

**Control-Reset:** A combination keystroke on Apple II-family computers that usually causes an Applesoft BASIC program or command to stop immediately. If a program disables the Control-Reset feature, you need to turn the computer off to get the program to stop.

**copy protect:** To make a disk uncopyable. Software publishers frequently try to copy protect their disks to prevent them from being illegally duplicated by software pirates. Compare **write protect**.

**CPU:** See **central processing unit**.

**crash:** To cease to operate unexpectedly, possibly destroying information in the process.

**current input device:** The source, such as the keyboard or a modem, from which a program is currently receiving its input.

**current output device:** The destination, such as the display screen or a printer, currently receiving a program's output.

**cursor:** A symbol displayed on the screen marking where the user's next action will take effect or where the next character typed from the keyboard will appear.

**DAC:** See **digital-to-analog converter**.

**data:** Information, especially information used or operated on by a program. The smallest unit of information a computer can understand is a **bit**.

**data bits:** The bits in a communication transfer that contain information. Compare **start bit**, **stop bit**.

**Data Carrier Detect (DCD):** An RS-232-C signal from a DCE (such as a modem) to a DTE (such as an Apple IIe) indicating that a communication connection has been established. See **Data Communication Equipment, Data Terminal Equipment**.

**Data Communication Equipment (DCE):** As defined by the RS-232-C standard, any device that transmits or receives information. Usually this device is a modem.

**data set:** A device that modulates, demodulates, and controls signals transferred between business machines and communication facilities. A form of **modem**.

**Data Set Ready (DSR):** An RS-232-C signal from a DCE to a DTE indicating that the DCE has established a connection. See **Data Communication Equipment, Data Terminal Equipment**.

**Data Terminal Equipment (DTE):** As defined by the RS-232-C standard, any device that generates or absorbs information, thus acting as an endpoint of a communication connection. A computer might serve as a DTE.

**Data Terminal Ready (DTR):** An RS-232-C signal from a DTE to a DCE indicating a readiness to transmit or receive data. See **Data Communication Equipment, Data Terminal Equipment**.

**DCD:** See **Data Carrier Detect**.

**DCE:** See **Data Communication Equipment**.

**debug:** A colloquial term that means to locate and correct an error or the cause of a problem or malfunction in a computer program. Compare **troubleshoot**. See also **bug**.

**decimal:** The common form of number representation used in everyday life, in which numbers are expressed in the base-10 system, using the ten digits 0 through 9. Compare **binary**, **hexadecimal**.

**default:** A preset response to a question or prompt. The default is automatically used by the computer if you don't supply a different response. Default values prevent a program from stalling or crashing if no value is supplied by the user.