

Exhibit 15

MODERN
DICTIONARY
of
ELECTRONICS

SIXTH EDITION

REVISED AND UPDATED


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alphanumeric displays, chart recorders and alarms, that facilitate human intervention.

data acquisition and conversion system—A method of processing analog signals and converting them into digital form for subsequent processing or analysis by computer or for data transmission.

data acquisition system—1. A system in which a computer at a central computing facility gathers data from multiple remote locations. 2. System for recording data, usually in digital form, from several sources; can include computing functions.

data bank—A comprehensive collection of libraries of data. For example, one line of an invoice may form an item, a complete invoice may form a record, a complete set of such records may form a file, the collection of inventory control files may form a library, and the libraries used by an organization are known as its data bank. Synchronous with data base.

data base—Also database. 1. The entire body of data that has to do with one or more related subjects. Typically, it consists of a collection of data files (such as a company's complete personnel records concerning payroll, job history, accrued vacation time, etc.) stored in a computer system so that they are readily available. 2. A block of computer memory containing information about one given thing. 3. The collection of current variable data elements defined and maintained by the user. 4. A collection of data consisting of at least one file, that is sufficient for a given purpose or for a given data processing system. 5. A large and complete collection of information that covers a variety of subject areas. For instance, a medical diagnostic data base might contain symptoms for all common diseases or injuries. 6. A collection of data fundamental to a system or to an enterprise. Made up of comprehensive files of information having predetermined structure and organization and able to be communicated, interpreted, or processed by humans or by automatic means. 7. Comprehensive collection of information having predetermined structure and organization suitable for communication, interpretation, or processing.

data base management—1. A systematic approach to storing, updating and retrieval of information stored as data items, usually in the form of records in a file, where many users, or even many remote installations, will use common data banks. 2. A program that enables a computer to store large amounts of information and then sort it in almost any manner. For example, a company's data base could give a list of customers by ZIP code, by credit line, alphabetically by

name, or by telephone number. The program takes care of managing the storage and retrieval of the data.

data base relations—Linkages within a data base which logically bind two or more elements in the data base. For example, a nodal line (interconnect) is related to its terminal connection nodes (pins) because they all belong to the same electrical net.

data block—Typically, all the data for one item that is entered into a computer for processing, or the computer output that results from processing. An example of an input data block is an individual shipping list, and an example of an output data block is a check to be sent.

data break—A facility that permits input/output transfers to take place on a cycle-stealing basis without disturbing execution of the program by a computer.

data bus—1. A wire or group of wires used to carry data to or from a number of different locations. 2. The output pins of the MPU chip and associated circuitry used for the transmission of data from one point in the system to another. 3. In fiber optics, an optical waveguide used as a common trunk line to which a number of terminals can be interconnected through optical couplers. 4. A system incorporated into fiber optic communications characterized by several spatially distributed terminals that are served with the same multiplexed signal.

data catalog—A software tool used to list all of the data elements in a data base.

data channel (or communication) equipment—Abbreviated DCE. A device that interfaces a transmission facility to a transmitting/receiving device. A modem is a DCE.

data code—A structured set of characters used to stand for the data items of a data element, for example, the numerals 1, 2,...7 used to represent the data items Sunday, Monday,...Saturday.

data collection—In a computer, the transferring of data from one or more points to a central point. Also called data gathering.

data communications—1. The technology covering the transfer of data over relatively long distances. 2. Transmission of data in both directions between a central location (host computer) and remote locations (terminals) through communication lines. To facilitate this, interfaces such as modems, multiplexers, concentrators, etc., are required at each end of the lines. 3. The movement of encoded information by means of electrical transmission systems.

data communication equipment—See DCE.

data communications processor—A small computer used to control the flow