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Computer Dictionary

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by a client and usually exists only for the duration of a single client/server session. It performs operations, such as calculations or accessing a database, for the client. While a session bean may be transactional, it is not recoverable should a system crash occur. Session bean objects can either be stateless or can maintain conversational state across methods and transactions. If a session bean maintains state, the Enterprise JavaBean (EJB) container manages this state if the object must be removed from memory. However, the session bean object itself must manage its own persistent data. *See also* EJB, stateless.

session layer *n.* The fifth of seven layers in the ISO/OSI reference model. The session layer handles the details that must be agreed on by the two communicating devices. *See the illustration. See also* ISO/OSI reference model.

ISO/OSI MODEL	
ISO/OSI Layer	Focus
Application (highest level)	Program-to-program transfer of information
Presentation	Text formatting and display, code conversion
Session	Establishing, maintaining, and coordinating communication
Transport	Accurate delivery, service quality
Network	Transport routes, message handling and transfer
Data-link	Coding, addressing, and transmitting information
Physical	Hardware connections

Session layer.

set¹ *n.* In printing and display, a group of related characters, such as a character set. *See also* character set.

set² *vb.* 1. To change the value of a bit to 1. 2. To establish a particular condition, such as setting tab stops, setting a counter to 0, or setting a breakpoint. *See also* breakpoint.

SET protocol *n.* *See* Secure Electronics Transactions protocol.

settling time *n.* The time required for a disk drive's read/write head to stabilize over a new location on the disk after being moved.

set-top box *n.* A device that converts a cable TV signal to an input signal to the TV set. Set-top boxes can be used to

access the World Wide Web and are a type of information appliance. *See also* information appliance.

setup *n.* 1. A computer along with all its devices. 2. The procedures involved in preparing a software program or application to operate within a computer.

setup program *n.* 1. A built-in BIOS program for reconfiguring system parameters to accommodate a new disk drive. *See also* BIOS. 2. *See* installation program.

setup string *n.* *See* control code.

setup wizard *n.* In Windows, a utility that asks users a structured series of questions and gives them options to aid the process of installing a new program.

seven-segment display *n.* A light-emitting diode (LED) display or liquid crystal display (LCD) that can show any of the 10 decimal digits. The seven segments are the seven bars that form a numeral 8 as in a calculator display.

sex changer *n.* *See* gender changer.

sfx *n.* A computer language used to generate digital audio effects and synthesizer instrument audio. It is a superset of the MPEG-4 standard SAOL audio compiler language. Sfx provides professional-quality audio synthesis, real-time MIDI and audio generation, and fully customizable instruments and effects. Because the sfx compiler is a C++ front-end compiler, code is converted to C++ and then compiled into executable orchestras that are used to generate real-time audio. As a result, the current release of sfx requires that Microsoft Visual C++ be installed on the system on which sfx is running. *See also* C++, compiler, MIDI, MPEG-4, SAOL, Visual C++.

.sgm *n.* The MS-DOS/Windows 3.x file extension that identifies files encoded in Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML). Because MS-DOS and Windows 3.x cannot recognize file extensions longer than three letters, the .sgml extension is truncated to three letters in those environments. *See also* SGML.

.sgml *n.* The file extension that identifies files encoded in Standard Generalized Markup Language. *See also* SGML.

SGML *n.* Acronym for Standard Generalized Markup Language. An information management standard adopted by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in 1986 as a means of providing platform- and application-independent documents that retain formatting, indexing, and linked information. SGML provides a grammarlike mechanism for users to define the structure of