

THE NATIONAL COMPUTER TERMINOLOGY INTELLIGENCE TEST

AN ANECDOTE ON COMPUTER LITERACY

BY

Paul L. Discher

Please select the answer that best defines the term indicated. Due to the competitive and serious nature of the data processing industry a proctor has been appointed to minimize cheating and giggling during the testing hour. You may begin.

Ether Net

- (a) *Slang.* A surgical mask used for the administration of anesthetic.
- (b) A commercial fishing device.
- (c) Trademark for a coaxial data transceiving network by Xerox.

Disk Drive

- (a) Transmission component for a flying saucer.
- (b) Charitable collection of dining ware for the poor.
- (c) Data Storage device for computing machinery.

DOS

- (a) *Spanish.* The number two (2).
- (b) Typographic error. SOD spelled backwards.
- (c) *Acyrn.* Disk Operating System

Operating System

- (a) Technique for "picking-up" women in bars.
- (b) *Medicine syn.* Surgical procedures.
- (c) Control program for central processing unit.

Software

- (a) Woman's intimate undergarments.
- (b) Men's or Women's non-formal attire., i.e. "soft clothes".
- (c) Code used for control and applications of computing machinery.

I/O

- (a) *Acyrn.* Describes personal gambling debts to undeclared parties.
- (b) Typographic error. The proctor doesn't know either - don't ask.
- (c) *Acyrn.* Input & Output - pursuant to data or electronic signals

Down Time

- (a) Primary scenes in pornographic motion pictures.
- (b) *Medicine.* Withdrawal symptoms of amphetamines.
- (c) The duration of malfunction in data processing equipment.

Up Time

- (a) *Medicine.* Primary effects of amphetamines.
- (b) The hour by which you select to rise in the morning.
- (c) The duration of proper function in data processing equipment.

Serial Interface

- (a) Serving dish for breakfast food.
- (b) Typographic error. The proctor doesn't know either - don't ask.
- (b) Translator circuitry or subsystem used in computing machinery for data transmission in bit serial character serial format.

Parallel Port

- (a) *Maritime.* Facility to symmetrically anchor seaworthy water craft.
- (b) An inferior distilled wine. *ant* un-paralled Port.
- (c) Translator circuitry or subsystem used in computing machinery for data transmission in bit parallel character serial sequence.

Fixed Disk

- (a) A neutered computer peripheral.
- (b) *Medicine.* Repairs affected to spinal injuries.
- (c) A magnetic storage device used in data processing applications principally identified by non removable storage medium.

RAM

- (a) A popular selling line of Dodge Trucks.
- (b) A male sheep.
- (c) *Acryn*. Random Access Memories as used in computing machinery for data or program storage.

Monitor

- (a) A heavy ironclad warship of the 19th century with a low flat deck.
- (b) A tropical carnivorous lizard of the *genus Varanus* species.
- (c) A visual display for data processing equipment-typically a component of data terminal equipment (dte) sometimes called (VDT) (CRT) (Dumb Terminal) (boob tube) (a pain in my neck) (it hurts my eyes) (I will sue my employer).

Female Connector

- (a) Social coordinator for female companions-*see PIMP*.
- (b) Typographic error. the proctor can't tell - he is a transsexual !
- (c) *Data Processing*. We all hope you know the difference by now!

Male Connector

- (a) Social coordinator for male companions - *visit* San Francisco
- (b) Typographic error. the proctor can't tell - he is a transsexual !
- (c) *Data Processing*. We all hope you know the difference by now!

NLQ

- (a) *Acryn*. A common error sequence made by beginning typists
- (b) *Acryn*. Near Letter Quality, any device or object located near a correspondence grade printer. i.e.. *My coffee cup is NLQ*.
- (c) *Acryn*. Near Letter Quality, a mode of print quality associated with dot matrix printers that nearly reproduces the quality associated with conventional typewritten material.

Letter Quality

- (a) A common critique placed on children learning to print.
- (b) A condition that describes the degree of exterior mutilation observed on material handled by the US Postal Service.
- (c) A standard of print quality associated with conventional typewritten material.

UNIX

- (a) *Mythology*. A small neutral gendered humanoid with pointed ears from early Irish mythology believed to be descendants of Leprechauns.
- (b) A sophisticated technological prank played upon early microcomputer end-users who just learned MS-DOS.
- (c) Trademark for an operating system developed by Bell Labs for computing machinery. Enhancements are credited to computer scientists at University of California - Berkeley. A common derivative is called ZENIX.

"C"

- (a) The letter that follows B and precedes D in the alphabet.
- (b) *Music*. A musical note with a fundamental resonant frequency of 261 Hz.
- (c) A compiled structured programming language for computing machinery.

MACRO

- (a) *Acryn*. A small tubular pasta served with cheese.
- (b) *Acryn*. A large soft cookie made with grated coconut.
- (c) Programming code or a list of predefined keystroke sequences associated with computing machinery application software and invoked by a designated name, acronym, or single keystroke.

LOTUS

- (a) *Botany*. A flowering plant of the Lilly family. Greek legend has it that its fruit, when eaten, induces an intoxicating forgetfulness -- symptoms similar to those of your boss when you ask him for a raise.
- (b) *Automotive*. A high performance Italian sport scar.
- (c) Trademark for a popular integrated software product primarily used on personal computers.

Integrated Software

- (a) Computing machinery code developed by an equal number of Caucasian and black programmers.
- (b) Computing machinery applications in use by an equal number of Caucasian and black end-users.
- (c) Computing machinery code originally developed for personal computers that combines general purpose or specific purpose applications under a single user interface.

TSO

- (a) A fledgling Greek fraternity of upstate New York that failed to nationalize during the late 1960's. *See Tau Sigma Omega.*
- (b) *Acyrn* -Time Shared Option, a computer operating system extension developed by IBM and fondly known to end-users as "Interactive Batch".
- (c) *Acyrn* -Time Shared Option, a computer operating system extension developed by IBM for the implementation of multi-user operation on IBM mainframe computer systems.

Plotter

- (a) A computer output device used to apply ink to humans.
- (b) A deceitful programmer attempting to avoid work.
- (c) A computer peripheral device used to apply liquid ink to paper rendering graphics or text.

Terminal Server

- (a) *Religion.* A Mass ceremonial assistant to a Catholic Priest, known to have contracted a fatal illness.
- (b) A member of a corporate food service organization providing refreshments to data terminal operators.
- (c) Translator circuitry or subsystem used in computing machinery for facilitation of several data terminals onto one communication channel. A form of multiplexing.

Hi-Tech

- (a) A friendly greeting paid to an electronic technician.
- (b) A title assigned to the most senior of electronic technicians in a corporate structure.
- (c) *Acryn.* - High Technology.

Printer Ribbons

- (a) Computing machinery commodity similar in availability to a policeman;when you need one you can't find one.....
- (b) A cosmetic device used to apply coloring to ones fingers and hands.
- (c) A fashion accessory popularized by female lithographers consisting of bright strips of colored fabric worn in the hair.
- (d) Inked fabric or plastic film used by computing machinery peripheral devices to apply printed text, graphics or codes onto paper.

Debugging

- (a) Work done by an exterminator
- (b) *History:* De'bugging, a French mathematician known for his frustrated persistence.
- (c) The act of locating and correcting errors made in computing machinery code.