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inverted list A method for creating alternative locators for sets of information. For example, in a file containing data about cars, records 3, 7, 19, 24, and 32 might contain the value "Red" in the field COLOR. An inverted list (or index) on the field COLOR would contain a record for "Red" followed by the locator numbers 3, 7, 19, 24, and 32. *Compare* linked list.

inverted list database A database similar to a relational database but with the following differences:

- The rows (records or tuples) of an inverted list table are ordered in a specific physical sequence, independent of any orderings that may be imposed by means of indexes.

- The total database can also be ordered, with specified logical merge criteria being imposed between tables.

- Any number of search keys, either simple or composite, can be defined. Unlike the keys of a relational system, these search keys are arbitrary fields or combinations of fields.

- No integrity or uniqueness constraints are enforced.

- Neither the indexes nor the tables are transparent to the user, as they would normally be in a relational system.

    Because of these differences, it is much more difficult for the database management system to assure data consistency, integrity, and security with an inverted list database than with a relational system.

inverted structure A file structure in which record keys are stored and manipulated separately from the records themselves.

inverter In electronics, a logic circuit that inverts (reverses) the signal input to it—for example, inverting a high input to a low output. An inverter is also a device that converts direct current (DC) into alternating current (AC).

invoke To call or activate; used in reference to commands and subroutines.

I/O *See* input/output.

I/O-bound *See* input/output-bound.

ion-deposition printer An electrophotographic page printer similar to a laser printer but based on a more expensive technology. These printers, used mainly in high-volume data-processing environments, typically operate at speeds from 30 to 90 pages per minute. Like other electrophotographic printers, ion-deposition models use an electrostatically charged drum. Rather than converting some form of light into an electrostatic charge, however, as laser, LED, and LCD printers do, ion-deposition printers charge the drum by applying an ion stream directly to it. Ion-deposition printers typically use a method of fusing toner to paper that is fast and does not require heat. This method leaves the paper a little glossy, however, making it unsuitable for business correspondence. In addition, ion-deposition printers tend to produce thick, slightly fuzzy characters. *Compare* laser printer, LCD printer, LED printer; *see also* electrophotographic printers, nonimpact printer, page printer.

IO.SYS One of two hidden system files installed on an MS-DOS startup disk. IO.SYS in IBM releases of MS-DOS (called IBMBIO.COM) contains device drivers for peripherals such as the display, keyboard, floppy- and hard-disk drives, serial port, and real-time clock. *See also* MSDOS.COM.

IPC *See* interprocess communication.

IPL *See* initial program load.

IR *See* infrared.

IRG *See* inter-record gap.

IRGB Acronym for Intensity Red Green Blue, a type of color encoding originally used in IBM's Color/Graphics Adapter (CGA) and continued in the EGA (Enhanced Graphics Adapter) and VGA (Video Graphics Array). The standard 3-bit RGB color encoding (specifying eight colors) is supplemented by a fourth bit (called Intensity) that uniformly increases the intensity of the red, green, and blue signals, resulting in a total of 16 colors. *See also* RGB.

ISA Abbreviation for Industry Standard Architecture. An unofficial designation for the bus design of the IBM PC/XT, which allows various adapters to be added to the system by means of inserting plug-in cards into expansion slots. Originally introduced with an 8-bit data path, ISA was expanded in 1984,