

Glossary

application A program written to achieve a set of results or solve a problem specific to a particular business or profession. An application may be written by a user (for instance, an accounts receivable application) or supplied by GRiD Systems (for instance, GRiDFile, GRiDPlan, GRiDPlot, and GRiDWrite).

ASCII American Standard Code for Information Interchange. A code consisting of control characters and graphic characters used for information interchange among data processing systems, data communication systems, and associated equipment. See Appendix B.

asynchronous A signaling technique in which each operation starts after a signal indicating either (1) that a previous operation has been completed or (2) that a part of the computer system or other resource is now available for the next operation. Asynchronous operations do not require a clock signal. GRiDTerm is an asynchronous terminal emulator. Contrast with *synchronous*.

backup The practice of copying data from one storage medium to another for future use in case the original data is damaged or lost.

baud rate The rate at which a modem transmits or receives digital data; the faster the modem, the higher the baud rate.

bit Binary digiT, the smallest unit of information within a computer. A bit within the computer is represented as a 1 or 0, indicating "on" or "off" respectively. There are eight bits in a byte. See *byte*.

bubble memory A permanent storage medium located within the computer. It is small and rugged, and has no moving parts (such as a hard or floppy disk).

Bubble Memory A Kind specification in the File form that designates the external storage device where a file resides.

built-in function A keyword that performs a mathematical operation, returns a result, or retrieves a value (such as *pi*). Built-in functions are supplied with GRiDPlan and GRiDFile.

byte A combination of eight bits. The settings of the individual bits to either 1 or 0 combine to indicate a numeric or alphabetic character, or a special character such as a dollar sign. A byte is sometimes called a *character*.

CCOS Compass Computer Operating System. A basic component of GRiD-OS that resides as a file in the "Programs" subject. CCOS controls the operations of GRiD applications, input/output operations with storage devices, and other service functions.

cell A single unit of a database, graph, or worksheet file where data can be stored.

cell coordinate A column letter and a row number (D4, for example) that identify the location of a cell in a worksheet file.

cell definition A formula that calculates the value of a cell in a worksheet file.

cell outline A highlighted outline around the cell where the cursor appears. The outline indicates where data can be entered or the cell that will be acted on by the next command.

cell range A series of cells to be acted upon by a built-in function in a worksheet. The range is defined by two cell coordinates separated by two periods (D4..E6, for example).

character See *byte*.

character stream A group of characters transmitted one at a time in a sequential stream.

CODE A key on the computer keyboard that alters the operation of other keys. It is used to give commands to GRiD applications on some computers.

column A vertical series of adjacent cells starting in the first row and ending in the last row of a database, graph, or worksheet file.

column definition A formula that determines the value of a cell in a database file. The formula applies to all cells in a specified column.

column heading See *column name*.

column name The title that appears above a column in a database file. The title is assigned with the Properties command (CODE-P) in GRiDFile.

column reference letter The letter that appears above each column in a database file.

command A request to an application or program to perform a certain action. Commands supplied by GRiD Systems include program commands (CODE-B, CODE-O, CODE-T, etc.) and GRiDWrite text formatting commands (Abm, Atm, Ac1, etc.).

Common A basic component of GRiD-OS that resides as a file in the "Programs" subject. It furnishes routines used by the common commands and generates the forms, menus, and messages required by the various GRiD applications.

common command A command whose functions are either identical, or similar among two or more GRiD applications. The Transfer (CODE-T) command and the Duplicate Cells or Text (CODE-D) command are examples.

compress To release space currently occupied, but not used, by a database file on a permanent storage device.

cursor The blinking triangle that indicates where the next character will be entered.

database A collection of related records devoted to a single purpose, for example, to a payroll, a catalog list, or an inventory.

database file A file with the Kind set to Database. When specified in the File form and confirmed, the file and the GRiDFile applica-

tion are brought into main memory. The user can then enter or edit data in the database display that appears on the screen.

definition area The area at the bottom of a worksheet display for typing and editing cell definitions.

device A unit of hardware, attached to the computer, that performs input/output operations. It can be a permanent storage device, such as a hard or floppy disk, or an output device, such as a printer or plotter.

Device An item in the File form that associates a file with a permanent storage device.

diskette A flexible, plastic disk within a protective envelope used for permanent storage.

emulator See *terminal emulator*.

Executive A basic component of GRiD-OS that provides the list of Kind choices displayed with the File form. It also provides interchange services when transferring from one file to another with the Transfer command.

expression A built-in function, or a numeric value, cell coordinate, or formula that produces a numeric value in a database or worksheet file.

file A collection of data that resides in permanent storage. A file is identified in the File form.

File form The form that can appear after start-up or after issuing certain commands. The form associates a file with a storage location and an application through the Device, Subject, Title, and Kind items that appear on the form.

file server device An external device that provides, at the customer location, central storage and printing facilities and other services to one or more computers, which have access either over a high-speed cable or telephone lines.

floppy disk Synonymous with *diskette*.

Floppy Disk A Device specification in the File form that designates a floppy disk drive as the external storage device where a file resides. See also *Portable Floppy*.

floppy disk drive The external device in which a floppy disk resides. The device resides in the same hardware unit as the hard disk. Contrast with *portable floppy disk drive*.

form A screen display in which the user is expected to insert information—for example, the Options form. The user may be asked either to type in information or to select from two or more choices that appear in the form.

GPIB General Purpose Interface Bus. A cable used to connect a computer to external input/output devices.

graph file A file with the Kind set to Graph. When specified in the File form and confirmed, the file and the GRiDPlot application are brought into main memory. The user can then enter or edit data in the graph table that appears on the screen.

GRiD Central A central support system operated by GRiD Systems. It distributes software and provides additional external storage space for users, who have access over ordinary telephone lines.

GRiD Server A product comprising hardware and software sold by GRiD Systems. It provides, at the customer location, central storage and printing facilities and other services to multiple GRiD Compass computers, which have access either over a high-speed cable or telephone lines.

GRiD-OS (1) The basic software required by all GRiD applications and supplied by GRiD Systems. The software resides as files in the “Programs” subject and includes the CCOS, Executive, and Common files. (2) Synonymous with CCOS.

GRiD3101 A terminal emulator program that gives a computer the functions of an IBM 3101 Display terminal. Using GRiD3101, the computer can communicate with a host system that supports the IBM 3101.

GRiDAccess A program that resides as a file in the “Programs” subject. GRiDAccess permits the exchange of data between two computers, and places and receives calls for those computers that have telephone handsets attached to them.

GRiDFile A GRiD application that provides database facilities. It permits a user to store information—such as product inventories—and retrieve it upon request.

GRiDLink (1) A file containing the software that permits a GRiD Compass to connect to GRiD Server. GRiDLink resides in the “Programs” subject. (2) The high-speed cable that connects one or more GRiD Compass computers to GRiD Server.

GRiDManager A GRiD application that provides a variety of communication and utility functions. These functions include commands that permit communications with GRiD Central, file server devices, and other external sources. In addition, GRiDManager provides commands that let the user duplicate, erase, or move files.

GRiDPlan A GRiD application that provides an electronic worksheet for the manipulation of numbers and text. Such worksheets are commonly used in projecting financial transactions and in computing and presenting other financial data.

GRiDPlot A GRiD application that converts data into graphs. The graphs can be displayed either on the screen, or on a printer or plotter attached to the computer.

GRiDTerm A terminal emulator program that transforms a computer into an asynchronous terminal that can communicate with a variety of host systems.

GRiDVT100 A terminal emulator program that gives a computer the functions of a DEC VT100 terminal. Using GRiDVT100, the computer can communicate with a host system that supports the DEC'S VT100, VT101, and VT102 terminals.

GRiDWrite A GRiD application that acts as a full-screen text editor used to create and edit text documents. It also permits the user to control the format and final appearance of a text document. The user intersperses GRiD Write text formatting commands within a text file. GRiDWrite interprets the commands during the printing process and formats the document accordingly.

hard disk A permanent storage device where files, programs, and other data reside when not in main memory.

Hard Disk A Device specification in the File form that designates a hard disk drive as the external storage device where a file resides.

hardware The physical equipment that comprises a computer system, including the central processor and the permanent storage and printing devices attached to the computer.

host system The central computer and associated software and devices that control communications with external computers. Computers using GRiD-OS can communicate with host systems through emulator programs such as GRiD3101, GRiDTerm, and GRiDVT100. The Dow Jones News Retrieval is an example of a service provided by a host system.

input/output The transfer of data between main memory and a permanent storage device, or to an output device such as a printer or plotter.

interface The software or hardware within a computer system that allows communications to take place. The "Diablo620" file in Programs is an example of an interface for GRiD-OS and the Diablo Model 620 printer.

Kind An item in the File form that associates a file with a specific application. For example, the Kind specification Database associates the file with the GRiDFile application.

list A sequence of numbers, cell references, cell ranges, or built-in functions in a worksheet file.

main memory The internal working space of a computer (often referred to as RAM) where programs reside as they are executed and where worksheet, graph, text, and other files reside as the user works with them. Contrast with *permanent storage*.

management tool An application supplied by GRiD Systems.

medium The physical material upon which data is recorded. For example, hard disks, floppy disks (diskettes), and cassette tapes are storage media.

menu A screen display that contains a list of items—for example the Transfer menu; the application prompts the user to select one of the items and then confirm.

message Text issued by a GRiD application that appears in the message line. Messages may prompt the user to perform a specific activity, describe the current processing activity of the application or system, or point out an error. Error messages are preceded by a number; they are explained in the "Error Messages" chapter of this manual.

message line The highlighted line at the bottom of the screen display. Only messages from GRiD application programs appear here. In telecommunications, messages from the host system or remote computer appear elsewhere, depending on the system.

modem An acronym for MODulator-DEModulator. It translates the computer's digital data into signals for transmission and reception over telephone lines.

Modem A file residing in the "Programs" subject that provides an interface between GRiD-OS and a modem. This file is required when communicating over telephone lines with GRiD Central or computer; it is also required when using the GRiDTerm, GRiDVT100, and GRiD3101 terminal emulators.

password (1) A unique word or group of characters that lets a user access, duplicate, erase, or move a file. (2) A unique word or group of characters that lets a user access GRiD Central or a remote file server device.

permanent storage The external area where programs and files reside when they are not in main memory. The area may be on a hard disk, floppy disk, or bubble memory.

PhoneLink A file containing line protocols that enable a computer to communicate with GRiD Central and other remote systems over a telephone line. PhoneLink resides in the "Programs" subject.

plotter An output device that draws multi-colored graphs under control of the GRiDPlot application.

Portable Floppy A Device specification in the File form that designates a portable floppy disk as the external storage device where a file resides. See also *Floppy Disk*.

portable floppy disk drive The external device in which a floppy disk resides; it resides in a unit separate from the hard disk. Contrast with *floppy disk drive*.

printer A hardware device attached to the computer; it prints out data from either main memory or permanent storage as designated by the user.

Printer A Kind specification referring to a file that translates printer commands between GRiD-OS and the specific printer attached to the system. Printer files can be supplied by GRiD Systems (the "EpsonMX82" file is an example) or written by the user.

program A series of instructions or statements that can be executed by a computer to achieve a specific task. Programs may be written by the user or supplied by GRiD Systems or software vendors.

programming language A set of English-like or mnemonic instructions that can be interpreted by a computer and executed. Examples of programming languages provided by GRiD Systems include ASM-86, FORTRAN-86, PASCAL-86, and PL/M-86.

protocol In telecommunications, an arbitrary convention for communicating between a host system and a remote terminal or another host system. The protocol is implemented in the hardware and software at the two computer systems to coordinate and control data transfer and other operations between them.

query To request the display of records from a database file. The query may be *unconditional*, in which case all records are displayed, or *conditional*, in which only those records that meet a specified criterion are displayed.

RAM Random Access Memory. See *main memory*.

range See *cell range*.

record A unit of data to be stored or processed. Each record can be broken into smaller pieces of information. In the GRiD applications, a record consists of data followed by the carriage return and line feed (CR-LF) control characters. Each record corresponds to one row in the cell-based applications, such as GRiDPlan.

RJ-11 A plastic plug that connects the telephone line to the computer, a modem, or other equipment.

row A horizontal series of adjacent cells starting in the first column and ending in the last column of a database, graph, or worksheet file.

save The operation of making a permanent copy of a file currently in main memory on a permanent storage device. Save operations are normally performed with the Transfer command (CODE-T) and the Quit command (CODE-Q).

Sign-on A Kind specification that causes the GRiD Manager application to be brought into main memory and made available for use. Sign-on is required for a file that connects a computer over a telephone line with GRiD Central or a remote file server device.

software The electronic instructions that execute within main memory and enable the computer to perform specific functions. GRiD-OS, GRiDManager, and GRiDWrite are examples of software provided by GRiD Systems; programs and applications written by a user are also considered software.

sort The process of arranging data in either alphabetical or numerical order. The order can be in either ascending (0 to 9, A to Z) or descending (Z to A, 9 to 0) sequence. If numbers are included in the data, they precede the alphabetic data in ascending sequence, or follow it in descending sequence.

start-up The process that occurs after the computer is turned on, during which GRiD-OS and other software is brought from permanent storage into main memory. Start-up initializes disk, printer, and other devices attached to the computer.

start-up file A program or application that is invoked automatically after start-up. The user determines the start-up file with GRiD-Manager.

storage See *permanent storage, main memory*.

storage medium See *medium*.

Subject An item in the File form that names a group of files.

synchronous A signaling technique in which all operations or events are controlled with regular or predictable time relationships,

often with an internal clock. Contrast with *asynchronous*.

terminal emulator A computer program that allows one computer or terminal to mimic another terminal. GRiDTerm, GRiD3101, and GRiDVT100 are examples of emulator programs. GRiDTerm emulates a variety of asynchronous terminals

text editing The process of entering and manipulating data in a text file from the keyboard. Some examples of text editing are moving text within a file, searching a file for specific words or characters, and searching for and changing automatically each occurrence of specific words or characters. The GRiDWrite application provides text editing functions.

text file A file with the Kind set to Text. When specified in the File form and confirmed, the file and the GRiDWrite application are brought into main memory. The user can then enter or edit data on the screen.

text formatting The process of preterminating page and text appearance before printing a document. Extensive text formatting functions are provided by the GRiDWrite application; some functions are also supported by the Transfer command (CODE-T) of most other applications.

Title An item in the File form that assigns a name to a file, giving it a unique identification.

typeface The height, width, and style of the characters appearing on the screen display.

utility A program or command provided by GRiD Systems to assist in general system housekeeping. Examples of utility commands provided by GRiDManager are Duplicate Files, Move Files, etc. Examples of utility programs include Initialize Media, which prepares floppy disks and other media for use, and Media Repair, which restores damaged storage media.

wildcard character The character formed by pressing CODE-W in the forms provided by certain GRiDManager and GRiDFile commands. In GRiDManager, specifying the wildcard character as part of the Subject, Title, and Kind specifications lets a user duplicate, erase, move, and retrieve information on multiple files with just one command. For example, *A. . .* as the Subject item refers to all subjects on the current device starting with the letter *A*.

word wrap The process that prevents the beginning characters of a word to be displayed at the end of one line on the screen display and the remaining characters at the beginning of the next line. Instead, the entire word is displayed on the next line.

worksheet In GRiDPlan, a file tailored to manipulate financial and other numerical data. Worksheets can be used to prepare financial statements such as balance sheets, and to model different financial alternatives in making long range plans.

worksheet file A file with the Kind set to Worksheet. When specified in the File form and confirmed, the file and the GRiDPlan application are brought into main memory. The user can then enter or edit data in the worksheet display that appears on the screen.