

SERIAL PORT — A port that sends and receives data one bit at a time. This port can be used to connect your computer to an external modem or a mouse. Serial port connectors usually have 9 pins and are designated by software with the letters COM and single digit, such as COM1. See also **port**. Compare with **parallel port**.

SERVER — A computer which offers services such as disk files or printers to other computers which are connected to the same **network**. See also **file server**, **print server**. Compare with **workstation**.

SIMM (SINGLE IN-LINE MEMORY MODULE) — A small circuit board containing DRAM chips that plug into sockets on the system board. SIMMs come in 256-KB and 1-MB memory sizes and, space permitting, can be added at any time to increase the amount of your computer's memory. See also **DRAM**.

SINGLE-TASKING OPERATING SYSTEM — An operating system that performs one task at a time. MS-DOS is an example of a single-tasking operating system. See also **operating system**.

SINGLE-USER OPERATING SYSTEM — An operating system that can be used only on a single computer; it cannot serve multiple terminals linked to a single computer. MS-DOS is an example of a single-user operating system. See also **operating system**.

SOFT FONT — A **font** which is stored on a disk file and which is loaded into the memory of a laser printer when needed. Compare with **font cartridge**.

SOFTWARE — The ordered series of instructions that directs the operations of the computer or the processing of a task. Examples of software include commercial application packages, custom applications, operating systems and utility programs.

SUPERTWIST — See LCD.

SURGE SUPPRESSOR / PROTECTOR — A device which, installed between a device such as a microcomputer and the local power mains, minimizes voltage surges and voltage spikes on the mains. These might otherwise damage the microcomputer, cause it to reboot or corrupt data files. A **surge suppressor** does **not** protect against power failures, brownouts or severe brownouts. Compare with **line conditioner**, **UPS**.

SYSTEM CONFIGURATION INFORMATION — Data stored in memory on the real-time clock/battery chip that tells your computer what hardware is currently installed and how you want your computer configured for operation. You use the **system setup program** to view or modify this system configuration information.

SYSTEM MEMORY — The memory used by your computer to perform its operations. System memory is normally installed on the **motherboard** of your computer. See also **DRAM**, **RAM**.