

The Bell Glossary - by /\<\ /\<\ </\>\>ad </\>\>arvin

ACD: Automatic Call Distributor - A system that automatically distributes calls to operator pools (providing services such as intercept and directory assistance), to airline ticket agents, etc.

Administration: The tasks of record-keeping, monitoring, rearranging, prediction need for growth, etc.

AIS: Automatic Intercept System - A system employing an audio-response unit under control of a processor to automatically provide pertinent info to callers routed to intercept.

Alert: To indicate the existence of an incoming call, (ringing).

ANI: Automatic Number Identification - Often pronounced "Annie," a facility for automatically identify the number of the calling party for charging purposes.

Appearance: A connection upon a network terminal, as in "the line has two network appearances."

Attend: The operation of monitoring a line or an incoming trunk for off-hook or seizure, respectively.

Audible: The subdued "image" of ringing transmitted to the calling party during ringing; not derived from the actual ringing signal in later systems.

Backbone Route: The route made up of final-group trunks between end offices in different regional center areas.

BHC: Busy Hour Calls - The number of calls placed in the busy hour.

Blocking: The ratio of unsuccessful to total attempts to use a facility; expresses as a probability when computed a priority.

Blocking Network: A network that, under certain conditions, may be unable to form a transmission path from one end of the network to the other. In general, all networks used within the Bell Systems are of the blocking type.

Blue Box: Equipment used fraudulently to synthesize signals, gaining access to the toll network for the placement of calls without charge.

BORSCHT Circuit: A name for the line circuit in the central office. It functions as a mnemonic for the functions that must be performed by the circuit: Battery, Overvoltage, Ringing, Supervision, Coding, Hybrid, and Testing.

Busy Signal: (Called-line-busy) An audible signal which, in the Bell System,

comprises 480hz and 620hz interrupted at 60IPM.

Bylink: A special high-speed means used in crossbar equipment for routing calls incoming from a step-by-step office. Trunks from such offices are often referred to as "bylink" trunks even when incoming to noncrossbar offices; they are more properly referred to as "dc incoming trunks." Such high-speed means are necessary to assure that the first incoming pulse is not lost.

Cable Vault: The point which phone cable enters the Central Office building.

CAMA: Centralized Automatic Message Accounting - Pronounced like Alabama.

CCIS: Common Channel Interoffice Signaling - Signaling information for trunk connections over a separate, nonspeech data link rather than over the trunks themselves.

CCITT: International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee- An International committee that formulates plans and sets standards for intercountry communication means.

CDO: Community Dial Office - A small usually rural office typically served by step-by-step equipment.

CO: Central Office - Comprises a switching network and its control and support equipment. Occasionally improperly used to mean "office code."

Centrex: A service comparable in features to PBX service but implemented with some (Centrex CU) or all (Centrex CO) of the control in the central office. In the later case, each station's loop connects to the central office.

Customer Loop: The wire pair connecting a customer's station to the central office.

DDD: Direct Distance Dialing - Dialing without operator assistance over the nationwide intertoll network.

Direct Trunk Group: A trunk group that is a direct connection between a given originating and a given terminating office.

EOTT: End Office Toll Trunking - Trunking between end offices in different toll center areas.

ESB: Emergency Service Bureau - A centralized agency to which 911 "universal" emergency calls are routed.

ESS: Electronic Switching System - A generic term used to identify as a class, stored-program switching systems such as the Bell System's No.1 No.2, No.3, No.4, or No.5.

ETS: Electronic Translation Systems - An electronic replacement for the card translator in 4A Crossbar systems. Makes use of the SPC 1A Processor.

False Start: An aborted dialing attempt.

Fast Busy: (often called reorder) - An audible busy signal interrupted at twice the rate of the normal busy signal; sent to the originating station to indicate that the call blocked due to busy equipment.

Final Trunk Group: The trunk group to which calls are routed when available high-usage trunks overflow; these groups generally "home" on an office next highest in the hierarchy.

Full Group: A trunk group that does not permit rerouting off-contingent foreign traffic; there are seven such offices.

Glare: The situation that occurs when a two-way trunk is seized more or less simultaneously at both ends.

High Usage Trunk Group: The appellation for a trunk group that has alternate routes via other similar groups, and ultimately via a final trunk group to a higher ranking office.

Intercept: The agency (usually an operator) to which calls are routed when made to a line recently removed from a service, or in some other category requiring explanation. Automated versions (ASI) with automatic voiceresponse units are growing in use.

Interrupt: The interruption on a phone line to disconnect and connect with another station, such as an Emergency Interrupt.

Junctor: A wire or circuit connection between networks in the same office. The functional equivalent to an intraoffice trunk.

MF: Multifrequency - The method of signaling over a trunk making use of the simultaneous application of two out of six possible frequencies.

NPA: Numbering Plan Area.

ONI: Operator Number Identification - The use of an operator in a CAMA office to verbally obtain the calling number of a call originating in an office not equipped with ANI.

PBX: Private Branch Exchange - (PABX: Private Automatic Branch Exchange) An telephone office serving a private customer, Typically , access to the outside telephone network is provided.

Permanent Signal: A sustained off-hook condition without activity (no dialing or ringing or completed connection); such a condition tends to tie up equipment, especially in earlier systems. Usually accidental, but sometimes used intentionally by customers in high-crime-rate areas to thwart off burglars.

POTS: Plain Old Telephone Service - Basic service with no extra "frills".

ROTL: Remote Office Test Line - A means for remotely testing trunks.

RTA: Remote Trunk Arrangement - An extension to the TSPS system permitting its services to be provided up to 200 miles from the TSPS site.

SF: Single Frequency. A signaling method for trunks: 2600hz is impressed upon idle trunks.

Supervise: To monitor the status of a call.

SxS: (Step-by-Step or Strowger switch) - An electromechanical office type utilizing a gross-motion stepping switch as a combination network and distributed control.

Talkoff: The phenomenon of accidental synthesis of a machine-intelligible signal by human voice causing an unintended response. "whistling a tone".

Trunk: A path between central offices; in general 2-wire for interlocal, 4-wire for intertoll.

TSPS: Traffic Service Position System - A system that provides, under stored-program control, efficient operator assistance for toll calls. It does not switch the customer, but provides a bridge connection to the operator.

X-bar: (Crossbar) - An electromechanical office type utilizing a "fine-motion" coordinate switch and a multiplicity of central controls (called markers).

There are four varieties:

No.1 Crossbar: Used in large urban office application; (1938)

No 3 Crossbar: A small system started in (1974).

No.4A/4M Crossbar: A 4-wire toll machine; (1943).

No.5 Crossbar: A machine originally intended for relatively small suburban applications; (1948)

Crossbar Tandem: A machine used for interlocal office switching.