

**COMMUNICATIONS SERVER** — A computer which provides services to a **network** in the form of one or more **modems** which are physically connected to that computer but which may be accessed by software running on other computers connected to that network.

**COMPATIBILITY** — The ability of one piece of hardware or software to operate with another piece of hardware or software. Many application programs, for example, are only compatible with certain versions of a particular operating system.

**COMPUTER** — A programmable electronic device which is designed for storing, retrieving, and processing data.

**CONFIG.SYS FILE** — An MS-DOS file containing commands that configure the operating system each time you boot the microcomputer. For example, you can use the device command in this file to enable the operating system to work with your computer's peripheral devices. In a LAN environment, the **config.sys** file should never be changed without consulting the system administrator. You create the **config.sys** file with a text editing program.

**CPU (CENTRAL PROCESSING UNIT)** — See **microprocessor**

**CRT (CATHODE RAY TUBE) DISPLAY** — A video display based upon same "picture tube" technology as standard television sets. Most desktop microcomputers use **CRT** displays.

**CURSOR** — A flashing marker on the screen that indicates where the next input from the keyboard or mouse will appear.

**CYLINDER** — A term referring to all tracks that occur in the same position on each disk of a hard-disk drive. See also **track**.

**DATA** — Information that can be processed or transmitted, such as by a microcomputer.

**DEVICE DRIVER** — A program for controlling communications between the computer and a peripheral device such as a printer. When you install a new application program, you are often asked what kind of peripherals your computer is using so that the application program can properly configure itself for your equipment. Hardware peripherals such as a mouse, are normally supplied with a driver that must be installed on your computer for the peripheral to operate properly.

**DIAGNOSTICS** — A program that tests and reports on all the major components of your microcomputer. The program is supplied either as part of your microcomputer's BIOS and is accessed through special keystrokes described in a user manual or on a separate diskette. If you have a problem with your computer this program may help to identify the cause of the problem.