

# Experts Dictionary II

## More Terms for the Faint of Heart

By Ken Dafoe

Even when you finish talking, sometimes you still have more to say. So this next group of definitions are more of the same; best read with a coffee, a danish and an open mind. The afternoon is best, after Oprah, especially a show where she looks concerned about the emotional plight of her guests. Or during the news, where Dan Rather smiles after reporting a tragedy – a segue for the next story about a lost puppy, found. Candy-coated precision, more addictive than chocolate and cuter than a kitten. Read them, and weep for those who want Ally McBeal to find happiness.

**EService** /n. & v. • n. The act of obtaining help from a web site. • v. The act of obtaining help from a web site on your own. **1** Originally called Self-Service, but this was thought to have negative connotations – one being the amount of hours a customer will spend looking for an on-line solution that a 3-minute phone call would rectify. **2** An acceptable form of piecemeal work by customers without pay, benefits, or stock options. See *GASOLINE*, *self-serve station*. Plays up to the high-tech idiom: “Real IT people don’t call tech support.” **3** The web equivalent of a telephone answering service, without the \* key.

**Java** /n. **1** A programming language that everyone knows is important, but few can explain how it works. Compare with blood letting through leeches. **2** A prefix that automatically makes the succeeding word more expensive than when it stood alone. See *Java Beans*, *Java Applet*, *Java Class*, *Java Specialist*. **3** Coffee, sold at 4 bucks a cup. **4** When it is just called Coffee, it sells for a buck and a quarter a cup.

**PTF** /n. **1** Acronym for Program Temporary Fix. A downloadable software fix to a known problem. Contrast with *Update* – which is a fix to an unknown problem. When there are more than enough fixes for everyone, they are grouped together and called a Service Pack. When an error can cause software to stop working altogether, the PTF is called a Critical Update. When a bug occurs simultaneously in thousands of installations, it is called code. **2** A way to keep customers interested in a software application, until the next purchasable release is available. **3** Always a reaction after the fact: insurance, after the house has burnt down. See *APOLOGY*, *Bill Clinton*.

**Redbook** /n. **1** An IBM manual that describes how to actually do something useful with your licensed applications. **2** Any socialist manual that assumes all users are equally willing to pay for information that should have been included in the first place. Contrast with *Bluebook* – a capitalist IBM manual that arrives with your licensed applications for free, and hopes that you are too busy to notice. Used to be made of paper, now on CD, for easy access when held up to a light.

**Napster** /n./ p.t. **1** A web-based application that allows you to obtain music without the inconvenience of money. **2** A virtual brick tossed through a CD store where no one can hear the alarm. **3** A way to obtain a CD that you do not intend to buy, before you do not put out the money for it.

**Portal** /n. **1** A place that has nothing of interest on its own, but you must pass through to get where you are going. See *Cities: New Jersey*. **2** A gas station on the Web. **3** The rabbit hole, in *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*. Cramped, musty, and lined with roots. Once you are inside, it is almost impossible to find a reason to stay. **4** A toll-booth where you leave your identity behind – but have it returned to you

later by email, with an attachment.



Ken Dafoe

**Virus** /n. **1** A transmittable disease contracted by putting your identity where it doesn’t belong. All cures are costly, and impede performance. **2** A boogeyman that is worthless to the inventor, but priceless to the protector. Read “P. Norton – I Love You: Three words to make a fortune with.” **3** Not to be confused with parasite, which is an organism that makes it’s living on the back of a virus. See *McAfee*.

**Y2K** /wī tū kā/ n. **1** A UFO that few witnessed, but all were afraid of. **2** A Sesame Street character that blows hot air when you press its stomach. c.f. *Larry Ellison*. **3** The name of a teen slasher movie starring Jennifer Love Hewitt. Exciting at the beginning, but boring after you realize that no one important is going to die. Listen to *Charles Ives: The Unanswered Question*. c.f. *Napster*, before you buy.

**Alpha** /álf?/ n. **1** Internal name for the code idea that techies fight to own first.

**Beta** /béet?/ n. **1** Internal name for the release code that everyone buys.

**Gamma** /gámm?/ n. **1** Internal name for the working code that no one sees. It is used to provide periodic updates to Beta code, but only if you can find them on a web site, and have paid previously for updates.

**Collaboration** /n. **1** An agreement in trust, where all are treated equally until success appears imminent. **2** The act of working together for a common goal, for a common good. i.e., money. **3** Lotus Notes, before the browser integration. **4** A business marriage with an

extra long pre-nuptial, and signed with crossed fingers. 5 Any business problem solved by more than one person. Collaboration helped us decide what to order for lunch.

**B2B** / n. Business-to-Business. 1 A method of business communications that involves high-tech, expensive equipment only. 2 Talking with your suppliers, over a digital cellular connection. Ant. Talking with your suppliers over a plain analog telephone. Popularized in the 16c. by Shakespeare, in his play Hamlet.

Hamlet: "2B or not 2B that is the question." The meaning of this line was misunderstood for centuries, until the late 20c. 3 Transacting over the Web without human interference.

**B2C** / be tu ce / n. Business-to-Customer. 1 A unique, highly original method of business where a corporation with something to sell, sells it to someone who will buy it, i.e. A Customer. B2D,

or Business-to-Death, is next in the first-letter acronym list. The result of too many high-fat email offers. B2A never took off - it was code for purposely sending late shipments to annoying customers. Syn. See jack-ass.

**Lotus Notes** / n. 1 A 20c. email application, force-fed and with gland problems. 2 An example of Gluttony - the 5th deadly groupware sin. 3 A mausoleum for baptized text. 4 A view of the world as one big inbox, with tentacles. Capable of more reach than most users can comprehend in a lifetime. c.f. The Tower of Babel. Soon it will implode, and become Lotus E-Notes, and Lotus I-Notes, in keeping with the vowel society rules.

**Windows Me** / n. 1 A Home-based Windows version with locks on the doors to keep users in. 2 Windows for Teens. Full of revolutionary new applications like a CD Index and Photo Library.

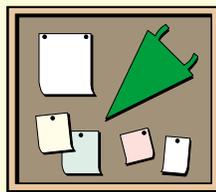
Windows You will be the next version for Pre-teens, and will include Microsoft Bob, renamed Microsoft Blue, a cute animated puppy who will help kids understand the importance of early investing, the pitfalls of day trading, and how the evil DOJ once almost gave Blue a good, hard whack on the hinnie.

Processing in general will become egocentric with Microsoft's Windows ME, and IBM's I Series machines. Linux versions, not wanting to be left out, will develop a new replacement OS named MYSELF, to complete the self-centered trinity: ME, MYSELF and I. Apple Computers, in an effort to Think Different, will come to realize that whatever it thinks will be thought of too late, and will think itself into inertia. A new marketing campaign showing an iMac with a piece out of the corner, will only display the words "Bite Me", and result in protests by special interest groups. TUG

## Announcing....

# COiN – Central Ontario iSeries Network

By *Eveline Gaede*



Central Ontario, an area filled with diversity – from horse and buggies to high-tech industries – is proud to announce the start-up of **COiN** – a new user's group for IBM iSeries. A new board of directors has met several times this summer to plan for the up-coming year. Our first members meeting will be held September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2001 at Conestoga College, Kitchener, ON. The meeting will begin with networking and a light lunch at 5:00pm, followed by a speaker at 7:00pm. **Philip Gray**, a Senior Information Technology Specialist with the IBM iSeries Technical Sales Support Team will be giving a 45-minute presentation on LPAR and V5R1.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about **COiN**, we will be pleased to e-mail the premier copy of our newsletter, '**COiN Expressions**' due for release late August. Although plans are underway to create our web presence, until such time you can reach us at our temporary email address: [coin@challenger.com](mailto:coin@challenger.com).

We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the board of TUG who proved very helpful in sharing their expertise and assisting us in the monumental task of starting up a new user's group. COiN is looking forward to a continuing equally rewarding affiliation with TUG.

**Ken Dafoe** is IT Manager with *Polycon Industries* in Guelph, Ontario. He has 20 years experience with IBM midrange platforms. His specialty is Desktop Integration, and this encompasses all aspects of PC-AS/400 integration, including Intra/Internet solutions. For the past 6 years, Ken has presented at conferences on topics as diverse as Microsoft Office and the AS/400, and positioning technology with the Internet. He is a freelance contributor to numerous technical publications including *The Experts Journal*, *TUG eServer Magazine*, *News/400*, and has performed commentaries for CBC public radio in Canada.

Ken and his wife Laura have six kids. They also have 10 pets. In his spare time he dreams about quiet, and a night of uninterrupted sleep. Once he got both at a conference in Long Beach - but felt too guilty to enjoy them. Ken can be reached at 519.763.6042 x2176 or by e-mail: [kdafoe@polycon.on.ca](mailto:kdafoe@polycon.on.ca).