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# The IEEE Standard Dictionary of Electrical and Electronics Terms

## Sixth Edition

### Standards Coordinating Committee 10, Terms and Definitions Jane Radatz, Chair

This standard is one of a number of information technology dictionaries being developed by standards organizations accredited by the American National Standards Institute. This dictionary was developed under the sponsorship of voluntary standards organizations, using a consensus-based process.



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### Introduction

Since the first edition in 1941 of the American Standard Definitions of Electrical Terms, the work now known as IEEE Std 100, The IEEE Standard Dictionary of Electrical and Electronics Terms, has evolved into the unique compendium of terms that it is today.

The current edition includes all terms defined in approved IEEE standards through December 1996. Terms are categorized by their technical subject area. They are also associated with the standards or publications in which they currently appear. In some cases, terms from withdrawn standards are included when no current source can be found. Earlier editions of IEEE Std 100 included terms from sources other than IEEE standards, such as technical journals, books, or conference proceedings. These terms have been maintained for the sake of consistency and their sources are listed with the standards in the back of the book.

The practice of defining terms varies from standard to standard. Many working groups that write standards prefer to work with existing definitions, while others choose to write their own. Thus terms may have several similar, although not identical, definitions. Definitions have been combined wherever it has been possible to do so by making only minor editorial changes. Otherwise, they have been left as written in the original standard.

Users of IEEE Std 100 occasionally comment on the surprising omission of a particular term commonly used in an electrical or electronics field. This occurs because the terms in IEEE Std 100 represent only those defined in the existing or past body of IEEE standards. To respond to this, some working groups obtain authorization to create a glossary of terms used in their field. All existing, approved standard glossaries have been incorporated into this edition of IEEE Std 100, including the most current glossaries of terms for computers and power engineering.

IEEE working groups are encouraged to refer to IEEE Std 100 when developing new or revised standards to avoid redundancy. They are also encouraged to investigate deficiencies in standard terms and create standard glossaries to alleviate them.

The sponsoring body for this document was Standards Coordinating Committee 10 on Definitions (SCC10), which consisted of the following members:

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### How to use this dictionary

The terms defined in this dictionary are listed in *letter-by-letter* alphabetical order. Spaces are ignored in this style of alphabetization, so *cable value* will come before *cab signal*. Descriptive categories associated with the term in earlier editions of IEEE Std 100 will follow the term in parentheses. New categories appear after the definitions (see Categories, below), followed by the designation of the standard or standards that include the definition. If a standard designation is followed by the letter s, it means that edition of the standard was superseded by a newer revision and the term was not included in the revision. If a designation is followed by the letter was withdrawn and not replaced by a revision. A bracketed number refers to the non-IEEE standard sources given in the back of the book.

Acronyms and abbreviations are no longer listed in a separate section in the dictionary; rather, they are incorporated alphabetically with other terms. Each acronym or abbreviation refers to its expanded term, where it is defined. Acronyms and abbreviations for which no definition was included in past editions have been deleted from this edition of IEEE Std 100.

Abstracts of the current set of approved IEEE standards are provided in the back of the book. It should be noted that updated information about IEEE standards can be obtained at any time from the IEEE Standards World Wide Web site at http://standards.ieee.org/.

### Categories

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The category abbreviations that are used in this edition of IEEE Std 100 are defined below. This information is provided to help elucidate the context of the definition. Older terms for which no category could be found have had the category "Std100" assigned to them. Note that terms from sources other than IEEE standards, such as the National Electrical Code<sup>®</sup> (NEC<sup>®</sup>) or the National Fire Protection Association, may not be from the most recent editions; the reader is cautioned to check the latest editions of all sources for the most up-to-date terminology. AHD AMF AP ATL BA BT С CAS CE CHM COM CS DA DEI DES DIS ED EDU EEC ELM EM EMI EM( GRS GSE IA ΙE II IM IT IVH LEC LM MA MIL MM MT NE( NES NFF NI NIR

NN NPS

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OE

PA PE PEI

PQ PSF PV

QU

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RA REl

Cat

AE

#### client

es the required offcourse (AE) 172-1983w specified area that is to cings that are not related (C) 610.2-1987

e devices) (low-voltage the characteristic of some ibit a low resistance and the as a result of an ex-D) [8], C62.32-1981s operation of a signal in

(EEC/PE) [119] k circuit) A drop signal attract the attention of

(EEC/PE) [119] vtective devices) (lowices) A defined electriied as a clearing stimvice under laboratory led to simulate condi-

)) [8], C62.32-1981s Ig from the beginning terruption. *Note:* The Iting time and arcing (PE/SWG) [56]

(FE/SWG) [56] interval between the n circuit reaches the nd the instant of final iary arcing contacts. to the sum of contact

980s, C37.100-1992 ne elapsing from the ne final circuit inter-: The clearing time he arcing time. 1992, C37.40-1993 d easily and without JB) C37.123-1996 ation to empty linc is unaffected; e.g., ear." Clear may be ization in order to 'MM) 1596-1992 that has less than (EEC/IE) [126] ntent of which is M) 802.10-1992 material provided ictors at a definite m each other, and ee also: raceway. EEC/PE) [119] art of a building and whose walls [EEC/IE] [126]

a specified value *e also:* electro-

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(C) 1295-1993
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1) 1296-1987s
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'93, 1351-1994
sting a service.
') 610.7-1995

#### client execution environment

(4) Software that uses an interface. (C/PA) 1224.1-1993
(5) See also: batch client.

- **client execution environment** The machine state that exists when a client program begins execution.
- (BA/C) 1275-1994 client interface A set of data and procedures giving a client program access to client interface services.

(BA/C) 1275-1994

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- client instance A manifestation of the client that shares the input and output queues of the client with other instances. (C/PA) 1224.1-1993
- client interface handler A mechanism by which control and data are transferred from a client program to the firmware, and subsequently returned, for the purpose of providing client interface services. (BA/C) 1275-1994
- client layer In the OSI model, refers to the data link and physical layers. *See also:* application layer; data link layer; entity layer; logical link control sublayer; medium access control (MAC) sublayer; network layer; physical layer; presentation layer; session layer; sublayer; transport layer.

(C) 610.7-1995

- client interface services Those services that Open Firmware provides to client programs, including device tree access, memory allocation, mapping, console I/O, mass storage, and network I/O. (BA/C) 1275-1994
- client-server In a communications network, the client is the requesting device and the server is the supplying device. For example, the user interface could reside in the client work-station while the storage and retrieval functions could reside in the server database. (C) 610.7-1995
- client role The location where the software is actually executed or used (as opposed to the target where it is actually installed). The configuration of software is performed by this role.

(C/PA) 1387.2-1995

- climber in training A worker who is in training to become a qualified climber. (PE/T&D) 1307-1996 client program A software program that is loaded and executed by Open Firmware (or a secondary boot program). (The client
- program may use services provided by the Open Firmware client interface.) (BA/C) 1275-1994 climbing The vertical movement (ascending and descending)
- and horizontal movement to access or depart the worksite. (NESC/PE/T&D) 1307-1996, C2-1997
- climbing space The vertical space reserved along the side of a pole or structure to permit ready access for linemen to equipment and conductors located on the pole structure.
- (PE/T&D) [10], 196-1951w, C2.2-1960 clinometer (navigation aids) An instrument for indicating the degree of slope of the angle of roll or pitch of a vehicle, according to the plane in which it is mounted.
- (AE) 172-1983w clip (1) (charged-particle detectors) (radiation detectors) (x-ray energy spectrometers) A limiting operation, such as the use of a high-pass filter or a nonlinear operation such as diode limiting of pulse amplitude. *Synonym:* clipping. *See also:* contact clip; differentiated; fuse clips.
- (NPS) 301-1976s, 325-1971w, 759-1984r (2) (charged-particle detectors) A limiting operation, such as the use of a high-pass filter (differentiator) or a nonlinear operation to limit the amplitude of a pulse. The first usage is archaic. *Synonym:* clipping. (NPS) 300-1988r (3) *See also:* clamp, cable. (PE/T&D) 524-1992
- clipboard A software storage device that is used to store an<br/>object that is cut or copied from the screen and to retrieve an<br/>object that is pasted.(C)1295-1993
- clipper (data transmission) A device that automatically limits the instantaneous value of the output to a predetermined maximum value. *Note:* The term is usually applied to devices which transmit only portions of an input wave lying on one side of an amplitude boundary. (PE) 599-1985w clipper limiter A transducer that gives output only when the
- input lies above a critical value and a constant output for all

inputs above a second higher critical value. *Synonym:* amplitude gate. *See also:* transducer. (AP) 145-1983s

clipping (1) (voice-operated telephone circuit) The loss of initial or final parts of words or syllables due to nonideal operation of the voice-operated devices. (EEC/PE) [119]
(2) (computer graphics) A computer graphics technique in which display elements lying totally outside a view area are made invisible and display elements lying partially inside a view area are scissored to remove the parts outside the view area before they are mapped to the display image. Note: In two-dimensional graphics, this view area is called the window; in three-dimensional graphics, it is called the view volume. See also: scissoring; view volume; window; wrap-around.



clipping

Before Clipping

(4) See also: clipping-in.

(3) See also: clip.

After Clipping



- (C) 610.6-1991 (NPS) 300-1988r (PE/T&D) 524-1992
- clipping-in (conductor stringing equipment) The transferring of sagged conductors from the travelers to their permanent suspension positions and the installing of the permanent suspension clamps. Synonyms: clamping-in; clipping.

(PE/T&D) 524-1992, 524a-1993

clipping offset (conductor stringing equipment) A calculated distance, measured along the conductor from the plumb mark to a point on the conductor at which the center of the suspension clamp is to be placed. When stringing in rough terrain, clipping offsets may be required to balance the horizontal forces on each suspension structure.

(PE/T&D) 524-1992

- clips See: contact clips; fuse clips.
- CLIST A command language used in the IBM MVS environment. (C) 610.13-1993
- CLK A fixed-frequency clock signal. The main SBus timing signal. (BA/C) 1496-1993
- clock (1) (A) A device that generates periodic signals used for synchronization. (B) A device that measures and indicates time. See also: master clock; real-time clock; time-of-day clock; timer; wall clock. (C) A register whose content changes at regular intervals in such a way as to measure time. (C) [20]
  - (2) A signal, the transitions of which (between the low and high logic level [or vice versa]) are used to indicate when a stored-state device, such as a flip-flop or latch, may perform an operation. (C/TT) 1149.1-1990, 1149.5-1995
    (3) An object that measures the passage of time. The current value of the time measured by a clock can be queried and, possibly, set to a value within the legal range of the clock. (C/PA) 1003.5b-1995, 9945-1-1996
  - (4) (A) A device that generates periodic, accurately spaced signals used for such purposes as timing, regulation of the operations of a processor, or generation of interrupts.
    (B) To trigger a circuit to perform an operation, such as to accept data into a register.
    (C) 610.10-1994
    (5) See also: dynamometer.

(PE/T&D) 516-1987s, 524-1992

clock accuracy The deviation from absolute accuracy per unit of time. In a hierarchical, master-slave synchronization plan, with one primary and at least one backup reference being designated for each local digital switch, the clock rate of the local switch is controlled by the master. Under that method of operation, the local digital switch should operate at zero

closed-loop co A type of at on signals f For examply control of lo control com

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close-talking n for use close phone.

#### closed loop

close coupling Any degree of coupling greater than the critical coupling. Synonym: tight coupling. See also: coupling; critical coupling. (EEC/PE) [119]

- closed air circuit (rotating machinery) A term referring to duct-ventilated apparatus used in conjunction with external components so constructed that while it is not necessarily airtight, the enclosed air has no deliberate connection with the external air. Note: The term must be qualified to describe the means used to circulate the cooling air and to remove the heat produced in the apparatus. (PE) [9]
- closed amortisseur An amortisseur that has the end connections connected together between poles by bolted or otherwise separable connections. (EEC/PE) [119]
- closed architecture An architecture for which design parameters and specifications are not available to anyone except the manufacturer of the system. Contrast: open architecture. (C) 610.10-1994
- closed-circuit cooling (rotating machinery) A method of cooling in which a primary coolant is circulated in a closed circuit through the machine and if necessary a heat exchanger. Heat is transferred from the primary coolant to the secondary coolant through the structural parts or in the heat exchanger.

(PE) [9]

- closed-circuit principle The principle of circuit design in which a normally energized electric circuit, on being interrupted or de-energized, will cause the controlled function to assume its most restrictive condition. (EEC/PE) [119]
- closed-circuit signaling (data transmission) That type of signaling in which current flows in the idle condition, and a signal is initiated by increasing or decreasing the current.

(PE) 599-1985w

closed-circuit transition As applied to reduced-voltage controllers, including star-delta controllers, a method of starting in which the power to the motor is not interrupted during the starting sequence. See also: electric controller.

(IA) [60]

closed-circuit transition auto-transformer starting (rotating machinery) The process of auto-transformer starting whereby the motor remains connected to the supply during the transition from reduced to rated voltage.

(PE) [9]

closed-circuit voltage (batteries) The voltage at its terminals when a specified current is flowing. See also: battery. (EEC/PE) [119]

closed construction Any building, building component, assembly or system manufactured in such a manner that all concealed parts of processes of manufacture cannot be inspected before installation at the building site without disassembly, damage, or destruction. (NEC/NESC) [86]

closed curve (image processing and pattern recognition) A curve whose beginning and ending points are the same point.



#### closed curve

#### (C) 610.4-1990

closed loop (1) (automatic control) A signal path that includes a forward path, a feedback path, and a summing point and that forms a closed circuit. See also: feedback loop

(IA) [60], [69] (2) (software) A loop that has no exit and whose execution can be interrupted only by intervention from outside the computer program or procedure in which the loop is located. Contrast: UNTIL; WHILE. (C) 610.12-1990

#### clock cycle

nominal slips. If the link connecting the master switch to the slave switch is broken, the number of slips will depend on clock accuracy. (COM) 973-1990w

- clock cycle One period of the CLK signal, beginning with the rising edge of the signal and ending on the following rising edge of the signal. (BA/C) 1496-1993
- clocked data one (CD1) A Manchester-encoded data 1, A CD1 is encoded as a LO for the first half of the bit-cell and a HI for the second half of the bit-cell. (C/LM) 802.3u-1995
- clocked data zero (CD0) A Manchester-encoded data 0. A CDO is encoded as a HI for the first half of the bit-cell and a LO for the second half of the bit-cell.

(C/LM) 802.3u-1995

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clocked logic (power-system communication) The technique whereby all the memory cells (flip-flops) of a logic network are caused to change in accordance with logic input levels but at a discrete time. See also: digital.

(PE) 599-1985w

- clocked violation HI (CVH) A symbol that deliberately violates Manchester-encoding rules, used as a part of the Collision Presence signal. A CVH is encoded as a transition from LO to HI at the beginning of the bit cell, HI for the entire bit cell, and a transition from HI to LO at the end of the bit cell. (C/LM) 802.3u-1995
- clocked violation LO (CVL) A symbol that deliberately violates Manchester-encoding rules, used as a part of the Collision Presence signal. A CVL is encoded as a transition from HI to LO at the beginning of the bit cell, LO for the entire bit cell, and a transition from LO to HI at the end of the bit cell (C/LM) 802.3u-1995
- clocking (data transmission) The generation of periodic signals used for synchronization. See also: data processing. (COM) [49]
- clocking bit (1) In asynchronous transmission, a bit that signals a synchronization event. (C) 610.7-1995 (2) A bit containing an encoded signal, preceding the data within a data stream, or on a separate channel; used for establishing timing intervals. See also: clock track; synchroni-(C) 610.10-1994 zation bit.

clock pulse See: clock signal.

- clock reference (digital accelerometer) Basic system timing (MTT) 457-1982w reference.
- clock, reference A clock of very high stability and accuracy that may be completely autonomous and whose frequency serves as a basis of comparison for the frequency of other clocks. (COM) 1007-1991

clock register See: timer.

- clock signal A periodic signal used for synchronizing events. Synonyms: clock pulse; timing pulse. (C) 610.10-1994
- clockStrobe signal A packet that causes a node to record its time-of-day registers (if any) when it is received, and to record the duration of the propagation of the packet within the node. Used for precisely synchronizing multiple time-ofday clocks within a system. (C/MM) 1596-1992
- clock tick An interval of time. A number of these occur each second. Clock ticks are one of the units that may be used to express a value found in type clock\_t.

(C/PA) 9945-1-1996

clock track A track on which a pattern of signals, known as synchronization bits, is recorded to provide a timing reference. Synonym: timing track. See also: clocking bit. (C) 610.10-1994

CLOS See: Common LISP Object System.

- (BA/C) 1275-1994 close To destroy a package instance.
- close and latch The capability of a switching device to close (allow current flow) and immediately thereafter latch (remain closed) and conduct a specified current through the device under specified conditions.

(PE/SWG) C37.100-1992

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