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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE / National Bureau of Standards



**DICTIONARY
FOR INFORMATION
PROCESSING**

**CATEGORY: SOFTWARE
SUBCATEGORY: DOCUMENTATION**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, Juanita M. Kreps, *Secretary*
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Foreword

The National Bureau of Standards under the provisions of Public Law 89-306 has been given Federal Government-wide responsibilities for providing technical support and standards for the effective use of computer technology. In this regard, NBS is pleased to provide this **DICTIONARY FOR INFORMATION PROCESSING** which was developed under the auspices of the American National Standards Institute through its Technical Committee X3K5 and published by its sponsor, the Computer and Business Equipment Manufacturers Association. The development of the **DICTIONARY** influenced and was influenced by the development of the International Organization for Standardization **VOCABULARY FOR DATA PROCESSING** which was prepared by Subcommittee 1 (Vocabulary) of ISO Technical Committee 97 (Computers and Information Processing). The usage label (ISO) identifies terms from the international **VOCABULARY** which have been included in the **DICTIONARY**. Within the Federal Government, the **DICTIONARY** is offered as a basic technical reference and guide to a common language for effective communication in all computer-related activity.

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Abstract

This publication adopts X3/TR-1, **AMERICAN NATIONAL DICTIONARY FOR INFORMATION PROCESSING**, which provides a common reference within the Federal Government for terms and definitions used in such information processing activities as the representation, communication, interpretation and processing of data by human or automatic means.

The **DICTIONARY** consists of a single alphabetic listing of over 4000 terms and their definitions. The usage label (ISO) is used in the **DICTIONARY** to indicate terms and definitions that have been approved by the International Organization for Standardization.

Key Words: Computers; data processing; definitions; dictionary; Federal Information Processing Standards Publication; information processing; terms; vocabulary.

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ANNOUNCING THE



DICTIONARY FOR INFORMATION PROCESSING

Federal Information Processing Standards Publications are issued by the National Bureau of Standards pursuant to the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, Public Law 89-306 (79 Stat. 1127), Executive Order 11717 (38 FR 12315, dated May 11, 1973) and Part 6 of Title 15 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

Title. DICTIONARY FOR INFORMATION PROCESSING.

Category. Software, Documentation.

Purpose. This FIPS PUB provides for a common reference within the Government for terms and definitions used in such information processing activities as the representation, communication, interpretation and processing of data by human or automatic means.

Specifications. This publication adopts X3/TR-1, AMERICAN NATIONAL DICTIONARY FOR INFORMATION PROCESSING, which replaces ANS X3.12-1970 and which has been developed and approved by the American National Standards Institute. This DICTIONARY is to be regarded as a guideline for general use throughout the Federal Government to help promote a common understanding of information processing activities. Its use is encouraged but is not mandatory.

Approving Authority. Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards (Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology).

Maintenance Agency. Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards (Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology).

Explanation. The importance of a common vocabulary was recognized by the Bureau of the Budget with its publication in 1962 of the AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING GLOSSARY. At the time of its publication, the necessity for periodic revisions was acknowledged. Though no subsequent revision was published, the work of updating and developing the vocabulary of a rapidly changing technology has continued through the participation of many government employees in the work of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Committee on Computers and Information Processing and its Technical Committee on Vocabulary, X3K5.

The first result of the ANSI effort was the publication of the AMERICAN STANDARD VOCABULARY FOR INFORMATION PROCESSING (X3.12-1966). This VOCABULARY contained definitions for approximately 700 terms, as compared to the 1200 defined terms contained in the 1962 GLOSSARY. Further developmental and expansion effort was continued in ANSI. In 1968, a proposed revision to X3.12-1966 which contained approximately 1200 terms was ready for the balloting process by X3.

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During the balloting process, the National Bureau of Standards solicited Federal agency comments on the suitability of the proposed revision of X3.12-1966 (AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD VOCABULARY FOR INFORMATION PROCESSING X3.5/75, October 1968) both as a national standard and as a Federal standard vocabulary. The response was an endorsement of the VOCABULARY on the national and Federal levels, with numerous suggestions for necessary revisions, additions, etc. The less substantive of the revisions suggested by the National Bureau of Standards and by other balloting agencies have been incorporated into the revised version of the VOCABULARY (X3.12-1970). Substantive changes suggested by Federal agencies were deferred for incorporation into an early third edition as suggested by the National Bureau of Standards in casting its ballot.

Subsequent action taken by the X3 Committee of the American National Standards Institute stipulated that the third edition of the AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD VOCABULARY would be titled the AMERICAN NATIONAL DICTIONARY FOR INFORMATION PROCESSING. The DICTIONARY consists of a single alphabetic listing of over 4000 terms and their definitions. The usage label (ISO) is used in the DICTIONARY to indicate terms and definitions that have been approved by the International Organization for Standardization.

Maintenance. To further study the vocabulary needs of the Federal Community, a Task Group for Vocabulary (Task Group 5) has been established by the National Bureau of Standards. This Task Group consolidated Federal agency terminology requirements during the ballot on X3.12-1970. In the interval that has elapsed since that time, several Task Group 5 members have become members of ANSI Technical Committee X3K5 and have participated in the development of the DICTIONARY. Suggestions and proposals for additional candidate terms or changes and clarifications to existing terms are solicited; such suggestions should be sent to the National Bureau of Standards, Office of ADP Standards Management, Washington, D.C. 20234.

Where To Obtain Copies. Copies of this publication are for sale by the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, Virginia 22161. When ordering, refer to Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 11-1 (NBS-FIPS-PUB-11-1), and title. Payment may be made by check, money order, or deposit account.