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The McGraw-Hill Illustrated Dictionary of Personal Computers

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external delays Lost system time due to causes beyond the control of operators and service crews.

external device code An address code for an external device that specifies the operation to be performed. The code is used in systems with common bus lines for a number of external devices. The external device code addresses a particular device, and only that device will respond to the instruction that is part of the code.

external event module A module used to detect power failures and control interrupts, and processor start-up and half functions. The module will implement the system priority scheme in the event of any power loss.

external icons Icons from non-Windows application or ones you create.

external interrupt An interrupt caused by an external event, such as a device requiring attention.

external label A label defined in one program that is used in another. Usually the programs are assembled independently and executed together.

external memory *See* AUXILIARY MEMORY.

external modem A modem that has its own enclosure and is connected to the computer using one of the computer's serial ports. External modems typically have status lights to indicate what activity is occurring. They might also require their own power source.

external reference synchronization A form of network synchronization in which the timing or frequency reference is obtained from a source external to the communication network.

external register A register that can be referenced by the program, located in control storage as specific addresses. Also known as a *location register.*

external storage Storage that is separate from the computer unit, such as magnetic tape or floppy disks. Also called *offline storage.*

external symbol A symbol that is used in several program modules, or in a program module dictionary

extracode Machine instructions that are used to provide increased capability for machine software. For example, an extracode may provide floating-point arithmetic for a machine that does not already have floating-point capability. Extracodes are stored within the system or in ROMs.

extract **1.** To remove from a set of items all items that meet a particular criterion. **2.** A procedure used to replace the contents of certain columns of data with the contents of other columns.

extract instruction An instruction that requests the formation of a new expression from selected parts of another expression. A typical extract instruction might remove the first, second, fifth, and sixth bits from an 8-bit word and combine them to form a new word.

extremely low frequency *See* ELF.

extrinsic properties The properties of a semiconductor, modified by impurities or imperfection within the crystal.

extrinsic semiconductor A semiconductor whose electrical properties depend on its impurities.

eye pattern An oscilloscope display of a digital signal used to examine performance.

E/Z Abbreviation for *equal to zero.*

EZ FORMS A form-generating program that allows you to generate custom forms. Using the menu-driven design process, you can create a new form or revise a master (one of the supplied forms).

EZ-INSTALL A package that produces installation routines for software products. It steps the developer through installation options, generates the installation configuration, and creates distribution disks.

EZ-SPREADSHEET A spreadsheet program designed to be fast and compact, being just 512 columns by 64 rows, which is enough for many users. In most cases, you can just use the worksheets supplied and enter your own data. Applications worksheets supplied for the home include calculating budgets, loans, and savings plans. Business applications include simple loan calculations to complete financial statements.

EZ-VU Development A package that allows you to create panels (screens) to help programs communicate with the user. Examples of panels are menus, fill-in forms, and help screens. It was written by the same IBM programmers who developed the mainframe product ISPF. Users who are familiar with ISPF will find it easy to learn. The two products, however, are not compatible; panels created on one will not transfer to the other.

EZ-VU Runtime This program, sometimes referred to as the *Interactive System Production Facility Runtime,* is a dialog manager. A dialog is the conversation between the user and the program, so a dialog manager monitors the interaction between what is displayed on the screen and how the program interprets it. EZ-VU Runtime is used to get input from panels created by EZ-VU Development. It then checks and interprets that information and transfers it to the applications program.