



# Dictionary of Computing

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# **IBM DICTIONARY OF COMPUTING**

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# Preface

Although this is the tenth edition of the *IBM Dictionary of Computing*, it is the first edition to be made generally available to the public. Beginning as a small manual more than 20 years ago, when it was used primarily as a reference for IBM's technical writers, it has grown steadily in size, scope, and audience. It now contains more than 22,000 entries selected from the full range of IBM's hardware and software products. In addition, it reprints by permission entries from industry standards in both the United States and the international community (see below).

This dictionary provides a comprehensive reference for anyone who uses, maintains, or has an interest in information processing systems, communication products and facilities, personal computers and office systems. Some of these terms may have other meanings in other contexts, or among people not familiar with the use of these terms in information processing, communication, personal computers, and office systems. With the exception of common electrical and metric measures, the dictionary excludes terms that are defined in nontechnical dictionaries and that have no special meaning in information processing.

## Sources

This dictionary includes terms and definitions from:

- The *American National Standard Dictionary for Information Systems*, ANSI X3.172-1990, copyright 1990 by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Copies may be purchased from the American National Standards Institute, 11 West 42nd Street, New York, New York 10036. Definitions are identified by the symbol (A) after the definition.
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- The *Information Technology Vocabulary*, developed by Subcommittee 1, Joint Technical Committee 1, of the International Organization for Standardization and the International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC JTC1/SC1). Definitions of published parts of this vocabulary are identified by the symbol (I) after the definition; definitions taken from draft international standards, committee

drafts, and working papers being developed by ISO/IEC JTC1/SC1 are identified by the symbol (T) after the definition, indicating that final agreement has not yet been reached among the participating National Bodies of SC1.

- Information for IBM products. Definitions that are specific to IBM products are so labeled, for example, “In SNA,” or “In VM.”

## Sequence and Organization of Entries

This dictionary uses the letter-by-letter method of alphabetizing entries. Only alphabetic and numerical characters are used to determine sequence; special characters and spaces between words are ignored.

Each entry consists of a single-word or multiple-word term or the abbreviation or acronym for a term, followed by a commentary. A commentary includes one or more items (definitions or references) and is organized as follows:

- An item number, if the commentary contains two or more items.
- A usage label, indicating the area of application of the term, for example, “In programming,” or “In SNA.”
- A descriptive phrase, stating the basic meaning of the term. The descriptive phrase is assumed to be preceded by “the term is defined as ...” The part of speech being defined is indicated by the opening words of the descriptive phrase: “To ...” indicates a verb and “Pertaining to ...” indicates a modifier. Any other wording indicates a noun or noun phrase.
- Annotative sentences, providing additional or explanatory information.
- References, directing the reader to other entries or items in the dictionary.
- A source label, for example, (A), (E), (I), or (T), that follows the definition and identifies the originator of the definition. See “Sources” above. Definitions without source labels are IBM definitions.

## References

The following cross-references are used in this dictionary:

<b>Contrast with</b>	This refers to a term that has an opposed or substantively different meaning.
<b>Synonym for</b>	This indicates that the term has the same meaning as a preferred term, which is defined in its proper place in the dictionary.
<b>Synonymous with</b>	This is a backward reference from a defined term to all other terms that have the same meaning.
<b>See</b>	This refers the reader to multiple-word terms that have the same last word.
<b>See also</b>	This refers the reader to terms that have a related, but not synonymous, meaning.
<b>Deprecated term for</b>	This indicates that the term should not be used. It refers to a preferred term, which is defined in its proper place in the dictionary.

## Selection of Terms

A term is a word or group of words to be defined. In this dictionary, the singular form of the noun and the infinitive form of the verb are the terms most often selected to be defined. If the term may be abbreviated, the abbreviation is given in parentheses immediately following the term. The abbreviation is also defined in its proper place in the dictionary.

## Comments Requested

Terminology in the computer field is constantly evolving. No printed reference can hope to remain current for long. For that reason, we are continually revising the content of this book, adding new terms and definitions as they gain acceptance, discarding old entries as they become obsolete. In order to keep up with these changes, we invite comments from all of our users. Please address them as follows:

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## Acknowledgments

Only someone who has tried to make a large dictionary has any idea of how many people are needed to complete the task. Moreover, not even the dictionary maker himself knows exactly who all those people are. Entries, suggestions, complaints, and queries seem to come from everywhere, and the terms and definitions that eventually result have been touched by many hands, not a few of them unseen. For this reason, any “Acknowledgments” list is likely to be incomplete. This list is no exception.

There are some colleagues, however, both inside and outside IBM, whose assistance and support demand recognition. With apologies to those equally deserving who have been omitted, the editor would like to thank the following, in no particular order:

- The users of earlier editions who took the time to comment and make suggestions
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- Last and most importantly of all, the creator and for two decades sustainer of this book, John Wood. Through edition after edition, it was he more than anyone else who left his indelible imprint here. I would be dishonest not to recognize that this work is, and will continue to be, “The Book of John.”

*George McDaniel  
Research Triangle Park, N.C.*

# A

**A** (1) Ampere (2) Angstrom.

**ablation** A technique for writing data to optical memory in which a laser burns holes (or pits) into thin metal film.

**abbreviated address calling** Calling that enables a user to employ an address having fewer characters than the full address when initiating a call. (I) (A) Networks may enable a user to designate a given number of abbreviated address codes. The allocation of abbreviated address codes to a destination or group of destinations may be changed as required by means of a suitable procedure.

**abbreviated addressing** A direct addressing mode that can access only part of storage and can provide a faster means of processing data because of the shortened code. (A)

**abbreviated combined relation condition** In COBOL, the combined condition that results from the explicit omission of a common subject and a common relational operator in a consecutive sequence of relation conditions.

**abbreviated installation** In the AS/400 system and System/38, an installation process in which verification and error recovery is done without restoring the saved version of the operating system. Contrast with normal installation.

**abbreviation** An ordered and shortened representation of data that retains the identity of the data element that is represented. See also data code. (A)

**abend** Abnormal end of task.

**abend code** A system code that identifies the system message number and type of error condition causing the abend.

**ABIC** Adaptive Bilevel Image Compression.

**ABM** Asynchronous balanced mode.

**ABME** Asynchronous balanced mode extended.

**abnormal end** Synonym for abnormal termination.

**abnormal end of task (abend)** Termination of a task before its completion because of an error condition that cannot be resolved by recovery facilities while the task is executing.

**abnormal termination** (1) The cessation of processing prior to planned termination. (T) (2) A system failure or operator action that causes a job to end unsuccessfully. (3) In System/38, termination by a means other than the successful execution of the Power Down System command. See normal termination, system termination. See also abnormal end of task (abend).

**abort** In data communication, a function invoked by a sending primary, secondary, or combined station that causes the recipient to discard and ignore all bit sequences transmitted by the sender since the preceding flag sequences or to discard and ignore all data transmitted by the sender since the previous checkpoint.

**aborted connection** In computer security, disconnection that does not follow established procedures, possibly enabling other users to gain unauthorized access.

**abort sequence** A specified bit pattern, occurring anywhere in the bit stream, that is used to terminate transmission of a transmission frame prematurely. (T)

**About...** (1) In SAA Common User Access architecture, a help action that displays ownership and copyright information about the application. (2) In SAA Common User Access architecture, a help action that displays the logo window of the application.

**ABP** Actual block processor.

**AB roll** In multimedia applications, synchronized playback of two recorded video images to perform effects such as dissolves, wipes, or inserts, using both images simultaneously.

**absolute address** (1) A direct address that identifies a location without reference to a base address. An absolute address may itself be a base address. (T) (2) An address that is permanently assigned by the machine designer to a storage location. (A) (3) Synonymous with explicit address, machine address, specific address. (4) See base address, relative address.

**absolute addressing** A method of addressing in which the address part of an instruction contains an absolute address. (I) (A)

**absolute coding** Coding that uses computer instructions with absolute addresses. (A) Synonymous with specific coding.

**absolute command** In computer graphics, a display command that causes the display device to interpret the data following the command as absolute coordinates. (I) (A) Synonymous with absolute instruction.

**absolute coordinate** (1) One of a pair of coordinates that identify the position of an addressable point with respect to the origin of a specified coordinate system. (I) (A) Contrast with relative coordinate.

**absolute data** In computer graphics, the values in a computer program that specify the actual coordinates in a display space or in storage. Contrast with relative data.

**absolute device** A locating device, such as a tablet, that reports its position to the operating system as a set of numbers on a coordinate system.

**absolute error** (1) The algebraic result of subtracting a true, specified, or theoretically correct value from the value computed, observed, measured, or achieved. (I) (A) (2) The amount of error expressed in the same units as the quantity containing the error. (A) (3) Loosely, the absolute value of the error, that is, the magnitude of the error without regard for its algebraic sign. (A)

**absolute expression** An assembly-time expression whose value is not affected by program relocation. An absolute expression can represent an absolute address.

**absolute instruction** (1) A computer instruction in its final, executable form. (I) (A) (2) Synonym for absolute command.

**absolute loader** A routine that reads a computer program into main storage, beginning at the assembled origin. (A)

**absolute order** Deprecated term for absolute command.

**absolute positioning** Positioning an item of data with respect to an origin.

**absolute priority** In the OS/2 operating system, pertaining to a priority of a process that is not varied by the operating system. Contrast with dynamic priority.

**absolute term** A term whose value is not affected by relocation.

**absolute value** The magnitude of a real number regardless of its algebraic sign.

**absolute vector** (1) In computer graphics, a vector whose start and end points are specified in absolute coordinates. (I) (A) (2) Contrast with incremental vector. See also relative vector. See Figure 1.

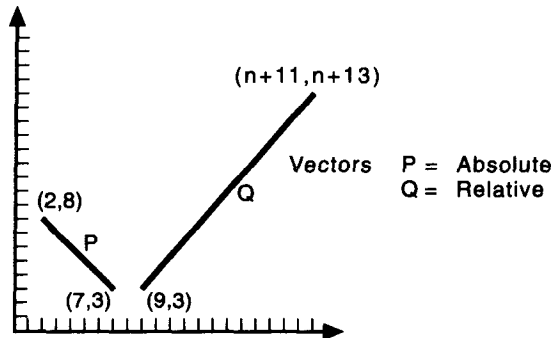


Figure 1. Absolute and Relative Vectors

**abstract symbol** (1) A symbol whose meaning and use have not been determined by a general agreement but have to be defined for each application of the symbol. (I) (A) (2) In optical character recognition, a symbol whose form does not suggest its meaning and use; these must be defined for each specified set of applications. (A)

**AC** Alternating current.

**Academy Studies** The body of work collectively performed by the IBM Academy, which is comprised of IBM Fellows and Senior Technical Staff members. Academy studies, which include analyses of key technical issues, are selected by the Academy members for research, then brought forward to senior management.

**ACB** (1) Access method control block. (2) Adapter control block. (3) Application control block.

**ACB address space** In VTAM, the address space in which the ACB is opened. See also associated address space, session address space.

**ACB-based macroinstruction** In VTAM, a macroinstruction whose parameters are specified by the user in an access method control block.

**ACBGEN** Application control block generation.

**ACB name** (1) The name of an ACB macroinstruction. (2) A name specified either on the VTAM APPL definition statement or on the VTAM application program's ACB macroinstruction. Contrast with network name.

**ACC** (1) Accumulate. (2) Accumulator. (3) Application control code.

**acceleration time** That part of access time required to bring an auxiliary storage device, typically a tape drive, to the speed at which data can be read or written.

**accelerator** (1) In the AIXwindows program, a keyboard alternative to a mouse button action; for example, holding the <Shift> and <M> keys on the keyboard can be made to post a menu in the same way that a mouse button action does. Accelerators typically provide increased input speed and greater convenience. (2) In SAA Common User Access architecture, a key or combination of keys that invokes an application-defined function.

**accept** (1) In a VTAM application program, to establish a session with a logical unit (LU) in response to a CINIT request from a system services control point (SSCP). The session-initiation request may begin when a terminal user logs on, a VTAM application program issues a macroinstruction, or a VTAM operator issues a command. See also acquire. (2) An SMP process that moves distributed code and MVS-type programs to the distribution libraries.

**acceptance test** A test of a system or functional unit, usually performed by users on their premises after installation, with the participation of the vendor to ensure that contractual requirements are met. (I) (A)

**accept-command-key indicator (AC indicator)** In the System/36 workstation utility, an indicator that signals the status of any current user-defined command key request.

**accepting station** In systems with ACF/TCAM, a destination station that accepts a message.

**accept-sequence-error indicator (AE indicator)** An indicator that allows operators to bypass required displays.

**access** (1) To obtain the use of a computer resource. (T) (2) The use of an access method. See (A) (3) The manner in which files or data sets are referred to by the computer. (4) To obtain data from or to put data in storage. (5) In computer security, a specific type of interaction between a subject and an object that results in the flow of information from one to the other. See read access, write access. (6) In FORTRAN, the means by which a scoping unit accesses entities in a module subprogram or, in the case of an internal procedure, in its host. Such entities may be explicitly or implicitly accessible. Access is provided by the USE statement. (7) See direct access, direct access storage, dynamic access, immediate

access storage, indexed access, indexed sequential access, random access, remote access, sequential access, serial access.

**access arm** (1) In a magnetic disk unit, an arm on which magnetic heads are mounted. (T) (2) A part of a magnetic disk storage unit that is used to hold one or more reading and writing heads. (A)

**access authority** An authority that relates to a request for a type of access to data.

**access barred** In data communication, a condition in which a data terminal equipment (DTE) cannot call the DTE identified by the selection signals.

**access capability** (1) In computer security, a "ticket" that allows its holder to gain a specified type of access to a specified object; for example, to erase a specified file. (2) See capability.

**access category** In computer security, a class to which a user may be assigned, based on the resources that the user is authorized to use.

**Note:** The access category determines a user's access rights.

**access channel control** In the IBM Token-Ring Network, the logic and protocols that manage the transfer of data between link stations and medium access control (MAC).

**access code** (1) In the AS/400 system, a 4-digit number, assigned to documents and folders, that allows authorized users to access the documents and folders. (2) In DPCX, an 8-bit binary code, assigned to a program that determines the terminal operators who are to be allowed to use the program.

**access control** (1) In computer security, ensuring that the resources of a computer system can be accessed only by authorized users in authorized ways. See discretionary access control, identity-based access control, information flow control, mandatory access control, resource-based access control. (2) A technique used to establish the sequence of data stations that are in temporary control of the transmission medium, but may need to be moved elsewhere. (T)

**access control byte** In the IBM Token-Ring Network, the byte following the start delimiter of a token or frame that is used to control access to the ring.

**access control field** (1) A bit pattern that identifies whether a frame is a token, indicates the data stations that may use the token, indicates when the frame should be canceled, and allows stations to request the next token. (T) (2) In 8100, the field of a translation table entry that controls the types of storage

access permitted during fetching and execution of an instruction or during a channel I/O operation.

**access control key** Synonym for privacy key. (A)

**access controller** In an information resource directory system with entity-level security, a pair of locks, one for read access, the other for write access. Locks may be used for other purposes, such as to permit execution. (A)

**access control list** (1) In computer security, a collection of all access rights for one object. (2) In computer security, a list associated with an object that identifies all the subjects that can access the object and their access rights; for example, a list associated with a file that identifies users who can access the file and identifies their access rights to that file. See capability list. (3) In the AIX operating system, a file attribute that contains the basic and extended permissions that control access to the file. (4) In the AIX operating system, a list of hosts, maintained by Enhanced X-Windows, that have access to client programs. By default, only programs on the local host and those in this list can use the display. The list can be changed by clients on the local host; some server implementations can also modify the list. The authorization protocol name and data received by the server at connection setup may also affect this list. Synonymous with access list.

**access control lock** Synonym for privacy lock. (A)

**Access Control — Logging and Reporting** In VSE, an IBM licensed program used to log access to protected data and to print selected formatted reports on such access.

**access environment** A description of the current user, including user ID, current connect group, user attributes, and group authorities. An access environment is constructed during user identification and verification.

**access key** In an information resource directory system with entity-level security, an authorization to perform a set of operations on an entity secured by a lock. (A)

**access level** (1) In computer security, the level of authority a subject has when using a protected resource; for example, authority to access a particular security level of information. (2) In computer security, the hierarchical portion of the security level used to identify the sensitivity of data and the clearance or authorization of users. (3) In the IBM LinkWay product, the characteristic of a folder that determines how much a user can modify the folder. The access level is determined by the person who creates the folder.

**access line** A telecommunication line that continuously connects a remote station to a data switching exchange (DSE). A telephone number is associated with the access line.

**access list** Synonym for access control list. See also standard access list.

**access lock** Synonym for privacy lock. (A)

**access macro** A macroinstruction that establishes the linkage between a program requesting execution of a system routine and the system routine requested.

**access matrix** In computer security, a two-dimensional array, one dimension of which represents objects and the other dimension subjects, where the intersections represent permitted access types.

**access mechanism** (1) A mechanism responsible for moving an access arm or a comb. Synonymous with actuator. (T) (2) A group of access arms that move together as a unit. See Figure 2.

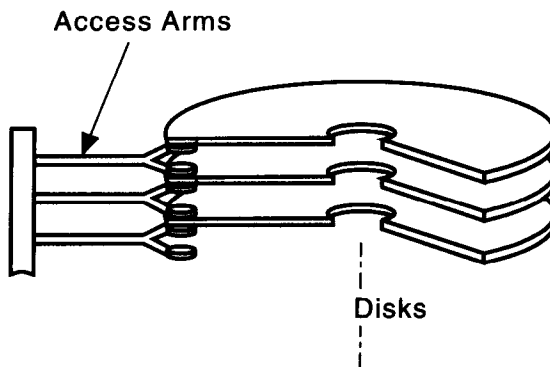


Figure 2. Access Mechanism

**access method** (1) A technique to obtain the use of data, storage, or the use of an input/output channel to transfer data; for example, random access method, sequential access method. (T) (2) The technique that is used to locate data stored on a physical medium. (A) (3) A technique for moving data between main storage and input/output devices. (4) The way that a system refers to records in files; the reference can be consecutive (records are referred to one after another in the order in which they appear in the file) or it can be random (the individual records are referred to in any order).

**access method control block (ACB)** A control block that links an application program to VSAM or VTAM programs.

**access method interface (AMI)** The TCAM function for managing communication on the access method control block (ACB) interface between TCAM and VTAM programs.

**access method routines** Routines that move data between main storage and input/output devices.

**access method services (AMS)** The facility used to define and reproduce VSAM key-sequenced data sets (KSDS).

**access mode** (1) A technique that is used to obtain a particular logical record from, or to place a particular logical record into, a file assigned to a mass storage device. (A) (2) The manner in which files are referred to by a computer. Access can be sequential (records are referred to one after another in the order in which they appear on the file), access can be random (the individual records can be referred to in a nonsequential manner), or access can be dynamic (records can be accessed sequentially or randomly, depending on the form of the input/output request). (3) In COBOL, the manner in which records are to be operated upon within a file. (4) See file access mode. See also random access, sequential access.

**access name** (1) In a database, a name that identifies an entity. (2) In an information resource dictionary, the name by which an entity is known to the user interfaces. It is the combination of an assigned access name and version identifier that together serve as the primary identifier of each entity. (A)

**accessor** (1) In computer security, any user of a protected resource. (2) In MSS, the component of the IBM 3851 Mass Storage Facility that transports data cartridges between the cartridge cells, data recording devices, and the cartridge access station.

**accessor control** In MSS, the component of the IBM 3851 Mass Storage Facility that decodes and sequences messages from the mass storage control and directs the motion of the accessor.

**accessor environment element (ACEE)** In RACF, a description of the current user including userid, current connect group, user attributes, and group authorities. An ACEE is constructed during user identification and verification.

**accessory** (1) A basic part, subassembly, or assembly used with another assembly, unit, or set. (2) A separately orderable part that has no type number, is for purchase only, and does not receive normal IBM maintenance.

**access path** (1) A sequence of data items used by a database management system to access records or other data items stored in a database. There may

simultaneously exist more than one access path for one data item. (T) (2) A chain of addresses that leads to the desired data. (A) (3) The procedure used by a database management system to access data stored in a database. (A) (4) The order in which records in a database file are organized for processing by a program. See arrival sequence access path, keyed sequence access path. (5) In SQL, the path used to locate data specified in SQL statements. An access path can be indexed, sequential, or a combination of both.

**access path independence** The independence of logical data descriptions on access paths. Programs using access path independent logical data descriptions need not be changed when access paths are changed. (T)

**access path journaling** A method of recording changes to an access path as changes are made to the data in the database file so that the access path can be recovered automatically by the system.

**access period** In computer security, a period of time during which specified access rights prevail.

**access permission** (1) All of a user's access rights. (A) (2) All access rights a user has regarding an object. (I) (3) In the AIX operating system, a group of designations that determine who can access a particular file and how the user can access the file. See base permission, extended permission. See also permission code.

**access plan** In SQL, the control structure produced during compile time that is used to process SQL statements encountered when the program is run.

**access priority** In the IBM Token-Ring Network, the maximum priority that a token can have for transmission via the token-ring adapter.

**access procedure** The procedure or protocol used to gain access to a shared resource; for example, in a local area network the shared resource is the transmission medium. The medium access procedures specified by the IEEE 802 standard are CSMA/CD token, bus, and ring.

**access right** (1) In computer security, permission for a subject to use an access type for a particular object; for example, permission for a process to read a file. (2) The right to use a defined computer resource such as a library or file. (3) Synonymous with permission.

**access time** (1) The time interval between the instant at which a call for data is initiated and the instant at which the delivery of data is completed. Access time equals latency plus transfer time. (T) (2) Deprecated term for cycle time. (3) See seek time. See

also latency. Contrast with response time. See Figure 3.

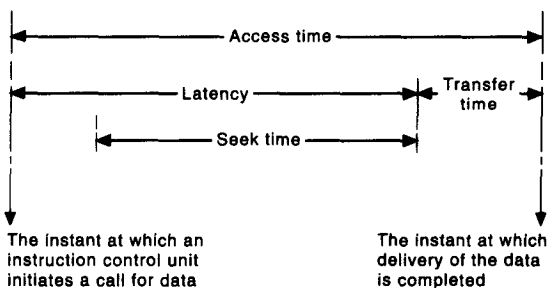


Figure 3. Time Intervals for Accessing Data

**access type** In computer security, a kind of access to an object; for example, access to read a file, access to write in a file, access to delete a file.

**access unit** In an IBM Token-Ring Network, a wiring concentrator. See multistation access unit.

**account** In the AIX operating system, the login directory and other information that gives a user access to the system.

**accountability** In computer security, the property that enables activities on a system to be traced to individuals who may then be held responsible for their actions.

**accountability information** An audit trail for security purposes.

**account file** A direct access file maintained by VSE/POWER to hold the accounting information it generates and the programs that it controls.

**accounting check digit** See self-check digit.

**accounting code** In the AS/400 system and System/38, a 15-character field, assigned to a job by the system when it is processed by the system, that is used to collect statistics for the system resources used for that job when job accounting is active.

**accounting entry** In the AS/400 system and System/38, a journal entry that contains statistics of system resources used for job accounting.

**accounting exit routine** In VTAM, an optional installation exit routine that collects statistics about session initiation and termination.

**accounting level** In the AS/400 system and System/38, a system value identifying the type of data to be recorded when job accounting is active.

**accounting machine** (1) A keyboard-actuated machine that prepares accounting records. (A) (2) A machine that reads data from external storage media, such as cards or tapes, and automatically produces accounting records or tabulations, usually on continuous forms. (A)

**accounting segment** In the AS/400 system and System/38, the period of time during which statistics are gathered, beginning when the job starts or when the job's accounting code is changed, and ending when the job ends or when the job's accounting code is next changed.

**accounting system** A part of the AIX operating system for RISC System/6000 that monitors various aspects of system operations; it collects detailed data on each transaction and provides tools for processing the data in order to produce different kinds of reports.

**account number** (1) In the IBM 3600 Finance Communication System, a number assigned by a financial institution to a particular customer account. See customer identification number. See also personal code, primary account. number. (A)

**accreditation** In computer security, the authorization that is granted to an information system to process sensitive information in its operational environment.

**Note:** Accreditation is based on a comprehensive security evaluation of system hardware, firmware, and software security design, its configuration and implementation, and administrative, communications, personnel, physical, and procedural security controls.

**accumulate (ACC)** (1) To collect, for example, the values in a field. (2) To enter the result of an operation in an accumulator.

**accumulating** The process of totaling values in a particular field as records are being processed.

**accumulator** (1) A register in which one operand of an operation can be stored and subsequently replaced by the result of that operation. (T) (2) In the IBM 3800 Printing Subsystem Models 3 and 8, a feature that supplies a separate storage that can hold data in raster form. It can be used either for composing a sheet of data that combines a large amount of variable and constant data, or for storing an electronic overlay in raster form that will be merged with variable data as the sheet is printed.

**accuracy** (1) A quality of that which is free of error. (A) (2) A qualitative assessment of freedom from error, with a high assessment corresponding to a small error. (I) (A) (3) Contrast with precision.



**accuracy control character** A control character used to indicate whether the data with which it is associated are in error, or are to be disregarded, or cannot be represented on a particular device. (A) Synonymous with error control character.

**ACD** Automatic call distribution.

**AC/DC ringing** A method of telephone ringing that uses alternating current to operate a ringer and direct current to actuate a relay that stops the ringing when the called party answers.

**ACD group** In telephony, the set of multiple agents assigned to process incoming telephone calls that are directed to the same dialed number. The routing of incoming calls to one of the agents in the ACD group is based on such properties as availability of the agent and the length of time since the agent completed the last incoming call.

**ACDI** Asynchronous Communications Device Interface.

**ACD pilot number** In telephony, the common telephone number that calling parties can dial to route calls to one of multiple agents.

**ACEE** Accessor environment element.

**ACF** Advanced Communications Function.

**ACF/NCP** Advanced Communications Function for the Network Control Program. See Network Control Program (NCP).

**ACF/SSP** Advanced Communications Function for the System Support Programs. See System Support Program Product.

**ACF/TAP** Advanced Communications Function for the Trace Analysis Program. See Trace Analysis Program (TAP).

**ACF/TCAM** Advanced Communications Function for the Telecommunications Access Method. See Telecommunications Access Method (TCAM).

**ACF/TCAM base system** A system in which ACF/TCAM is installed without the Multisystem Networking Facility.

**ACF/VTAM product** Advanced Communications Function for the Virtual Telecommunications Access Method product. See Virtual Telecommunications Access Method (VTAM) product.

**ACF/VTAM application program** A program that opens an access method control block (ACB) to iden-

tify itself to ACF/VTAM and can issue ACF/VTAM macroinstructions.

**ACF/VTAM definition** The process of defining the user application network to ACF/VTAM programs and modifying IBM-defined characteristics to suit the needs of the user.

**ACF/VTAM definition library** The operating system files or data sets that contain the definition statements and start options filed during ACF/VTAM definition.

**ACF/VTAME** Advanced Communications Function for the Virtual Telecommunications Access Method Entry. See Virtual Telecommunications Access Method Entry (VTAME).

**ACF/VTAM operator** A person or program authorized to issue ACF/VTAM operator commands. See domain operator, network operator, program operator.

**ACF/VTAM operator command** A command issued to monitor or control an ACF/VTAM domain.

**"A" Change** The correction of an error in transcribing information from approved EC documents to formal documents; the issuing agency releases a new notice page and correcting documents under the same EC number with an alphabetic suffix; for example, 750123A.

**ACK** The acknowledged character. (A)

**acknowledge** (1) To answer. To respond to a poll, address, or message. (2) In the X.25 API, to confirm that a data packet with the D-bit set has arrived.

**acknowledge character (ACK)** A transmission control character transmitted by a station as an affirmative response to the station with which the connection has been set up. (I) (A) See negative-acknowledge character.

**acknowledged mail** A function that allows a user to request and receive an acknowledgment that the mail item he sent was received.

**acknowledged service** In communications, the service that provides for the establishment of a data link level connection. Acknowledged service provides for functions such as sequencing, flow control, and error recovery. SNA requires the use of acknowledged services.

**acknowledge timeout** The number of seconds that a station should wait for an acknowledgment from a remote station after sending data.

**acknowledgment** (1) The transmission, by a receiver, of acknowledge characters as an affirmative response