

AUTOMATION

GLOSSARY OF COMPUTER or CADD TERMS

Alphanumeric	Letters, number or symbols that form the input or output of a computer.
Application Software	Programs designed for a particular purpose (word processing, database spreadsheet).
Archiving	The process of removing a file(s) from a computer system and placing them on magnetic disks, optical disks, etc. for storage.
Back-up	To make a copy of a file or disk. (It's a good idea to make backup copies of all your important files.)
Batch	An input option in which there is no immediate interaction between the user and the computer. Data is entered then a command is given to begin processing.
Bit	The smallest item of useful information a computer can handle. Usually represented as a one or a zero. Eight bits equals one byte.
Boot	Another way to start up.
Bug	An error. The expression comes from the early days of computing when a moth flew into a computer and caused a breakdown.
Byte	A sequence of eight bits that represents an instruction, a letter, a number, or a punctuation mark.
CADD	Computer Aided Design and Drafting.
CD ROM	Compact Disk Read Only Media, optical media, usually software or programs loaded into a computer by a laser beam, requires a CD ROM drive.
Cell	A symbol, picture, detail or group of details. Cells provide a simple means of duplicating a symbol, detail or portion of a design many times.

Cell Library	A collection of cells.
Chip	A small wafer containing thousands of microscopic components.
Circuit Board	A collection of integrated circuits (chips) and/or electronic components on a board.
COGO	Coordinate Geometry.
Command	An operation performed by the computer, either keyed-in manually or selected with a cursor from a command menu.
Copy Protect	To prevent someone from duplicating the contents of a disk or file.
CPU	Central Processing Unit, the brains of a computer.
Cursor	A blinking underline, rectangle, cross hair, arrow or other symbol that marks your place on the screen.
Cursor	A hand-held device that moves across the menu tablet to choose commands, tracks elements on the screen and digitizes data (also called a mouse).
Data	Information, especially raw or unprocessed information.
Data Base	A type of application program that helps you keep track of lists of information. Makes it easy to recall, update, and cross-reference information. (Also known as data management.)
Data Disk	A disk containing your work or files.
Design File	A group of graphic information (vector or raster).
Device	Short for peripheral device. Equipment attached to your computer, such as a printer, plotter, mouse, modem, etc.
Digitize	To electronically trace graphic information from paper (such as a map or drawing) into the system.
Directory	A partition on a disk; sometimes called a catalog

Disk	A general term usually referring magnetic for a media. Typical types are diskettes, hard drives, optical, CD ROM, etc. You can buy programs prerecorded on disks, or save your work on blank disks.
Disk Drive	A device that loads information from disks into the memory of the computer and saves information from the memory of the computer onto a disk.
Display	A general term describe what you see on your screen when you're using a computer.
DOS	Disk Operating System. See operating system.
Dot Matrix Printer	A type of printer that forms characters with patterns of dots.
Dynamics	A command that enables an operator visually see the movement of elements in a graphics file.
Electrostatic Plotter	A printer/plotter of high quality, which uses a process similar a copier.
Error Message	The computer's way of alerting you a failure in the process, often accompanied by a beep.
File	A collection of information that you store on a disk.
File Management	A general term for copying files, deleting files, and other housekeeping chores involving the concepts of disks.
Format	To divide a disk into sections where information can be stored. Disks must be formatted before you can save information on them. Also called initializing.
Graphics	An all-encompassing term referring to all of the output of the system in the form of pictures on the screen. It also includes all of the functions of the system which accomplish the production of that data.
Hard Copy	A plot or print on a paper, mylar, etc. of the data on the system.

Hardware	Those parts of the computer that you can see and touch. The computer and the machines that attach to it: the disk drive, printer, and other peripheral devices. Compare software.
Input File	Contains commands that the system will execute once the file is run through the system.
Input/Output	Abbreviated I/O. Refers to the means by which information is sent between the computer and its peripheral devices.
Interactive	An input option in which there is immediate interaction between the user and the computer.
Interface	Hardware or software that links the computer to a device.
Intergraph	A manufacturer of CADD systems.
Keyboard	A way to communicate with the computer. It looks like the keyboard on a typewriter, but programmers can also make the keys have special functions.
Laser Printer	A printer/plotter of high quality, which uses a process similar to a copier.
Levels	Layers or planes of information. Micro station design files have 63 levels which can be displayed or blanked from the screen or plotted in any combinations to create new drawings. Graphics can be organized in any fashion on the 63 levels.
Load	To put data or programs into the computer from a disk, modem, tape. etc.
Memory	Integrated circuits (chips) that store instructions for the microprocessor (the brain) of the computer. The two common kinds of memory: temporary memory (called Random Access Memory -- RAM) and permanent memory (called Read Only Memory -- ROM).
Menu	A list of choices. The group of commands that support the design process.

Menu Tablet	A tablet containing commands, symbols and/or details, etc. on which and operator can use a cursor to input data rather than input through a keyboard only.
Modem	A device that links your computer to other computers and information services over telephone lines.
Monitor	It displays instruction from the program and shows what you've typed into memory.
Mouse	A pointing device, sometimes called a cursor.
Operating System	A program, that among other things, controls the way information is loaded into memory, the way the computer works with the information, the way information is stored on a disk, and the way the computer talks to printers and other peripheral devices.
Parallel	A printer or other device that receives data eight bits at a time. Compare to serial.
Pen Table	The plotters require certain data to give definition to the way in which a particular line will be drawn on the plotter. The pen table defines how many strokes or dots there will be to a particular line weight in the design file, and how many strokes or dots there will be for text at the same weight. The pen table also defines how those strokes will be made with each of the different weight pens.
Peripheral Device	A device that is connected to the computer, like a printer or a modem.
Plotter	A device that produces a paper or mylar copy of your work, usually graphics.
Port	A connector on the back of the computer where you attach printers, hand controls, and other devices to your computer.
Printer	A device that produces a paper copy of the information you create using the computer.
Program	Instructions that tell the computer what to do.

RAM	Random Access Memory or temporary memory. RAM stores programs and data for the microprocessor. It depends on electricity and when the power goes off, anything in RAM also goes.
Raster Data	A group of pixels (dots) that form an image. Raster data is available in many formats such as bmp, tiff, jpeg, etc.
ROM	Read Only Memory or permanent memory.
Run	Something computers do when the computer is carrying out their instructions.
Save	To store a program or data on a disk, tape, etc.
Scroll	To move around, up and down on the screen.
Sector	When disks are formatted, they are divided into tracks and sectors. A sector is part of a track with format.
Serial	Things occurring one after another. A serial interface means data is send one bit at a time. Compare to parallel.
Simulation	A computerized representation of something in action.
Software	Instructions that tell the computer what to do, usually stored on disks. Compare to hardware.
Spread Sheet	A type of application program that simplifies financial planning, cost estimating, and other number-crunching tasks. It is laid out in columns and rows.
Start-up Disk	A disk containing an operating system and a self starting program.
Store	To file away for safekeeping.
Terminal	A terminal is considered an input device to the system. There are graphics terminals and alphanumeric terminals. Graphic files may not be viewed at an alphanumeric terminal, but a graphic workstation can be used for alphanumeric functions.
Track	When disks are formatted, a series of concentric circles are magnetically

drawn on the disk. Each of these circles is a track.

UOR	Units of Resolution, a Micro station design file contains 4,294,967,296 UORs which can be broken into working units such as feet, tenths, etc.
User Command	A series of instructions/commands to the system which duplicates the individual steps an operator would perform to accomplish a specific task.
User Group	A computer club where members with similar interests exchange information.
VAX	Virtual Address extension, a type of CPU.
Vector Data	A graphic element such as a line, circle, arc, etc. It has finite beginning and ending points. These coordinates are used in various calculations in a CADD program.
Views	You may display 1 to 8 views of a Micro station graphics file on a screen; each view may show a specific portion of the file zoomed in or out.
Word Processing	A type of application designed to make writing and editing easier and faster.
Work Station	Usually called a high performance computer, but usually a reference to a CADD computer.
Working Units	The design plane is composed of 4,294,967,296 units of resolution (UORs.) When these UORs are divided into a grouping where a quantity of the UORs has a value, it is said that the design plane area has been defined, and a working unit definition is in effect. Until the working unit definition is set, it is difficult, if not impossible, to perceive area and distance in the design.
Write Protect	To prevent accidental changes to the contents of a disk by covering the writeable notch. Compare copy protect.
Zoom In/Out	Decreasing/increasing the viewed area on the screen of a computer.