The Dictionary of Computer and Internet Words

An A-to-Z Guide to Hardware, Software, and Cyberspace

Almost every part of our lives—at home, at work, or at play—relies upon computerization. Hand-held computers are morphing with cell phones, and home computers are morphing with televisions. We live in a wired, wired world. While new devices and the ubiquity of computers make us more productive, they can also make life more complicated. The Dictionary of Computer and Internet Words is a first step in reducing the mystery of these new technologies.

The Dictionary of Computer and Internet Words will help readers make their way successfully through computer manuals, help files, Web sites, and the computer section of the newspaper. It contains hundreds of completely new entries covering topics from degaussers to denial-of-service attacks, from exabytes to e-zines, from hash functions to heat sinks.

This new, completely revised edition includes 800 new terms that reflect the latest technology—a 66 percent increase in entries from the previous edition. It puts the information you need at your fingertips, with entries that fully explain the technology without the technical jargon.
New entries include:

**MIS**—Management information system. A computer system designed for a place of business that allows managers to organize, manipulate, and access data efficiently and effectively. The nature of the system can vary from an expensive mainframe to a local area network.

**PACKET SNiffer**—A program that intercepts data transmitted over the Internet and translates it back into readable text. Network administrators use packet sniffers to help locate and relieve network congestion. Packet sniffers are also used for illicit purposes such as obtaining passwords or credit card numbers.

**PETABYTE**—A unit of measurement of computer memory or data storage capacity equal to 1,124,899,906,842,624 (250) bytes. One petabyte equals 1,024 terabytes.

Knowledgeable experts have reviewed all the entries with attention given to both Apple and IBM PC-clone platforms. The definitions remain clear and easy to understand, making the dictionary an excellent resource for both the novice and the intermediate user. Illustrations and tables provide in-depth information that is easy to understand at a glance.

Steve Kleinedler served as project director for this latest edition of the *Dictionary of Computer and Internet Words*. Kleinedler is a Senior Editor in the Dictionary Department at Houghton Mifflin Company in Boston. He was one of the general definers for *The American Heritage Dictionary, Fourth Edition*, and was in charge of its pronunciation and abbreviation programs.