

LAN (LOCAL AREA NETWORK) — Two or more computers linked together via high-speed electronic communications within a limited area such as a single building or collection of buildings. Typical components of a **LAN** include **workstations, servers, network interface cards (NIC), hubs and cables**. See also **network operating system, arcnet, ethernet, token-ring, coaxial cable, twisted pair, fibre**. Compare with **WAN (Wide Area Network)**.

LAPTOP — A portable computer with a built-in keyboard and display. See also **computer**.

LCD (LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY) — A thin, lightweight video display based upon the same technology as is used for digital watches. **LCD** screens are commonly used for laptop computers. Most **LCD** screens are monochrome and vary considerably in their resolution, contrast, ability to display shades of grey and width of viewing angle. **Supertwist** displays are typically among the best of the **LCD** screens with respect to these parameters.

LIM (4.0) — Version 4.0 of a particular expanded memory standard (EMS) that describes how expanded memory should be used. This specification was created by Lotus Development Corporation, Intel Corporation, and Microsoft Corporation. See also **EMM, EMS**.

LINE CONDITIONER / STABILIZER — A device which, installed between a device such as a microcomputer and the local power mains, maintains the voltage to the device relatively constant despite brownouts, voltage surges and voltage spikes on the mains. These might otherwise damage the microcomputer, cause it to reboot or corrupt data files. A **line conditioner** does not protect against power failures or severe brownouts. Compare with **UPS**.

LOAD — To copy a program from a hard disk or diskette into the computer's memory (RAM). This operation is performed by the computer whenever you start a program for the first time. For example, when you turn on your computer, your operating system is loaded into memory.

LOCAL AREA NETWORK — See **LAN**.

LOGICAL DRIVE — A subdivision of a local or network hard disk drive designated by a letter (such as D). Each hard disk drive is divided into one or more partitions. The primary partition, which contains the operating system files, has a single logical drive designated as C. Any other partitions can contain any number of logical drives, each designated by a different letter. You create partitions and logical drives on your local hard disk with the **fdisk** command. Logical drives referring to network drives are created by network utility programs. See also **partition**.

LOGICAL FORMATTING — See **high-level formatting**.