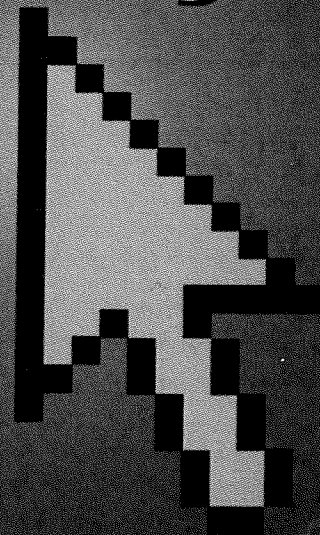


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## D

the parts of the system work in harmony so that data is stored safely and accurately. Application programs manage data by receiving and processing input according to the user's commands, and sending results to an output device or to disk storage. The user also is responsible for data management by acquiring data, labeling and organizing disks, backing up data, archiving files, and removing unneeded material from the hard disk.

**data manipulation** *n.* The processing of data by means of programs that accept user commands, offer ways to handle data, and tell the hardware what to do with the data.

**data manipulation language** *n.* In database management systems, a language that is used to insert data in, update, and query a database. Data manipulation languages are often capable of performing mathematical and statistical calculations that facilitate generating reports. *Acronym:* DML. *See also* structured query language.

**data mart** *n.* A scaled-down version of a data warehouse that is tailored to contain only information likely to be used by the target group. *See also* data warehouse.

**data medium** *n.* The physical material on which computer data is stored.

**data migration** *n.* 1. The process of moving data from one repository or source, such as a database, to another, usually via automated scripts or programs. Often data migration involves transferring data from one type of computer system to another. 2. In supercomputing applications, the process of storing large amounts of data off line while making them appear to be on line as disk-resident files.

**data mining** *n.* The process of identifying commercially useful patterns, problems, or relationships in a database, a Web server, or other computer repository through the use of advanced statistical tools. Some Web sites use data mining to monitor the efficiency of site navigation and to determine changes in the Web site's design based on how consumers are using the site.

**data model** *n.* A collection of related object types, operators, and integrity rules that form the abstract entity supported by a database management system (DBMS). Thus, one speaks of a relational DBMS, a network DBMS, and so on, depending on the type of data model a DBMS supports. In general, a DBMS supports only one data model as a practical rather than a theoretical restriction.

**data network** *n.* A network designed for transferring data encoded as digital signals, as opposed to a voice network, which transmits analog signals.

**Data Over Cable Service Interface Specification** *n.* *See* DOCSIS.

**data-overflow error** *n.* An error that occurs when more data is being acquired than can be processed. *See also* bps.

**data packet** *n.* *See* packet.

**data path** *n.* The route that a signal follows as it travels through a computer network.

**data point** *n.* Any pair of numeric values plotted on a chart.

**data processing** *n.* 1. The general work performed by computers. 2. More specifically, the manipulation of data to transform it into some desired result. *Acronym:* DP. *Also called:* ADP, automatic data processing, EDP, electronic data processing. *See also* centralized processing, decentralized processing, distributed processing.

**Data Processing Management Association** *n.* *See* DPMA.

**data projector** *n.* A device, similar to a slide projector, that projects the video monitor output of a computer onto a screen.

**data protection** *n.* The process of ensuring the preservation, integrity, and reliability of data. *See also* data integrity.

**data rate** *n.* The speed at which a circuit or communications line can transfer information, usually measured in bits per second (bps).

**data record** *n.* *See* record<sup>1</sup>.

**data reduction** *n.* The process of converting raw data to a more useful form by scaling, smoothing, ordering, or other editing procedures.

**data segment** *n.* The portion of memory or auxiliary storage that contains the data used by a program.

**Data Service Unit** *n.* *See* DDS.

**data set** *n.* 1. A collection of related information made up of separate elements that can be treated as a unit in data handling. 2. In communications, a modem. *See also* modem.

**Data Set Ready** *n.* *See* DSR.

**data sharing** *n.* The use of a single file by more than one person or computer. Data sharing can be done by physically transferring a file from one computer to another, or, more commonly, by networking and computer-to-computer communications.