

GUI (GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE) — A user interface for an operating system for application program which treats the screen as a collection of dots (pixels) rather than as an array of characters. **GUI** offer a much higher resolution and more detailed and visually interesting graphics than is possible with traditional character-based interfaces. Software that uses **GUI** tends to be operated by pointing at on-screen pictures (icons) rather than by typing commands. Examples of the use of a **GUI** as an interface to an operating system include the Macintosh and MicroSoft Windows. Pronounce "GOOEY".

HALF-CARD — An **expansion card** which is half the regular length of such cards.

HALF-HEIGHT — A **hard-disk drive** or a **floppy disk drive** which is half the regular height of such drives.

HARD-DISK DRIVE — A data storage device that uses nonremovable, rigid magnetic platters in sealed, airtight containers. Hard-disk drives access data more rapidly and have a higher storage capacity than is possible with the more exposed diskettes. Also known as Winchester drives.

HARD-DISK DRIVE CONTROLLER — The electronic circuitry that communicates between the hard-disk drive and the microprocessor in a computer.

HARDWARE — The physical components of a microcomputer.

HEADS — The parts of a diskette or hard-disk drive that move over the spinning disk or platter to read data from or write data onto the magnetic surface. Diskette drives have either one or two heads, depending upon whether they are designed for single-sided or double-sided diskettes, whereas hard-disk drives typically have two per platter.

HIGH-DENSITY DISKETTE DRIVE — A diskette drive that can read from and write to high-density diskettes. These typically store over 1 MB of data.

HIGH-LEVEL FORMATTING — One step in preparing a hard-disk drive for data storage used by an operating system. This step marks bad sections of the disk so that they are not used for storing data. Also known as logical formatting. Compare with **low-level formatting**.

HUB — A device which connects cables leading to two or more computers in a **LAN**. **Hubs** may be **active** (implying that they contain electronic components and amplify signals) or **passive** (implying that they simply join the cables together). See also **LAN**.

Hz (HERTZ) — A unit of measure for indicating frequency in cycles per second.

ICON — See **GUI**.

IDE (INTEGRATED DRIVE ELECTRONICS) HARD-DISK DRIVE — A hard-disk drive that includes all control circuitry within the drive itself so that a separate controller card is unnecessary.