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Computer Desktop Encyclopedia

Ninth Edition

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Computer Desktop Encyclopedia, Ninth Edition

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638 MS Mail**MS Mail** See *Microsoft Mail*.**MSMQ** See *Microsoft Message Queue Server*.**MSN** See *Microsoft Network*.**MS-Net** (Microsoft Network) Microsoft's version of PC-Network introduced in 1985. It was not widely used. See *PC Network*.**MSO** (Multiple System Operator) A major cable TV organization that has franchises in multiple locations.**MSP** (1) (Management Service Provider or Managed Service Provider) An organization that manages a customer's computer systems and networks which are either located on the customer's premises or at a third-party datacenter. MSPs offer a variety of service levels from just notifying the customer if a problem occurs to making all necessary repairs itself. MSPs may also be a source for hardware and staff for its customers. For information, visit www.mspassociation.org.

(2) (Microsoft Solution Provider) A Microsoft certification for qualifying resellers that sell and provide training and support on Microsoft products. A certain number of employees must be Microsoft Certified Professionals.

(3) A Microsoft Paint graphics file format.

(4) (Multi-Tech Supervisory Protocol) A simultaneous voice and data (SVD) protocol from Multi-Tech Systems, Inc., Mounds View, MN. When a telephone handset is picked up, the modem switches to packet mode, digitizes the voice and interleaves the voice packets with the data packets. See *SVD*.

(5) (Media Suite Pro) A popular Macintosh-based nonlinear video editing system from Avid Technologies, Tewksbury, MA.

(6) An operating system used in Fujitsu IBM-compatible mainframes.

(7) (Multiprocessing Server Pack) A utility that enables LAN Manager to utilize a computer's multiprocessing capabilities.

mSQL (Mini SQL) A relational DBMS that runs on a variety of UNIX servers as well as Windows and OS/2. It uses a subset of ANSI SQL as the query language in order to keep it compact and provide rapid access. Scripting languages such as W3-mSQL (which comes with mSQL), PHP and MsqlPerl are used to access the database from Web pages, and programming languages such as C can be used as well. The database can also be accessed using the mSQL prompt via Telnet.mSQL was developed in 1994 by David J. Hughes for a Ph.D. research project. It was later commercialized by his Queensland, Australia-based company, Hughes Technologies, (www.hughes.com.au). See *PHP*.**MS SQL** See *Microsoft SQL Server* and *mSQL*.**MS SQL Server** See *Microsoft SQL Server*.**MSVBVMxx.DLL** (Microsoft Visual Basic Virtual Machine [xx=version #].DLL) The Visual Basic runtime module starting with VB 5. MSVBVMxx contains necessary runtime functions and also provides the interpreter for Visual Basic applications that are compiled to bytecode rather than native machine code. All Visual Basic applications prior to VB 5, and optionally in VB 5, are compiled into an intermediate "bytecode" language, which the runtime module turns into machine language on the fly. See *VBRUNxxx.DLL* and *Visual Basic*.**MS Virtual Machine** See *Microsoft Virtual Machine*.**MSW** (Microsoft Word) See *Microsoft Word*.**MS-Windows** (Microsoft Windows) See *Windows*.**MS Word** See *Microsoft Word*.**MS-Works** See *Microsoft Works*.

stovepipe application A stand-alone program. It implies an application that does not integrate with or share data or resources with other applications.

STP (1) (Shielded Twisted Pair) Telephone wire that is wrapped in a metal sheath to eliminate external interference. See *twisted pair*.

(2) (Spanning Tree Protocol) See *spanning tree algorithm*.

(3) (Signal Transfer Point) A node in the SS7 telephone network that routes messages between exchanges and between exchanges and databases that hold subscriber and routing information. See *SS7*, *SSP*, *SCP* and *AIN*.

(4) See *straight through processing*.

straight through processing In financial technology, the ability to process a stock transaction by computer from beginning to end without manual intervention at any of the stages.

stream (1) A contiguous group of data.

(2) The I/O management in the C programming language. A stream is a channel through which data flows to/from a disk, keyboard, printer, etc.

(3) The data part of a Structured Storage file. See *Structured Storage*.

stream cipher An encryption method that works with continuous streams of input rather than fixed blocks. Contrast with *block cipher*.

streaming Refers to the continuous transmission of data, typically audio or video. See *streaming audio* and *streaming video*.

streaming audio Audio transmission over a data network. The term implies a one-way transmission to the listener, in which both the client and server cooperate for uninterrupted sound. The client side buffers a few seconds of audio data before it starts sending it to the speakers, which compensates for momentary delays in packet delivery. Audio conferencing, on the other hand, requires realtime two-way transmission for effective results. See *streaming video*.

streaming data Data that is structured and processed in a continuous flow, such as digital audio and video. See *streaming audio* and *streaming video*.

streaming media See *streaming audio* and *streaming video*.

streaming tape A high-speed magnetic tape drive that is frequently used to make a backup copy of an entire hard disk.

streaming video Video transmission over a data network. It is widely used on the Web to deliver video on demand or a video broadcast at a set time. In streaming video, both the client and server software cooperate for uninterrupted motion. The client side buffers a few seconds of video data before it starts sending it to the screen, which compensates for momentary delays in packet delivery. Streaming video implies a one-way transmission, whereas videoconferencing requires realtime two-way transmission for effective results. The latter is far more demanding on the network. See *streaming audio*.

stream-oriented file A type of file, such as a text document or digital voice file, that is more openly structured than a database file. Text and voice files contain continuous streams of characters, whereas database files contain many small repeating structures (records).

STREAMS A feature of UNIX System V that provides a standard way of dynamically building and passing messages up and down a protocol stack. STREAMS passes messages from the application "downstream" through the STREAMS modules to the network driver at the end of the stack. Messages are passed "upstream" from the driver to the application. A STREAMS module would be a transport layer protocol such as TCP and SPX or a network layer protocol such as IP and IPX.

STREAMS modules can be dynamically changed (pushed and popped) at runtime, allowing the stack to be used for multiple protocols. Two important STREAMS components are the TLI and LSL interfaces, which provide common languages to the transport and data link layers. See *TLI*, *LSL*, *ODI* and *OSI*.

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Latin, the word *stratum* is singular and *strata* is plural. In English, this distinction is lost. It is therefore incorrect to use *stratum* or to create the form *stratas* as the plural of *stratum* (not a series of overlaid strata); a new stratum was uncovered (not a new stratum uncovered).

cor-ne-um /'strātem, kōrnēam; 'stra-/ *n.* the horny outer layer of the skin. *Latin*, 'horny layer.'

stratus /'strātes; 'stra-/ *n.* cloud forming a continuous horizontal gray sheet, often with rain or snow. (19th cent.; modern Latin, from Latin, literal 'laid down,' past participle of *sternere*).

straw /'strɔː; 'strɔːs/ *n.* the name of two Austrian composers: **1** Johann (1804–49), a leading composer of waltzes; known as **Strauss the Elder**. His best-known work is the *Radetzky March* (1838). **2** Johann (1825–99), son of Strauss the Elder; known as **Strauss the Younger** and as the waltz king. He composed many famous waltzes, such as *The Blue Danube* and *Tales from the Vienna Woods* (1868). He is also known for the operetta *Die Fledermaus* (1874).

Levi (c.1829–1902), U.S. manufacturer; known in Germany. He established Levi Strauss & Co. in 1850 to sell pants made of tent canvas and gold miners. He eventually switched to denim and made the work pants that became known as 'Levi's jeans' or 'Levi's.'

Richard (1864–1949), German composer. **Richard Strauss** (1864–1949), German composer. **Hugo von Hofmannsthal** he produced operas such as *Der Rosenkavalier* (1911). He is regarded as the last of the 19th-century romantic composers.

Stravinsky /'strə'vinskɔj, Igor (Fyodorovich) (1882–1972), Russian composer; resident of the U.S. from 1934. His ballets *The Firebird* (1910) and *The Rite of Spring* (1913) shocked Paris audiences with their irregular rhythms and frequent dissonances. He later adopted a neoclassical style typified by the opera *The Soldier's Progress* (1948–51) and experimented with serialism in *Threni*.

straw /'strɔː/ *n.* 1 dried stalks of grain, used esp. as material for thatching, packing, or bedding. [as *adj.*] a straw hat. 2 a pale yellow color. [as *adj.*] a straw color. 3 a dull straw color. 4 used in reference to something insubstantial or worthless: *his arguments were merely straw*. 5 [with *neg.*] anything or at all (used to emphasize how little something is valued): *if he finds you here, my life will be worth a straw*. 6 a single dried stalk of grain. 7 the tramp sat chewing a straw. 8 a stalk of grain. 9 something similar used in drawing lots: *we had to draw straws for the food we had*. 10 a thin hollow tube of paper or plastic for sucking drink from a glass or bottle. *Old English* *strēaw*, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *stroo* and German *Stroh*, also to *straw*. —*straw-y* *adj.*

straw *grasp* (or *clutch* or *catch*) at straws (or straws) *be in such a desperate situation as to resort to the most unlikely means of salvation*. [from the proverb *a drowning man will clutch at a straw*]. **the short straw** be the unluckiest of a group of people, esp. in being chosen to perform an unpleasant task. **the last (or final) straw** a further difficulty or annoyance, typically minor in itself but adding on top of a whole series of difficulties, that makes a situation unbearable: *his affair was the last straw from the proverb the last straw breaks the (laden) back*. **a straw in the wind** a slight hint of future developments.

strawberry /'strɔːbəri; -b(ə)rɪ/ *n.* 1 a sweet soft red fruit with a seed-studded surface. 2 the low-growing plant that produces this fruit, having white flowers, lobed leaves, and runners, and found throughout north temperate regions. 3 Genus *Fragaria* family Rosaceae; the commercial strawberry is usually *F. × ananassa*. 4 a deep pinkish-red color. *English* *strēaw(w)berige*, *strēowberige* (see *STRAW*).

strawberry blond (also *strawberry blonde*) *adj.* (of hair) of a light reddish-blond color. (of a person) having hair of such a color.

light reddish-blond hair color. a person who has hair of such a color.

strawberry mark *n.* a soft red birthmark.

strawberry roan *adj.* denoting an animal's coat of chestnut mixed with white or gray.

strawberry roan animal.

strawberry tree *n.* a small evergreen European plant of the heath family that bears clusters of

whitish flowers late in the year, often at the same time as the strawberrylike fruit from the previous season's flowers. • *Arbutus unedo*, family Ericaceae. **straw-board** /'strɔːbɔːd/ *n.* board made of straw pulp, used in building (faced with paper) and in book covers.

straw boss *n.* informal a junior supervisor, esp. a worker who has some responsibility but little authority.

strawflower /'strɔːflaʊ(-ə)r/ *n.* an everlasting flower of the daisy family. • Several species in the family Compositae, in particular the Australian *Helichrysum bracteatum* and plants of the genus *Heliotropium*.

straw man *n.* a person compared to a straw image; a sham. • a sham argument set up to be defeated.

straw poll (also *straw vote*) *n.* an unofficial ballot conducted as a test of opinion: *I took a straw poll among my immediate colleagues*.

stray /'streɪ/ *v.* [intrans.] move without a specific purpose or by mistake, esp. so as to get lost or arrive somewhere where one should not be: *I strayed a few blocks in the wrong direction* | *the military arrested anyone who strayed into the exclusion zone*. • move so as to escape from control or leave the place where one should be: *dog owners are urged not to allow their dogs to stray* | *figurative* I appear to have strayed a long way from our original topic. [intrans.] (of the eyes or a hand) move idly or casually in a specified direction: *her eyes strayed to the telephone*. [of a person who is married or in a long-term relationship] be unfaithful: *men who stray are seen as more exciting and desirable*. [intrans.] poetic/literary wander or roam in a specified direction: *over these mountains the Kurdish shepherd strays*. *adj.* [attrib.] 1 not in the right place; not where it should be or where other items of the same kind are: *he pushed a few stray hairs from her face*. • appearing somewhere by chance or accident; not part of a general pattern or plan: *she was killed by a stray bullet*. [of a domestic animal] having no home or having wandered away from home: *stray dogs*. 2 Physics (of a physical quantity) arising as a consequence of the laws of physics, not by deliberate design, and usually having a detrimental effect on the operation or efficiency of equipment: *stray capacitance*.

n. 1 a stray person or thing, esp. a domestic animal. 2 (strays) electrical phenomena interfering with radio reception. *Middle English*: shortening of Anglo-Norman French and Old French *estray* (verb), Anglo-Norman French *strey* (noun), partly from *ASTRAY*. —*stray-er* *n.*

streak /'streɪk/ *n.* 1 a long, thin line or mark of a different substance or color from its surroundings: *a streak of oil*. • Microbiology a narrow line of bacteria smeared on the surface of a solid culture medium. 2 an element of a specified kind in someone's character: *there's a streak of insanity in the family* | *Lucy had a ruthless streak*. [usu. with *adj.*] a continuous period of specified success or luck: *the theater is on a winning streak* | *the team closed the season with an 11-game losing streak*.

v. 1 [trans.] cover (a surface) with streaks: *tears streaking her face*, *Cynthia looked up* | *his beard was streaked with gray*. • dye (hair) with long, thin lines of a different, typically lighter color than one's natural hair color: [trans.] *hair that was streaked blond*. • Microbiology smear (a needle, swab, etc.) over the surface of a solid culture medium to initiate a culture. 2 [intrans.] move very fast in a specified direction: *the cat leaped free and streaked across the street*. 3 [intrans.] informal run naked in a public place so as to shock or amuse others. *Old English* *strica*, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *streek* and German *Streich*, also to *STRAKE*. The sense 'run naked' originated in the U.S. in the 1970s. —*streaker* *n.* (in sense 3 of the verb).

PHRASES like a streak informal very fast: *he is off like a streak*. • streak of lightning a flash of lightning. **streaking** /'streɪkɪŋ/ *n.* long, thin lines of a different color from their surroundings, esp. on dyed hair.

streaky /'streɪki/ *adj.* (streak-ier, streak-iest) having streaks of different colors or textures: *streaky blond hair*. • informal variable in quality; not predictable or reliable: *King has always been a famously streaky hitter*. —*streak-ily* /-lɪ/ *adv.* —*streak-iness* *n.*

stream /'striːm/ *n.* 1 a small, narrow river. 2 a continuous flow of liquid, air, or gas: *Frank blew out a stream of smoke* | *the blood gushed out in scarlet streams*. • a current within a larger body of water or in the ocean. • (a stream/streams of) a mass of people or things moving continuously in the same direction:

there is a steady stream of visitors. • (a stream/streams of) a large number of things that happen or come one after the other: *a woman shouted a stream of abuse*. • Compelling a continuous flow of data or instructions, typically one having a constant or predictable rate. 3 British term for *TRACK* noun sense 5.

v. 1 [intrans.] (of liquid) run or flow in a continuous current in a specified direction: *she sat with tears streaming down her face* | *figurative* sunlight streamed through the windows. • (of a mass of people or things) move in a continuous flow in a specified direction: *he was watching the taxis streaming past*. 2 [intrans.] (usu. be streaming) (of a person or part of the body) produce a continuous flow of liquid; run with liquid: *my eyes were streaming* | *I woke up in the night, streaming with sweat* | [trans.] his mouth was streaming blood. 3 [intrans.] (of hair, clothing, etc.) float or wave at full extent in the wind: *her black cloak streamed behind her*. 4 Computing [trans.] transmit (audio or video data) continuously, so that the parts arriving first can be viewed or listened to while the remainder is downloading. 5 British term for *TRACK* verb sense 4. *Old English* *stream* (noun), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *stroom*, German *Strom*, from an Indo-European root shared by Greek *rhein* 'to flow.'

PHRASES against (or with) the stream against (or with) the prevailing view or tendency: *a world in which the demand for quality does not run against the stream*. • on stream in or into operation or existence; available: *more jobs are coming on stream*.

streamer /'striːmə/ *n.* a long, narrow strip of material used as a decoration or symbol: *plastic party streamers* | *figurative* a streamer of smoke. [usu. as *adj.*] a banner headline in a newspaper: *his appearance was announced with a streamer headline*. [usu. as *adj.*] Fishing a fly with feathers attached: *a streamer fly*. • Astronomy an elongated mass of luminous matter, e.g., in auroras or the sun's corona.

stream-flow /'striːmfloʊ/ *n.* the flow of water in a stream or river.

streaming /'striːmɪŋ/ *n.* a method of relaying data (especially video and audio material) over a computer network as a steady continuous stream, allowing playback to proceed while subsequent data is being received.

adj. [attrib.] Compiling (of data) transmitted in a continuous stream while earlier parts are being used.

stream-let /'striːmlɪt/ *n.* a small stream.

stream-line /'striːmlɪn/ *v.* [trans.] [usu. as *adj.*] (streamlined) design or provide with a form that presents very little resistance to a flow of air or water, increasing speed and ease of movement: *streamlined passenger trains*. • figurative make (an organization or system) more efficient and effective by employing faster or simpler working methods: *the company streamlined its operations by removing whole layers of management*.

n. a line along which the flow of a moving fluid is least turbulent.

adj. 1 (of fluid flow) free from turbulence. 2 dated having a streamlined shape: *a streamline airplane*.

stream of consciousness *n.* Psychology a person's thoughts and conscious reactions to events, perceived as a continuous flow. The term was introduced by William James in his *Principles of Psychology* (1890). • a literary style in which a character's thoughts, feelings, and reactions are depicted in a continuous flow uninterrupted by objective description or conventional dialogue. James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, and Marcel Proust are among its notable early exponents.

Streep /'striːp/, Meryl (1949–), U.S. actress; born Mary Louise Streep. She won Academy Awards for her performance in *Kramer vs. Kramer* (1980) and *Sophie's Choice* (1982). Other movies include *The French Lieutenant's Woman* (1981), *Out of Africa* (1986), *One True Thing* (1998), *The Hours* (2002), and *The Manchurian Candidate* (2004).

street /'striːt/ *n.* a public road in a city or town, typically with houses and buildings on one or both sides; the narrow, winding streets of Greenwich Village | [in place names] 45 Lake Street. • (the street) used to refer to the financial markets and activities on Wall Street. • (the street/streets) the roads or public areas of a city or town: *every week, fans stop me in the street*. • [as *adj.*] of or relating to the outlook, values, or lifestyle of those young people who are perceived

Pronunciation Key a ago; ɔ over; ɪ or; ʊ up; ɛ or; ɔr fur; a hat; ā rate; ā car; CH chew; ɔ let; ē see; e(s) air; i fit; i by; i(e) ear; Nā sing; ɔ go; ɔ for; o boy; ɔ good; ɔ go; ou out; SH she; TH thin; TH then; (h)w why; ZH vision