

ELECTRICAL NOISE — Electrical noise in simple terms can be defined as undesirable electrical signals interfacing with the normal signals being transmitted.

EMM (EXPANDED MEMORY MANAGER) — A program that allows a computer to use expanded memory. This program is typically a **device driver** and is installed via a command in the **config.sys** file. See also **expanded memory**.

EMS (EXPANDED MEMORY SPECIFICATION) — A specification that defines how a computer can use expanded memory. Expanded memory is a scheme for providing MS-DOS application programs access to additional memory beyond the usual 640-KB limit. There are several expanded memory specifications developed by different companies in the computer industry. See also **expanded memory**.

EPROM (ERASABLE PROGRAMMABLE READ-ONLY MEMORY) — A **chip** in which computer instructions (software) or data have been semi-permanently written. The instructions stored in EPROM can be changed by software but do not need to be **refreshed** and hence are retained when you turn off or **boot** your computer. The **real-time clock/battery chip** may be an **EPROM**. See also **boot/reboot**.

ESDI (ENHANCED SYSTEMS DEVICE INTERFACE) — A specific type of **hard-disk controller**.

ETHERNET — A standard protocol for passing data "packets" from one **network interface card** to another on a **network** by waiting for a "quiet" time on the network, broadcasting the packet, checking for "collisions" with packets from other cards and rebroadcasting upon detection of a collision. Compare with **arcnet**, **token ring**.

EXPANDED MEMORY — Memory above the 640-KB limit for MS-DOS (version 3.30 and earlier) that can be used for programs that require large amounts of memory. Expanded memory usually involves using a small amount of memory above 640KB, such as 64 KB, as a window to a much larger amount of memory. Expanded memory requires special drivers. It can be used only by application programs that specifically support it. See also **EMS**, **extended memory**, **window**.

EXPANSION CARD / BOARD — A printed circuit card that you add to your computer to expand its existing capabilities. A network interface card, used to connect a computer to a network, is an example of an expansion card. See also **printed circuit board**.

EXPANSION SLOT — The area in the computer's chassis where an expansion card is installed. Expansion slots are provided to permit the addition of cards / boards.

EXTENDED INDUSTRY STANDARD ARCHITECTURE — See **EISA**

EXTENDED MEMORY — System memory above 1 MB that can be used by a computer with an Intel 80286, 80386, or 80486 microprocessor. Older computers based on the 8086 and 8088 microprocessors could access only 1 MB of system memory. See also **expanded memory**.