

user, *n.*1

Pronunciation: [?] Brit. /'juːzə/, U.S. /'juːzər/

Forms: late Middle English *vsere*, late Middle English–1600s *vser*, 1600s– *user*; ...

Frequency (in current use):

Origin: Formed within English, by derivation. **Etymons:** USE *v.*, -ER *suffix*'.

Etymology: < USE *v.* + -ER *suffix*'. Compare Middle French *useur*...

1.

a. A person who has or makes use of a thing, esp. regularly; a person who employs or practices something.

c1425 tr. J. Arderne *Treat. Fistula* (Sloane 6) (1910) 8 Þe forseid [counsels]..shal giffe a gracious going to þe user to þe hiȝte of worship.

1467 in J. T. Smith & L. T. Smith *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 387 That it be so stopped by the doers or users therof.

?1577 J. NORTHBROOKE *Spiritus est Vicarius Christi: Treat. Dicing* 142 God graunt that..the Magistrates..may..set sharpe punishment for the users and teachers thereof.

1609 W. SHAKESPEARE *Sonnets* ix. sig. B2^v But beauties waste hath in the world an end, And kept vnvsde the user so destroyes it.

a1631 J. DONNE *Serm.* (1954) VII. 241 As he [sc. God] sees him a good or a bad user of his graces.

1683 T. TRYON *Way to Health* 223 These Superfluities..are become as it were Essential to the Nature of the Users.

1711 J. ANDERSON *Countrey-man's Let. to Curat* 58 What tho' all our Reformers had been users and readers of the English Service?

1738 W. WARBURTON *Divine Legation Moses* I. 84 The utmost Consumption may be made..without Injury to the User.

1813 *Q. Rev.* Oct. 107 This restless spirit had now taken a harmless direction..and should never thereafter be an user of a temporal sword more.

1846 W. GREENER *Sci. Gunnery* (new ed.) p. vii The safety of the user of guns.

1846 J. B. MOZLEY *Ess.* 1878 I. 251 He is a user of Puritanism.

1862 F. E. ANSTIE in *Cornhill Mag.* Nov. 608 A moderate user of tobacco.

1876 W. D. WHITNEY *Lang. & its Study* iii. 74 It seeks..to save time and labour to the users of language.

1916 *Middleton (N.Y.) Daily Times* 28 Apr. 7/5 In going down the rope slips through the pulley shell held by the user and revolves the wheel inside.

1960 A. ELLIS *Essence of Beauty* xii. 142 The characteristic a discerning and discriminating user looks for in a perfume..is what the perfumer calls 'the soft odour note'.

2005 R. J. SAWYER *Mindscan* xxx. 217 It used to be, I'm told, that spacesuits had to be custom built for each user, but new adaptive fabrics made that unnecessary.

b. *colloquial* (originally *North American*). A person who manipulates others for personal advantage; a person who takes advantage of others (frequently in a romantic or sexual context).

- 1931 J. HANLEY *Boy* viii. 141 A man's a man and a boy's a boy, and sometimes a man's a bloody user. User. Know the word. Use him.
- 1971 T. WISEMAN *Romantic Englishwoman* 271 You use me, you're a user.
- 1982 M. ATWOOD *Bodily Harm* v. 247 He's a politician so he's a user.
- 1988 A. MACRAE *Awful Childhoods* xi. 129 What a user!.. And he never contributed a thing to the meal.
- 2000 J. J. CONNOLLY *Layer Cake* (2004) 60 She's havin it with some right fuckin losers, wasters, scumbags, dopers, the same story as her mother, don't know who's good for her and who's a user.

c. A person who takes illegal drugs on a regular or habitual basis; an addict. Originally U.S.

Often used to refer to a person who takes highly toxic and addictive drugs, especially heroin or crack cocaine.

- [1923 *Boston Daily Globe* 10 Oct. 2/3 Since prohibition the abstainer group of pneumonia patients has increased., while the heavy user group fell.]
- 1935 A. J. POLLOCK *Underworld Speaks* 129/2 User, a person addicted to any of the poisonous habit forming drugs; a hop-head; dope fiend.
- 1953 W. S. BURROUGHS *Junkie* vi. 58 The owner knew Tony had been a user and had told him to stay off the stuff or get another job.
- 1969 *Guardian* 3 Dec. 9/1 She was taking six grains of heroin a day... She had been a user for about six months.
- 1975 H. WHITE *Raincoast Chron.* (1976) 144/2 There had always been users around in the shadowy back streets.
- 2006 D. EMMETT & G. NICE *Understanding Street Drugs* II. xv. 297 A good number of users addicted to illegal heroin will be looking to obtain a daily maintenance dose of legal methodone.

d. A person or organization who makes use of a computer or system.

end, power user: see the first element.

- 1950 *Science* **112** 732/1 Analog machines..are enthusiastically supported by their users.
- 1959 E. M. MCCORMICK *Digital Computer Primer* x. 139 The number of instructions which can be executed by a computer represents a compromise between the designer's and user's requirements.
- 1973 C. W. GEAR *Introd. Computer Sci.* iv. 151 The software makes it possible for a user to prepare procedures and have them executed by the computer with a minimum of effort.
- 1984 *Which Micro?* Dec. 8/1 Micro breakdown..drives users to despair.
- 2002 *N.Y. Times* (National ed.) 21 Feb. D3/1 When a user removes the SecuriKey, the computer locks down, showing a black screen until the key is replaced.

†**2. A usurer. Obsolete.**

- 1566 T. DRANT tr. Horace *Medicinable Morall* sig. Avijiv What soeuer cumbs by users skylle, To get, and gender more.

†**3. Scottish. A person who puts a legal document into effect or execution. Obsolete.**

- 1576 in *Excheq. Rolls Scotl.* (1899) XX. 504 David Fowlar,..usar of the said precept, declarit that he deliverit [it]..to John Kellie.
- 1609 J. SKENE tr. *Forme of Proces in Regiam Majestatem* 122 The wreit or evident is declared to be fals:..And the vsar thereof, is punished capitallie.
- a1646 T. HOPE *Minor Practicks* (1726) §169. 69 If the King..give a Letter of Regress;..when the Order of Redemption is used and declared, the User of the Redemption is immediately seased, upon the Sight of the Regress.
- 1722 W. FORBES *Institutes* I. III. i. 207 Heretable Rights may be questioned by the Users of Horning, Inhibition, or Comprising.
- 1773 J. ERSKINE *Inst. Law Scotl.* II. II. xii. §16 If the user of the diligence be *in mora*, *ie* if he hath taken no step for a considerable time to perfect his diligence, he is construed to have relinquished or abandoned it.
- 1798 *Decisions Court of Session 1792–6* Index *Appeal*, two posterior arrestements, the one on a bill, and the other on a decree, the users of the two last found not entitled to a decree of preference.
- 1826 *Decisions Court of Session* 195 It was absolutely necessary that the user of the writ should condescend on persons who were present and saw it subscribed.

4. English regional. A useful or profitable animal. Frequently with modifying word. Now *rare*.

- 1828 W. CARR *Dial. Craven* (ed. 2) (at cited word) A cow is said to be a good user, when she yields abundance of milk, &c.
- 1900 *Fenland Notes & Queries* 4 180 *User*, a profitable animal. ‘That cow's a good user.’

COMPOUNDS

C1. General attributive.

a.

user agreement *n.*

- 1914 *Washington 10th Biennial Rep. State Board Health* 16 In some states..co-operative or joint user agreements with other state departments or institutions materially increase total resources available for state health work.
- 1996 *Library Q.* 66 400 The community networks often protect themselves from liability by stating in their user agreements that they are not responsible for the accuracy of the information.
- 2010 *San Francisco Chron.* (Nexis) 19 Apr. D1 For most of these applications, there is a user agreement and a privacy policy that hardly anyone takes the time to read.

user benefit *n.*

- 1950 *Greeley (Colorado) Daily Tribune* 27 Sept. 7/5 We favor the distribution of the burden for the maintenance and construction of the various highway systems..on the basis of user benefit.
- 2004 R. A. ABDULLA in A. Singhal et al. *Entertainment-Educ. & Social Change* III. xvi. 316 ORT has an obvious user benefit of saving children's lives.

user charge n.

- 1945 *Sun* (Baltimore) 29 Sept. 3/2 John J. Pelley, president of the Association of American Railroads, urged..that 'user charges' be levied against highway, waterway and airway carriers.
- 2002 B. MCPAKE et al. *Health Econ.* xxv. 237 User charges may be more acceptable to the majority of the population than general taxation increases.

user error n.

- 1972 *Sunday Times* (Salisbury, Maryland) 5 Mar. B2/4 The number of appliance problems caused by user error, either through carelessness or ignorance, is high enough to warrant an attempt to do something about it through education.
- 1984 *Music Educators Jrnl.* 71 11/1 Any user would expect software to meet reasonable standards of consistency, ease of use, and recovery from user error.
- 2000 *N.Y. Times* 1 Aug. C11/2 Readers had downloaded a total of 227,000 copies, but some were lost to user error and had to be repeated.

user experience n.

- 1925 *Jrnl. Soc. Automotive Engineers* June (Advertising section) 75/2 The user experience so far indicates that this new cord fabric..is another Goodyear triumph!
- 2006 *Esquire* Jan. 159 The HP Pavilion dv8000 notebook..ups the ante with multimedia features to create an amazing user experience.

user fee n.

- 1950 *Charleston (W. Virginia) Daily Mail* 9 Feb. 17/1 Railways support..a user fee for use of public facilities.
- 2005 *New Yorker* 11 Apr. 76/1 Health care, primary schooling, and other services for the poor would be provided free of charge, reversing the recent trend toward user fees.

user feedback n.

- 1961 *ISA Jrnl.* Mar. 60 (heading) Better measurements through user feedback.
- 1993 *MIS Q.* 17 249 The user feedback was used in quantifying the benefits of each application.
- 2009 *Telegraph-Jrnl. (St. John, New Brunswick) (Nexis)* 23 Feb. B1 Mynexia launched its full corporate website with many added features created from user feedback.

user forum n.

- 1952 *Electr. Rev.* 5 Sept. 512/2 The final session of the symposium takes place to-day..under the chairmanship of Mr. A. J. Philpott, when there will be a 'User Forum' and a summing up.
- 2010 *Computerworld* (Nexis) 10 May You have to spend a lot of time looking at user forums and Googling for information when you run into problems.

user input n.

- 1964 J. R. BRIGHT *Res., Devel. & Technol. Innovation* III. 440 If there is an order-of-magnitude improvement in some parameter such as speed, cost reduction, user input, etc., we probably have a potentially significant innovation.
- 1994 *EXE* (Nexis) 1 July 76 HTML can be extended to initiate a variety of actions, such as accepting user input and sending email.
- 2005 *Jrnl. Coastal Res.* **21** 403/2 The kickoff workshop was carefully structured to ensure that the user input remained foremost.

user requirement n.

- 1946 *Canad. Jrnl. Res. A.* **24** 20 The photographic plane must be selected according to a criterion that satisfies the user requirement.
- 2009 *Computer Weekly* 6 Oct. 16/2 The service can support access to a data bucket—which can be stored in the US or Europe, depending on user requirements.

user review n.

- 1944 *SAE Jrnl.* May 33/1 The procedure which the AISI proposes to follow in developing the bands for user review through the SAE.
- 2010 *Calgary (Alberta) Herald* (Nexis) 4 May D8 Sites such as Amazon, CNET and TripAdvisor derive much of their value from user reviews that highlight a computer's slow performance or the rockiest beaches in the Caribbean.

user right n.

- 1872 *Statutes Canada* lxvi. 248 All the user rights and powers so acquired by the said lessors,..shall..pass to the said lessees.
- 1961 *Times* 16 Feb. 3 The land..has an existing user right as a builders' yard.
- 2006 *Rev. Internat. Polit. Econ.* **13** 663 Traditional user rights of the local population such as firewood collecting and hunting have often been severely restricted by conservation and tourism interests.

user support n.

- 1929 *Industr. Engin.* July 363/2 When signed acceptances have been received.., and satisfactory distributor and user support, the simplified practice recommendation will be published by the Bureau of Standards.
- 2010 *TendersInfo* (Nexis) 16 Mar. IBM..will offer services ranging from policy development through to procurement, configuration, user support, data security, [etc.].

user survey n.

- 1930 *Albuquerque (New Mexico) Jrnl.* 9 Sept. 7/6 (*advt.*) Iron Fireman writes itself off the books in 30 months in fuel economies alone, a user survey shows.
- 2006 *Jrnl. Operational Res. Soc.* **57** 1396/1 There is no evidence to suggest that the 92% satisfaction rate identified in the 1991 UK user survey..had diminished.

user testing n.

- 1953 *Humboldt (Eureka, Calif.) Standard* 24 Mar. 5/5 Ford is rolling with a new model that has had more than a year of user testing and time for refinement.
- 2001 *New Scientist* 25 Aug. 65/2 (advt.) You will take responsibility for technical and user testing of electrosurgery devices.

b.

user-assigned *adj.*

- 1967 N. S. M. COX & M. W. GROSE *Organization Bibliogr. Rec. by Computer* 84 The valves DCN, DATE, DAY, etc. are the user-assigned names for the bibliographic date fields.
- 2002 *Computer Music Jrnal*. **26** 110 You can instead add multiple audio loops..and then toggle them on and off with...user-assigned keys of the computer or MIDI keyboard.

user-centred *adj.*

- 1954 *Summary Rep.* (Amer. Library Assoc.) 38 University libraries should be student and user-centered rather than material-centered.
- 2010 *Jrnal. (Newcastle)* (Nexis) 22 Apr. The site places the customer at the heart of every single task and transaction by fully embracing industry leading user-centred design principles.

user-created *adj.*

- 1964 *Conf. Proc.* (National Winter Convent. Military Electronics) **3** 1. 34/1 Given the same program written in a user-created language, our new programmer is looking at statements whose specific form is new to him.
- 2006 C. ANDERSON *Long Tail* v. 67 It is the nature of user-created content to be as messy and uncertain at the microscale..as it is amazingly successful at the big-picture macroscale.

user-defined *adj.*

- 1963 *Jrnal. Royal Statist. Soc. Soc. C.* **12** 156 It [sc. a programme] incorporates *F* significance level for accepting variables as user defined parameter.
- 1984 *Personal Software* Winter 26/2 The program will allow you to have up to fifty user defined commands.
- 2002 *Daily Tel.* 20 Aug. 32/6 User-defined 'hot keys', where you can set a key or key combination to do a particular job.

user-driven *adj.*

- 1969 *Proc. AFIPS Spring Joint Computer Conf.* **34** 287/1 The act of mimicking dynamics is a (user-driven) dynamic picture.
- 1989 *Jrnal. Operational Res. Soc.* **40** 327 User-driven project development should occur, as opposed to traditional user-participation.
- 2003 *Mountain, Trek & Trav. Catal.* (Ellis Brigham) Autumn–Winter 50 A clean, user-driven U.S. brand that understands the needs of the modern mountain activist.

user-generated *adj.*

- 1963 *Communications ACM* **6** 88/2 'Official' documentation has a certain amount of difficulty to it, which is particularly apparent with user-generated languages such as IPL.
- 2009 *New Yorker* 12 Oct. 53/1 Most advertisers sought predictably ad-friendly settings, something that a site dominated by user-generated content could not guarantee.

user-owned *adj.*

- 1949 *Surv. Current Business* May 17 (*caption*) The seasonally adjusted 1948 year-end annual rate of power production, including user-owned plants, was about 350 billion kilowatt-hours.
- 2010 *Network World* (Nexis) 7 Jan. The problem of user-owned equipment is especially acute in higher education.

user-supplied *adj.*

- 1969 *Computers & Humanities* **3** 130 It contains the ability to perform, *inter alia*, the following tasks:...
Generate reports of extracted data according to user-supplied format.
- 2001 C. LOCKE *Gonzo Marketing* 13 Micromedia..will quickly become the best source of user-supplied news about products and services.

C2.

user account *n.* an account established for a particular user; (*Computing*) the data, access details, settings, etc., specific to each individual user of a shared network, system, or program.

- 1955 *Nevada State Jrnl.* 11 Nov. 13/1 Sales tax administrator Norman Clay..pointed out they [sc. taxes] would be increased following audits of seller and user accounts.
- 1974 *Science* 31 May 959/1 The particular data we have been studying are, for each user account, the terminal time and CPU time used.
- 2010 *Computeractive* (Nexis) 29 Apr. The Welcome screen appears and you may be prompted to log on to your user account.

user authentication *n.* *Computing* the validation of a user's identity or status, esp. by means of a username, password, etc.

- 1969 *Proc. AFIPS Fall Joint Computer Conf.* **35** 127/1 Once-only passwords is an easily implemented technique for user authentication, which has been advocated by others.
- 2010 *Law & Health Weekly* (Nexis) 20 Feb. 531 Its security layers encompass user authentication, data encryption and the ability to audit all transactions.

user cost *n.* *Economics* the cost incurred by using a fixed capital asset (e.g. a piece of equipment or machinery used in a production process), equivalent to the loss in the asset's value due to its use.

- 1922 *Econ. Jrnl.* **32** 152 Maintenance cost falls between capital cost and user cost, for maintenance is partly caused by, and partly independent of use.

- 1936 J. M. KEYNES *Gen. Theory Employment* vi. 70 We have defined the user cost as the reduction in the value of the equipment due to using it as compared with not using it.
- 1969 D. C. HAGUE *Managerial Econ.* (1971) II. v. 103 The cost of servicing and repairs is part of what economists call 'user cost', the cost of using the car (or any other asset) instead of leaving it idle.
- 2001 T. ISHIKAWA *Income & Wealth* III. ii. 80 The idea of user cost was originally introduced to explain the depreciation in value of the capital equipment used in the production processes of firms.

user-definable *adj.* *Computing* and *Electronics* that can be defined or assigned a function by a user.

- 1971 *Science* 20 Aug. 674/2 (*advt.*) The third [standard plug-in block] is completely user-definable.
- 1985 *Personal Computer World* Feb. 133/1 The number of user-definable characters that you can enter at the Model 4 Keyboard in this way is limited to 20.
- 2004 *Computer Music* (Beginners Special) Apr. 94 (*table*) The unit offers a stack of controllers, user-definable keys, and a load of presets that make it really great value.

user group *n.* (also **users group**) an organization or group of people focused on the use of a particular (in later use esp. computer-orientated) product, service, or technology.

- 1959 *Billboard* 22 June 130/4 The only user group exempted in the 1909 Copyright Act.
- 1966 *Physics: Surv. & Outlook* (U.S. National Academy of Sci.) 60/2 The staff of an effective user group must have sufficient strength to assume responsibility for a research program.
- 1972 *Accountant* 26 Oct. 518/2 To satisfy the information needs of entrepreneurs, investors, and other outside user-groups is to guarantee a full and active future for the accountant.
- 1983 *Lebende Sprachen* 28 48/1 Language mediators represent one of the largest user groups of terminology.
- 1992 *MacWorld* June 86/3 The New York Macintosh Users Group is a large MUG with plenty of professional Macintosh users.
- 2005 B. A. BURD *Eclipse for Dummies* II. vii. 124 I know what CORBA is because I hear about it occasionally at Java user group meetings.

user guide *n.* (also **user's guide**) a handbook containing instructions on how to use a device, piece of software, etc.; an instruction manual.

- 1936 *Chicago Tribune* 29 Mar. v. 18/6 Pontiac's new 'User's Guide' for 1936 contains information regarding the standard shapes of road signs.
- 1979 W. J. AINSWORTH (*title*) A practical user guide to maintaining microfilm longevity.
- 1995 *NetGuide* Sept. 72/1 The modem includes a user guide featuring good documentation that tells how to use initialization strings with 15 very popular programs.

user-hostile *adj.* *Computing* = *user-unfriendly adj.*

- 1982 *InfoWorld* 19 Apr. 72/3 Adjust our keyboard to be user-affable, user-good-humored, user-benign, user-chummy, and yes, even user-hostile.
- 1996 *Web Developer* Nov. A28/1 The highly customizable OS..is often perceived as the most user-hostile operating system in computing.

2009 *Age (Melbourne)* (Nexis) 17 Sept. 26 The scanner software was the most user-hostile program we had ever seen.

user ID *n.* (also **user id**, **userid**) *Computing* = *username n.*; cf. *I.D. n.*
at I *n.*¹ Initialisms.

1969 R. D. LOGCHER in E. Sevin *Computational Approaches in Appl. Mech.* 13 The author was also logged into the system, under the user id GOODMAN.

1981 D. L. RYAN *Computer-aided Kinetics for Machine Design* viii. 194 Enter userid.

2005 *Sci. Amer.* (U.K. ed.) Oct. 75/1 If malicious people can easily eavesdrop on others' transmissions, they can readily 'snoop' a user ID and password and thereby gain access to the network.

user interface *n.* *Computing* a means by which a user interacts with a computer, typically in the form of graphics or text on a screen which are manipulated using a mouse, keyboard, or other input device.

graphical user interface: see the first element.

1967 *Proc. 22nd National Conf. Assoc. Computing Machinery* 174/1 (*heading*) User interface computer.

1983 *Byte* Feb. 36/1 The company's first task was to devise a new user interface—that is, a new and better way for humans to interact with the computer.

1998 *Wired* Aug. 171/2 You don't want the same user interface on a small device as on a desktop.

user log-in *n.* *Computing* the function which enables a user to log in to a computer or computer system by means of a unique password or code; such a password or code.

1981 F. BAKER in H. F. O'Neil *Computer-based Instr.* ii. 45 User log in and authorization: When a terminal is activated, the MMC verifies that the terminal and its user are authorized to perform the functions requested.

1999 *Courier Freshers Guide* 16/2 All you need to do is remember your password and user login (three letters followed by a number, for example abc9).

2010 *Pensito Rev.* (Nexis) 19 Feb. Only an accredited Mormon with a special user log-in can access this information online.

user manual *n.* (also **user's manual**) = *user guide n.*

1936 *Albuquerque (New Mexico) Jrnl.* 24 May 10/3 (*advt.*) Free! Users manual.

1979 *Business Week* (Nexis) 12 Feb. 72 The user manual warned not to cut wet grass, but he did it anyway and his foot slipped.

2006 *Cosmopolitan* (U.K. ed.) Aug. 243/4 Pack your glovebox along with your suitcase so you don't forget the essentials, like maps, user's manual and rescue-service cards.

username *n.* *Computing* a unique name or set of characters by which each user of a shared network, system, or program is identified, used (frequently in conjunction with a password) to log in.

- 1971 A. BHUSHAN *Request for Comments* (Network Working Group) (Electronic text) No. 172. 7 Username and password identifiers contain the respective identifying information. Normally, the information will be supplied by the user of the file transfer service.
- 1997 J. SEABROOK *Deeper* v. 149 By typing 'bio' and then the username, you could find out the user's real name.
- 2007 *Wall St. Jrnl.* 11 Dec. R4/2 One common form of malware is a key logger, which captures the usernames and passwords that an unsuspecting computer user types, and then sends these to a hacker.

user-orientated *adj.* chiefly *Computing* designed with the needs of a user in mind; user-friendly.

- 1967 *Jrnl. Royal Statist. Soc.* D. 17 67 People have a real need to know enough about computers and such user-orientated languages as Algol or Fortran.
- 1978 *Hi-Fi News* Sept. 218 (*advt.*) There's a low distortion equaliser, tape duplication switch..plus a host of user-orientated features.
- 2007 *N.Z. Herald* (Nexis) 10 Sept. The pair learned a great deal about so-called user-orientated design at Apple.

user-oriented *adj.* chiefly *Computing* = *user-orientated adj.*

- 1957 *Managem. Sci.* 3 208 The user-oriented point of view is emphasized.
- 1979 *Dictionaries* 1 110 User-oriented service programs..could put the student in immediate contact with a wealth of lexicographic information.
- 2007 *Guardian* (Nexis) 29 Oct. 10 As a user-oriented site the design defeats the object—enabling visitors to find and read relevant information quickly.

user password *n.* *Computing* a password by which a user can gain access to a particular computer, network, file, function, etc. (frequently in conjunction with a username); cf. **PASSWORD** *n.* 1b.

- 1969 *Proc. AFIPS Fall Joint Computer Conf.* 35 127/1 Each successful LOGIN throws away the user password.
- 2010 *Times Higher Educ. Suppl.* (Nexis) 13 May 36 Most US university libraries don't operate closed networks with user passwords, but allow instant internet access to all.

user-processing *n.* *Photography* processing of a film by the photographer who used it, as opposed to by a laboratory.

- 1951 *Brit. Jrnl. Photogr. Almanac* 357 Since Ektachrome film is intended for user processing, the sale price does not include this service.
- 1963 *Science* 5 July 9 (*advt.*) Kodak Ektachrome-X Film..offers practical possibility for user-processing.
- 2000 M. LANGFORD *Basic Photogr.* (ed. 7) iv. 70 PS film cameras are quick and conveniently automatic to use, but not geared to user-processing or large prints.

user profile *n.* (a) a collection of information or data about the habits, preferences, etc., of a user, esp. of a product or service; (b) *Computing* the unique configurations, preferences, settings, etc., set up for or by a computer user, esp. as stored on a server and accessible via various network computers.

- 1962 *Digest Techn. Papers ACM National Conf.* 38/1 The user profile contains from 50 to 75 descriptive words.
- 1994 *WinNews* 8 Sept. User profiles can also be stored on the network and automatically synched with the local profile at login time.
- 2001 S. SULZMAIER *Consumer-oriented Business Design* vi. 121 The user profile displayed in figure 19 represents a part of the information gained by the qualitative interview.
- 2010 *Health Business Blog* (Nexis) 26 Apr. You will be able to use the same technology with the same user profiles and the same quality of recognition.

user-programmable *adj.* *Computing* and *Electronics* that can be programmed or assigned a function by a user.

- 1975 *Science* 23 May 771/1 (*adv.*) Many of the user-programmable functions of our HP-65.
- 1983 *What's New in Computing* Jan. 60/1 The full alphanumeric and function key keypad..includes..eight user-programmable keys.
- 2004 *Future Music* May 36/2 The Emulator X also includes a number of user-programmable morphing filters.

user-unfriendliness *n.* chiefly *Computing* the quality of being user-unfriendly.

- 1982 *InfoWorld* 17 May 29/2 I have used uMath, FORTRAN, Disk Macro Assembler and BASIC compiler from Microsoft, and have found some user 'unfriendliness'.
- 1989 *Car & Driver* Oct. 116/2 It's yet another unit that suffers from user-unfriendliness.
- 2007 *Scotsman* (Nexis) 4 Aug. 10 The fundamental user-unfriendliness of the computer.

user-unfriendly *adj.* chiefly *Computing* not user-friendly; difficult to use.

- 1981 *Economist* 16 May 55/1 The winners will be those whose machines do not bristle with difficulty and are 'user-friendly'. Prestel, with its numerical codes, is, in the view of many, 'user-unfriendly'.
- 1994 *.net* Dec. 33/1 The Net, in general, is user-unfriendly.
- 2001 F. POPCORN & A. HANFT *Dict. Future* 163 Technology that is too complex and appallingly user-unfriendly appears on the market.

DERIVATIVES

'usership *n.* (a) the fact or condition of being a user; (b) the people who use a product, service, etc., considered collectively; the number of such users.

- 1880 *Contemp. Rev.* July 110 The amount of the tax is graduated to meet the special occasion and the conditions of ownership and usership.
- 1951 *N.Y. Times* 16 July 29 (*adv.*) Both usership and brand awareness fall off in a sharp, regular descent as age increases.
- 1957 *Inside ACD X*. i. 3/1 A trade magazine, *Steel*, now claims to have more than *readership*; it has usership ('what happens when exciting, stimulating information and ideas are delivered to men who will *do* something about them').
- 1982 *N.Y. Times* 3 Feb. D6/6 I can foresee a general trend away from ownership to usership. People are finding that too much of their disposable income is being tied up in the cost of owning things.
- 2008 *Spectator* (Nexis) 3 May 22 Another major web company..says that it has a registered usership of 1.32 million people.
-

user, *n.*2

Pronunciation: [?] Brit. /'juːzə/, U.S. /'juːzər/

Frequency (in current use):

Origin: Either (i) a borrowing from French. Or (ii) formed within English, by conversion. **Etymons:** French *user*; English *-user*.

Etymology: Either < Anglo-Norman and Middle French, French *user* USE *v.* ...

Law.

Continued use, exercise, or employment of a right, property, practice, etc.; presumptive right arising from such use. Also in figurative context.

- 1616 C. CALTHROPE *Relation Lord of Mannor & Copsy-holder* (1635) 24 User is, when according to time and occasion a Custome is used.
- 1835 C. CROMPTON et al. *Rep. Cases* I. 418 (*margin*) No right having been acquired by user or length of possession.
- 1858 LD. ST. LEONARDS *Handy Bk. Prop. Law* xxv. 191 That there should be an user proved every year during the period.
- 1875 R. D. BLACKMORE *Alice Lorraine* II. xvi. 207 A crust of mud, as if some underground duct were anxious to maintain user of its right of way.
- 1888 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 29 Feb. 1/1 An open space in which the public has an uninterrupted right of user for purposes of public meeting.
- 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 16 June 4/2 In which [judgement] there was only one slight reference to the user question.
- 1924 *Michigan Law Rev.* 22 523 The term..refers to the existence of..limits as to make it possible to measure off the extent of the user permitted. Its use doubtless arose in connection with the old writ of admeasurement.
- 1998 L. N. BROWN & J. S. BELL *French Admin. Law* (ed. 5) VIII. iii. 179 These are minor crimes relating to..those parts of the public property over which the public have a right of user.