

main logic board: A large circuit board that holds RAM, ROM, the microprocessor, custom-integrated circuits, and other components that make the computer a computer.

main memory: The part of a computer's memory whose contents are directly accessible to the microprocessor; usually synonymous with **random-access memory (RAM)**. Programs are loaded into main memory, and that's where the computer keeps information while you're working. Sometimes simply called *memory*. See also **read-only memory**, **read-write memory**.

MARK parity: A bit of value 1 appended to a binary number for transmission. The receiving device checks for errors by looking for this value on each character. Compare **even parity**, **odd parity**.

megabyte: A unit of measurement equal to 1024 kilobytes, or 1,048,576 bytes; abbreviated Mb. See **kilobyte**.

memory: A hardware component of a computer system that can store information for later retrieval. See **main memory**, **random-access memory**, **read-only memory**, **read-write memory**.

memory location: A unit of main memory that is identified by an address and can hold a single item of information of a fixed size. In the Apple II family of computers, a memory location holds one byte, or eight bits, of information.

memory-resident: (1) Stored permanently in memory as firmware (ROM). (2) Held continually in memory even while not in use. DOS is a memory-resident program.

menu: A list of choices presented by a program, from which you can select an action.

MHz: Megahertz; one million hertz. See **hertz**.

microcomputer: A computer, such as any of the Apple II or Macintosh computers, whose processor is a **microprocessor**.

microprocessor: A computer **processor** contained in a single integrated circuit, such as the 6502 or 65C02 microprocessor used in the Apple II family of computers and the 68000 microprocessor used in the Macintosh family. The microprocessor is the **central processing unit (CPU)** of the microcomputer.

microsecond: One millionth of a second. Abbreviated μ s.

millisecond: One thousandth of a second. Abbreviated ms.

mode: A state of a computer or system that determines its behavior. A manner of operating.

modem: Short for *MODulator/DEMulator*. A peripheral device that links your computer to other computers and information services using the telephone lines.

modifier key: A key (Apple, Caps Lock, Control, Option, Shift) that generates no keyboard events of its own, but changes the meaning of other keys or mouse actions. Also called a *control key*.

modulate: To modify or alter a signal so as to transmit information. For example, conventional broadcast radio transmits sound by modulating the amplitude (amplitude modulation, or AM) or the frequency (frequency modulation, or FM) of a carrier signal.

monitor: See **video monitor**.

Monitor program: A system program built into the firmware of some computers, used for directly inspecting or changing the contents of main memory and for operating the computer at the machine-language level. The Monitor program activates the disk drive when you turn on the computer.