Tech Info Library

Macintosh: Glossary of Terms (2/95)

```
Revised:        2/22/95
Security:       Everyone
```

Macintosh: Glossary of Terms (2/95)

===

Article Created: 24 March 1993
Article Reviewed/Updated: 22 February 1995

TOPIC ---

This article describes some of the common terms used when discussing Macintosh
computers in general and the Performa models in particular.

DISCUSSION --

Alias

A file that stands for and points to a file, application, folder, or disk that
you use as if it were the original. When you open an alias you are actually
opening the original.

Apple Backup

An application for the Macintosh Performa computers that lets you copy files on
your hard disk onto a series of high-density floppy disks. If the original files
on your hard disk are lost or damaged, you can use these backup disks to restore
your files.

Apple Desktop Bus (ADB)

Input circuitry built into most Apple computers. You use the ADB port to attach
the keyboard, the mouse, and other input devices, such as graphics tablets and
bar code readers.

Apple Menu

The menu at the left end of the menu bar, indicated by the Apple logo. You
choose items from this menu to open items (such as desk accessories) that you
have placed in the Apple Menu Items folder, and to get information about
programs that are currently running ("About…").

Apple Restore

An application program that lets you restore information on your hard disk from
a backup disks made with Apple Backup.

AppleTalk Network

A comprehensive network system that runs on a variety of cable systems and
protocols. It facilitates communication between network devices, such as your
computers, file servers, and printers, which may be a mixture of Apple and
non-Apple products. Several elements make up an AppleTalk network system:
AppleTalk software and AppleTalk hardware; the latter includes computing
components and connectivity components.

AppleTalk Connectivity

AppleTalk's design lets you include a variety of data-link and cabling methods
in a network system. Data-link and cabling methods widely used include
LocalTalk; EtherTalk, using standard Ethernet media; and TokenTalk, using token
ring media.

At Ease

Software that lets you use a Macintosh without using the Finder interface. At
Ease provides easy ways to open files and prevents you from deleting files or
changing system software. It is particularly suited to homes and classrooms.

Chooser

A program that lets you designate devices such as printers and shared disks on a
network for your Macintosh to use.

Clipboard

An area in the computer's memory that functions as a holding place for what you
last cut or copied. Information on the clipboard can be pasted into documents.

Control Panels

Programs that let you change various Macintosh features, such as sound, mouse
movement, and keyboard options. Control panels are located inside the System
folder.

Desk Accessories

Small application programs that you can add to your system. Desk accessories are
installed in the Apple menu. Those provided with the Macintosh include the
Calculator, the Chooser, Control Panels, Key Caps, and the Scrapbook.

Desktop

Your working environment when you are using the Finder interfaces on the
computer (the menu bar and the background area on the screen), on which you work

with icons and windows.

Documents Folder

A folder on the desktop that is the default folder when you save a document. For
(System 7.5 or Macintosh Performa only.)

Finder

The application program that maintains the Macintosh desktop and starts up other
programs at your request. You use it to manage documents and programs, and to
get information to and from disks. The Finder is what you see when you start up
your computer.

Folder

A container for documents, programs, as well as other folders on the desktop or
in directory windows.

Icon

A small pictorial representation of a file, disk, menu, option, or other object
or feature.

Launcher

A system extension containing aliases of programs and other items. The Launcher
window opens automatically when you start your computer. You can add to or
change the contents of the Launcher to suit your own needs. (System 7.5 or
Macintosh Performa only.)

NuBus

A bus architecture that lets you add a variety of components to your Macintosh
by installing cards into expansion slots (such as video capture cards and
networking).

Operating System

Software that coordinates the internal activities of the computer and its
peripheral devices. An operating system performs basic tasks such as moving data
to and from devices and managing information in memory.

ProDOS

The operating system for Apple II computers.

QuickTime

A System 7.x software extension that lets you play synchronized video and sound
clips on your Macintosh.

Scrapbook

```
---------
```
A desk accessory in which you can save frequently-used graphics, text, and sounds. The scrapbook can store multiple images. You can cut or copy images from the Scrapbook and paste them into documents.

SCSI (Small Computer Systems Interface)
```
----------------------------------------
```
A specification of mechanical and electrical standards for connecting certain peripheral devices (such as CD-ROM drives, external storage drives, and scanners) to a computer.

System File
```
-----------
```
A software file required for starting up the computer. You can customize it with fonts and desk accessories.

Article Change History:
22 Feb 1995 - Added keyword; made minor technical updates.
13 Feb 1995 - Changed AppleTalk information.

Support Information Services

Tech Info Library Article Number:11870