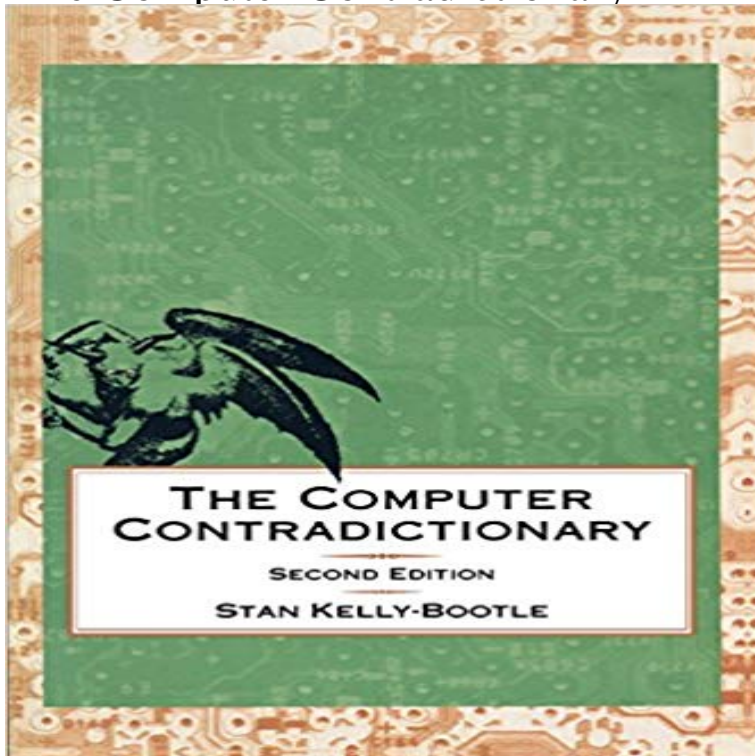


The Computer Contradictionary



Ascertain the meaning before consulting this dictionary, warns the author of this collection of deliberately satirical misdefinitions. New computer cultures and their jargons have burgeoned since this books progenitor, The Devils D.P. Dictionary, was published in 1981. This updated version of Stan Kelly-Bootles romp through the data processing laxon is a response to the Unix pandemic that has swept academia and government, to the endlessly hyped panaceas offered to the MIS, and to the P.C. explosion that has brought computer terminology to a hugely bewildered, lay audience. The original dictionary, an urbane and witty pastiche of Ambrose Bierces famous work, parried chiefly the mainframe and mini-folklore of the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. This long-awaited revision adds over 550 new entries and enhances many of the original definitions. Key targets are a host of new follies crying out for cynical lexicography [including] the G.U.I.-Phooey iconoclasts, object orienteering, and the piping of Blobs down the Clinton-Gore InfoPike. ack n. [Origin: back-formed negation of nak.] A signal indicating that the error-detection circuits have failed. computer science n. [Origin: possibly Prof. P. B. Fellgetts rhetorical question, Is computer science?] A study akin to numerology and astrology, but lacking the precision of the former and the success of the latter. multimedia n. An application attacking all five senses of the user--sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch-but especially, smell.

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