

SYSTEM SETUP PROGRAM — A program that lets you view or modify the time, date, and system configuration information for your computer. This program may be built into **firmware** and accessed through special keystrokes described in your computer's user manual or may be supplied with the computer on a floppy disk. See also **BIOS shadowing**, **system configuration information**.

TBU (TAPE BACKUP UNIT) — An internal or external device, with the use of software, allowing users and systems administrators to make a duplicate copies of application software or data files onto magnetic tape. See also **backup**.

TERMINAL EMULATOR — A program which permits a microcomputer to be perceived by a mainframe or minicomputer as a "dumb terminal". Terminals are essentially screens and keyboards which are not considered to have any local "intelligence" (i.e. processing capabilities).

TOKEN RING — A standard protocol for passing data "packets" from one **network interface card** to another on a **network** by waiting for a special packet called a "token" which provides the sole authority to broadcast a packet on the network at any point in time. Compare with **arcnet**, **ethernet**.

TONER CARTRIDGE — A plastic container comprising the drum and the carbon toner (a type of dry ink) for a laser printer. The **toner cartridge** must be replaced when its charge of toner runs out. See the laser printer's user manual for instructions on how to change cartridges.

TRACK — The paths on a disk in which information is recorded. These paths are arranged in concentric circles around the centre of the disk. Tracks permit the computer to store information at specific locations on the disk. See also **sector**.

TROUBLESHOOTING — The process of systematically analyzing a computer problem to resolve a hardware malfunction or a software error.

TSR (TERMINATE-AND-STAY-RESIDENT) — A RAM-resident program that, when executed, installs a portion of itself in memory, then seemingly terminates. Another program can run while the TSR program remains in memory. The TSR can be accessed at any time by momentarily interrupting the other program.

TWISTED PAIR — Electrical cable used to connect **network interface cards** and **hubs** in a network using wiring which consists of two conductors twisted around each other and surrounded by insulation. Similar to telephone wiring. Compare with **coaxial cable** and **fibre-optic cable**.

UPS (UNINTERRUPTABLE POWER SUPPLY) — A power unit which supplies clean AC power to one or more devices such as microcomputers and which, through use of a battery, continues to supply that power without interruption for a specified period of time even if the local electrical supply is cut off completely. Compare with **line conditioner**.