SO, YOU THINK YOU KNOW COMPUTERS?
A Tongue-In-Cheek Layman’s Guide to Computer Language

ANALOG — Hors d’oeuvre, usually made from cheese and covered with crushed nuts. Often served at company Christmas parties.

BINARY — Possessing the ability to have friends of both sexes.

CARRIAGE RETURN — The act of bringing a vehicle back to the rental counter.

CHARACTER DENSITY — The number of strange people working in your company.

CODE — Usually lasts about three to five days, accompanied by a sore throat, a runny nose and fever.

COMMAND — A statement presented by a human and (sometimes) accepted by a computer in such a manner as to make the human feel as if he is in control.

CRT — A popular movie about an alien who forgets his telephone number and must write home.

DEBUG — The act of placing shoe leather against a small creeping creature.

DOWNTIME — Title of a movie song popularized by Petula Clark. Most vendors have never heard of it.

DUMP — The EPA’s answer to health.

EMPBOM — Movie actor Eprom Zimbalist, Jr.

INTERFACE — Opposite of “Getoutofmyface.”

MEGAHERTZ — The largest rental car company in the universe.

NETWORK — The occupation of a fisherman.

ON LINE — A statement often shouted at tennis judges in response to serves being called out.

RAM — A male sheep with horns.

ROM — A RAM after a delicate operation.

SEMI-CONDUCTOR — A person hired to lead an orchestra before he or she has graduated from conductor school.

TRANSISTOR — A sibling, i.e. a transbrother.

TYPEWRITER — A contradiction in terms.

—Courtesy of Associated Information Managers

Of equal importance to improving the bidding productivity and quality is improving the ability to control all aspects of the business and here, also, the computer can provide definite advantages.

For example, if we take the activities of accounting, specifically Payroll, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, General Ledger, and Job Costing, a well defined system which is completely integrated so that these functions are tied together and entries made to one part of the package are automatically posted to all other areas where they should appear, with a computerized accounting package, you’ll have tighter control over cash management, expenses, job costs, and other accounting data. The package works with you to organize, speed up, and coordinate all your accounting operations.

Accounts Payable makes it easy for you to measure the impact of cost distribution and cash flow requirements within your company. You can manage cash and control expenses more comprehensively with flexible payment processing and detailed disbursement reports.

Entries on items such as purchases, miscellaneous debits, and material requisitions need only be made once, as expenses are posted automatically to selected General Ledger accounts. An optional interface to the Job Cost program provides up-to-the-minute costing information by job, phase, and expense category. With the added speed and organization the computer affords, you can verify, retrieve, and update vendor information as you make invoice entries.

Accounts Receivable helps you produce up-to-date, invoices, statements, and detailed aging reports. You can enter partial payments toward any open invoice or customer balance, and apply the payment toward selected aging periods when appropriate. All cash receipt entries are automatically sent to General Ledger for processing against Accounts Receivable or other specified accounts.

For accurate contract billing, Accounts Receivable handles retainage, change orders, and progress billing by percent complete, and prints out contract bills to Al A formats.

A Job Cost program automatically records costs and revenues as you process financial data from Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, and Payroll. A complete Jobs File is maintained and you can easily obtain a variety of printed information such as Job Detail and Billing Summary reports. A complete variance analysis against your estimates by phase brings your job profitability picture into focus.

With a Cost Detail report, you can compare actual to estimated costs. The system computes variances for all jobs and phases with totals calculated for each job, phase, or project manager.

When you consider the wide range of advantages available that apply to both the estimating and business applications and the timely information that is at management’s disposal, it is obvious that a well-designed, well-applied system provides a capability that is vital to the success, growth, and profitability of any wall and ceiling contractor.