

Microspeak: Level-set

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In mathematics, a *level set* is the set of points at which a function takes a particular value. This has nothing to do with the way the term is used at Microsoft. In fact, the way the term is used at Microsoft, I have no idea what it means. But here are citations. The first is from an upper-level executive:

| Before we start the meeting, let me *level-set*. Here's what we plan to accomplish today.

The next is from a presentation to a large group on some investigative work a team undertook. After the presenter spent a few minutes discussing the background of the problem:

| That's some *level-setting* on the hardware we had available for investigation.

Here are some citations from presentation slide decks:

| Agenda

- ...
- Pre-work check and Level Set
- ...

| Initial Data gathering and Level Setting

| Teams share solution overviews, roadmaps and architecture views with each other to level set.

(Notice that *level-set* is as a verb.)

From what I can gather, level-setting is some sort of blend of expectation-setting and calibration.

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