



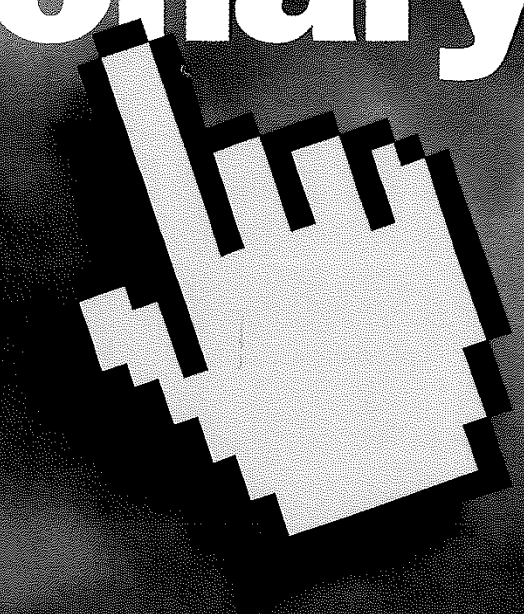
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among those who use IBM PCs and compatibles. Serial printers are standard for Apple computers. *See also* DB connector, serial, serial transmission. *Compare* parallel printer.

serial processing *n.* *See* sequential processing (definition 2).

serial transmission *n.* The transfer of discrete signals one after another. In communications and data transfer, serial transmission involves sending information over a single line one bit at a time, as in modem-to-modem connections. *Compare* parallel transmission.

serif¹ *adj.* Describes a typeface characterized by the use of serifs. For example, the typeface used in this dictionary is a serif typeface. *See also* serif². *Compare* sans serif.

serif² *n.* Any of the short lines or ornaments at the ends of the strokes that form a typeface character.

server *n.* **1.** On a local area network, a computer running administrative software that controls access to the network and its resources, such as printers and disk drives, and provides resources to computers functioning as workstations on the network. **2.** On the Internet or other network, a computer or program that responds to commands from a client. For example, a file server may contain an archive of data or program files; when a client submits a request for a file, the server transfers a copy of the file to the client. *See also* client/server architecture. *Compare* client (definition 2).

server-based application *n.* A program that is shared over a network. The program is stored on the network server and can be used at more than one client machine at a time.

server cluster *n.* A group of independent computers that work together as a single system. A server cluster presents the appearance of a single server to a client.

server error *n.* A failure to complete a request for information through HTTP that results from an error at the server rather than an error by the client or the user. Server errors are indicated by HTTP status codes beginning with 5. *See also* HTTP, HTTP status codes.

server push-pull *n.* A combination of Web client/server techniques individually called server push and client pull. In server push, the server loads data to the client; the data connection stays open, allowing the server to continue sending data to the browser as necessary. In client pull, the server loads data to the client, but the data connection does not stay open. The server sends an HTML directive to the browser telling it to reopen the connection after a certain interval to get more data or possibly to open a new URL. *See also* HTML, server (definition 2), URL.

server-side includes *n.* A mechanism for including dynamic text in Web documents. Server-side includes are special command codes recognized and interpreted by the server; their output is placed in the document body before the document is sent to the browser. Server-side includes can be used, for example, to include the date/time stamp in the text of the file. *See also* server (definition 2), SHTML.