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simultaneously over multiple transmission channels that are distinguished by frequency. A broadband network is capable of high-speed operation (20 megabits or more), but it is more expensive than a baseband network and can be difficult to install. Such a network is based on the same technology used by cable television (CATV). *Also called* wideband transmission. *Compare* baseband network.

broadcast¹ \brodˈkast\ *adj.* Sent to more than one recipient. In communications and on networks, a broadcast message is one distributed to all stations. *See also* e-mail¹ (definition 1).

broadcast² \brodˈkast\ *n.* As in radio or television, a transmission sent to more than one recipient.

broadcast storm \brodˈkast stōrm\ *n.* A network broadcast that causes multiple hosts to respond simultaneously, overloading the network. A broadcast storm may occur when old TCP/IP routers are mixed with routers that support a new protocol. *Also called* network meltdown. *See also* communications protocol, router, TCP/IP.

Router \broʊˈtər, brōdˈtər\ *See* bridge router.

brownout \brɒnˈaʊt\ *n.* A condition in which the electricity level is appreciably reduced for a sustained period of time. In contrast to a blackout, or total loss of power, a brownout continues the flow of electricity to all devices connected to electrical outlets, although at lower levels than the normally supplied levels (120 volts in the United States). A brownout can be extremely damaging to

sensitive electronic devices, such as computers, because the reduced and often fluctuating voltage levels can cause components to operate for extended periods of time outside the range they were designed to work in. On a computer, a brownout is characterized by a smaller, dimmer, and somewhat fluctuating display area on the monitor and potentially erratic behavior by the system unit. The only reliable means of preventing damage caused by a brownout condition is to use a battery-backed uninterruptible power supply (UPS). *See also* UPS. *Compare* blackout.

browse \brɒz\ *vb.* To scan a database, a list of files, or the Internet, either for a particular item or for anything that seems to be of interest. Generally, browsing implies observing, rather than changing, information. In unauthorized computer hacking, browsing is a (presumably) nondestructive means of finding out about an unknown computer after illegally gaining entry.

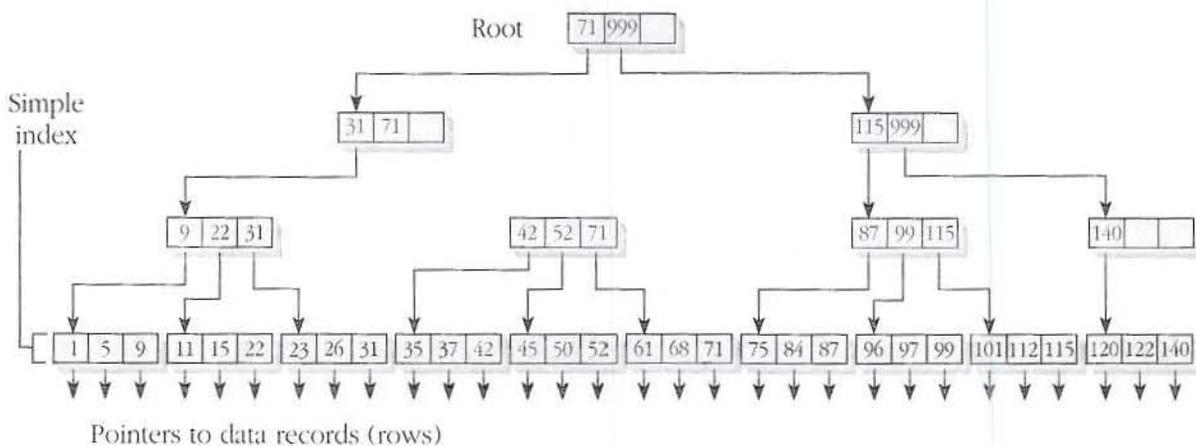
browser \ˈbrɒʊˈzər\ *n.* *See* Web browser.

browser box \ˈbrɒʊˈzər bɒks\ *n.* *See* Web TV.

BRS \BˈR-S\ *n.* *See* big red switch.

brush \brʌʃ\ *n.* A tool used in paint programs to sketch or fill in areas of a drawing with the color and pattern currently in use. Paint programs that offer a variety of brush shapes can produce brushstrokes of varying width and, in some cases, shadowing or calligraphic effects.

.bs \ˈdɒfˈB-S\ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address is located in the Bahamas.



B-tree. A B-tree index structure.



.wav \dot`W-A-V` \ *n.* The file extension that identifies sound files stored in waveform (WAV) audio format. *See also* WAV.

WAV \wāv, W`A-V` \ *n.* A file format in which Windows stores sounds as waveforms. Such files have the extension .wav. Depending on the sampling frequency, on whether the sound is monaural or stereo, and on whether 8 or 16 bits are used for each sample, one minute of sound can occupy as little as 644 kilobytes or as much as 27 megabytes of storage. *See also* sampling (definition 2), waveform.

wave \wāv \ *n.* **1.** Any disturbance or change that has an oscillatory, periodic nature, for example, a light or sound wave. *See also* waveform. **2.** In electronics, the time-amplitude profile of an electrical signal.

waveform \wāv`fōrm` \ *n.* The manner in which a wave's amplitude changes over time. *See also* period, phase, wavelength.

wavelength \wāv`lenkth, wāv`length` \ *n.* The distance between successive peaks or troughs in a periodic signal that is propagated through space. Wavelength is symbolized by the Greek letter lambda (λ) and can be calculated as speed divided by frequency.

wavelet \wāv`lēt` \ *n.* A mathematical function that varies over a limited extent of time. Wavelets are coming into increasing use for analyzing signals (such as sound). They have limited duration and sudden changes in frequency and amplitude rather than the infinite duration and constant amplitude and frequency of the sine and cosine functions. *Compare* Fourier transform.

WBEM \W`B-E-M` \ *n.* Acronym for **Web-Based Enterprise Management**. A protocol that links a Web browser directly to a device or application that monitors a network. *See also* communications protocol.

WDEF \W`D-E-F` \ *n.* *See* window definition function.

WDL \W`D-L` \ *n.* *See* Windows Driver Library.

weak typing \wēk` tī`pēng` \ *n.* A characteristic of a programming language that allows the program to change the data type of a variable during program execution. *See also* data type, variable. *Compare* strong typing.

web \web` \ *n.* A set of interlinked documents in a hypertext system. The user enters the web through a home page. *See also* World Wide Web.

Web \web` \ *n.* *See* World Wide Web.

Web address \web` a`dres, ə-dres` \ *n.* *See* URL.

Web-Based Enterprise Management \web`bāsd en`tər-prīz man`əj-mənt` \ *n.* *See* WBEM.

Web browser \web` brou`zər` \ *n.* A client application that enables a user to view HTML documents on the World Wide Web, another network, or the user's computer; follow the hyperlinks among them; and transfer files. Text-based Web browsers, such as Lynx, can serve users with shell accounts but show only the text elements of an HTML document; most Web browsers, however, require a connection that can handle IP packets but will also display graphics that are in the document, play audio and video files, and execute small programs, such as Java applets or ActiveX controls, that can be embedded in HTML documents. Some Web browsers require helper applications or plug-ins to accomplish one or more of these tasks. In addition, most current Web browsers permit users to send and receive e-mail and to read and respond to newsgroups. *Also called* browser. *See also* ActiveX controls, helper application, hyperlink, Internet Explorer, Java applet, Lynx, Mosaic, Netscape Navigator, plug-in.

WebCrawler \web`krā`lər, krō`lər` \ *n.* A World Wide Web search engine operated by America Online. *See also* search engine.

Web development \web` de-vel`əp-mənt` \ *n.* The design and coding of World Wide Web pages.

Web directory \web` dər-ek`tər-ē` \ *n.* A list of Web sites, giving the URL and a description of each. *See also* URL.

Web index \web` in`deks` \ *n.* A Web site intended to enable a user to locate other resources on the Web. The Web index may include a search facility or may merely contain individual hyperlinks to the resources indexed.

Webmaster or **webmaster** \web`ma`stər` \ *n.* A person responsible for creating and maintaining a World Wide Web site. A Webmaster is often responsible for responding to e-mail, ensuring the site is operating properly, creating and updating Web pages, and maintaining the overall structure