

R. Brown



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IBM DICTIONARY OF COMPUTING

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field object In the IBM LinkWay product, an object on the page that displays text and in which users can enter text. Field objects can be multiple lines long and as wide as the page area.

field of view In AIX graphics, the extent of the area that is under view. The field of view is defined by the viewing primitive in use.

field-programmable read-only storage A read-only storage that, after manufacture, can have the data content of each storage cell altered. (A)

field prompt (1) In SAA Advanced Common User Access architecture, descriptive, static text that identifies a selection field or entry field. (2) In SAA Basic Common User Access architecture, descriptive, static text that identifies selection fields, entry fields, and variable output information. See command field prompt.

field record relation indicator In RPG, an indicator that associates fields in an input record with a particular record type. The field record relation indicator is normally used when the record type is one of several in an OR relationship.

field reference file (1) In the AS/400 AFP program, a physical file that contains no data, only descriptions of fields. (2) A physical file that contains no members and whose record format describes the fields used by a group of files.

field replaceable unit (FRU) An assembly that is replaced in its entirety when any one of its components fails. In some cases a field replaceable unit may contain other field replaceable units; for example, a brush and a brush block that can be replaced individually or as a single unit. See also customer replaceable unit.

field return In the AIX operating system, the action that moves a data cursor from field to field in a reverse direction, as determined by the panel layout.

field search argument (FSA) In IMS/VS Fast Path, the I/O area constructed by an application program to identify a field within a segment that is to be processed with a main storage database FLD call.

field selection (1) In the AS/400 AFP program, a function that uses the state of the option indicators to display or print data when a record format is written. (2) In the AS/400 Business Graphics Facility, the selection of fields from a database file for use as data values and data labels. (3) In GDDM, the selection of fields from a database file for use as data values.

field tab (FTAB) In IMS/VS message format service, a character defined for operator use in separating input

fields if the length of the entered data is less than the defined field length, or if there is no data for a field.

field validation (1) In the 3270 Information Display System, a function that provides mandatory field, mandatory fill, and trigger field capability for checking data when the data are entered by the operator from a terminal. (2) An extended field attribute type. (3) An attribute passed between session partners in the Start Field Extended, Modify Field, and Set Attribute orders.

FI-FMD layer Function interpreter for function management data. Deprecated term for presentation services layer.

FIFO First-in-first-out. (A)

fifteen 1's A transmission of fifteen or more consecutive 1's received and detected by an SDLC station, indicating that the sending station is in the idle state.

fifth generation computer A computer that can solve difficult problems using limited knowledge and reasoning capability, that approaches problems in a manner similar to the way in which humans approach them, and that allows humans to communicate with it by means of simple languages.

Note: Earlier generations of computers were characterized by the technology used to implement them: first generation - vacuum tubes, second generation - transistors, third generation - integrated circuits, and fourth generation - very large scale integrated (VLSI) circuits.

FIGS Figures shift.

figurative constant (1) A data name that is reserved for a specified constant in a specified programming language. (I) (A) (2) In COBOL, a compiler generated value referenced through the use of certain reserved words. (3) In RPG, an implied literal that is specified in the calculation specifications without a length definition because the implied length and decimal positions are the same as those of the receiver field. (4) Deprecated term for literal.

figure space (1) A unit of measure equal to the width of the "en" space in a particular font. (2) In the Document Composition Facility, the width of the figure zero (0).

figures shift (FIGS) A physical shift in a teletypewriter that enables printing of images such as numbers, symbols, and uppercase characters. See also letters shift.

file (1) A named set of records stored or processed as a unit. (T) (2) In System/38, a generic term for the

object type that refers to a database file, device file, or set of related records treated as a unit. See also logical file, physical file. (3) A collection of information treated as a unit. (4) In word processing, synonym for document. (5) A collection of related data that is stored and retrieved by an assigned name. (6) In the AS/400 AFP program, a generic term for the object type that refers to a database file, a device file, or a save file. (7) In COBOL, a collection of logical records.

File In SAA Common User Access architecture, a choice in the action bar that a user selects to work with items on the computer or on disks or diskettes.

file access mode In VM, a mode that determines whether the file can be used as read-only or read/write.

file allocation table (FAT) In IBM personal computers, a table used by DOS to allocate space on a disk for a file and to locate and chain together parts of the file that may be scattered on different sectors so that the file can be used in a random or sequential manner.

file attribute Any of the attributes that describe the characteristics of a file.

file attribute conflict condition In COBOL, a condition caused when an unsuccessful attempt is made to execute an input-output operation on a file and the file attributes, as specified for that file in the program, do not match the fixed file attributes for the file.

file chaining In System/38 query, a function that allows a query application to use data from two database files.

file clause In COBOL, a clause that appears as part of any of the following Data Division entries: file description (FD) entry and sort-merge file description (SD) entry.

file cleanup (1) The removal of superfluous or obsolete data from a file. (T) (2) Synonymous with file tidying.

file connector In COBOL, a storage area that contains information about a file and is used as the linkage between a file-name and a physical file and between a file-name and its associated record area. See external file connector, internal file connector.

file constant In PL/I, a file for which a complete set of file description attributes exists during the time that the file is open and with which each file must be associated.

FILE-CONTROL In COBOL, the name of an Environment Division paragraph in which the data files for a given source program are declared.

File control block (FCB) A record that contains all of the information about a file, such as its structure, length, and name.

file control entry In COBOL, a SELECT clause and all of its subordinate clauses that declare the relevant physical attributes of a file.

file control table (FCT) A table containing the characteristics of files processed by CICS file management.

file definition (1) Information that describes the contents and characteristics of a file. (2) In VM, equating a CMS file identifier (file name, file type, file mode) with an OS data set name via the FILEDEF command, or equating a VSE file-id with a CMS file identifier via the DLBL command. (3) In VM, identifying the input or output files to be used during execution of a program (via either the FILEDEF or DLBL commands). (4) In RPG, file description and input specifications that describe the records and fields in a file. (5) In IDDU, information that describes the contents and characteristics of a file. A file definition resides in a data dictionary. See also field definition, record format definition.

file description A part of a file where file and field attributes are described.

file description attribute In PL/I, a keyword that describes the characteristics of a file. See also alternative attribute, additive attribute.

file description (FD) entry In COBOL, an entry in the File Section of the Data Division that is composed of the level indicator FD, followed by a file-name, and then followed by a set of file clauses as required.

file description specifications In RPG, a coding form on which the programmer identifies and describes all files used in a program.

file description statement A nonexecutable statement used to specify the characteristics of a file, usually including such information as the names of logical records, header and trailer formats, and the type of device on which the file is stored. (T)

file descriptor In the AIX operating system, a small positive integer that the system uses instead of the file name to identify an open file.

file exception/error subroutine In RPG, a user-written program that may be called following file exceptions or program errors.

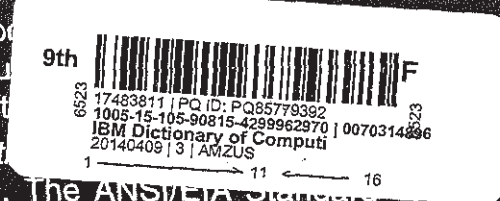
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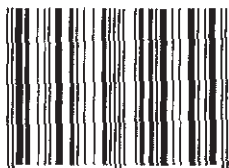
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