

# Glossary

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## Aa

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### ASCII

Acronym for the *American Standard Code for Information Interchange*. Pronounced *ask-ee*, ASCII is a code for representing English characters as numbers, with each letter assigned a number from 0 to 127. For example, the ASCII code for uppercase *M* is 77.

## Cc

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### CD key

A code that you enter during installation. The code indicates to the installation program what program and program components you have purchased. The CD key for Spectrum CIRC/CAT is located on the case of your Spectrum CD.

### client

A workstation computer connected to the server on a network. Spectrum CIRC/CAT can have clients that are librarian computers or patron lookup computers. The actual data resides on the server, but you access it from the client.

### configuration file

A file that contains program settings. These files have a CFG extension and can be edited in a text editor.

## Dd

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### DHCP

(Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) A system for distributing IP addresses.

### Diacritic

A mark added to a letter to change that letter's phonetic value. For example, the ~ mark which appears above the letter *n* in Spanish words is a diacritic.

### DNS

(Domain Name System) A hierarchical naming system that identifies computers on a network. DNS uses a combination of text names separated by periods to create a unique name. For example, if Abraham Lincoln could have been connected to the Internet, his identification (address) might have been "alincoln.whitehouse.gov".

## Hh

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### Hosts file

Text file that contains the matched IP addresses and host names (machine names).

### Host name

Serves as identification for a computer on a network (also called Machine name). The Hosts file lists the Host's name next to the IP address.

## Ii

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### IP (Internet Protocol) address

Tells the other computers on the network a computer's location for communication purposes. An IP address consists of four sets of numbers, from 0 to 255, separated by periods.

### IPX/SPX

(Internetwork Packet Exchange/Sequential Packet Exchange.) A protocol developed by Novell for transmission of information on NetWare networks.

## Mm

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### machine name

Serves as identification for a computer on a network (also called Host name). The Hosts file lists the Machine name next to the IP address.

## Nn

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### network

Two or more computers that are physically connected and share resources.

## Pp

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### protocol

The language that computers in a network use to communicate. Several protocols exist, but many are not compatible with many systems.

## Ss

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### **serial port**

A connection by which a computer can transmit data to another device, such as a printer, using serial transmission; that is, one bit at a time. IBM PC-compatible computers typically have two serial ports labeled COM1 and COM2.

### **subnet mask**

Identifies what class network you're connected to.

### **server**

The computer that has software installed to run the network and provides shared resources, such as directories, to the other computers (clients) connected to the network.

## Tt

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### **TCP/IP**

(Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol) A set of networking protocols used with a large variety of systems. TCP/IP serves as the networking protocol currently used for communications on the Internet.

## Uu

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### **USB**

(Universal Serial Bus) A connection used to attach computers to their keyboards, printers, and other peripherals.