

code: (1) A number or symbol used to represent some piece of information. (2) The statements or instructions that make up a program.

cold start: The process of starting up the Apple II when the power is first turned on (or as if the power had just been turned on) by loading the operating system into main memory, and then loading and running a program. Compare **warm start**.

column: A vertical arrangement of graphics points or character positions on the display.

command: An instruction that causes the computer to perform some action. A command can be typed from a keyboard, selected from a menu with a hand-held device (such as a mouse), or embedded in a program.

compiler: A language translator that converts a program written in a high-level programming language (source code) into an equivalent program in some lower-level language such as machine language (object code) for later execution. Compare **interpreter**.

composite video: A video signal that includes both display information and the synchronization (and other) signals needed to display it. See **RGB monitor**.

computer: An electronic device that performs predefined (programmed) computations at high speed and with great accuracy. A machine that is used to store, transfer, and transform information.

computer language: See **programming language**.

conditional branch: A **branch** whose execution depends on the truth of a condition or the value of an expression. Compare **unconditional branch**.

configuration: (1) The total combination of hardware components—CPU, video display device, keyboard, and peripheral devices—that make up a computer system. (2) The software settings that allow various hardware components of a computer system to communicate with each other.

connector: A plug, socket, jack, or port.

constant: In a program, a symbol that represents a fixed, unchanging value. Compare **variable**.

control character: A nonprinting character that controls or modifies the way information is printed or displayed. In the Apple II family, control characters have ASCII values between 0 and 31, and are typed from a keyboard by holding down the Control key while pressing some other key. In the Macintosh family, the Command key performs a similar function.

control code: One or more nonprinting characters—including in a text file—whose function is to change the way a printer prints the text. For example, a program may use certain control codes to turn boldface printing on and off. See **control character**.

control key: A general term for a key that controls the operation of other keys; for example, Apple, Caps Lock, Control, Option, and Shift. When you hold down or engage a control key while pressing another key, the combination makes that other key behave differently. Also called a *modifier key*.

Control key: A specific key on Apple II-family keyboards that produces **control characters** when used in combination with other keys.

controller card: A peripheral card that connects a device such as a printer or disk drive to a computer's main logic board and controls the operation of the device.