



牛津英语百科分类词典系列

Oxford

DICTIONARY OF THE

INTERNET

牛津因特网词典



上海外语教育出版社

外教社 SHANGHAI FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PRESS

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DARREL INCE

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Internet

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本社编辑部

Preface

This dictionary has its roots in a question I was once asked during a consultation visit to an oil company. A senior member of the technical staff asked me what Dynamic HTML¹ was. In trying to find out the answer I discovered that, while there were a number of good computing dictionaries, there were only a few dictionaries that were solely devoted to Internet technology; those that I consulted contained around a few hundred Internet terms with quite a lot of padding provided by general computing terms. This is my attempt to remedy the situation.

In the dictionary I have included terms which fall into the following broad categories:

- Terms associated with Web technology, for example *Web server*, *Web page*, and *deep link*.
- Terms associated with ecommerce. This is a fledgling area in terms of terminology, but a rapidly increasing one. I have taken the term *ecommerce* to broadly mean the use of Internet technology for business purposes. This not only encompasses what most readers might perceive of ecommerce: retail Web sites, but also includes applications such as those associated with supply chain management and virtual private networks.
- Terms associated with Internet infrastructure, such as those associated with the TCP/IP suite of protocols that implement the basic transmission mechanisms that drive the Internet.
- Terms associated with distributed processing and distributed systems. A distributed system is a collection of computers linked by a disparate collection of transmission media; the World Wide Web is probably the simplest yet largest example of such a system. Distributed systems are huge: for example the Web-based system for the Sydney Olympic Games consisted of over 600 servers, 800 network switches, 13 million lines of code and, at its peak, received 1.2 million page hits on its Web servers. The last four years has seen a huge increase in the use of Internet technology in distributed system development and it would be a major omission not to include terms from this area.
- Terms associated with Internet security. The Internet is an open system and hence is more prone to attack. I have included terms associated with the majority of attacks and technologies used to guard against intrusion.
- Jargon which is employed by the users of chat rooms, newsgroups, and senders of emails. A dictionary which claimed to cover the Internet would be incomplete without a coverage of the more popular items of jargon which have emerged over the last decade, words and phrases such as *demoware*, *Zen mail*, *denizen*, and *shovelware*.
- Abbreviations. The Internet is awash with abbreviations—there's even a self-referential abbreviation TLA². The reason for the large number of abbreviations is that the Internet is a textual medium where its users communicate by pressing keys on a

¹ It is a term used to describe the augmentation of the markup language HTML with facilities which allow dynamic processing such as that associated with animations. There is an entry within the dictionary for this term.

² It stands for Three Letter Acronym.

keyboard and clicking a mouse; the former activity is a lot more efficient when abbreviations are used, even though it can lead to some degree of obfuscation.³

It is also worth detailing what I have not included. First, with a few exceptions, I have steered away from commercial products. Many products last for a short time and a printed dictionary would not be able to keep pace with this. I have, however, included references to products such as Internet Explorer which will be with us for some time—at least until the next edition of the dictionary.

I have also steered clear of general computing terms. The only exceptions are when a term is extensively used within the dictionary, such as *byte*, and where a term is worth highlighting because of its connection with the Internet; for example there is a short entry on the computer operating system UNIX because it was the first operating system to contain Internet programming facilities.

Finally, I would like to thank Gordon Davis, Kim Fowler, Blaine Price, and Mike Richards, four colleagues who provided entries for the dictionary and Prof. David Barron for painstakingly reading the dictionary and providing many suggestions. I would also like to thank all the members of newsgroups and chat room participants who tolerated my near silent presence⁴ and my occasional questions about a particular piece of jargon.

I hope you enjoy using this book—I certainly enjoyed researching and writing it.

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MILTON KEYNES 2000

³ It has led to a form of written communication known as Weblish, for which there is an entry in the dictionary.

⁴ A process known as lurking.

牛津英语百科分类词典系列书目

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39. 牛津哲学词典 *Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy*
40. 牛津植物学词典 *Oxford Dictionary of Plant Sciences*

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A

AAA server A server which provides AUTHENTICATION, AUTHORIZATION, and accounting services for financial transactions. Such servers are normally used within ECOMMERCE applications. For example, they are used to check that a particular user has been authorized to make a particular transaction, such as a debit transaction in a credit card payment system.

abbreviation The Web and the Internet float on a flood of abbreviations. They are often used to save time when posting to a NEWSGROUP or writing an EMAIL. This dictionary contains most of the common abbreviations used in such forums: see, for example, AFAIK and BBL.

ABI See APPLICATION BINARY INTERFACE.

above the fold When a WEB PAGE is displayed in a BROWSER the area of the page that is displayed is referred to as being above the fold. The contents that lie below are known as BELOW THE FOLD. The term is derived from the newspaper industry where the fold refers to the paper fold in broadsheet paper.

absolute link A HYPERLINK in a WEB PAGE which specifies the full path to the Web page being linked rather than a RELATIVE LINK; that is, each folder needed to traverse to the page is specified. So if a Web page is found in folder A within folder B which is in folder C, then the path to the page is C/B/A. Absolute links are problematic when the directories in which the pages are contained are moved or renamed, as it leads to BROWSERS being unable to find these pages. Because of this, most professional WEB SITES use RELATIVE LINKS.

absolute path A list of directories and a file that specifies the path to a WEB PAGE from a particular FOLDER. So, for example, if a Web page is contained in folder C which is stored in folder B which, in turn, is stored in folder A, then the path

to the page is A/B/C. When a user clicks on a HYPERLINK or specifies a path which is an absolute path, the page specified by this path is displayed on a BROWSER. Absolute paths are usually frowned on by professional WEB DESIGNERS since, if it is necessary to move pages which are specified in this way, the Web pages in which they are referenced need to be modified. Because of this, most professional Web pages contain RELATIVE LINKS.

acceptable use policy A synonym for AUTHORIZED USE POLICY.

access To access a network such as the Internet means to gain access to the facilities of the network, such as WEB SERVERS and FILE SERVERS. The process is achieved via a LOG-IN. Users who can access a network are usually given ACCESS RIGHTS which determine the range of resources they can access and what they can do with them. For example, they might only be allowed to read and write to certain FILES.

access control The process of ensuring that only authorized users are allowed access to a computer network. There are a number of techniques which are employed for this including PASSWORDS and DIGITAL SIGNATURES. For example, passwords are used to limit access to a system to those users who have been given ACCOUNTS.

access control list Data containing information about the services and resources in a DISTRIBUTED SYSTEM that users are allowed to access. For example, such a list would contain the names of users or USER GROUPS who would be allowed to read or write to certain files in the system. This is one of the devices used to control access to a distributed system.

access number The telephone number that is used when the user of a network employs DIAL-UP ACCESS to access the facilities of that network.

access profile A collection of data about the user of an ECOMMERCE application which is used by an AAA SERVER in order to identify the data and authorize any financial transactions that are initiated by it. This data normally includes the user's name, PIN, and PASSWORD.

access provider Another, less frequently used, name for an INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER or ISP. The term is sometimes used to describe companies that provide Internet service providers with wholesale access to the Internet.

access right The collection of rights that the user of a DISTRIBUTED SYSTEM has for accessing the system. For example, a user may have access rights to read and write files in certain directories in a subset of the computers that make up the system. A NETWORK OPERATING SYSTEM ensures that any attempt to access resources outside those specified in the access rights of a user are prevented.

access token A security device which is usually attached to the COM port of a computer and which allows access to the system to which the computer is connected. It is often used in connection with SMART CARDS. See also DONGLE.

accessware A generic term used to describe the software that regulates ACCESS to a network to authorized users. It includes components of a software system that check PASSWORDS and mediate access to resources such as SERVERS and FILES. Such software resides in a NETWORK OPERATING SYSTEM.

account When a user is allowed access to a networked computer system they are associated with a collection of data known as an account. An important item of data associated with an account is the PASSWORD of the user. Accounts have a number of functions, one of which is to keep track of the use made of the resources in a system—in this case data—such as when a user carries out a LOG-IN or a LOG-OFF associated with the account. Accounts are also used for billing in commercial environments.

account management A sub-discipline of NETWORK MANAGEMENT. It consists of

monitoring the resource usage (files, processor time, access time) of a network, ascribing the usage to users or groups of users and, in a commercial environment, billing these users for the resources they have employed. The level of sophistication of account management depends on the organization that is managing the network. A large commercial organization with many divisions and departments which have separate budgets requires a large amount of account management, while an INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER that charges a flat rate for access has a low level of account management.

account name A series of letters and digits which uniquely identifies an ACCOUNT on a computer or on a network.

ACH See AUTOMATED CLEARING HOUSE.

ACID See ATOMICITY CONSISTENCY ISOLATION DURABILITY.

ACK See ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

acknowledged datagram service A DATAGRAM SERVICE where the successful receipt of the data associated with the service is acknowledged and some form of acknowledgement data passed to the computer that sent the original data. This ensures that the computer that sent the data does not have to resend it.

acknowledgement A term, almost invariably known as ACK, which is used to describe the acknowledgement that a computer or hardware device on a network sends back to another computer when it receives a packet of data. The receipt of this acknowledgement is a signal that the data does not have to be sent again.

ACL See ACCESS CONTROL LIST.

ACM See ASSOCIATION FOR COMPUTING MACHINERY.

acoustic coupler A technology that was used to convert electrical signals from a computer signal to sound which was then transferred across a telephone line. This sound was then reconverted into the original signal at the other end of the line. Acoustic couplers were one of the first technologies used to connect computers

to a network. They are now very rarely used and have been superseded by electronic MODEMS.

active attack An intrusion into a computer network which attempts to delete or modify the data stored on the computers which form part of the network. This is one of the most serious forms of attack since many companies' operations critically depend on data. *See also* PASSIVE ATTACK.

Active Channel® The most popular implementation of the CHANNEL DEFINITION FORMAT, a standard which enables a broadcaster to generate content in real time to a BROWSER. Active Channel technology was developed by the Microsoft Corporation. The user of this technology is able to receive Web content in real time as it is broadcast. It is an example of PUSH TECHNOLOGY where a SERVER broadcasts information to a CLIENT rather than the client asking for the information.

active code or **active content** Synonyms for EXECUTABLE CONTENT or ACTIVE CONTENT.

Active Database Object® A technology developed by the Microsoft Corporation which allows ACTIVE SERVER PAGES to access databases. It allows the users of a BROWSER to interact with large databases: for example, the user of a retail ECOMMERCE application would be able to browse a database of products looking for potential purchases using this technology. It is often abbreviated to ADO.

Active Desktop® A term coined by the Microsoft Corporation to describe the integration of the desktop with the Internet. When INTERNET EXPLORER 4 was developed, Microsoft made the decision to make the desktop the primary means of organizing Internet-related information. For example, it enabled the user to place shortcuts to favourite WEB SITES on the desktop rather than as BOOKMARKS in a BROWSER.

active repeater 1. A hardware device that amplifies light signals which travel down a fibre optic communication line. The active repeater receives a light signal and converts it into an electrical signal

which is then amplified to full strength and retransmitted as a light signal. This prevents the light signals from becoming weaker and weaker. *See also* OPTICAL REPEATER.

2. Occasionally used for an amplification device attached to other communications media.

Active Server Pages® A technology pioneered by the Microsoft Corporation which triggers processing at a WEB SERVER when a WEB PAGE is requested by a BROWSER. Normally when a browser requests a page from a WEB SERVER it is sent directly back to the browser. Active Server Page technology triggers some processing, such as inserting topical data, when a Web page which has the FILE EXTENSION ASP is requested. The server examines the file, identifies any SCRIPTS that need to be executed, executes them and inserts the results into the Web page. A typical example of an application that might use ASP technology is network monitoring, where pages which have dynamic information embedded in them that describes the current state of a network can be sent back to a SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR. This technology is similar in intent to that of SERVER SIDE INCLUDES. It is usually referred to as ASP.

Active X® An important technology which is mainly used for the embedding of EXECUTABLE CONTENT within a WEB PAGE. The technology was developed by Microsoft, primarily for its own INTERNET EXPLORER browser. The intent is the same as that of APPLETS: executing program code within a Web page. The executable code is known as an ACTIVE X CONTROL. A typical use for Active X is for embedding a simple spreadsheet within a Web page which can then be used by the user of a browser. One of the problems with Active X software is that it can potentially modify files on a computer and hence is a ready-made host for VIRUSES. In order to prevent this, Active X controls are packaged with a DIGITAL CERTIFICATE which provides confidence that a reputable software developer has produced the control. The Active X approach to security is in contrast to that used by JAVA for APPLETS where a SANDBOX is used.

Active X Control The name given to the program code which is normally embedded in a WEB PAGE using ACTIVE X technology. See EXECUTABLE CONTENT.

activity monitor A form of VIRUS DETECTION SOFTWARE which monitors the running of a computer and reports any suspicious activities, such as an attempt to alter basic OPERATING SYSTEM information like a PASSWORD FILE. The term is sometimes used to describe software which is used to monitor any unusual activity on a computer system that could indicate a possible intrusion: for example, a day user attempting to LOG-IN after midnight.

actor singer waiter Webmaster The Internet version of the actor/singer/waiter who is filling in on table-waiting jobs until he or she can get a break in films: in effect someone who is occupying a menial job in the expectation of gaining a lucrative Internet-based position such as a WEBMASTER.

adaptive digital pulse code modulation A COMPRESSION technique in which the difference between electronic signals is stored rather than a compressed version of the actual values of the signals. If a signal does not vary much, this is a highly effective way of compressing a signal.

adaptive Huffman coding A dynamic variant of HUFFMAN CODING for data COMPRESSION that can adjust the representation of characters depending on local properties of the text that is being processed. For example a file might contain natural language text and computer programs. An adaptive Huffman compression scheme would use one transformation for the natural language and another for the programs. The technique is also known as the FGK ALGORITHM.

adaptive Lempel Ziv Welsh coding A variant of the LEMPEL ZIV WELSH CODING method for data COMPRESSION which uses a dictionary with variable length entries.

adaptive routing algorithm When a ROUTER uses an adaptive routing algorithm to decide the next computer to which to transfer a PACKET of data, it examines the traffic conditions in order

to determine a route which is as near optimal as possible. For example, it tries to pick a route which involves communication lines which have light traffic. This strategy is in contrast to a NON-ADAPTIVE ROUTING ALGORITHM.

ADC See ANALOGUE TO DIGITAL CONVERSION, ANALOGUE TO DIGITAL CONVERTER, OR AUTOMATIC DATA CAPTURE.

additional server A NAME SERVER used for the INTERNET DOMAIN NAME SERVICE which would be used if a PRIMARY SERVER and a SECONDARY SERVER are unable to carry out their functions.

add-on virus The most common form of VIRUS. It functions by adding program code to the code of the computer which has been infected. It usually alters the START-UP FILE of the infected computer so that the virus code is executed first before the normal code which starts up the computer. Such a virus is activated when the computer is first booted up after infection; the virus code then carries out some potentially destructive act such as deleting important files.

address book A collection of EMAIL user addresses stored in a simple database associated with an email program. An address book allows the user of the program to find EMAIL ADDRESSES and transfer them quickly to an email. Entries in an address book could be those of individual users or groups of users.

address harvester A program used by SPAMMERS in order to find and store EMAIL addresses which can then be used to send spam mail. These harvesters are BOTS which wander over WEB SITES, NEWS-GROUPS, BULLETIN BOARDS, PROFILES, CHAT ROOMS, and MEMBER DIRECTORY areas that are used by INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS. They function in a simple way, in that they read text and look for strings which match the format of an email address. A common way to defeat such software programs is somehow to disguise an email address, at the same time making it obvious to the reader that it is an address, for example by inserting the word 'dot' for full stops in the domain and separating the name of the recipient

from the address of the DOMAIN NAME by some intervening text. This technique is known as a SPAMBLOCK.

address resolution Each computer in a network has a physical address. Address resolution is the term used to refer to the process of looking up that address given a computer's INTERNET PROTOCOL ADDRESS (IP address). So, for example, if some data is to be sent to a computer which specifies its IP address, then this address needs to be converted into the computer's real address for the computer to receive it correctly. In order to do this the ADDRESS RESOLUTION PROTOCOL is used.

Address Resolution Protocol A PROTOCOL used to convert an INTERNET PROTOCOL ADDRESS (IP address) to the physical address of a device on a network. The correspondence between the IP address and the physical device is stored in a table known as an ARP CACHE.

adhocracy A term used to describe companies that do not rely on job descriptions, hierarchy, standards, and procedures; rather, workers in the company carry out tasks because they need to be done. Adhocracies have, in the past, mainly been found in creative industries such as advertising. However, they have started to appear in companies which are associated with the Internet. Computer networks encourage this form of working since information can be easily shared between staff, thus obviating the need for formal meetings.

adjacency search A search using a SEARCH ENGINE which looks for documents containing words that are located physically close to each other; for example, a search for a document which has the words 'judo' and 'Japan' close to each other in a WEB PAGE.

administrative address To subscribe to a MAILING LIST or request information from the list, this is the EMAIL ADDRESS to which to send messages. For example, a common way of subscribing to a mailing list is to send an email to an administrative address with the message 'Subscribe'. This would then ensure that the sender was registered with the list.

administrative log-in The process whereby the SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR of a networked system carries out a LOG-IN. Often, this form of log-in is carried out by the system administrator providing a well-known account name such as SYSADMIN and a password such as SYS. This form of log-in is often used by intruders to gain access to a system because they can often guess the administrator's account name and password and assume his or her privileges. A wise system administrator disables administrative log-ins and logs in as a normal user but with greatly enhanced PERMISSIONS and ACCESS RIGHTS.

administrivia Small tasks associated with some Internet activity, such as maintaining a MAILING LIST.

ADN Abbreviation used for Any Day Now in CHAT ROOMS, EMAILS, and NEWSGROUPS. It is usually used as a cynical reaction to the propensity of software companies to announce a software product which they claim is only a few weeks from being released when, in reality, it usually emerges in a year or so.

ADO® See ACTIVE DATABASE OBJECT.

ADPCM See ADAPTIVE DIGITAL PULSE CODE MODULATION.

ad server A server that maintains BANNER ADVERTS for a collection of WEB SERVERS. It has a number of functions: it loads the adverts into selected WEB PAGES, ensures that a wide variety of adverts are presented, and keeps statistics on the effectiveness of the adverts in terms of the number of CLICKS that are made on them by the users of browsers.

ADSL See ASYMMETRICAL DIGITAL SUBSCRIBER LINES.

ad space Space on a WEB PAGE which is reserved for advertising, normally BANNER ADVERTS.

Advanced Encryption Standard The replacement for the DATA ENCRYPTION STANDARD.

Advanced Network and Services A consortium formed by publishers, universities, and INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS set up to promote the use of technologies

such as the WORLD WIDE WEB in education, for example by promoting EBOOKS and TELEPRESENCE systems in education.

Advanced Networked Systems Architecture A research group, often known as ANSA, which was established in Cambridge, England in 1984. They have had a major effect on the specification and design of distributed systems. Their ANSA Reference Manual is an excellent source book for those involved in both the hardware and software aspects of DISTRIBUTED SYSTEMS.

Advanced Research Projects Agency An agency of the US Department of Defense which sponsored much of the early research which eventually came to fruition as technologies used on the Internet. The research was motivated by the US government's need for computer communications which could survive high levels of conventional or nuclear attack.

Advanced Research Projects Agency Network A network, more commonly known as ARPANET, which was the forerunner of the Internet. In the 1970s it was the proving ground for many of the technologies that are currently used on the Internet. The network was funded by the ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY.

Advanced Streaming Format® A Microsoft technology used for media storage.

advert auction AN ONLINE AUCTION where WEB SITES submit space on their WEB PAGES which are available for adverts—usually BANNER ADVERTS—and advertisers bid for these spaces.

advertisement filter A program which removes BANNER ADVERTS from WEB PAGES. Such adverts are often a visual intrusion and this type of software is used to clean up Web pages. Often such software is not totally reliable; usually it removes most adverts, but not all of them.

advertorial Advertising found on the WORLD WIDE WEB which is designed to fit in with the editorial content and style of a WEB PAGE. This is a technique which is often used in conventional publishing

but has also spread rapidly to Web publishing.

advert server A SERVER which stores a large number of BANNER ADVERTS in files. These adverts are requested by code inserted into a WEB PAGE. Such servers can be relatively simple, sending adverts to a page on a periodic basis, or sophisticated, sending adverts of a certain category and for differing lengths of time. Effectively an advert server acts as a special-purpose FILE SERVER which uses PUSH TECHNOLOGY.

ad view A single advert which appears without scrolling on a WEB PAGE. It is sometimes known as an IMPRESSION.

aero In 2000 seven new DOMAIN NAMES were created. aero was one of these. It is intended for use within the aero industry.

AES See ADVANCED ENCRYPTION STANDARD.

AFAICT Abbreviation for As Far As I Can Tell used in CHAT ROOMS, EMAILS, and NEWSGROUPS. It is used to indicate a small degree of doubt about the statement which it precedes.

AFAIK Abbreviation for As Far As I Know used in CHAT ROOMS, EMAILS, and NEWSGROUPS. Like AFAICT it is used to indicate some degree of doubt about the statement which it precedes.

affiliate program An alternative term for ASSOCIATE PROGRAM.

AFK Abbreviation for Away From Keyboard used in CHAT ROOMS, EMAILS, and NEWSGROUPS. It is used to indicate that the person who has written it has temporarily left the computer. It is usually used in chat rooms when, for example, a comfort break is taken. It is occasionally used in other forums to inform other users that a long break is to be taken, for example to go on holiday.

agent A program which helps a user carry out some computer-related task. For example, an agent might be used to remind the user of a network that he or she should be sending a message to another user by a certain time. There are a number of categories of agents.