

ADDRESS — A binary number that designates a particular location in memory or on a board. Each location in memory has a distinct address and each port is designated by an address.

AMI — A specific vendor of BIOS. See also **BIOS**.

APPLICATION PROGRAM — A computer program that performs a specified range of tasks for the user. Examples of application programs include word processing and spreadsheet packages. Also called an **application**, **application software** or a **program**.

ARCNET — A proprietary protocol for passing data "packets" from one **network interface card** to another on a **network**. Compare with **ethernet**, **token ring**.

AT-COMPATIBLE — Microcomputers which are based upon the Intel 80286 **microprocessor** and which use the **industry standard architecture** for their **bus**. Simply, machines which are compatible with the original IBM-AT microcomputer.

ASCII (AMERICAN STANDARD CODE FOR INFORMATION INTERCHANGE) — A standard introduced to facilitate the exchange of data between a computer and other data processing equipment. It consists of 128 characters-letters, numbers, punctuation marks, and symbols-each represented by a 7-bit binary word.

ASYNCHRONOUS COMMUNICATIONS PORT — See **serial port**.

AUTOEXEC.BAT FILE — An MS-DOS batch file containing commands that are executed automatically whenever you start up your computer. For example, you can include the prompt command to specify the appearance of your system prompt or the path command to tell your operating system which directories contain executable files (such as MS-DOS commands). In a LAN environment, the **autoexec.bat** file should never be changed without consulting the system administrator. You create the **autoexec.bat** file with a text editing program. See also **batch file**.

AWARD — A specific vendor of BIOS. See also **BIOS**.

BACK-UP — To make duplicate copies of application programs or data files so that the originals can be stored in a safe place. All files that represent significant investments in time and/or money must be backed up as they will eventually be lost or damaged due to equipment failure or human error. Back-up copies may be made on diskettes, tapes or through LAN utilities.

BASE MEMORY — The lower 640 Kb of the first megabyte of memory in a computer. MS-DOS typically uses only base memory to run applications. Compare with **expanded memory**, **extended memory**, **reserved memory**.

BATCH FILE — A file that contains several commands that are executed in sequence as a group, or batch. MS-DOS batch files must have a filename extension of ".bat". See also **command**.