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BRYAN PFAFFENBERGER

WE DEFINE YOUR WORLD™

Webster's New World™ Computer Dictionary, 10th Edition

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Dedication

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All terms in this book that are known or used in the public should be properly capitalized. Wiley Publishing, Inc. Use of a term in this book should not be construed as a service mark.

PCI standard, but it remains in some high-end Ethernet servers.

Electrical Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory See *EEPROM*.

electrocutaneous feedback A primitive method of providing tactile feedback in virtual reality systems by administering a low-voltage shock to the user's skin. The user feels a mild buzz. Varying the voltage and frequency of the current produces variations in the buzz that the user can learn to discriminate.

electron gun A cathode (electron emitter) in the back of a cathode ray tube (CRT) that releases a stream of electrons toward the display. Steered by the yoke, the electrons "paint" an image on the display. Color monitors have three electron guns—red, green, and blue—while monochrome monitors have only one.

electronic book See *e-book*.

Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA) A U.S. federal law enacted in 1986 that prevents U.S. investigative agencies from intercepting e-mail messages or reading such messages that are temporarily stored in interim storage devices (up to 180 days) without first obtaining a warrant. In a major omission that might stem from the legislators' lack of technical knowledge, the act does not prevent such agencies from obtaining and reading copies of e-mail permanently stored in archives. Investigators used this loophole to obtain Oliver North's e-mail messages to other White House officials involved in the Iran-Contra scandal. The act does not prevent any other persons or agencies from intercepting or reading e-mail. See *confidentiality*.

Electronic Data Interchange See *EDI*.

Electronic Frontier Foundation See *EFF*.

electronic mail See *e-mail*.

electronic warfare In information warfare, the use of electronic devices to destroy or damage computer systems.

electrostatic printer A printer that relies on the attraction between oppositely charged particles to draw toner to paper. Laser printers and LED printers are electrostatic printers.

element In HTML, a distinctive component of a document's structure, such as a title, heading, or list. HTML divides elements into two categories: head elements (such as the document's title) and body elements (headings, paragraphs, links, and text).

elevator seeking In hard drives, a way to sort data requests to minimize jumping between tracks. In an elevator-seeking scheme, the drive handles data requests in track order—that is, it gets needed data from inner tracks first and then from the outer tracks. Elevator seeking minimizes access time.

elite A typeface (usually on a typewriter) that prints 12 characters per inch (cpi). The other common typewriter font is pica, which prints at 10 characters per inch. See *pitch*.

em A distance equal to the width of the capital letter *M* in a given typeface.

eMac A mid-line desktop Macintosh computer, based on the G4 processor, that is optimized for multimedia applications. The system includes a built-in 17-inch CRT display, a SuperDrive capable of reading and burning CDs and DVDs, and other features designed to compete effectively with comparably-priced Microsoft Windows XP systems. See *G4*, *SuperDrive*.

emacs A Unix-based text editor that is sometimes configured as the default editor on Unix systems. Programmed in LISP, emacs is an excellent hacker's tool but can be difficult for users accustomed to user-friendly word processing programs.

e-mail The use of a computer network to send and receive messages. Also called electronic mail. Although transmission is instantaneous or nearly so, the message may not be received until the recipient logs on and receives notice that mail has arrived.

E-mail can be implemented on networks (LANs) and on wide works (WANs), such as the Internet. It is the most popular Internet application. It is well on the way to supplanting mail as the preferred means for transmitting personal and business messages to individuals. To implement e-mail, clients and e-mail servers are needed. As a means of mailing lists, e-mail can send messages to many people at an e-mail address, e-mail client, e-mail server, IMAP, mailing list, MIME, POP.

e-mail address A series of characters that precisely identifies the location of an electronic mailbox. On the Internet, addresses consist of a mailbox name (rebecca) followed by an "at" sign, the computer's domain name (ca), and the computer's domain name (ca@hummer.virginia.edu).

e-mail client A program or module that provides e-mail services to computer users, including receiving a locally stored inbox, sending other network users, replying to messages, and storing received messages. Better programs include address books, facilitate message addressing, and route low-priority mail into folders. The capability to process and display a (binary files such as data files and the capability to compose messages coded in HTML. Leading clients include Microsoft Outlook Express, and Synonymous with user agent (UA).

e-mail reflector A program that allows users to create an electronic network. The program works by copying a message to every e-mail user who is currently subscribed to the list. Programs include Majordomo and Synonymous with list server.

e-mail server A program that either or both of the following tasks: sending e-mail messages to their destination network, or receiving incoming messages, storing it, until the user logs on and the waiting mail. Many organizations