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Bryan Pfaffenberger

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## 68 **Broadband ISDN (B-ISDN)**

**Broadband ISDN (B-ISDN)** A high-bandwidth digital telephone standard for transmitting up to 1.5 *Mbps* over *fiber-optic cables*. See *Basic Rate Interface (BRI)* and *ISDN*.

**broadcast message** In a *network*, a message to all system users that appears when you *log on* to the system. For example, broadcast messages are used to inform users when the system will be shut down for maintenance.

**brownout** A period of low-voltage electrical power caused by unusually heavy demand, such as that created by summertime air conditioner use. Brownouts can cause computers to operate erratically or to *crash*, either of which can result in *data* loss. If brownouts frequently cause your computer to crash, you may need to buy a *line-interactive UPS* to work with your machine.

**browse** 1. To look for information by manually looking through a series of storage locations. 2. To look for information on the *World Wide Web (WWW)* by jumping from hyperlink to hyperlink.

**browse mode** In a *database management program*, a mode in which *data records* are displayed in columns for quick, on-screen review. Generally, you cannot modify data while in the browse mode. Synonymous with list view or table view in some programs. See *edit mode*.

**browser** A program that enables the user to navigate the *World Wide Web (WWW)*. The two leading browsers are *Netscape Navigator*, part of Netscape Communication's *Netscape Communicator* package, and *Microsoft Internet Explorer*. A browser serves as the *client* for Web and other types of Internet servers. Synonymous with *Web browser*. Increasingly, browsers are becoming the interface of choice for all the various types of data accessible by means of networks based on Internet technology. See *light client*.

**browsing** In a *hypertext*, an information-seeking method that involves manually searching through linked documents. In the *World Wide Web (WWW)*, browsing is rarely effective for finding information on a specific topic (it's much better to use subject trees and search engines), but it's lots of fun. Browsing, for no particular reason, is called *surfing*. See *search engine* and *subject tree*.

**brush script** In *typography*, a typeface design that simulates script drawn with a brush or broad-pointed pen.