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

PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD — A board containing components that are connected by metal etched into the board to form an electrical circuit. Your computer's system board is an example of a printed circuit board.

PROCESSOR — See **microprocessor**.

PROGRAM — See **application program**.

PROMPT — A symbol that appears on the screen to indicate that the computer is ready to accept input. For MS-DOS systems, it is customary to configure the prompt in the **autoexec.bat** file such that the path to the current **directory** is always displayed.

QWERTY — A keyboard on which the first six keys in the top row spell **QWERTY.** This is the standard in North America and several other countries.

RAM (RANDOM ACCESS MEMORY) — Computer memory that stores data on a temporary basis for rapid access to the **CPU.** RAM stores the data used by the microprocessor as it executes your instructions. The contents of RAM are erased each time your computer is turned off or restarted. See also **ROM**.

READ — The retrieval of data from a **peripheral** into memory. A diskette drive reads data from a diskette. See also **write**.

REAL-TIME CLOCK / BATTERY CHIP — A chip that stores the current time and date, contains special memory for storing your system configuration information (which can be specified through the System Setup program), and includes a battery to maintain this configuration information when your computer is turned off.

REFRESH — The process whereby the content of every memory cell in DRAM is read, interpreted and rewritten to that cell before the electrical charge which signifies a binary zero or one dissipates to the point where it can no longer be interpreted in an unambiguous manner. This process must be repeated many times per second and is usually handled by special circuitry on the memory **chip** or **printed circuit board**. Thus **DRAM** holds its contents for only a short time unless it is continually refreshed. See also **DRAM**.

RESERVED MEMORY — The upper 384 Kb of the first 1 Mb of system memory which is set aside by the computer for such features as the BIOS, video control, expanded memory, and hard-disk drive control. Compare with **base memory, expanded memory**.