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Technology Brief

"...Bioinformatics is the use of information technology for the organization, management and analysis of biological information. Now you may ask, 'So what's all the fuss - aren't computers being utilized in almost every facet of human endeavor? True, but there has never been anything so vast in scope and complexity as the inherently data-intensive biological sciences. There has been such an explosion in biotechnology and pharmaceutical research that if we were merely to make a list of the many disciplines practiced today, it would fill a good size booklet. Initially, when Hwa Lim first coined the term in late eighties, Bioinformatics was seen as the application of computational methods to molecular biology, the discipline in which new understanding of biological processes can be gleaned by analyzing enormous amounts of data delineating molecular relationships between biological pathways. Scientists engaged in genomics research viewed it even more narrowly as a tool for analysis and management of sequencing data. Today, Bioinformatics is beginning to stretch its impatient wings to encompass all areas of life sciences..."

from "Bioinformatics Explained"