer Systems Interface
SDA	Swappable Data Area
SDK	Software Development Kit
SDLC	Synchronous Data-Link Control
SFT	System File Table
SGML	Standard Generalized Markup Language
SIMD	Single Instruction, Multiple Data
SIMM	Single In-Line Memory Module
SIP	Single In-Line Package
SIPP	Single In-Line Pin Package
SMB	Server Message Block
SMB	System Management Bus
SMI	System Management Interrupt
SMM	System Management Mode
SMP	Symmetric Multiprocessing
SMPTE	Society of Motion Picture & Television Engineers
SNA	Systems Network Architecture [IBM]
SNMP	Simple Network Management Protocol
SOHO	Small Office/Home Office
SOM	System Object Model [OS/2 programming]
SPM	System Power Management

COMPUTER ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

SPOOL	Simultaneous Peripheral Operation Online
SQL	Structured Query Language
SRAM	Static RAM
SS/SD	Single Sided, Single Density
SSI	Small-Scale Integration
STD	Standard
SUI	Setup User Interface
SVGA	Super VGA
TASM	Turbo Assembler [Borland]
TB	terabyte
TCP/IP	Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol
TIFF	Tag Image File Format [gray-scale images]
TIGA	Texas Instruments Graphics Architecture
TOP	Technical Office Protocol
TRAM	Transputer Module
TSR	Terminate and Stay Resident [software program]
TTL	Transistor-to-Transistor Logic
UAE	Unrecoverable Applications Error
UART	Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter
UMA	Unified Memory Architecture
UMB	Upper Memory Block
UNC	Universal Naming Convention
UPS	Uninterruptable Power Supply
URL	Uniform Resource Locator, WWW address
USB	Universal Serial Bus
UTP	Unshielded Twisted Pair [wiring]
UUCP	UNIX-to-UNIX Copy
v	volt
V86	Virtual-86 mode
VAN	Value-Added Network
VAP	Value-Added Process
VAR	Value-Added Reseller
VBL	Vertical Blanking Interrupt
VCPI	Virtual Control Program Interface
VDM	Virtual DOS Machine
VDS	Virtual DMA Specification
VDT	Video Display Terminal
VDU	Video Display Unit
VESA	Video Electronics Standard Association
VFS	Virtual File System
VGA	Video Graphics Display
VIDC	Video Controller
VIM	Vendor-Independent Messaging [API]

VIS	Video Information System
VLIW	Very Large Instruction Word
VLSI	Very Large-Scale Integration
VM	Virtual Machine
VME	Virtual Machine Environment
VMS	Virtual Memory System [DEC's VAX OS]
VRAM	Video RAM
VSYNC	Vertical Synchronization
W	Watt
WAN	Wide Area Network
Wh	Watt hour
WIMP	Windows, Icons, Menus, and Pointing device
WISC	Writeable Instruction Set Computer
WORM	Write Once/Read Many [optical disk]
WOSA	Windows Open Services Architecture
WWW	World Wide Web, graphical Internet interface
WYSIWYG	What You See Is What You Get
XA	Extended Architecture
XAPIA	X.400 API Association
XBDA	Extended BIOS Data Area
XCMD	External Command [Mac Hypercard Extension]
XMS	Extended Memory Specification
XON/XOFF	Telecommunications control protocol
XOR	Exclusive OR
XT	Extended Technology [IBM PC architecture]
yd	yard
yr	year
YUV	luminance, color [NTSC]
ZIF	Zero Insertion Force
ZIP	Zig-zag In-line Package or Pin