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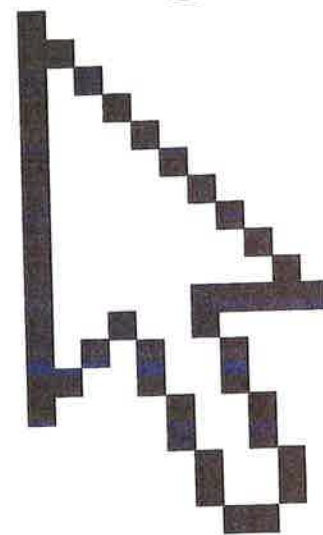
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ment such as a headpiece and goggles. *Also called:* image-based rendering. *See also* imaging, virtual reality.

**IMO** *n.* Acronym for **in my opinion**. A shorthand phrase used often in e-mail and Internet news and discussion groups to indicate an author's admission that a statement he or she has just made is a matter of judgment rather than fact. *See also* IMHO.

**impact printer** *n.* A printer, such as a wire-pin dot-matrix printer or a daisy-wheel printer, that drives an inked ribbon mechanically against the paper to form marks. *See also* daisy-wheel printer, dot-matrix printer. *Compare* nonimpact printer.

**impedance** *n.* Opposition to the flow of alternating current. Impedance has two aspects: resistance, which impedes both direct and alternating current and is always greater than zero; and reactance, which impedes alternating current only, varies with frequency, and can be positive or negative. *See also* resistance.

**implementor** *n.* In role-playing games, the administrator, coder, or developer of the game. *Also called:* Imp. *See also* role-playing game.

**import** *vb.* To bring information from one system or program into another. The system or program receiving the data must somehow support the internal format or structure of the data. Conventions such as the TIFF (Tagged Image File Format) and PICT formats (for graphics files) make importing easier. *See also* PICT, TIFF. *Compare* export.

**IMT-2000** *n.* *See* International Mobile Telecommunications for the Year 2000.

**inactive window** *n.* In an environment capable of displaying multiple on-screen windows, any window other than the one currently being used for work. An inactive window can be partially or entirely hidden behind another window, and it remains inactive until the user selects it. *Compare* active window.

**in-band signaling** *n.* Transmission within the voice or data-handling frequencies of a communication channel.

**in-betweening** *n.* *See* tween.

**Inbox** *n.* In many e-mail applications, the default mailbox where the program stores incoming messages. *See also* e-mail, mailbox. *Compare* Outbox.

**incident light** *n.* The light that strikes a surface in computer graphics. *See also* illuminance.

**in-circuit emulator** *n.* *See* ICE (definition 2).

**INCLUDE directive** *n.* A statement within a source-code file that causes another source-code file to be read in at that spot, either during compilation or during execution. It enables a programmer to break up a program into smaller files and enables multiple programs to use the same files.

**Inclusive OR** *n.* *See* OR.

**increment<sup>1</sup>** *n.* A scalar or unit amount by which the value of an object such as a number, a pointer within an array, or a screen position designation is increased. *Compare* decrement<sup>1</sup>.

**increment<sup>2</sup>** *vb.* To increase a number by a given amount. For example, if a variable has the value 10 and is incremented successively by 2, it takes the values 12, 14, 16, 18, and so on. *Compare* decrement<sup>2</sup>.

**incumbent local exchange carrier** *n.* *See* ILEC.

**indent<sup>1</sup>** *n.* **1.** Displacement of the left or right edge of a block of text in relation to the margin or to other blocks of text. **2.** Displacement of the beginning of the first line of a paragraph relative to the other lines in the paragraph. *Compare* hanging indent.

**indent<sup>2</sup>** *vb.* To displace the left or right edge of a text item, such as a block or a line, relative to the margin or to another text item.

**Indeo** *n.* A codec technology developed by Intel for compressing digital video files. *See also* codec. *Compare* MPEG.

**Independent content provider** *n.* A business or organization that supplies information to an online information service, such as America Online, for resale to the information service's customers. *See also* online information service.

**Independent software vendor** *n.* A third-party software developer; an individual or an organization that independently creates computer software. *Acronym:* ISV.

**index<sup>1</sup>** *n.* **1.** A listing of keywords and associated data that point to the location of more comprehensive information, such as files and records on a disk or record keys in a database. **2.** In programming, a scalar value that allows direct access into a multi-element data structure such as an array without the need for a sequential search through the collection of elements. *See also* array, element (definition 1), hash, list.

**index<sup>2</sup>** *vb.* **1.** In data storage and retrieval, to create and use a list or table that contains reference information



pointing to stored data. **2.** In a database, to find data by using keys such as words or field names to locate records. **3.** In indexed file storage, to find files stored on disk by using an index of file locations (addresses). **4.** In programming and information processing, to locate information stored in a table by adding an offset amount, called the index, to the base address of the table.

**Indexed address** *n.* The location in memory of a particular item of data within a collection of items, such as an entry in a table. An indexed address is calculated by starting with a base address and adding to it a value stored in a register called an index register.

**Indexed search** *n.* A search for an item of data that uses an index to reduce the amount of time required.

**Indexed sequential access method** *n.* A scheme for decreasing the time necessary to locate a data record within a large database, given a key value that identifies the record. A smaller index file is used to store the keys along with pointers that locate the corresponding records in the large main database file. Given a key, first the index file is searched for the key and then the associated pointer is used to access the remaining data of the record in the main file. *Acronym:* ISAM.

**Index hole** *n.* The small, round hole near the large, round spindle opening at the center of a 5.25-inch floppy disk. The index hole marks the location of the first data sector, enabling a computer to synchronize its read/write operations with the disk's rotation.

**Indexing Service Query Language** *n.* A query language available in addition to SQL for the Indexing Service in Windows 2000. Formerly known as Index Server, its original function was to index the content of Internet Information Services (IIS) Web servers. Indexing Service now creates indexed catalogs for the contents and properties of both file systems and virtual Webs.

**Index mark** *n.* **1.** A magnetic indicator signal placed on a soft-sectored disk during formatting to mark the logical start of each track. **2.** A visual information locator, such as a line, on a microfiche.

**Indicator** *n.* A dial or light that displays information about the status of a device, such as a light connected to a disk drive that glows when the disk is being accessed.

**Indirect address** *n.* *See* relative address.

**Inductance** *n.* The ability to store energy in the form of a magnetic field. Any length of wire has some inductance, and coiling the wire, especially around a ferromagnetic

core, increases the inductance. The unit of inductance is the henry. *Compare* capacitance, induction.

**Induction** *n.* The creation of a voltage or current in a material by means of electric or magnetic fields, as in the secondary winding of a transformer when exposed to the changing magnetic field caused by an alternating current in the primary winding. *See also* impedance. *Compare* inductance.

**Inductor** *n.* A component designed to have a specific amount of inductance. An inductor passes direct current but impedes alternating current to a degree dependent on its frequency. An inductor usually consists of a length of wire coiled in a cylindrical or toroidal (doughnut-shaped) form, sometimes with a ferromagnetic core. *See the illustration.* *Also called:* choke.



**Inductor.** *One of several kinds of inductors.*

**Industry Standard Architecture** *n.* *See* ISA.

**INET** *n.* **1.** Short for Internet. **2.** An annual conference held by the Internet Society.

**.inf** *n.* The file extension for device information files, those files containing scripts used to control hardware operations.

**Infection** *n.* The presence of a virus or Trojan horse in a computer system. *See also* Trojan horse, virus, worm.

**Infer** *vb.* To formulate a conclusion based on specific information, either by applying the rules of formal logic or by generalizing from a set of observations. For example, from the facts that canaries are birds and birds have feathers, one can infer (draw the inference) that canaries have feathers.

**Inference engine** *n.* The processing portion of an expert system. It matches input propositions with facts and rules contained in a knowledge base and then derives a conclusion, on which the expert system then acts.

**Inference programming** *n.* A method of programming (as in Prolog) in which programs yield results based on