An acronym for Direct Memory Access. This is a particular method of getting information from memory, usually large blocks of memory by addressing it directly rather than through normal buffers and normal protocol. The calling software (sometimes embedded in hardware) must be intelligent enough where to find that particular block of memory. This is a method usually used by fast disk controllers, tape controllers, SCSI controllers and intelligent database operations. It is often 20 times faster than conventional methods of access.

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