

DIP (DUAL IN-LINE PACKAGE) SWITCH — A series of small switches enclosed in a single case that can be set to configure various features on a printed circuit board. These switch settings should never be changed without reference to a manual and without recording the **current** settings.

DISKETTE / FLOPPY DISK — A removable magnetic platter which is used to store data. Diskettes may be single-sided or double-sided, double-density or high-density, 3 1/2 inch or 5 1/4 inch. These formats and their combinations are typically mutually incompatible. y

DIRECTORY — A collection of files and/or subdirectories which are stored on a disk. You can create a hierarchical file structure on any hard disk or diskette by placing related files into directories and related directories within a higher-level directory. For example, your hard-disk could contain separate directories for word processing files, spreadsheet files, and operating system files. See also **file**.

DISKETTE DRIVE — A device that can read data from or write data to a diskette/floppy disk.

DISKETTE DRIVE CONTROLLER — The electronic circuitry that communicates between the diskette drive and the microprocessor in a computer.

DOS — See **MS-DOS**

DOT-MATRIX PRINTER — See **printer**.

DRAM (DYNAMIC RANDOM ACCESS MEMORY) — Fast and inexpensive RAM which must be refreshed many times a second. If the power fails even momentarily or the computer is turned off, all data stored in **DRAM** will be lost. See **RAM**, **refresh**.

DRIVE CONTROLLER — See diskette-drive controller, hard-disk drive controller.

DRIVE-TYPE NUMBER — A number that identifies each kind of hard-disk drive according to its number of heads, cylinders, and tracks and its capacity. You must have the correct drive-type number entered in the System Setup program for the hard-disk drive installed in your computer. This information should be recorded somewhere in the event that the System Setup information is ever lost.

DRIVER — See **device driver**.

EGA (ENHANCED GRAPHICS ADAPTER) — A colour video display standard that offers greater resolution (image sharpness) than the **CGA** standard but less than the newer **VGA** standard.

EISA (EXTENDED INDUSTRY STANDARD ARCHITECTURE) — A 32-bit bus which is compatible with most standard 8-bit and 16-bit **expansion cards**. Typically found in non-IBM 80486-based microcomputers which are intended for use as file servers. See also **bus**, **expansion card**. Compare with **MCA**.