

BUSINESS

OLE, OLE newest part computer lingo

By Eric Harris

Special to Sentinel-Voice

More and more these days, you will see the term OLE. OLE is a compound document standard that stands for Object Linking and Embedding. The term is pronounced as separate letters or as "oh-leh."

A compound document is a document that contains elements from a variety of computer applications. For example, a single compound document might include text from a word processor, graphics from a design program, and a chart from a spreadsheet application. Most importantly, each element in the compound document is stored in such a way that it can be manipulated by the application that created it.

Many computer experts believe that compound documents represent the most useful metaphor for utilizing computers because they allow people to mix different forms of expression rather than artificially separating them. With the emergence of OLE as an important standard, compound documents are likely to become more and more a part of everyday computing.

A compound document enables you to create objects with one application and then link or embed them in a second application. In simple terms, linked objects are created when you paste a copy of an object into a document

With the emergence of OLE as an important standard, compound documents are likely to become more and more a part of everyday computing.

in such a way that it retains its connection with the original object. Updates to the original object can be reflected in the duplicate by updating the link.

In spreadsheet programs, linking refers to the ability of a worksheet to take its data for particular cells from another worksheet.

Two or more files are linked by common cells. In data management systems, a link is a pointer to another record. You can connect one or more records by inserting links into them.

These explanations are not the same as links in hypertext systems—such as the World Wide Web—where a link is a reference to another document.

Such links are sometimes called hot links because they take you to other document when you click on them. We are referring to the first-mentioned links, for example, creating a bar chart from spreadsheet data, copying the chart and performing a "paste link" function so that any changes made to the original spreadsheet will automatically be

made on the linked document.

An embedded object is an object created with one application and planted into a different document created by another application. Embedding the object, rather than simply inserting or pasting it, ensures that the object retains its original format. In fact, you can modify the embedded object with the original program.

In Windows environments, embedding objects is made possible by OLE technology. Unlike links, embedded objects will not automatically update. For example, you can copy the data from a spreadsheet. When you need to edit the data, the application will return you to the original application for editing and other format changes. Embedded objects retain their original format and links to the application that created them.

Support for OLE is built into the Windows and Macintosh operating systems. OpenDoc is a competing compound document standard. OpenDoc is a standard Application Program-

ming Interface. API includes a set of routines, protocols and tools for building software applications that makes it possible to design independent programs (components) that can work together on a single document.

A good API makes it easier to develop a program by providing all the building blocks. Most operating environments, such as MS-Windows, provide an API so that programmers can write applications consistent with the operating environment. Although APIs are designed for programmers, they are ultimately good for users because they guarantee that all programs using a common API will have similar interfaces. This makes it easier for users to learn new programs.

Eric Harris is president of OASYS Information Services, Inc. (www.oasysis.com or www.highspeedsolutions.net), an information technology firm in Raleigh, NC, that specializes in Web Hosting, Electronic Commerce, Networking and DSL Internet Access.

Dillard's held liable in Robinson's death

HOUSTON (AP) - A jury awarded about \$800,000 last week to the family of a man who died after being hogtied during a confrontation with security and police at a department store.

Darryl Robinson's family initially sought \$30 million from the city, five police officers, two guards and the Dillard's store.

Jurors deliberated five days before holding the Little Rock, Ark.-based department store chain liable, while clearing the city and its police.

Police alleged Robinson, 37, was screaming of demons when he came to the store in June 1994, and officers subdued him to keep him from hurting himself or others.

After being hogtied, Robinson lost oxygen and was brain dead. He died two days later.

A medical examiner ruled that he died of asphyxiation because of the hogtying, the officers' weight on him and fluid in his lungs.

"We continue to stand by our officers," Dillard's attorney Brock Akers said. "They faced an extraordinary circumstance and they did the best they could under those circumstances."

Assistant City Attorney Kelley Dempsey praised the finding of no liability against the city or the Houston officers.

"I'm very happy, after seven years of litigation," she said. "The officers are pretty happy."

Robinson's widow, Denise, and his parents, Percy and Irma Robinson, will split the \$800,000 award.

"They just plain murdered my son," Percy Robinson said. "We just feel he was vindicated. Let him rest in peace."

Magazine: Software company largest black firm in America

MARYLAND HEIGHTS, Mo. (AP)—A suburban St. Louis software company has become the largest black-owned business, according to figures tabulated by Black Enterprise magazine.

World Wide Technology Inc. in Maryland Heights develops Internet marketplaces for various industries. The firm had \$802 million in revenue last year, nearly double its 1999 figure of \$413 million and nearly quadruple the \$202 million it earned in 1998.

World Wide took over the top spot from Oak Park, Mich.-based Mel Farr Automotive Group, which recorded \$298.5 million in sales in 2000, down from \$432.6 million in 1999.

Sales for World Wide won't double again this year, but should grow to between \$1.2 billion and \$1.3 billion, chief executive David Steward said.

While it would be bigger than any current black-owned business, it would not be the first company to post more than \$1 billion in revenue. The food company TLC Beatrice International Holdings Inc. had revenue of \$2.2 billion in 1996. It was liquidated after

the death of its founder, Reginald Lewis.

Black Enterprise magazine annually compiles the list of the biggest black-owned businesses in several categories, including industrial/service and auto dealers.

The top auto dealer was Detroit, Mich.-based Prestige Automotive, which had \$657.7 million in 2000 revenue.

Editor Alfred Edmond said the lists show that companies run by blacks are becoming formidable forces in the U.S. economy. Twenty-three industrial/service companies had sales of more than \$200 million, up from 12 companies a year ago.

Steward said his company isn't immune to the slowdown that's affecting other tech companies, but it isn't hurting, either.

"People are beginning to really scrutinize the money they are spending on information technology and telecommunications," he said. "However, there's still a need to build out their systems and bring in leading-edge technology to compete in the marketplace."

Complete results will appear in the June edition of Black Enterprise and will be posted on the magazine Web site later this month.



WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU WITH:

- Career Development Services
- Career Counseling
- Resume Writing
- English Second Language
- Remedial Skills Training
- GED Study Program
- Work Experience Training
- Occupational Classroom Training
- On-the-Job Training
- Staff Assisted Job Search
- Job Clubs
- No Cost for Eligible Applicants

Assistance Available for Out of School Youth, Adults and Seniors

Resource Center — Open to the the Public — FREE!

Access to: Internet for job bank searches

Career information

Copier and Fax machines

Computers to create your resume

If you would like more information, please call or visit us at:

930 W. Owens • Las Vegas, NV 89106 • (702) 647-4929

730 N. Eastern, Suite 130 • Las Vegas, NV 89102 • (702) 678-1937

119 Water Street • Henderson, NV • (702) 486-0321

Work Source of Southern Nevada

2401 Las Verdes St. • Las Vegas, NV 89102 • (702) 651-2663, (702) 651-2600

We Help People Reach Their Employment Goals

Funded by Southern Nevada Workforce Investment Board under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998