

49. Peripherals, Inc., Phoenix, Arizona.
Disc Testers.
50. Franklin Electronics, Inc., E. Fourth Street, Bridgeport, Pa. 19405.
High speed digital printers.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Reference: "Words of The Computer Age" by Newsweek.
"Glossary for Automatic Data Processing" by Datamation.

The following are an attempt to put into layman terms various phrases which are used in the computer industry so that the average person could understand them:

Binary

This is a numbering system in which only two stable states are possible; e.g., something is either up or down; on or off; in or out there is never any in between. This system is extremely useful and easy to use in a electronic system where either we have current flowing or not flowing in an element within the system.

Bit

This is actually an abbreviation of the words binary digit. Bi from binary and the "t" from digit. The existence or the absence of a pulse or a bit in a group of pulses becomes a code that can be recognized by the computer and turned into an intelligent language.

Byte

A byte is a series of eight (8) bits. This particular quantity is very useful in a computer language in order that certain characters or symbols may be represented by the computer so that the computer can recognize them.

Character

A character usually consists of six (6) bits; e.g., a character from a typewriter, such as the letter "a", the letter "b" or one of the symbols for punctuation or for that matter one of the numerical symbols can be represented in binary language by a series of pulses. In reality, it is only necessary to have six (6) bits of information in order to have 64 different characters or symbols represented by any combination of the bits (an eight (8) bit byte can represent up to 256 different types of characters or symbols).

Check/Parity Bit

In many instances it is necessary to check that a character or byte has been transmitted properly and this is done by having *check bits* or *parity bits* which will determine if the proper number of bits have been transferred; that is, if the bits that makeup a character or byte are even then another bit could be added to make them odd thereby referring to odd parity or odd number of check bits which allows the computer to very quickly determine if an error has been made in the transmission of the information between one area in the processor to another area in the processor.

Main Frame

This is the area of the computer which does the majority of the work; that is, the actual addition, subtraction or any other functions which are necessary are done in what is termed the main frame. It is sometimes referred to as the CPU or central processing unit. It is that portion of a computer exclusive of the input/output and peripheral devices.

Main Frame Memory

This portion of the memory is usually a core memory which consists of a series of small round magnetic cores which are inter-wired together and then put into various size planes. These cores store the data that is being processed much like the wheels in an adding machine which store that particular number that is inserted until everything is added together and these wheels rotate. In this particular case data is stored in an electronic sense, magnetically, and then the numbers are added or divided or subtracted or whatever the particular requirement is. The main feature of this core data storage unit is that it is extremely fast since it determines the speed of the computer.