

Here are a few Acronyms that I have accumulated. The list is by no means complete and is not guaranteed to be correct and is probably grossly wrong in some cases. I am sorry but you do not win a prize for finding these errors but an update or correction would be appreciated. Use at your own risk. We are not responsible for any problems caused by someone's use or misuse of this information. Rev. 2009-09-27

Acronyms

- 10base2 Ten base 2 - Ethernet that has a theoretical speed of up to 10 megabits/second over 50 ohm thin coax cable type RG59/U. It is connected to each attached device using a "T" connector and 50 ohm terminators at the end of the cable in a bus type architecture.
- 10base5 Ten base 5 - Ethernet that has a theoretical speed of up to 10 megabits/second over 50 ohm thick coax cable type RG8/U. It is connected using transceivers attached to the cable for each device attached. There are 50 ohm terminators at the ends of the cable in a bus type architecture.
- 10baseT Ten base T - Ethernet that has a speed of up to 10 megabits/second over unshielded twisted pair cable.
- 100baseT One Thousand Base T - A name given to Ethernet that has a speed of up to 100 megabits/second over unshielded twisted pair cable.
- 1000baseT One Thousand Base T - A name given to Ethernet that has a speed of up to 1 Gigabits/second over unshielded twisted pair cable.
- 1000baseX One Thousand Base T - A name given to Ethernet that has a speed of up to 1 Gigabits/second over multimode fibre optic cable.
- 480i Television Resolution description = 480 lines interlaced.
- 480p Television Resolution description = 480 lines using progressive scan. This generates a better quality picture than 480i.
- 720p High Definition Television Resolution = 720 lines progressive scan.
- 1080i High Definition Television Resolution = Hi Definition TV at 1080 lines interlaced.
- 4GL Fourth Generation Language
- 802.1x LAN based Access Standards
- 802.1Q Specifies standards for VLANs (Virtual LANS).
- 802.11a Wireless Access Point uses the 5 Ghz band. Its speed is up to 54 Mbps.
- 802.11b Wireless Access Point uses the 2.4 Ghz band. The speed is up to 11 Mbps and can fall back to 5.5 Mbps, 2 Mbps or 1 MBps.
- 802.11g Wireless Access Point uses the 2.4 Ghz band plus multiple channels for faster bandwidth up to 20 Mbps.
- 802.11n Wireless Access Point uses the 2.4 Ghz band and 5 Ghz band and multiple channels for faster bandwidth up to 540 Mbps Max.

802.3af Power over Ethernet IEEE802.3af Power over Ethernet Standard describes standard methods of connecting power over Ethernet to a remote device via the Ethernet LAN or UTP cable. Devices that may be powered by the LAN cable alone might include wireless access points (WAPs), IP based telephones (VOIP), remote door entry systems, remote security cameras, fire, smoke, and carbon monoxide or other gas, hazard, or fault detection devices and any other LAN devices you and ever think of that need power.

- A -

ABEND ABnormal END - Another term for a program crash. Usually used by IBM mainframes.

ABM Asynchronous Balanced Mode - An HDLC sub protocol that supports point to point communications. Either end can initiate a communications session.

AC Alternating Current - AC Electric power is alternating between + and - at 50 or 60 times per second or Hertz Hz. The predominant method of power distribution is Alternating Current at 60 Hz in the United States and the Americas and 50 Hz in Europe, UK, Asia, Africa, Australia and other places.

ACL Access Control List - Various forms of Access Control Lists are used on routers and servers to provide security and enable authorized entities to access required resources and prevent access from unauthorized sources.

ACPI Advanced Configuration and Power Interface - ACPI is a specification by several large companies determining how power and connected devices are managed by the operating system.

AD Application Development

AD Active Directory - A distributed directory service from Microsoft that comes with Windows 2000 Server and Windows Server 2003. It is a secure centralized management system for one location or many locations in many parts of the world.

ADC Analog to Digital Converter - A device for converting an analog audio signal of voice or music to digital format for transmission via the Internet or by digital telephone systems or recorded on tape, DVD, or CD.

ADN Advanced Digital Network

ADO ActiveX Data Objects - Microsoft ActiveX Data Objects provides an easy way to access to multidimensional data from languages such as Microsoft Visual Basic, Visual C++, and others.

ADP Automatic Data Processing

ADSL Asynchronous Digital Subscriber Line - Internet access via a twisted pair phone line that has a different download speed (usually faster) than the upload speed.

AFC Automatic Frequency Control - A circuit used in radio and television receivers, mainly FM receivers that corrects the local oscillator and keeps it on frequency. Older radio receivers could drift off station as the components changed temperatures during operation.

AGC Automatic Gain Control - In a modern radio or TV receiver, a circuit that provides feedback to the RF and IF stages to regulate or reduce the amplification or gain to keep from overloading the circuits when a strong signal is received.

AIPN All IP Network - Newer wireless communications methodologies will use all IP networking allowing standard inter-communications paths everywhere.

AJAX Asynchronous JavaScript Technology and XML (AJAX)

ALGOL Algorithmic Language - An earlier language used on DEC PDP10 systems and others for scientific programming.

AM Amplitude Modulation - The original method of radio broadcasting by modulating a carrier wave with an analog audio stream.

AMPS Advanced Mobile Phone System - Also called the Analog Mobile Phone System is the original cellular phone system started around 1984. It is now obsolete and has largely been replaced by digital technologies such as TDMA, CDMA, and GSM.

ANT Antenna - Short for an antenna connection for a radio or television.

AOT Artifact Of Technology - Some technical gibberish or item that appears when and where you least desired it. It may be a line of Javascript code that appeared in something you just published that wasn't there when you proof read it and you can't change it.

API Application Program Interface - A group of subroutines or procedure calls that enable software applications to be written that utilize the API process to do the input/output necessary to accomplish a task.

APL A Programming Language - Is very compressed. You can write a whole program in one line. It uses every symbol to represent operators and is very cryptic.

APPN Advanced Peer to Peer Networking - An IBM network routing method that uses data received from other APPN nodes to determine the least weighted path to use for communication.

ARA Appletalk Remote Access.

ARCNET Attached Resource Computer NETWORK - A protocol developed by Datapoint Corp. in 1977 for connecting computers together as more resources were required. This network protocol preceded Ethernet and IBM Token Ring and used a star topology.

ARP Address Resolution Protocol - ARP is used to discover the hardware MAC address when given the IP or protocol address of a host.

ARPA Advanced Research Projects Agency - A government agency for developing new technologies for data processing, formed around 1969.

ARPANET Advanced Research Projects Agency NETWORK - A government project for

developing a network to link computers together. The concept was started in about 1969 and was a prelude to the Internet. Any two computers could connect and exchange information from databases around the world by the military.

- ARRL American Radio Relay League - An organization of HAM radio enthusiasts to promote HAM radio and technical information.
- ASAP As Soon As Possible
- ASCII American Standard Code for Information Interchange - A standard for representing text letters, numbers, and symbols by binary codes. It is used by PCs and most computer systems except IBM Mainframes which use EBCDIC.
- ASR Aggregation Services Router - A newer higher speed and capacity Cisco router line.
- AT Advanced Technology - A standard for PC motherboards and cases that replaced the original IBM PCs. It was superseded by ATX around 1994.
- ATL Active Template Library - A Microsoft Code Library used by Microsoft and other developers to create new applications.
- ATM Some years ago ATM (Adobe Type Manager) brought us the first truly scalable text and in WYSIWYG format. Such text is scalable without the "stair steps" that can take place with other older methods. You can now type words into a computer and they print out just the way they look with proportional spacing. Proportional spacing means that in a horizontal line, a letter "i" takes up less space than an "e" and an "m" takes more space than an "n".
- Other ways that affect our lives are 24 hour banking with ATM (Automatic Teller Machines). They enable us to get cash from our bank account or credit card anywhere at any time of day. The electronic message data for these machines, including other computer data, video, and audio is being combined on new data transmission systems using ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode). The data is chopped into 53 byte hunks called frames. There may be lots of frames sent per second. Each frame travels to it's destination via high speed routers.
- ATSC Advanced Television Systems Committee - A system to replace the old North American specific NTSC system for analog television broadcasting with a modern digital standard.
- AUI Attachment Unit Interface - In Ethernet, a DB15 pin M connector used for connecting an Ethernet transceiver or other network device to a host computer.
- AVC Automatic Volume Control - In a radio or TV receiver, a circuit to feed back some of the rectified audio signal to regulate the gain and keep the volume fairly constant over both strong and weak stations.
- AWG American Wire Gage - A Standard for wire sizes in the US.

- B -

- BALUN BALLance to UNballance - A signal transformer device for converting a

signal on an unbalanced coax cable to or from a balanced transmission line such as a twisted pair or 300 ohm TV lead in. They are used for TV lead in to 75 ohm coax device. You also find them used in IBM type 3270 display terminals used as twisted pair extenders so so coax doesn't need to be run to remote buildings or remote floors of buildings when twisted pair lines are more available or cost less to install.

BAU Business As Usual

BB Bulletin Board

BCD Binary Coded Decimal - Sometimes called Packet Decimal is a 4 bit representation of the digits from 0 to 9, 0=0000, 1=0001, 2=0010, 3=0011, 4=0100, 5=0101, 6=0110, 7=0111, 8=1000, 9=1001. Higher bit combinations represent plus, minus, divide and other signs.

BECN Backward Explicit Congestion Notification. A method used in Frame Relay communications to notify the sender when the communication line is congested to stop sending temporarily.

BER Bit Error Rate - BER measures the quality of the digital signal received from a receiving antenna after converting an RF signal to a digital data stream.

BERT Bit Error Rate Tester - A piece of equipment used for testing the error rate on communications lines.

BFO Beat Frequency Oscillator - An auxiliary oscillator in a radio receiver used to generate a beat frequency to heterodyne with the IF frequency and generate an audio tone that the listener can use to decipher Morse Code signals. If the IF frequency is 455 kHz and the BFO is at 454 kHz, then after mixing the signals together, there will be a difference 1 kHz or 1000 Hz tone that the user can hear. When the tone goes on and off, the listener can decipher the Morse code signals. A BFO can also be used to replace a missing carrier wave when single side band transmissions are received.

BGP Border Gateway Protocol - Border Gateway Protocol is an inter autonomous system routing protocol used to exchange routing information between Internet service providers.

BIN Short for Binary.

BIOS Basic Input Output System - A program residing in a ROM or EPROM that boots up and checks that all the computer functions work before loading and starting the operating system.

BNC British Naval Connector - a twist lock coax cable connector for connecting coax cable containing audio, TV, or any electronic digital data.

BNF <Backus Naur Format> ::= <Backus> <Naur> <Form> - A meta syntactic format for writing logical rules for a programming language or a process.

BN Barnes and Noble - A bookstore and Internet book vendor.

BPM Business Process Management - Software tools that allow management to analyze and operate business and efficient and profitable way.

Bps Bytes per second

bps bits per second

BREW Binary Runtime Environment for Wireless - A Qualcomm developed air interface independent environment for Wireless devices usually cell phones. It is a software independent system that can download and run small programs like games, file or picture sharing applications, and exchanging messages.

BRI Basic Rate Interface. An ISDN interface that provides two 64 kbit data circuits and one 16 kbit data circuit in the US. See ISDN and PRI.

BSD Blue Screen of Death - When a Microsoft Windows program or OS crashes, it sometimes generates a blue screen with some lines of text containing register settings and / or information that tries to describe what happened and why the crash occurred. The information is sometimes useful to debug problem software.

BTW By The Way - expression

- C -

CAD Computer Aided Design - A set of programs used for design of new technology devices using computers.

CAE Computer Aided Engineering

CAM Computer Aided Manufacturing

CAM Content Addressable Memory - Memory used in Cisco switches that contains the VLAN, port configurations, and usage statistics for each port on the switch.

CAN Campus Area Network - A computer network that connects two or more buildings in a cluster. It usually uses fiber or may use UTP or in older installations, possibly coax cable.

CAS Column Access Strobe (Latency) time to access memory to retrieve data.

CAT3 CATEGory 3 cable - Voice grade category 3 UTP cable is suitable for 10base-T 10 megabit Ethernet use and voice grade telephone applications.

CAT5 CATEGory 5 cable - Voice grade category 5 UTP cable is suitable for 100base-T 100 megabit Ethernet use and voice grade telephone applications.

CAT5E CATEGory 5E cable - Voice grade category 5E UTP cable is suitable for 100base-T 100 megabit Ethernet use and voice grade telephone applications. Category 5E adds capability for better handling of far end cross talk than for CAT5.

CAT6 CATEGory 6 cable - Voice grade category 6 UTP cable is suitable for 1000base-T 1 gigabit Ethernet use and voice grade telephone applications.

CATV Community Antenna TeleVision. A building, Hotel, campus or neighborhood or any kind of small area TV Antenna distribution system. CATV sometimes is also used to describe a CABLE TV distribution system. CATV usually

uses 75 ohm RG59, RG6 or RG11 coax cable or sometimes in older systems uses 300 ohm ribbon or ladder wire.

- CBT Computer Based Training
- CD Compact Disk - A plastic disk for storing digital audio or music, and more recently data. A CD usually can store up to 700 Megabytes of data, or up to 80 minutes of audio.
- CDDI Copper Distributed Data Interface - A 100 Mbit data connection over copper UTP wiring using FDDI protocols in a counter rotating token ring network. The maximum distance between host and CDDI concentrator is 100 meters.
- CDMA Code Division Multiple Access - A type of digital cellular phone system that uses time slots for communicating between the phone and the tower. The phone communicates data using different time slots and different frequencies.
- CDP Cisco Discovery Protocol - When enabled on on a Cisco device, you can issue "show cdp neighbors" to list information about neighboring Cisco routers and switches.
- CDROM Compact Disk - Read Only Memory type
- CDRW Compact Disk Read Write - A type of CD media that can be erased and new data or music written to it many times. It can usually hold 74 minutes of audio or 650 Megabytes of data.
- CECB Coupon Eligible Converter Box - If you have an older Television that receives only analog TV channels from an over the air antenna, either on the roof or rabbit ears, you can get a CECB using a \$40 coupon from <https://www.dtv2009.gov/>. You can then receive digital programs from over the air after 2009-02-17.
- CGA Color Graphics Adapter - An earlier IBM graphics adapter standard that provided 16 colors and 640 x 200 pixel resolution. The IBM CGA card had 16384 bytes of video memory.
- CHAP Challenge Handshake Authentication Protocol - A secure protocol used to challenge a client usually requesting a password and verification so the user can be logged on to an Internet resource.
- CI Configuration Item - An Item in the CMDB that describes an IT asset or a relationship between IT assets.
- CIDR Classless Inter Domain Routing - Setting a router so subnet masks determine the subletting arrangement and not the default class A, B, or C.
- CIO Chief Information Officer
- CLEC Competitive Local Exchange Carrier - A company that sells telephone or communications services in a local or regional area.
- CMC Common Messing Calls - An X.400 mail messaging protocol that was replaced by Microsoft with MAPI. MAPI is the main mail protocol used by Microsoft Outlook and Microsoft Exchange.

CMDB Configuration Management Database - A CMDB is a database or group of databases describing CIs. It is a part of the ITIL framework describing IT assets and any incidents regarding each asset and how problems were solved. The database is such that statistics and trends can be tallied that can show up generic problems so they can be corrected and reduce costs and down time to as near zero as is possible.

CMOS Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor

CO Central Office - The local telephone exchange equipment center. In earlier days, the exchange is where the switching equipment, ie Panel, cross bar, or Strowger step by step systems were located. Today, these have all been replaced by electronic switching systems.

COB Close Of Business - Usually this is referred to as 5 PM each day when the day's business is finished and closed.

COBOL Common Business Oriented Language - An older computer language used mainly for business and finance applications on legacy mainframes.

COE Consistent Office Environment - A plan for a company or organization that standardizes all office equipment and computer hardware and software to standardize maintenance and updates in a standard logical procedure.

COM Component Object Model (Technologies) - A Microsoft methodology for utilizing re-usable subroutines (objects) by different applications.

COTS Commercial Off The Shelf - Applications. Applications that are available off the shelf either down loadable or shrink wrapped for a price.

CP Control Program

CPE Customer Premise Equipment - Any Telephone equipment provided to the customer at the customer site.

CPU Central Processing Unit - The main chip or engine in the computer that executes all machine instructions including all arithmetic, logical, IO, and branch instructions in sequence until a branch instruction alters the sequence.

CRC Cyclic Redundancy Check - An error checking byte used to ensure the accuracy of a communication.

CRM Customer Relationship Management - Refers to software systems that generate and track trouble tickets and task tickets.

CRT Cathode Ray Tube - a main picture tube used in television or as a monitor

CSR Customer Service Representative

CSMA/CD Carrier Sense Multiple Access / Collision Detect. The basic Ethernet method of operation is a bus structure with many hosts connected. To send a frame, a station or host listens on the network. If there is someone using the network, the new sending station backs off and waits a random time gap and attempts to transmit again. If one transmits a frame at the same time as another, it is sensed as a collision. Both hosts that sense the collision then generate a jam signal and back off some random amount of time which one of them will wake up and transmit again.

CSU Channel Service Unit

CSV Comma Separated Values format - A format for separating values for text or data fields. It can be easily loaded into a spreadsheet.

CTO Chief Technology Officer

CUPS Common Unix Printing System - A UNIX printing system using IPP as a standard method of printing over the Internet.

CW Continuous Wave - An un-modulated carrier transmitted over the air. A method of sending messages by Morse code by turning a carrier on and off. The recipient uses a BFO to modulate the carrier to hear a tone turned on and off to decipher the Morse Code letters, numbers and symbols.

- D -

DAC Digital to Analog Converter - A device for converting digitally encoded audio to analog. It can then be amplified if necessary and delivered to a loud speaker, earphone, or handset ear piece or to an analog recording device.

DAM Dark Ages Measurements - United States "Customary" measures such as inches, feet, yards, fathoms, chains, rods, miles, liquid and dry measures, pints, quarts, gallons, cubic inches, cubic feet, cubic yards, bushels, pounds, ounces, short tons, acres, square feet, square yards, and other non SI Metric measurements still in common use in the United States long after the Metric Conversion Act of 1975.

DARPANET Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency NETWORK - A government project for developing a network to link computers together. The concept was started in about 1969 and was a prelude to the Internet. It was called ARPANET before 1972.

DBA Data Base Administrator

DB Decibel - A measure of the loudness of sound or a measure of the power level in an electronic circuit. It is a ratio based on a common logarithmic scale.

DBMS DataBase Management System - An application or system that manages a database.

DC Direct Current - A steady state electric current where there are two conductors supplying power of which one is always positive (+) and the other is always negative (-). It is supplied by batteries, DC generators, and AC to DC rectifier and diode power supplies. It is found mainly in cars, flashlights, computers, telephones, radios, and other electrical and electronic equipment.

DCCP Datagram Congestion Control Protocol - A transport layer protocol that provides a reliable setup and tear down of a connection but not reliable in-order delivery. See RFC 3440.

DCE Data Communications Equipment - The Asynchronous serial port on a modem or other communications device.

DEMARC Demarcation Point - The point or connection box device that the telephone company installs that the customer connects his phone or phone wiring to.

DHCP Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol - A protocol used by a DHCP server to assign an IP address, gateway address and DNS server addresses on the fly to a host that comes up on the network and requests DHCP services.

DIMM Dual Inline Memory Module - A type of memory used in personal computers. A DIMM has both the first 4 bits and last 4 bits of each byte in one module meaning you only need one DIMM. With SIMMs, you need two.

DLCI Data Link Connection Identifier. In a Frame Relay network, a Data Link Connection Identifier is a 10 bit number that tells the network the destination connection of the data.

DLL Dynamic Linked Library - A shared library file module used under Microsoft Windows that is loaded as needed by various application programs and operating system programs. These files have a .dll extension.

DLP Digital Light Processing - A technology used in projection TVs and displays.

DMA Direct Memory Access

DMM Digital MultiMeter - A meter for measuring volts, amps, ohms, and signal levels and displaying the result on a digital display using numbers.

DMT Discrete Multi Tone modulation - A method of transmitting signal data over twisted pair phone lines using multiple tones.

DNC Direct Numeric Control - A computer supplies DNC signals to a machine tool with instructions on how to manufacture a part.

DNS Domain Name Service - When a host needs to access a remote network resource using a URL, it has no way to know what address that host uses and therefore no way to communicate with somebody.com. It sends a request using a Get Host by Name request to a known DNS server with the URL. The DNS server responds with the IP address of the wanted host. The host then opens a path to the wanted device using the IP address of that site.

DOE Depends On Experience - Seen in many job descriptions and advertisements to describe the available salary.

DOS Disk Operating System - The operating system that underlies the windows system. It also refers to the original Microsoft DOS operating system available before windows. Also, there was a DOS operating system for IBM 360 / 370 mainframes in 1970s to 1990s.

DPMS Display Power Management System - A system in a PC that is used to reduce the power used by the display after a period of inactivity. It reduces the power used and also conserves the battery in laptop computers.

DRAM Dynamic Random Access Memory - A very compact type of memory uses a single transistor to store each bit of information. The information is stored as an electrical charge and slowly leaks off. It must be refreshed at regular intervals. When the power is turned off, whatever information that is in DRAM is lost.

DSL Digital Subscriber Line - An Internet access service provided by telephone companies and some others over a twisted pair phone line between the central office and subscriber location.

DSU Data Service Unit

DTE Data Terminal Equipment - In Asynchronous Serial communications circuits, DTE refers to the serial port on a terminal device or a computer acting as a terminal device.

DTMF Dial Tone Multi Frequency - Referring to the two sound frequencies generated by a touch tone phone when a button is pressed.
Pressing 1 generates 697 Hz and 1209 Hz.
Pressing 2 generates 697 Hz and 1336 Hz.
Pressing 3 generates 697 Hz and 1477 Hz.
Pressing A generates 697 Hz and 1633 Hz.
Pressing 4 generates 770 Hz and 1209 Hz.
Pressing 5 generates 770 Hz and 1336 Hz.
Pressing 6 generates 770 Hz and 1477 Hz.
Pressing B generates 770 Hz and 1633 Hz.
Pressing 7 generates 852 Hz and 1209 Hz.
Pressing 8 generates 852 Hz and 1336 Hz.
Pressing 9 generates 852 Hz and 1477 Hz.
Pressing C generates 852 Hz and 1633 Hz.
Pressing * generates 941 Hz and 1209 Hz.
Pressing 0 generates 941 Hz and 1336 Hz.
Pressing # generates 941 Hz and 1477 Hz.
Pressing D generates 941 Hz and 1633 Hz.
Only special phones, usually military Autovon phones had the A-B-C-D column of buttons on the right side of the keypad.

DTP Desktop Publishing

DTTB Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting - Another name for digital television (DTV) broadcasting when the source is a fixed location antenna as on a tower or top or side of a tall mountain, building, structure, or even a tall tree.

DTV Digital Television - DTV provides digital transmission of television. DTV provides a better picture resolution especially in high definition (HDTV) than the older analog transmission method which is susceptible to interference and snow when a weak signal is received. After Tuesday, 2009-02-17, analog TV broadcasting will end and only DTV will remain for television transmission in the United States.

DUN Dial Up Networking - How to connect to the Internet or to another network using a dial up modem connected to a computer.

DVD Digital Video Disk - A disk that is the same size as a CD but can store much greater amount of data. It can store up to 4.7 Gigabytes of data or 2 hours of standard definition video.

DVI Digital Video Interface - A high resolution digital video port that you use digital cables to pass HD signals.

DVM Digital Volt Meter - a meter (usually portable) for measuring voltage, resistance, or current and displaying the result on a digital readout display device.

DVR Digital Video Recorder - A video recording device used to record and play back video programs at the convenience of the user. Some DVRs can record different programs from more than one channel at the same time. They also have pause and restart features. You can also pause a live program, answer a phone, take care of any interruption or go get a glass of milk and come back and resume watching from where you stopped.

DWDM Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing - A term describing a technology used to transmit multiple virtual optical fiber paths over one fiber. It can increase the throughput of data for example by a factor of 8. Different types of traffic can be sent over each optical path.

DWM Desktop Window Manager - The component of Microsoft Windows Vista in all Vista versions except Home Basic that can display windows in what they call the aero GUI in stacked windows.

- E -

E1 European 1 or E Carrier is used everywhere outside the USA, Canada, and Japan. It is set up with either E1 or E3.

EAI Enterprise Applications Integration - Making applications work together to facilitate efficient work flow.

EAP Extensible Authentication Protocol - A method of authentication of communications over wireless, LAN or Dial up networking. It is defined by RFC 3748.

EBCDIC Extended Binary Coded Decimal Interchange Code - A standard for representing text letters, numbers, and symbols using binary codes. It is used mainly by IBM mainframes and some others.

EBITDA Earnings Before Interest Taxes Depreciation and Amortization This is a financial term and it equals operating income - expenses + other income.

EBNF Extended Backus-Naur Form - Updated version of BNF.

ECML Electronic Commerce Markup Language.

ECN Explicit Congestion Notification - In Frame Relay, a bit set in the frame relay header to notify other stations when congestion occurs. The bit is cleared when congestion eases.

EDA Electronic Design Automation

EDI Electronic Data Interchange

EDTV Enhanced Definition Television - EDTV refers to television that has better quality than SDTV but is not as good as HDTV. SDTV usually refers to 480p in the US or 576p in Europe.

EGA Enhanced Graphics Adapter - An early IBM adapter card that had a screen resolution of up to 640 x 350 pixels in 16 colors. It had 16384 bytes of video memory.

EHF Extra High Frequency - The range of RF frequencies between 30 GHz and 300

GHz and wave length between 1 millimeter and 10 millimeters.

EIA Electronic Industries Association

EIGRP Enhanced Interior Gateway Routing Protocol - The Cisco EIGRP (Enhanced IGRP) represents a leap forward over IGRP. EIGRP resulted from changes in networking and the demands of diverse, large-scale inter networks. Enhanced IGRP integrates the capabilities of link-state protocols into distance-vector protocols. It incorporates the Diffusing-Update Algorithm (DUAL)

ELF Extreme Low Frequency - The range of RF frequencies between 3 Hz and 30 Hz and wave length between 10 000 kilometers and 100 000 kilometers.

EMF Electro Motive Force - The force or Voltage that is the pressure pushing electrons representing electricity through a conductor.

EMI Electro Magnetic Interference - similar to RFI but lower frequencies usually from CRTs, power lines, or other electrical sources.

EOE Equal Opportunity Employer

EOY End Of Year

EPABX Electronic Private Automatic Branch Exchange - Another name for a PBX.

EPG Electronic Program Guide - A feature of some TV Set top boxes, cable TV, and satellite receivers that displays a list of what programs are coming up now and in the future hours.

EPROM Electrically Programmable Read Only Memory - A type of memory that can be electrically erased and reprogrammed. An example of use is in a firmware upload that can replace the information such as a BIOS program with a new one.

ER Equipment Room

ERP Effective Radiated Power - The power in milliwatts, watts, or kilowatts radiated from a transmitting antenna in the direction of wanted propagation. The ERP can be doubled by stacking antennas in a vertical and / or horizontal plane rather than having to put more energy (watts or kilowatts) into the transmitter.

ERP Enterprise Resource Planing

ESD ElectroStatic Discharge -

ESG Electronic Service Guide - Same as EPG. See EPG.

ETA Estimated Time of Arrival

ETD Estimated Time of Departure

ETF Early Termination Fee - A fee usually charged by wireless carriers to someone breaking their contract early.

ETR Estimated Time of Repair

ETTH Ethernet To The Home - A method of connecting Ethernet service directly

to the home.

- EULA End User License Agreement - A requirement by most software vendors that the end user agree to terms and conditions which usually means not to copy the software or use it on more than the number of machines the license is purchased for.
- EUV Extreme Ultra Violet - The portion of the Electromagnetic spectrum that lies between 3 PHz and 30 PHz and wave length between 10 nanometers and 100 nanometers. It is the higher ultra violet range.
- EVDO Evolution Data Optimized - A high speed Internet access service for laptop computers via a card bus or USB device provided by Verizon and Sprint in the United States.

- F -

- FAQ Frequently Asked Question
- FAT File Allocation Table - A file structure system that originated in PCs back to 1981 that stores data on floppy disks, later hard drives, and later USB and other removable memory devices.
FAT12 PC DOS V2 1981 up to 8 MB.
FAT16 PC DOS V3 1984 up to 2 GB. (4 GB under Win XP and later)
FAT32 Win95OSR2 1996 up to 4 TB.
- FCC Federal Communications Commission - The Government agency responsible for allocation and assigning and tracking the use of the RF energy spectrum.
- FCS Frame Check Sequence - A check word added at the end of a protocol frame to detect errors and cause the frame to be resent if necessary.
- FDDI Fiber Distributed Data Interface - A token Ring communications system using counter rotating fiber rings to connect communications devices at 100 Mbit rate.
- FDMA Frequency Division Multiple Access - A method of multiple access where different stations or users are assigned a different carrier frequency.
- FECN Forward explicit congestion Notification - A method used in Frame Relay communications to tell nodes downstream that congestion exists by setting the ECN bit to 1.
- FEP Front End Processor - A processor that connects between an IBM mainframe and the network. A more recent FEP acts as a router for IP traffic and SMA traffic as well.
- FIR Far Infra Red - The portion of the Electromagnetic spectrum that is between 300 GHz and 3 THz and wave length 100 micrometers and 1 millimeter. It is the lower range of radiant heat.
- FLA Four Letter Acronym - or Five Letter Acronym
- FM Frequency Modulation - A method of modulating a carrier by changing the frequency in step with the changes in the audio signal. FM creates a better quality audio output especially for music and is relatively immune to radio interference. FM usually uses a much wider bandwidth than AM. FM broadcasting is assigned in the range of 88 to 108 MHz in most places.

Television broadcasting also uses FM for the sound transmission.

- FOCIS Fiber Optic Connector Intermateability Standards - Standards defined by EIA/TIA-604-12. This standard defines physical characteristics of fiber optic cables and connecting devices.
- FOIRL Fiber Optic Inter Repeater Link - A device for converting Fiber Optic signals to or from Coax, AUI, UTP or some other communications media.
- FORTRAN Formula Translation - An Earlier computer language still used today for scientific and technical applications. It is easy to learn and easy to follow the logical program flow.
- FPD Flat Panel Display - A television or display monitor that uses plasma or LCD technology and is flat and can be hung or mounted on a wall.
- FPLA Fair Packaging and Labeling Act - A 1967 law that governs labeling of a product in terms of quantity or mass, and other information about the product. The labeling also gives nutritional information for food, or what chemicals or materials are included in consumer products.
- FPU Floating Point Unit - A processing unit or chip, separate from the main processor, that processes floating point arithmetic instructions.
- FRS Family Radio Service - An FM radio service anyone can use for short range communication. It is limited to 500 milliwatts of power operating on UHF frequencies at 462 and 467 MHz. Repeaters are not allowed to be used by FRS.
- FSF Free Software Foundation - The principal sponsor of the GNU project. See GNU.
- FTP File Transfer Protocol - A TCP Internet protocol that allows files to be transferred between two hosts via the Internet.
- FTTD Fiber To The Desktop - FTTH describes a method of distributing communications to the desktop in the workplace.
- FTTH Fiber To The Home - A method of running fiber from a CO directly to the customer's house or apartment.
- FTTN Fiber To The Neighborhood - A method of running fiber from a CO to near the customer. Fiber runs terminate within 1 km of the customer premises. Fiber to twisted pair converter devices convert the signal so it comes the rest of the way to the customer over copper.
- FUSE File system in USEr space - A fully functional file system for a user in LINUX. It is used by a user's application and doesn't need privileges.
- FWIW For What It's Worth
- FYI For Your Information, the acronym "FYI" is listed here.

- G -

GB Giga Byte

GFCI Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter - An electrical device to automatically shut off the current in case of a ground fault.

GIF Graphics Interchange Format - A graphical format developed originally by CompuServe for handling pictures and graphical diagrams.

GML Generalized Markup Language - An older markup language proceeding SGML.

GMRS General Mobile Radio Service - A licensed FM radio service in the 462 MHz UHF region. GMRS may operate with repeaters.

GMT Greenwich Mean Time - The old name for UTC or Coordinated Universal Time. It is the standard time at Greenwich, England.

GND Ground (short for) - Any grounded electrical connection for a radio, television, or any electrical or electronic appliance or equipment.

GNU Gnu's Not Unix - The Free Software Foundation software for LINUX. See <http://www.gnu.org>

GNOME GNU Network Object Model Environment - An open source desktop environment used in Linux. See <http://www.gnu.org>

GPF General Protection Fault - When a program crashes due to a software bug and tries to read or write to a part of memory outside the addressable area or outside the assigned memory for that application, Microsoft refers to it as a General Protection Fault. Such a happening was usually followed by a program interrupt with some error number displayed and a memory dump.

GPRS General Packet Radio Service - A wireless data service for GSM phone users that uses a type of TDMA data transfer.

GSM Global System for Mobile - A TDMA type of technology for mobile cellular phones. It is used by Cingular, Edge Wireless, T-Mobile in the USA and is exclusively used in UK, Europe, Africa, Australia, and other places. It is becoming more common in the US.

GUI Graphical User Interface - A software system such as the Microsoft Windows operating system or Linux KDE or GNOME that displays computer information graphically.

- H -

HAL Hardware Abstraction Layer - A layer of software that contains the instructions that operate hardware devices directly. The HAL runs Read, Write, and Test I/O instructions and deals with hardware interrupts. It provides a layer of code that is independent of different device types making them all look similar from an application viewpoint.

HD Hard Drive - Short for HDD or Hard Disk Drive

HDPC High Bandwidth Digital Content Protection - A copy protection scheme.

HDD Hard Disk Drive - The rotating memory device that holds programs and data in a computer.

HDLC High level Data Link Control - This is a layer 2 data link layer protocol

developed by the ISO as part of the X.25 protocol stack. It is used for communications over an asynchronous circuit.

4 transfer modes:

NRM Normal Response Mode. Only primary device can initiate communications.

ARM Asynchronous Response Mode Either primary or secondary device can initiate communications.

ABM Asynchronous Balance Mode combined mode. Device can be either primary or secondary.

LAPB Link Access Procedure, Balanced ARM extension, Circuit can be DTE or DCE.

HDMI High Definition Multimedia Interface - A High Definition interface that supersedes DVI and can carry both stereo audio and video.

HDTV High Definition Television - Digital Television that gives more sharpness than Standard Definition TV. It is usually specified as 720p, 1080i, and 1080p resolutions.

HF High Frequency - The range of RF frequencies between 3 MHz and 30 MHz and wave length between 10 meters and 100 meters.

HDLC High Level Data Link Control - A long Acronym for HDLC. See HDLC.

HSRP Hot Standby Router Protocol - Documented in RFC 2281, HSRP is a Cisco protocol that uses a standby router that continues to route traffic in the event of a router failure. The standby router uses the same MAC and IP addresses so there is no interruption in network traffic.

HTML Hyper Text Markup Language - A language using HTML Tags that is the basic language decoded by web browsers to display web pages.

HTTP Hyper Text Transfer Protocol - Protocol operating initially at port 80 to transfer data from a web server to a client.

HTTPS Hyper Text Transfer Protocol Secure - A secure encrypted method of transferring data between a client browser and web server over the Internet. You can usually tell that the session is secure by the padlock at the bottom right of the browser and the web address beginning with the letters "HPPTS".

HVAC Heating Ventilating and Air Conditioning (Equipment, ducts, registers, thermostats, the whole system)

- I -

IANA Internet Assigned Numbers Authority - The IANA is responsible for assigning Internet addresses and keeping track of all IPv4 and IPv6 addresses.

ICANN Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers - A Non-profit corporation for coordinating Internet domain names and numbers and help making the Internet secure.

ICMP Internet Control Message Protocol - The protocol used primarily by the PING command to check for connectivity to a particular host through the network.

IDE Integrated Device Electronics

IDE Integrated Development Environment

IDEN Integrated Digital Enhanced Network - A Wireless phone technology from Motorola and used by NexTel now Sprint - Nextel in the United States, Telus in Canada and others in North and South America and a few other places in the world. IDEN is known for the push to talk feature.

IDF Intermediate Distribution Frame - A wiring closet usually containing wiring frames and patch panels for connecting telephones and computer network lines in an area of a building. It may contain Ethernet hubs and / or switches.

IEEE Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers

IESG Internet Engineering Steering Group - The Group that does the daily activities of the IETF, maintaining documents describing Internet communications.

IETF Internet Engineering Task Force - A group that coordinates and maintains standards (RFCs) describing Internet communications.

IF Intermediate Frequency - In a superhetrodyne radio receiver and television sets, the intermediate frequency is the difference between the local oscillator and the incoming frequency. It allows much greater selectivity in the radio. All modern radio receivers are superhetrodyne type. The IF frequency for an AM radio is usually 455 kHz, and 10.7 MHz for FM reception.

IFF Identification Friend of Foe - Used in radar to identify planes or vessels as friendly.

IFSD Installable File System Driver - A software program that installs in an operating system that allows access to file systems that are not available with the native operating system. Example: An IFSD for Linux EXT3 would enable a Windows user to seamlessly access Linux EXT3 partitions or drives and read and update files in those partitions or drives.

IGRP Interior Gateway Routing Protocol - A distance vector routing protocol used to route datagrams between routers using cost to determine the best route(s).

IIS Internet Information Services - Microsoft Windows Web server.

IL Internet Link - A Transport layer protocol originally created for the Bell Labs research operating system known as Plan 9. It is a connection based protocol.

ILEC Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier

IM Information Management

IMAP Internet Message Access Protocol - A protocol used by mail servers to deliver only the message being asked for. The rest of the mail may stay on the server. The user doesn't have to download all the mail from the server at once as he must do with POP protocol.

IMS Information Management System

I/O Input / Output

IOS Internet working Operating System - An operating system Cisco routers and switches.

IP Internet Protocol - Level three protocol that allows communication between two points on the same network or on dissimilar locations via a network of one or more routers.

IP Information Processing

IPAM Internet Protocol Address Management - A process for managing IP addresses using tools such as DHCP and DNS.

IPC Information Processing Center

IPL Initial Program Load - The act of booting up a computer that loads the initial software into memory from a device such as a ROM, EPROM, hard drive, floppy disk, CD ROM, or other storage device.

IPP Internet Printing Protocol - A Standard protocol for printing over the Internet.

IPTV Internet Protocol Television - A method of transmitting television programs over Internet Protocol over the Internet.

IPV4 Internet Protocol Version 4 - The older IP protocol using 32 bit addresses for example: 192.168.1.2

IPV6 Internet Protocol Version 6 - A newer protocol used by the military and universities and eventually will be used by the public and will replace IPV4. It uses 128 bit addresses written as a series of hex numbers.

IPX Internet Packet Exchange - IPX is a Novell routing protocol used to route packets through a network on layer 3.

IRC Internet Relay Chat - A method of group communications and discussion forums or private message exchanges.

IRM Information Resource Management

ISA Industry Standard Architecture - A standard for plugging expansion cards into a personal computer. ISA has been replaced by faster PCI architecture.

ISAM Indexed Sequential Access Method - ISAM was developed by IBM and used for accessing a sequential database on mainframe computers. An index provides fast sorting, updating and retrieving information stored on a hard drive.

ISDN Integrated Services Digital Network - A type of Phone or Internet access system that provides a digital connection over a twisted pair circuit giving two 64 kbit B channels and one 16 kbit D channel over a BRI. A PRI circuit provides 23 64 kbit B channels and 1 64 kbit D channel in the USA. Lately, ISDN has been largely replaced by DSL circuits.

ISL Inter Switch Link - A circuit path between any two Ethernet switches. ISL is also a layer 2 Cisco protocol used between Cisco branded switches.

ISO International Organization for Standards - A body charged with keeping world standards for measurement and processes.

ISP Internet Service Provider - A company or organization that provides Internet Connection Services via dial up modems, DSL, Cable TV lines, Satellite, or some wireless facility such as Satellite, Cell Phone, LMDS, public "hot spots" or some other wireless entity. The Internet connection(s) allow(s) browsing the Internet via HTTP or FTP download services and usually E-Mail server, mail services, and usually Mail Spam filtering and other security services.

IT Information Technology - The technology consisting of desktop computers, servers, mainframe computers, microcomputers, networks, printers, scanners, keyboards, mice, monitors, software and hardware that process any and every kind of information electronically.

ITIL Information Technology Infrastructure Libraries - ITIL V3 is a set of rules or governance developed by the British Government around 1988 that describes frameworks on how IT should operate to be efficient and reliable. It is being used by more IT departments of governments, companies, and organizations all over the world.

- J -

J2EE Java 2 platform Enterprise Edition - The platform independent Java environment developed by Sun Microsystems.

J2ME Java 2 platform Micro Edition - A Sun Microsystems version of J2EE for small portable devices.

JCL Job Control Language - Usually refers to stored procedures for running programs on a mainframe. In the old days of big blue mainframes, it was a deck of cards beginning with "// JOB".

JPEG Joint Photographic Experts Group - A compressed photographic file format for saving pictures. Files usually have the .jpg extension.

JIF Apparently a misspelling of GIF which is Graphics Interchange Format.

JPG A lossy bitmap image format. It is the extension used to identify such bit map image files.

- K -

KB kilobyte

kbps kilobits per second

KDE K(ool) Desktop Environment - An open source desktop environment for Unix and Linux systems. It contains most of the features of a Windows environment.

KVM Keyboard Video Mouse (Switch) - A device to switch a monitor, keyboard, and mouse between two or more computers. It is used when it is desired to operate more than one computer with only one monitor, keyboard, and mouse.

- L -

LAN	Local Area Network - A computer network that usually involves computers in one building, one floor, or one small area.
LAPB	Link Access Procedure Balanced - A part of the X.25 protocol stack. It is only used in ABM mode but looks like HDLC or SDLC frames.
LAT	Local Area Transport - An old DEC non routable protocol used to communicate between DEC Terminal servers and a VAX or PDP11 computer.
LATA	Local Access Transport Area - Your service area. Phone calls to points inside your service area or LATA are handled by your LEC. Calls to places outside your service area or LATA are handled by a long distance company.
LCD	Liquid Crystal Display - a Flat panel display using liquid crystal technology to display an electronic image. LCD's can replace the older CRT devices and they use much less electric energy.
LDAP	Lightweight Directory Access Protocol, is an Internet protocol that email programs use to look up contact information from a server, such as ClickMail Central Directory. For info: http://www.gracion.com/server/whatldap.html
LDP	Label Distribution Protocol
LEC	Local Exchange Carrier
LED	Light Emitting Diode - A small diode device that creates light when current is passed through it.
LF	Low Frequency - The range of RF frequencies between 30 kHz and 300 kHz and wave length between 1 kilometer and 10 kilometers.
LISP	LISt Processing - A computer programming language.
LIU	Light Interface Unit
LLC	Logical Link Control
LMDS	Local Multipoint Distribution Service - A wireless facility providing Internet Access and possibly Phone service via a neighborhood or nearby mountain top tower or any nearby tall structure.
LPD	Line Printer Device - a UNIX printing protocol used by UNIX print servers.
LPR	Line Printer Remote - A printing protocol used by UNIX systems.
LSA	Link State Advertisement - Link state advertisements are sent between routers to keep the OSPF tables up to date.
LSB	Lower Side Band - See SSB.
LSI	Large Scale Integration

LSP Label Switched Path - An end to end MPLS tunnel between two routers not necessarily directly connected.

LTE Long Term Evolution - A newer 4th generation communications methodology that uses OFDMA to communicate voice, video, messaging, and data on top of wireless AIPN Network communications paths to multiple users over multiple channels.

LU Logical Unit

- M -

MAC Media Access Control Address - MAC address refers to the unique 48 bit layer two address that is given to any device that connects to the network.

MAC Move Add Change - Activity which goes on in various companies and organizations in which people, computers and equipment are moved from one place to another whenever required.

MAN Metropolitan Area Network - A network that covers two to many sites or buildings in one metropolitan area.

MAP Manufacturing Automation Protocol

MAPI Messaging Applications Programing Interface - A program used to access and transfer email in Windows. If an application is MAPI enabled, it can transfer messages to or from other such applications. MAPI is the main protocol used by Microsoft Exchange and Microsoft Outlook.

MAU Media Access Unit - An Ethernet connection using a 9 pin F connector. It has largely been replaced by 10baseT cabling.

MB MegaByte

Mbps Megabits per second

MBR Master Boot Record - The MBR in the first sector of the hard drive contains a small program that starts when the computer is booted. The MBR reads the partition table and determines which partition to boot. It then loads and executes the program in that partition and the boot up process continues. In Windows DOS command line, the MBR can be re-written with "FDISK /MBR" if it has been destroyed by a program bug or virus.

MCA Micro Channel Architecture

MDA Monochrome Display Adapter - An adapter card introduced by IBM for IBM PCs in 1981. It had 4096 bytes of memory. It had a screen resolution of about 720 x 350 pixels in two colors, green and black. It showed green text on a black background using the IBM monochrome monitor. IBM later came out with the CGA or Color Graphics Adapter.

MDAC Microsoft Data Access Components - is a bundle of access software to access MS SQL Server, OLE DB, and ODBC.

MDF Main Distribution Frame - A main wiring closet usually containing wiring frames and patch panels for connecting telephones and computer network

lines in a central area of a building. It may contain Telephone PBX equipment, Network Routers, Telephone fiber optic, coaxial, or UTP cable equipment frames and sometimes Ethernet hubs and / or switches.

MDI	Medium Dependent Interface - Also known as an uplink port connects a hub or switch to another hub or switch using a straight through network cable (usually Category 5 or higher).
MDI-X	Medium Dependent Interface Crossed - Port connects to a computer, printer, or other hub uplink port (MDI) using a straight through network cable. To connect to a regular MDIX port on another switch or hub, you need to use a crossover cable.
MES	Manufacturing Execution System
MF	Medium Frequency - The range of RF frequencies between 300 kHz and 3 MHz and wave length between 100 meters and 1 kilometer.
MHz	MegaHertz - 1,000,000 cycles per second.
MIB	Management Information Base
MICR	Magnetic Ink Character Recognition. A system for printing and reading numbers from financial documents especially checks.
MIDI	Musical Instrument Digital Interface
MIMO	Multiple Input Multiple Output - A method of network radio communications using multiple antennas for both the base site and mobile site.
MIR	Medium Infra Red - The portion of the Electromagnetic spectrum that is between 3 THz and 30 THz and wave length 10 micrometers and 100 micrometers. It is the medium range of radiant heat.
MIS	Management Information System
MMU	Memory Management Unit
MODEM	Modulator - Demodulator - A device for converting serial data to a medium for transmitting data between two computers or devices over a long distance. Typical RS232 type modems usually communicate over a POTS phone line. Serial RS232 Modems have largely been replaced by the use of DSL or Cable modems.
MOS	Metal Oxide Silicon - a process used in making transistors and integrated circuits using metal over silicon.
MPLS	Multi Protocol Label Switching - A scheme for carrying data that looks like a circuit switched path over a packet switched network. It operates on layer 2 or 3 and is called a layer 2.5 protocol. It can carry Ethernet frames and SONET, ATM, and other types of traffic.
MPOE	Main Point Of Entry - The place where main Phone or communications circuits enter a building.
MPS	Managed Private Server - A Verio managed server product.
MS	Short for Microsoft.

MSDOS MicroSoft Disk Operating System

MSI MicroSoft Installer - A Microsoft program used to install applications distributed using .msi files under Microsoft Windows.

MTAs Message Transfer Agent - A program that retrieves E-mails and routes them to the addressed individual.

MTBF Mean Time Between Failures - A Measure of the average time a device will last between failures. It can be used for devices that can be repaired.

MTTF Mean Time To Failure - a measure of the average time a device will last before it fails. It can be used for devices that can't be repaired or burn out, such as as in a light bulb.

MT-RJ Mechanical Transfer - Registered Jack - A small dual fiber optic connector somewhat similar to an RJ45 or RJ11 phone connector.

MTU Maximum Transmission Unit - The MTU is the largest size in bytes of a datagram sent over a network. The normal size of a datagram is 576 bytes for a PPP connection. The normal size of a datagram over Ethernet is usually 1500 bytes.

MURS Multi Use Radio Service - A radio service for business use using 5 channels in the 151 and 154 MHz VHF region. Use is limited to business use and a maximum of 2 watts. Repeaters are not allowed for MURS.

- N -

NAC Network Access Control - Network Security Method or methods of restricting network access mainly to end point devices and allowing access only via authentication or other restrictions.

NAK Negative Acknowledgment - A character sent back to the sender over a serial connection when the received data was garbled or missing.

NANPA North America Numbering Plan Administration - NANPA is responsible for assigning telephone area codes and prefix blocks for telecommunications companies and authorities in North America.

NAP When you get tired of reading this list, you might unknowingly take a short sleep period, called a NAP.

NAS Network Attached Storage - A device that usually contains one or more hard disk drives that connects to a network. Users can access the NAS device to retrieve or update centrally located data or software or can back up their own local hard disks.

NAS Network Access Server - A server or firewall that controls or allows network access only via certain predefined rules for security. It may any authentication methods such as passwords or it may allow only certain mac address or IP addresses to predefined destinations.

NAT Network Address Translation - NAT is used mostly to translate the interior IP address of a local network to an external Internet address by a gateway or firewall router.

NBF NetBios Frames - A non-routable network protocol no longer supported by Microsoft. It can still be used on small networks if required.

NCP Network Control Program - A command or program for configuring the network on some operating systems.

NCP Netware Core Protocol - A Novell protocol used by Novell Networks. It has been largely replaced by IP Networks.

NDA Non Disclosure Agreement - An agreement you sign at the start of any work relationship with an employer that you will not pass on any information about products or procedures that that employer has. That work relationship may last anywhere from a half hour to 50 years or more.

NDPS Netware Directory Print Services

NDS Netware Directory Services

NEC National Electric Code - A set of national standards for manufacturing and installing electrical equipment, devices, and wiring.

NEMA National Electrical Manufacturers Association

NETBEUI NET(work) Bios Extended User Interface - It is really not a network protocol as it is a non routable transport layer protocol. It was used by the original DOS and older Windows.

NFS Network File System - developed by Sun Microsystems to allow files on a Unix system to be accessed by any others who have need.

NFS Netware File Services

NIC Network Interface Card - A NIC is usually an Ethernet interface card that plugs into a computer and enables connection to an Ethernet network using coax cable, transceiver cable, Cat 5 or 6 unshielded twisted pair cable or fiber optic cable.

NID Network Interface Device - Also called a Network Interface Unit (NIU). It is a usually a connection box is a demarcation point between a telecommunications provider's network and the customer's network.

NIH Not Invented Here - An excuse for not using some idea or technology because it was invented by or thought of by somebody else.

NIR Near Infra Red - The portion of the Electromagnetic spectrum that is between 30 THz and 300 THz and wave length 1 micrometer and 10 micrometers. It is the higher range of radiant heat.

NIS Network Information Service - Formerly called Unix Yellow Pages, NIS provides login and other info on users to whoever is setting up a secure web site.

NIST National Institute of Standards and Technology

NIU Network Interface Unit Also called a Network Interface Device. See NID.

NJE Network Job Entry - Refers for submitting jobs to a mainframe from a remote location via a network.

NNTP Network News Transfer Protocol - An application protocol used for transferring news (Usenet) articles. See RFC 977.

NOC Network Operations Center - A control center for controlling a telecommunications network.

NOYB None Of Your Business

NTFS New Technology File System - A Microsoft File system released with version NT 3.5 in 1993, then updated in NT 4, and again in Windows 2000. NTFS has security features similar to LINUX or UNIX EXT2 and others that can be used to restrict access to files and or folders by owner or group. These security features are not available in the older FAT file systems.

NTP Network Time Protocol - A UDP protocol on port 123 that is used to synchronize clocks over the Internet. It is only as accurate as the variable latency of the Internet permits.

NTSC National Television Systems Committee - A group setting standards for analog television broadcasting in the US, and North America.

NUV Near Ultra Violet - The portion of the Electromagnetic spectrum that is between 300 THz and 3 PHz and wave length between 100 nanometers and 1 micrometer. Visible light is in this range between 400 and 700 nanometers from violet to blue to green to yellow to red to infra red.

NVRAM Non Volatile Random Access Memory - A type of static memory that keeps information even when power is turned off. It may be used to save a configuration file or parameters for equipment such as a router or network switch.

- O -

OA Office Automation

OCR Optical Character Recognition - A software application that recognizes text by the shapes of letters and numbers and converts the information to ASCII character strings and stores it.

ODBC Open Database Connectivity - A Microsoft C program interface that enables applications to access a variety of database management systems (DBMS) data.

ODF Open Document Format - A open standard format for documents.

OFDM Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing.

OFDMA Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiple Access - A multiple user version of OFDM.

OHCI Open Host Computer Interface - An i.Link IEEE 1394 Firewire port standard that insures that an IEEE 1394 device will work properly with current modern features.

OLE Object Linking and Embedding - A Microsoft developed method of making objects created in one application available or linked to from another application.

OLTP On Line Transaction Processing

OS Operating System - The control software that manages a computer and provides file management and access, printer, network, utilities, and maintenance subroutines. It provides an environment for applications such as spread sheets, word processors, data base management programs, games, Internet browsers, electronic mail, drafting, and network applications to run in. Examples are Windows, Linux, Unix, MAC OS, DOS, OS/MVS, VM/370, VAX/VMS, Solaris, and others.

OSI Open Systems Interconnect - A model for data communications where the communication string of bits is divided into layers. The layers are:

7 Application Data Layer

6 Presentation Data Layer - Translates Data

5 Session Data Layer

4 Transport Segment Layer

3 Network Packet Layer

2 Data Link Frame Layer

1 Physical Bit String

OSPF Open Shortest Path First - A Link State routing protocol used to route packets via the shortest path first. Link State Advertisements (LSAs) are sent usually every 5 seconds updating the adjacent routers of the routing status.

OSU Optical Service Unit

OTA Over The Air - TV that is transmitted over the air from a tall tower or mountain top tower as opposed to Cable TV.

OTDR Optical Time Domain Reflectometry - A device used to measure the distance from the end of an optical fiber to the other end or to a bad spot by registering the time it takes between when a light pulse is sent down the fiber and the time a reflection comes back. It can be used to locate faults and so a repair can be made.

- P -

P2P Point 2 Point Protocol - A method of connecting two computers together over a network or dial up connection using a data link protocol that encapsulates data.

PABX Private Automatic Branch Exchange - Another name for a PBX. A small telephone exchange usually located on a company's premises in an MDF or main wiring closet.

PAD Packet Assembler - Disassembler

PAL Phase Alteration Line - A standard for transmitting analog color and

black and white television in Europe, parts of Asia, Australia, Africa, and some other places.

- PAP Printer Access Protocol. A MAC OS Appletalk protocol used to provide bi-directional communication between Postscript printers and a client computer.
- PASCAL A structured computer programming language based on ALGOL.
- PATA Parallel Attachment - Method of attaching a hard drive in a PC. The PATA is another term for the original IDE or EIDE attachment using a gray (usually) 40 pin flat ribbon cable. It is being replaced by newer and faster SATA Drives.
- PBX Private Branch Exchange - A small telephone exchange usually located on a company's premises in an MDF or main wiring closet.
- PC Personal Computer
- PCB Printed Circuit Board
- PCI Peripheral Component Interconnect - A standard for plugging expansion cards into a personal computer.
- PCMCIA Personal Computer Memory Card International Association - Sometimes called Cardbus devices. They are plugged into laptop computers to add memory, modems, USB ports, firewire ports, Network ports, or other devices.
- PDF Portable Document Format - A file type called Acrobat from Adobe Systems Incorporated. Documents are created by the Adobe product Acrobat and distributed and viewed by Adobe's free Adobe reader product.
- PDH Plesiochronous Digital Hierarchy - A group of standards for transmitting large amounts of data over microwave and fiber optic systems in which the originating and receiving equipment are synchronized using external clocks.
- PDM Product Data Management
- PDS Premises Distribution System - A wiring system for connecting telephone and computer networks.
- PDU Power Distribution Unit - A unit usually consisting of a large isolation power transformer and circuit breaker panel in a data center. It is used to supply AC power to various servers, computers, mainframes, networking equipment, printers, and whatever auxiliary equipment that needs power in a data center.
- PDU Protocol Data Unit - A frame, packet, segment, or data unit that is described in the OSI model. See OSI.
- PING Packet InterNet Grouper - A program to test the reachability of a host through the Internet using ICMP Protocol. PING is supported by most operating systems including UNIX, LINUX, Solaris, MS Windows, Apple Macintosh Ver. 10 and above, BE OS and others.
- PITN Pain In The Neck

PLM Product Lifestyle Management (Solutions) - Refers to software used to manage how old products are disposed of when they exceed end of life. It makes sure that harmful materials such as lead, mercury, cadmium, arsenic, PCBs and other harmful substances and carcinogens don't fall into landfills but are properly recycled or disposed of. (See RoHS).

PNG Portable Network Graphics - A format for displaying graphical material usually on a web page. Files usually have the .png extension.

POE Power Over Ethernet - A way of supplying networked devices such as wireless access points, remote repeaters, IP Telephones, and other devices with power using the Ethernet network cable usually UTP CAT5 or CAT6. Certain Ethernet switches and some routers have ports marked POE that can connect to a device that only requires the network cable connection.

POF Plastic Optical Fiber - A short range low cost fiber optic cable used mainly for home applications. It has a diameter of around 1mm and an attenuation as high as 1 db/m.

POP Point of Presence - A reference to having an ISP's equipment presence in a central office (CO) with a local dial up number.

POP Post Office Protocol - An Internet Protocol that allows an E-Mail user to receive mail from a mail server, usually either provided by an ISP or an internal company mail server.

POP3 Post Office Protocol version 3. An up to date Post Office Protocol with advanced features. It obsoletes POP, POP1 and POP2.

POS Point Of Sale - systems - Usually refers to electronic cash register equipment in stores or any retail location.

POSIX Portable Operating System Interface - A set of standards relating to APIs used to access operating system controls by applications under Unix or Linux systems.

POST Power On Self Test - A process the BIOS program goes through to make sure the basic input / output and main computer functions are working. It usually ends in a short beep indicating everything is OK and the operating system can then be booted.

POTS Plain Old Telephone Service - The normal twisted pair telephone line service using a common battery at -48 volts and 110 volts AC at 20 Hz for ringing current.

PPP Point to Point Protocol - A method of converting and transmitting IP, IPX, and DECnet traffic data over a modem.

PPPOE Point to Point Protocol Over Ethernet - Used by DSL providers and can also be used by Cable and Wireless networks. It provides Point to Point Protocol over Ethernet link to a providers network from a remote user.

PPTP Point to Point Tunneling Protocol - A VPN protocol that provides a secure virtual path between a client and a remote server through the public Internet or through a private Internet network.

PRI Primary Rate Interface - An ISDN interface that provides 23 64 kbit B channel data circuits and one 64 kbit D channel data circuit in the US

and Japan. The D channel usually provides controlling and synchronizing data.

- PSIP Programing and System Information Protocol - A digital TV Channel (DTV) transmits information as part of the signal that provides the channel number, program guide and other information so the TV Tuner can select a particular channel for viewing.
- PSN Packet Switched Node
- PSTN Public Switched Telephone Network - The network of telephone central offices (CO)s, cabling, fiber and copper that connect all the telephones together.
- PTT Public Telephone & Telegraph
- PTT Push To Talk - A Type of wireless phone using the walkie talkie feature originally offered by Nextel (Now Sprint - Nextel) but now also by others such as Verizon and Cingular as an extra cost option.
- PUP Potentially Unwanted Program - A classification by Anti-virus software for a program that might contain a virus or other potentially harmful code.
- PVC Permanent Virtual Circuit
- PVR Personal Video Recorder
- PXE Boot Preboot eXecution Environment - Pronounced PIXIE boot. PXE is the VfM Spec for Intel running a boot up over a network without booting from the local hard drive or local operating system. In VfM compliant computers, the BIOS and NIC must support the PXE boot spec.

- Q -

- QAM Quadrature Amplitude Modulation is a combination of two carriers 90 degrees out of phase with each other and are able to transmit data at twice the rate of only one carrier.
- QOS Quality of Service - A term giving a guaranteed throughput rate of data over a particular network path. See RFC 2212.
- QXGA Quad eXtended Graphics Adapter - A Graphics adapter which has a resolution of (2048 x 1536 pixels (or up to 2048 x 1600 pixels)).

- R -

- RADAR Radio Detection And Ranging - An electronic system for detecting aircraft, boats, ships, shorelines, bridge, piers, etc. especially useful for detecting objects to avoid in fog, night time or any time of limited visibility.
- RAID Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks - RAID arrays are used for two purposes usually by network servers. They are used to make access faster and / or for redundancy. RAID 0 is used for speed but provides no redundancy. RAID 5 supports striping over more than one disk and provides redundancy. If one HD fails, the data is not lost and the

system keeps running while a technician replaces the faulty drive.

- RAM Random Access Memory - A type of memory that can be randomly accessed and changed by other software instantaneously. RAM is usually used to hold the main running software.
- RAMDAC Random Access Memory Digital to Analog Converter - A group of 3 DACs to handle each color (red, green, and blue) of a palette that is converted to analog signals used to drive a video display.
- RAN Radio Access Network - new standard for wireless networking using IP. Open RAN is an open communications protocol.
- RARP Reverse Address Resolution Protocol - RARP is used to obtain the IP address when given the hardware MAC address of a device.
- RAS Remote Access Server - A server that provides secure dial up access capability for one or more lines to a network usually at a remote site but may be at a small office or large office environment.
- RBOC Regional Bell Operating Company - Current examples are: at&t / SBC, Verizon, Southern Bell, Qwest.
- RDBMS Relational Database Management System - A database system that is in the form of tables. The relationship between tables is also in table form. It is usually accessed by SQL from anywhere.
- REXX Restructured EXTended EXecutor - Also called "System Product Interpreter", A third generation "EXEC" type interpreted highly structured programming language in IBM mainframes, usually in VM-370. It used IF, Then, Else, Do, While, constructs to improve the readability and ease of programming with fewer errors. It replaced the older "EXEC" and "EXEC2" interpreted programming languages. Versions of REXX later became available under various operating systems including PD-DOS, Windows, MAC, and Linux.
- RF Radio Frequency
- RFC Request For Comments - One of a series of papers or notes, each describing a procedure or protocol aspect of Internet communications. For information, see <http://rfc.net>
- RFI Radio Frequency Interference - Interference from other sources such as fluorescent lights, CB or HAM interference, faulty motors with arcing brushes, and other electronic devices that causes noise in radios and Televisions. It sometimes can interfere with reception of important data such as navigational aids on ships and planes.
- RFID Radio Frequency Identification - An electronic method of quickly and accurately identifying and tracking goods from growing and manufacturing to retail distribution. RFID uses small electronic tags with a unique numbering system and electronic sensors connected to small computers networked to a centralized database. It can reduce the cost of distribution and enhance just in time delivery of virtually any kind of goods including parts to production lines.
- RG Residential Gateway - A device for connecting a home network and / or TV lines to the service provider's network line or cable drop.

RG6U RG6U has 75 ohm impedance and is used as TV Antenna, CATV, or Satellite TV cable. It is also used with BNC connectors to connect DS3 45 megabit/second communications equipment. The outside diameter is 8.5 mm.

RG8U RG8U cable is 50 ohm thick cable and is used for CB or ham radio or broadcast use. It is also used as Thick Ethernet 10base5 cable and has an outside diameter of 10.287 mm.

RG11U RG11U is 75 ohm cable with outside diameter of 10.287 mm and used primarily for Cable TV applications. This is the cable TV cable you see up on the utility pole with handle shaped bends near the pole to allow for expansion and compression over various temperature extremes between winter, summer and day and night.

RG58U RG58U is 50 ohm cable is Used for HAM or CB radio use and also used for Ethernet thin net use. It has an outside diameter of 5 mm.

RG59U RG59U is 75 ohm cable and is used mainly for FM radio and TV antenna or CATV use. It has an outside diameter of 6.15 mm.

RG62 RG62 is 92 ohm cable and can be used for Arc Net. ARC net is used by IBM for communicating between remote IBM terminals and a mainframe controller. It has an outside diameter of 6.15 mm.

RHEL Red Hat Enterprise Linux - Red Hat's Linux system aimed at businesses, servers, and mainframes.

RIP Routing Information Protocol - A Distance vector routing protocol used by routers to utilize the best routes between routers to route datagrams.

RJ11 Registered Jack 11 - It is a standard for 2 , 4, or 6 pin modular jacks for connecting telephone or sometimes network connections.

RJ45 Registered Jack 45 - RJ45 is a standard 8 pin modular jack and plug for connecting T1, and Ethernet network connections.

RIP Routing Information Protocol - A Distance vector routing protocol used by routers to utilize the best routes between routers to route datagrams.

RoHS Restriction on Hazardous Substances - A European directive that requires things manufactured and sold in Europe and UK starting 2006-07-01 to not contain environmentally hazardous materials such as Lead, Hexavalent Chromium, Cadmium, Mercury, Polybrominated Biphenyl and Polybrominated Diphenyl Ether. Anyone manufacturing items anywhere should follow this directive even if they don't sell products overseas to morally address environmental concerns and be good stewards of our Earth.

ROI Return on Investment

ROM Read Only Memory - A type of memory chip that has a program or data stored at the factory and can't be changed. It can only be read.

RPC Remote Procedure Call

RPG Report Program Generator - An older report generator tool and database mainly for mainframe computers.

RPM Red Hat Package Manager - A program used to install and un-install applications under Linux especially Red Hat systems.

RS232 An EIA/TIA standard for connecting db25 and db9 serial connectors.

RSA Rivest Shamir Adelman Are three persons who developed the RSA Data Security system used for encrypting and decrypting data using public and private keys. It is used for sending secure data over the Internet and authenticating the sender.

RSS Really Simple Syndication - An RSS feed can be a way of getting constant feed of stock ticker info or other news feed usually on the bottom of a web page or TV picture.

RSVP Resource reSerVation Setup Protocol - A transport layer protocol used by hosts and routers to request QOS quality of service needs for a particular data transmission requirement. See RFC 2205, 2210, 2211, and 2212.

RTC Real Time Clock - A clock device, usually a special chip in a computer or device, that keeps an accurate track of the current time.

RTCP Real Time Control Protocol - A transport layer protocol used to monitor the progress of RTP data. See RFC 3550.

RTM Release To Manufacturing

RTOS Real Time Operating System - A type of operating system that handles processes and controls. An RTOS has a deterministic time when an action will be completed. It can be used in assembly line robots, cell phones, device controllers or other items where events must take place at particular times.

RTP Real Time Transport Protocol - A protocol used for streaming video and audio. See RFC 1889 and RFC 3550.

RTSP Real Time Streaming Protocol - A protocol that provides multimedia mechanisms like stop, play, rewind, pause, etc. The actual streaming uses RTP protocol. See RFC 2326.

RTT Round Trip Time - The time in milliseconds that it takes for a network request to be sent to a distant node and the reply to come back.

RUDP Reliable User Datagram Protocol - A protocol used to ensure reliable delivery of datagrams by Bell Labs Plan 9.

- S -

SAA Systems Application Architecture - A standard networking system by IBM in the 1980s for use in enterprise computing to link various IBM computers. It is still used in legacy applications today.

SAN Storage Area Network - A network that contains one or more attached disk storage or memory devices that can be accessed by various computers from somewhere on the network and / or from over the Internet. It usually refers to a large array of storage units in a group of racks in a data center.

SAP Service Advertisement Protocol - A Novell Protocol for advertising an IPX resource on the network.

SATA Serial Attachment - A method of attaching or connecting a hard drive to a computer motherboard. It can support drive speeds of up to 10000 and is faster than the original PATA or IDE interface drives.

SBU Strategic Business Unit

SC Subscriber Connector or Square Connector - A Square type fiber optic cable connector used for data communications. It is sometimes called a "Stab and Click".

SCCP Skinny Client Control Protocol - A Cisco proprietary protocol used to communicate between Cisco IP phones and a Cisco call manager system.

SCM Supply Chain Management

SCSI Small Computer System Interface - A standard for interfacing from a computer to external devices such as hard disks, CD ROM and DVD ROM devices, Tape backup systems and other devices.

SCTP Stream Control Transmission Protocol - Robust Signal transmission technology using IP.

SD Standard Definition - The old Analog TV system is called Standard Definition TV as opposed to newer HDTV. SD Analog TV in North America and Japan is broadcast at 525 lines and 30 frames / second.

SD Secure Digital - A Secure digital memory card is one type to memory device used with digital cameras and other devices.

SDH Synchronous Digital Hierarchy - A method of transmitting data over fiber optic cable. It describes the rate for sending data. See also SONET.

SDHC Secure Digital High Capacity - A higher capacity memory card for cameras, cell phones, and other devices.

SDLC Synchronous Data Link Control - An IBM protocol for communicating in IBM mainframe SNA networks.

SDRAM Synchronous Dynamic Random Access Memory - A type of memory that can operate faster than DRAM and synchronize with the CPU clock.

SDSL Symmetrical Digital Subscriber Line - A symmetrical method of DSL in which the download and upload speeds are the same.

SDTV Standard Definition Television - Television that uses 480 scanning lines of resolution is called Standard Definition Television. It is referred to as 480i or 480 lines interlaced.

SDV Switched Digital Video - A method of sending only the TV channels from the head end that are actually being watched. This saves a lot of bandwidth. Other bandwidth can then be used for internet access, voice and any other data transmissions.

SDXC Secure Digital eXtended Capacity - A higher capacity secure digital memory card.

SE System Engineer

SECAM SEquenCe And Memory - A standard for transmitting analog Television used primarily in France and Russia.

SFP Small Form factor Pluggable - A small fiber optic connector used on miniature circuit boards capable of 10 Gbit / sec or 8 Gb fiber channel.

SFTP Simple File Transfer Protocol

SGML Standard Generalized Markup Language - An IBM developed language that updated GML but has been largely replaced by XML.

SHF Super High Frequency - The range of RF frequencies between 3 GHz and 30 GHz or wave length between 10 millimeters and 100 millimeters.

SI System International - The international System of Units. The coordinated international System of Units that is the system of measurement featuring multiples and sub multiples of 10. It is commonly referred to as the metric system.

SIG Special Interest Group

SIP Session Initiation Protocol - An application layer protocol, RFC 3261 describes SIP as a text based protocol for video, voice, and instant messaging communications over the Internet.

SIMM Single Inline Memory Module - A type of computer memory that needs two identical memory modules to make a set. One SIMM holds the first 4 bits of each byte and the other SIMM holds the last 4 bits of each byte. This type of memory has largely been superseded by DIMMs.

SLIC Serial Line Internet Protocol - SLIC allows a computer connected by an asynchronous serial line to a server to communicate via IP or to the Internet.

SLF Super Low Frequency - The range of RF frequencies between 30 Hz and 300 Hz and wave length between 1000 kilometers and 10 000 kilometers. It is the lower range of human hearing.

SLP Service Location Protocol - IETF standard to reduce the amount of configuration on devices on an IP network.

SMA Sub Miniature "A" - Fiber optic connector of the screw type used for data or manufacturing applications.

SMB Server Message Block - A protocol for communicating between Microsoft Windows servers and clients.

SMB Small or Mid size Business - Refers to small companies.

SMC Sub Miniature "C" - Fiber optic connector of the stab and twist type used for data or manufacturing applications.

SMDS Switched Multimegabit Data Service - a high speed communications service provided usually by telephone companies.

SMS Short Message Service - A system for sending and receiving short text messages between client computers, cell phones, PDA's and pagers over the network or Internet.

SMS Systems Management Server - A Microsoft server based system for managing software on many remote client computers automatically and inventorying computer assets.

SMTP Simple Mail Transfer Protocol - An Internet protocol that allows users to send mail to others by sending it to port 25 on a mail server.

SNA System Network Architecture - The protocol used for IBM mainframe networks to communicate with remote units and terminals.

SNMP Simple Network Management Protocol - A Protocol used to manage routers, switches, hubs, bridges, servers, and other network devices over the network.

SOA Service Oriented Architecture - Software that makes business processes appear as services.

SOAP Simple Object Access Protocol - A Microsoft protocol for accessing simple objects.

SODIMM Small Outline Dual Inline Memory Module - A type of dual inline memory module used mainly in laptop computers because of it's small physical outline or size. SODIMMs have half the address lines that DIMMs have and are therefore usually slower than desktop counterparts.

SOHO Small Office or Home Office - Referring to products and services that supply small office business or home office businesses.

SOA Service Oriented Architecture - Software that handles business tasks in an efficient way.

SONET Synchronous Optical NETWORKing - A standard for sending data over optical fiber using lasers.

SOP Standard Operating Procedure

SOY Start Of Year

SPD Serial Presence Detect - A method of placing configuration data in the first 128 bytes of an EEPROM on a memory module. It is used to test the memory for errors.

SPDIF Sony Philips Digital Interconnect Format. - An optical digital interface format used to transfer audio signals in stereo between PCs, TVs DVD and CD players, home theaters, and other home or office electronics equipment.

SPID Service Profile IDentifier - The number identification used for ISDN circuits. It is usually the phone number(s) assigned to the lines plus a channel identifier.

SPX Sequenced Packet eXchange -

SQL Structured Query Language - A simplified user language interface to a database.

SRAM Static Random Access Memory - SRAM is faster access than DRAM because it doesn't have refresh cycles. It is more complicated than DRAM because each bit has 8 or more transistors and takes more space on the silicon

chip and is more expensive. SRAM is usually used for high speed cache memory.

- SSA Serial Storage Architecture - A standard method of connecting storage devices such as hard disks to servers.
- SSB Single Side Band - A method of transmitting audio using a narrow band which conserves frequency space and power. The transmitter only transmits one side band either the upper sideband or lower sideband. The receiver must put re-create the carrier to beat it against the sideband signal to recover the analog audio so it can be amplified and heard through a speaker or headphones. SSB is used for long range communications and by hams.
- SSD Solid State Drive - A type of semiconductor RAM that replaces a rotating memory type of hard drive.
- SSH Secure Socket Handler
- SSL Secure Socket Layer - This protocol is used for managing security on the Internet. It has largely been replaced by TLS (Transport Layer Security).
- SSU Strategic Support Unit
- ST Stab and Twist - Fiber optic connector of the push in and twist type used for data communications.
- STB Set Top Box - Any external device that sits on top, under, or in some way connected to a nearby Television. It may be any box supplied by a cable TV company, Satellite company, or user provided DVR, Tivo, or Digital, or HDTV converter or receiver box that may convert signals from digital to analog for a TV.
- STP Shielded Twisted Pair. A type of shielded twisted pair cable used where RFI and or EFI is present and may cause interference to the signals traveling through the cable.
- STP Spanning Tree Protocol - This is a standard IEEE 802.1 method of preventing loops in a network of switches and or bridges by shutting down redundant paths and keeping them in standby. They can be used if a switch or inter switch link fails.
- SVGA Super Video Graphics Adapter - A graphics adapter standard that supports 800 x 600 pixel resolution.
- S-Video S-Video is a high quality analog video interface used by televisions and video components. It uses a 4 pin din connector and has a quality of 480i or 576i and carries NTSC, PAL, or SECAM video.
- SW SoftWare - The programs that run in a computer.
- SW Short Wave - The Range of RF Frequencies roughly between 1.7 Mhz (177 meters) and 30 Mhz (10 meters).
- SXGA Supper eXtended Graphics Adapter - A graphics standard supporting up to 1280 x 1024 pixels.

- T -

- T1 Telecommunications 1 or DS1 (Digital Signal 1) line is a Bell Labs signaling system used to send and receive data and voice at a speed of 1.544 Mbit / sec. A T1 line can consist of 24 sub channels of 64 kbit / sec. each.
- TAR Tape ARchive - A format for copying back up files to a tape for archiving on Unix or Linux systems.
- TBA To Be Announced
- TBD To Be Determined
- TCL Tool Command Language - A scripting language used to control external devices. It can be used in manufacturing or testing.
- TCO Total Cost of Ownership - The total cost of ownership includes all the various costs of having some device or machine and maintaining it. Example, the costs of electricity to run something, floor space for it to occupy, maintenance costs, spare parts, fuel, or whatever it takes to make something operate. The total cost of owning a car is the cost of fuel, oil, tires, maintenance, including lubrication, license fees, insurance, and sometimes unscheduled towing and repairs.
- TCP Transmission Control Protocol - An Internet Connection Oriented Protocol that allows communication using acknowledgments before the next part of the data is sent.
- TCP/IP Transmission Control Protocol / Internet Protocol - a name given to the Internet protocol in general. See TCP, IP, UDP.
- TDM Time Division Multiplexer
- TDMA Time Division Multiple Access - A type of digital cellular phone system that divides a channel into time slots where each phone communicates during it's assigned slot. It is more efficient in radio frequency spectrum space utilization than the older AMPS. TDMA is older and has largely been replaced by GSM.
- TELNET TELEphone NETwork
- An Application protocol and program used to communicate to a server from a remote client over the Internet. You can TELNET to another computer to log on and run programs, usually on a UNIX or other server. TELNET clients are provided by most computers including UNIX, Windows, LINUX, Macintosh, and even mainframes. From Windows, press start, run... and enter TELNET ipaddress... to open a terminal session to another computer.
- TFT Thin Film Transistor - A type of transistor used in LCD flat panel display monitors and televisions from 30 to 76 cm. It provides better response time and is easier and less expensive to produce in quantity.
- TFTP Trivial File Transfer Protocol - A UDP protocol for transferring files between hosts. It is commonly used for up loading firmware to remote network devices and servers.

TGIF Thank God It's Friday - This acronym is usually only used on Friday.

TIA Telecommunications Industry Association

TIFF Tagged Image File Format - Another graphic or picture data format.

TLA Two Letter Acronym - Also Three Letter Acronym

TLD Top level domain - The most significant domain to the right of the last period in a URL. Example: .com .mil .edu .org .gov .biz .au .ca .de .fr .nl .nz .uk .us .info are just some of them.

TLS Transport Layer Security (formerly known as SSL or Secure Sockets Layer) and is what enables encrypted communications between a web browser and a web server.

TMI Too Much Information - TMI is sometimes used to describe the amount of information such as e-mails, snail mail, radio, TV advertising, etc. that is too much. It can describe a project plan with too much information to digest. Rather, one should generate instructions or plans that are simple and to the point. Sometimes, when a definition of some word or item is given, it is too wordy, or has too many sentences. All of this can thus be described as Too Much Information. Too much information can also be defined as when a paragraph has too many words in it. Too many words or sentences can overwhelm the reader who finally has had too much and goes on to something else. Perhaps he or she already has the information or definition of that he or she has been reading. It just becomes too much information or just plain TMI. This paragraph you have been reading is probably a good example of TMI.

TT Trouble Ticket

TTY Telecommunications TeleType

TV TeleVision

TVGOS TeleVision Guide On Screen - A TV Guide listing programs that will come on via various channels generated by your set top box or computer inside the TV.

TWX Teletype Wide-area eXchange - A message sent by telegraph over a long distance.

- U -

UAC User Account Control - A technology used in Microsoft Windows Vista and System 7 operating system to limit account privileges by user.

UAE Unavoidable Application Error - When a program crashes due to a bug, it sometimes was called an Unavoidable Application Error, especially on mainframes or even on Windows 95.

UART Universal Asynchronous Receiver Transmitter - A device for converting a serial data stream to parallel and feeding it out to another device, one line for each bit, or for converting a parallel data stream to a serial data stream.

UDF Universal Disk Format - A Format for writing digital data to a CD or DVD that allows it to be read back and played or copied to another media.

UDP User Datagram Protocol - An Internet connectionless protocol that allows data to be sent in a stream without acknowledgments for every packet of data. UDP operates at the transport layer 4.

UHF Ultra High Frequency - The range of RF frequencies between 300 MHz and 3 GHz and wave length between 100 millimeters and 1 meter.

UIPI User Interface Privileges Isolation - A technology used in Microsoft Windows Vista operating system to limit access to certain programs by messages from a lower level process.

ULF Ultra Low Frequency - The range of RF frequencies between 300 Hz and 3 kHz and wave length between 100 kilometers and 1000 kilometers or 1 megameter. This is the normal range of human hearing.

UMTS Universal Mobile Telephone System - A new 3G (third generation) telephone system that will replace 2G systems.

UNIX UNIX - a standard universal operating system written in the "C" programming language.

UPnP Universal Plug and Play - A set of protocols for automatically setting up and maintaining a connection to a device that connects to a computer so it can be used right away without user intervention.

UPS Uninterruptible Power Supply

URI Uniform Resource Identifier - A protocol that allows an application to be launched through a browser.

URL Uniform Resource Locator - An Internet resource name such as somecompany.com and is used to locate the address of such resource using a domain name service (DNS) server.

USB Upper Side Band - See SSB.

USB Universal Serial Bus - A standard for connecting external devices such as printers, scanners, cameras, PDAs, memory storage devices and other items to a personal computer.

USC United States Customary - The old customary systems of weights and measures still in use in the United States that include inches, feet, yards, fathoms, chains, rods, miles, quarts, gallons, acres, Fahrenheit, etc.

USC United States Customary (Measurements) - Referring to mid evil customary measurements still in use in the United States such as inches, feet, quarts, gallons, miles, acre feet, etc.

USMA United States Metric Association - An organization that promotes the use of the SI metric system of measurement in the United States of America today.

UTC Universal Time Coordinated or more precisely, Coordinated Universal Time. This is the standard time at Greenwich, England. Also, it is called GMT.

UTF Unicode Transformation Format - A new standard for encoding various multilingual character sets for use by various computers and operating

systems.

UTP Unshielded Twisted Pair - Network cable usually comes as unshielded twisted pair cable as in Category 5 cable which is popular now but also newer category 5e or category 6 cable is available. Older category 3 cable is not installed any longer. The higher the number means more twists per meter than older cable.

UXGA Ultra eXtended Graphics Adapter - A Graphics standard supporting up to 1600 x 1200 pixels.

- V -

VC Virtual Circuit - A logical path for passing data between any two devices that want to communicate.

VCR Video Cassette Recorder - A device for recording and playing back TV programs or videos using cassette tapes such as VHS, VHS-C, Beta, or 8 mm video cassette tapes. Most VCRs in the USA are of the VHS variety today.

VDSL Very High Bit Rate Digital Subscriber Line - New technology to deliver DSL at up to 52 Mbit downstream and 12 Mbit upstream speed.

VDT Video Display Terminal

VESA Video Electronics Standards Association - Also, an older standard for video cards that used an 8 bit bus. VESA VLB - VESA Local Bus was a standard for a fast bus connector.

VHS Video Home System - The most common type of Video cassette tape available today.

VHS-C Video Home System C version - A miniature type of VHS tape that records for usually only 20 or 30 minutes using a VHS-C camcorder. The tapes can be played in a regular VHS VCR by inserting it in a special VHS-C adapter cassette.

VGA Video Graphics Array - A 1987 IBM graphics standard for personal computer display adapters that provided 640 x 480 resolution. It came after the EGA and CGA standard.

VHF Very High Frequency - The range of RF frequencies between 30 MHz and 300 MHz and wave length between 1 meter and 10 meters.

VL Video Local - a bus type.

VLAN Virtual Local Area Network - A setup on a network of Ethernet switches that allows different ports to be assigned on a particular logical LAN. It eliminates the need for extra cabling and switch hardware to connect different networks. Any intercommunication between VLANs must be through a router.

VLB VESA Local Bus - An older standard for a bus connection sometimes called a Very Long Bus. It was used for 80486 mother boards.

VLF Very Low Frequency - The range of RF frequencies between 3 kHz and 30 kHz and wave length between 10 kilometers and 100 kilometers.

VLSM Variable Length Subnet Mask

VM Voice Mail - A system for recording telephone voice messages when the called person is not available.

VM Virtual Memory - A memory system for paging memory blocks to and from a hard drive.

VMS Virtual Memory System - An operating system developed by digital Equipment Corp. for it's VAX systems in the 1980s.

VNC Virtual Network Computing - A software program in two parts that enables a person at a remote computer with one part to log on and control another computer at a different location using the other part.

VOD Video On Demand - VOD is providing movies or TV programing over Satellite, Cable TV, or over the Internet whenever the person watching wants it.

VOIP Voice Over Internet Protocol - An Internet protocol that allows voice communications including telephone calls to be carried over the Internet.

VOM Volt Ohm Meter - A meter (usually portable) for measuring voltage, resistance in ohms, or current and displaying it on an analog meter.

VPLS Virtual Private LAN Service - A communications carrier provides a private LAN path between two customer locations using LSP tunneling.

VPN Virtual Private Network - A secure private communication path set up between a client usually through the public Internet to a company network server or servers.

VPS Virtual Private Server - A Verio private server product.

VRAM Video Random Access Memory - RAM used by a Video controller.

VRRP Virtual Router Redundancy Protocol - Described in RFC2338, VRRP is used to eliminate a single point of failure, and provide load balancing between routers connected on a LAN. It provides the ability of more than one router to share the same virtual IP address. One router becomes master while the other(s) become backup(S).

VSE Virtual System Environment - An IBM operating environment used on mainframes.

VTAM Virtual Telecommunications Access Method - An IBM protocol for communicating with network controllers.

VTP Vlan Trunking Protocol - A level 2 protocol used to manage the VLANs on network switches.

- W -

W3C HTML Validation tool.

WAN Wide Area Network - A computer network that usually extends between sites located in different cities or locations in different parts of the state, nation, or world. It is connected through phone lines, satellites links,

microwave, or fiber optic lines.

- WAP Wireless Access Point - A wireless 802.11 device on the local LAN that communicates with nearby computers wirelessly.
- WDDM Windows Display Driver Model - A part of Microsoft Windows Vista that handles low level display rendering.
- WDM Wavelength Division Multiplexing - WDM is a method of multiplexing several different streams of data onto one optical fiber path, increasing the amount of data that can be sent over a pair of fibres.
- WDM Windows Driver Model - A set of standards for writing drivers for Windows 98, 98SE, ME, and 2000. These also worked in later operating systems such as Windows XP and Vista.
- WEEE Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive - Describes the processing of electronic waste or E-Waste in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. It describes how to dispose or re-use old electronic items that might contain lead, mercury, cadmium, beryllium, and bromine compounds.
- WEP Wired Equivalent Privacy - This is an older encryption protocol for wireless networks. It comes in two flavors, 64 bit and 128 bit. The 64 bit is not too difficult for a hacker to crack and the 128 bit though less easy can still be cracked by a determined hacker. You should use the newer WPA or WPA2 instead.
- WGA Windows Genuine Advantage - A Microsoft software entity that is supposed to make sure that Microsoft Operating system and application software you are using is genuine and that you have paid for it and entitled to use it. WGA seems to be inconvenient and sometimes has side effects that make people want to switch to Linux or to a MAC.
- WIFI Wireless Fidelity
- WINS Windows Internet Name Service - A system for resolving Internet names used by Microsoft Windows servers to MS Windows clients.
- WLAN Wireless Local Area Network - A LAN operated over a wireless network such as 802.11a/b/g or via a mobile cell phone network.
- WMS Warehouse Management System
- WOL Wake on LAN - A feature that can interrupt a computer when an IP communication is received addressed to that computer. It can be used to make the computer perform some pre-programmed task when receiving such a message.
- WORM Write Once Read Many - A storage device that can be written once and read back any number of times. An example is a CD-R disk.
- WPA Wifi Protected Access - or Wireless Fidelity Protected Access. Wireless protection that should be turned on to prevent a hacker from receiving your transmissions and compromising any information you are sending. WPA is much newer and more secure than the older WEP.
- WSVGA Wide Super Video Graphics Adapter - Usually referring to a 16 x 9 screen format computer display either on a laptop or a desktop computer. It may be 1600 x 600 pixels.

WSXGA Wide Super eXtended Graphics Adapter - A 16 x 9 aspect ratio graphics adapter supporting a resolution of 1680 x 1050 pixels.

WUXGA Wide Ultra eXtended Graphics Adapter - A 16 x 9 aspect ratio graphics adapter supporting a resolution of 1920 x 1200 pixels.

WWW World Wide Web - The World Wide interconnected Internet

WXGA Wide eXtended Graphics Adapter - A 16 x 9 aspect ratio graphics adapter supporting a resolution of 1366 x 768 pixels.

WYSIWYG What You See Is What You Get - A Acronym for whatever was on the screen on a computer program or operating system is what you get.

- X -

X.25 A protocol used for data communication over asynchronous lines or telecommunications circuits.

XGA eXtended Graphics Array - The XGA card supports a screen resolution of 1024 x 768 pixels.

XHTML Extensible Hypertext Markup Language - An updated version of XML.

XML Extensible Markup Language - A structured programming language for web documents, somewhat similar to HTML, but with self defining tags. It uses an EBNF grammar.

XON/XOFF A protocol for turning on communications and turning it off again by sending an XOFF character back to the sender when the receive buffers get close to full and sending XON again when they are empty.

XPF XML Paper Specification - A proprietary Microsoft document format specification that rivals the Adobe PDF specification.

XT Extended Technology - A model of an original IBM PC that contained 8 expansion slots and a 10 MB Hard drive.

- Y -

YAEG Yet Another Electronic Gadget

YAGAT Yet Another Genuine Advantage Tool - Yet another Microsoft genuine advantage tool that gets downloaded and installed periodically to enable a continuing Microsoft Windows Update to occur.

YAST Yet Another Setup Tool - A GUI based configuration tool used by Novell SUSE Linux.

YUM Yellow dog Updater Modified - A system for updating RPM based Linux systems that is supposed to be easier than using RPM.

- Z -

ZIF Zero Insertion Force - A type of CPU or other integrated circuit socket with a lever that allows the chip to be dropped into place and locked when the lever is lowered or unlocked when the lever is raised. It is used in most PCs today.

Make America Competitive Again!
Think Metric!
Go Metric!

Table of SI metric prefixes

Factor	Name	Symbol	Factor	Name	Symbol
10E+1	deka	da	10E-1	deci	d
10E+2	hecto	h	10E-2	centi	c
10E+3	kilo	k	10E-3	milli	m
10E+6	mega	M	10E-6	micro	μ
10E+9	giga	G	10E-9	nano	n
10E+12	tera	T	10E-12	pico	p
10E+15	peta	P	10E-15	femto	f
10E+18	exa	E	10E-18	atto	a
10E+21	zetta	Z	10E-21	zepto	z
10E+24	yotta	Y	10E-24	yocto	y