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Proudly Presents

The MCI Telecommunications Glossary

MISP79.TXT

Part I Volume I (A - D)

taken directly from

The MCI School of Telecommunications Management Reference Guide

and typed by Knight Lightning

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- A -

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A & B LEADS

Designation of leads derived from the  
  
midpoints of the two 2-wire pairs  
  
comprising a 4-wire circuit.

ABBREVIATED DIALING

The ability of a telephone user to  
  
reach frequently called numbers by  
  
using less than seven digits.

Synonym:   Speed Dialing

ACCESS CHARGE

A fee paid for the use of local lines.

ACCESS CODE

A digit or number of digits required

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to be connected to a privat line

arranged for dial access.

ACCESS LINE

A telephone circuit which connects a

customer location to a network switching

center.

AIRLINE MILEAGE

Calculated point-to-point mileage

between terminal facilities.

ALL TRUNKS BUSY (ATB)

A single tone interrupted at a 120 ipm

(impulsess per minute) rate to indicate

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all lines or trunks in a routing group

are busy.

ALTERNATE ROUTE

A secondary communications path used to

reach a destination if the primary path

is unavailable.

ALTERNATE USE

The ability to switch communications

facilities from one type of service to

another, i.e., voice to data, etc.

ALTERNATE VOICE DATA (AVD)

A single transmission facility which

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can be used for either voice or data.

AMERICAN STANDARD CODE FOR

An 8 level code developed for the

INFORMATION INTERCHANGE (ASCII)

interchange of information between data  
  
processing and communications systems.

ANALOG SIGNAL

A signal in the form of a continuous  
  
varying physical quantity, e.g., voltage  
  
which reflects variations in some  
  
quantity, e.g., loudness in the human  
  
voice.

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ANNUNICATOR

An audible intercept device that states  
  
the condition or restrictions  
  
associated with circuits or procedures.

ANSWER BACK

An electrical and/or visual indication  
  
to the calling or sending end that the  
  
called or received station is on the  
  
line.

ANSWER SUPERVISION

An off-hook signal transmitted toward  
  
the calling end of a switched  
  
connection when the called party

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answers.

AREA CODE

Synonym: Numbering Plan Area (NPA).

A three digit number identifying more than 150 geographic areas of the United States and Canada which permits direct distance dialing on the telephone system. A similar global numbering plan has been established for international subscriber dialing.

ATTENDANT POSITION

A telephone switchboard operator's



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position. It provides either  
  
automatic (cordless) or manual (plug  
  
and jack) operator controls for  
  
incoming and/or outgoing telephone  
  
calls.

#### ATTENUATION

A general term used to denote the  
  
decrease in power between that  
  
transmitted and that received due to  
  
loss through equipment, lines, or  
  
other transmission devices. It is  
  
usually expressed as a ration in db

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(decibel).

AUDIBLE RINGING TONE

An audible signal heard by the calling party during the ringing-interval.

AUTHORIZATION CODE

An identification number that the caller enters when placing a call which is used for billing purposes.

AUTHORIZED USER

A person, firm, organization, corporation or any other entity authorized by the customer to send or

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receive communications over a specific  
  
communications network.

AUTO ANSWER

A machine feature that allows a  
  
transmission control unit or station to  
  
automatically respond to a call that it  
  
receives.

AUTOMATIC CALL DISTRIBUTOR (ACD)

A switching system designed to queue  
  
and/or distribute a large volume of  
  
incoming calls to a group of attendants  
  
to the next available "answering"

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position.

AUTOMATIC DIALING UNIT

A device which automatically generates  
  
a predetermined set of dialing digits.

AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION OF

A computer generated report showing all

OUTWARD DIALING (AIOD)

long distance calls placed over AT&T's  
  
toll network.

AUTOMATIC NUMBER IDENTIFICATION (ANI)

Automatic equipment at a local dial  
  
office used on customer dialed calls to  
  
identify the calling-station.

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AUTOMATIC ROUTE SELECTION (ARS)

Least cost routing via AT&T CENTREX

system.

- B -

BAND

(1) The range of frequencies between

two defined limits. (2) In reference

to WATS, one of the five specific

geographic areas as defined by AT&T.

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Synonym: BANDWIDTH.

BANDWIDTH

See BAND.

BASEBAND

The total frequency band occupied by  
  
the aggregate of all the voice and  
  
data signals used to modulate a radio  
  
carrier.

BAUD

A unit of signaling speed. The speed in  
  
baud is the number of discrete conditions  
  
conditions or signal elements per

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second. If each signal event represents only one bit condition, then Baud is the same as bits per second. When each signal event represents other than one bit, Baud does not equal bits per second.

BELL OPERATING COMPANY (BOC) /BELL

Any of the 24 AT&T affiliated

SYSTEMS OPERATING COMPANY (BSOC)

companies providing local service.

BELL SYSTEM

The aggregate of AT&T's 24 associated telephone companies, Long Lines,

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Western Electric, and Bell Labs.

BILLING NUMBER

The MCI term for the number which

identifies a customer on a billing

location level, assigned to Network

Service Customer (by COMS). Assigned for

each unique customer name and billing

location. For internal use only.

BINARY

A number system that uses only two

characters ("0" and "1").



BIT

A binary digit. The smallest unit of coded information.

BITS PER SECOND (BPS)

The rate at which data transmission is measured.

BLOCKED CALLS

Attempted calls that are not connected because (1) all lines to the central offices are in use; or (2) all connecting connecting paths through the PBX/switch are in use.

BLOCKED ANI                      ANI prohibited from completing a call  
  
over the MCI network.

BREAK                              A means of interrupting transmission,  
  
a momentary interruption of a circuit.

BROADBAND                        A transmission facility having a  
  
bandwidth of greater than 20 kHz.

BUS                                A heavy conductor, or group of  
  
conductors, to which several units of  
  
the same type of equipment may be

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connected.

BUSY

The condition in which facilities over  
  
which a call is to be connected are  
  
already in use.

BUSY HOUR

The time of day when phone lines are  
  
most in demand.

BUSY TONE

A single that is interrupted at  
  
60 ipm (impulses per minute) rate to  
  
indicate that the terminal point of a

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call is already in use.

BYTE

A group of binary digits that are  
  
processed by a computer as a unit.

- C -

CARRIER

High frequency current that can be  
  
modulated with voice or digital signals

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for bulk transmission via cable or radio  
  
circuits.

CARRIER SYSTEM

A system for providing several  
  
communications channels over a single  
  
path.

CATHODE RAY TUBE (CRT)

The "television-like" screen used to  
  
display the output from a computer.

CELLULAR MOBILE RADIO

A system providing exchange telephone  
  
service to a station located in an auto

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or other mobile vehicle, using radio  
  
circuits to a base radio station which  
  
covers a specific geographical area and  
  
as the vehicle moves from one area to  
  
another, different base radio stations  
  
handle the call.

CENTRAL OFFICE (CO)

A telephone switching center that  
  
provides local access to the public  
  
network. Sometimes referred to as:  
  
Class 5 office, end office, or Local  
  
Dial Office.

CENTREX, CO

PBX Service provided by a switch located  
  
at the telephone company central office.

CENTREX, CU

A variation on Centrex CO provided by  
  
a telephone company maintained "Central  
  
Office" type switch located at the  
  
customer's premises.

CENTRAL PROCESSING UNIT (CPU)

The control unit within a computer which  
  
handles all the intelligent functions of  
  
the systems. In a telephone switch,

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directs all portions of the system to  
carry out their appropriate functions.

Synonym: Common Control.

## CHANNEL

A communication path via a carrier or  
microwave radio.

## CHARACTER

Any letter, digit, or special symbol.

In data transmission would be  
represented by a specific code made up  
of a group of binary digits.



CIRCUIT

A path for the transmission of  
  
electromagnetic signals to include all  
  
conditioning and signaling equipment.

Synonym: Facility

CIRCUIT SWITCHING

A switching system that completes a  
  
dedicated transmission path from sender  
  
to receiver at the time of transmission.

CLASS OF SERVICE/CLASS MARK (COS)

A subgrouping of telephone customers or  
  
users for the sake of rate distinction  
  
or limitation of service.

COAXIAL CABLE

A cable having several coaxial lines

under a single protective sheath.

Usually used as a high capacity carrier

in urban areas between interexchange and

toll offices.

CODEC

Coder-Decoder. Used to convert analog

signals to digital form for transmission

over a digital median and back again to

the original analog form.

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### COMMON CARRIER

A government regulated private company that provides the general public with telecommunications services and facilities.

### COMMON CHANNEL INTEROFFICE

A digital technology used by AT&T to

### SIGNALING (CCIS)

enhance their Integrated Services Digital Network. It uses a separate data line to route interoffice signals to provide faster call set-up and more efficient use of trunks.

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COMMON CONTROL SWITCHING ARRANGEMENT (CCSA)      An arrangement for telecommunications networks in which common controlled switching machines are used to route traffic over network routes and access lines. The switching machine may be shared with other users and is maintained by the telephone company.

COMPUTER PORT/TKI PORT      The interface through which the computer connects to the communications circuit.

CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT      Equipment modifications or adjustments

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necessary to match transmission levels

and impedances and which equalizes

transmission and delay to bring circuit

losses, levels, and distortion within

established standards.

## CONFIGURATION

The combination of long-distance

services and/or equipment that make up a

communications system.

## CONTROL UNIT (CU)

The central processor of a telephone

switching device.

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### CORPORATE ID NUMBER

The MCI term for the number which identifies a customer on a corporate level. (Not all MCI customers have this).

### COST COMPONENT

The price of each type of long distance service and/or equipment that constitutes a configuration.

### COST PER HOUR (CPH)

Total cost of different services divided by total holding time (in minutes).

CROSS CONNECTION

The wire connections running between terminals on the two sides of a distribution frame, or between binding posts in a terminal.

CROSS TALK

The unwanted energy (speech or tone) transferred from one circuit to another circuit.

CUSTOMER OWNED AND MAINTAINED (COAM)

Customer provided communications apparatus, and their associated wiring.

CUSTOMER PREMISE EQUIPMENT (CPE)	Telephone equipment, usually including  wiring located within the customer's  part of a building.
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CUT	To transfer a service from one facility  to another.
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CUT THROUGH	The establishment of a complete path for  signaling and/or audio communications.
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- D -

DATA

Any representation, such as characters  
  
to which a meaning is assigned.

DATA COMMUNICATIONS

The movement of coded information by  
  
means of electronic transmission  
  
systems.

DATA SET

A device which converts data into  
  
signals suitable for transmission over  
  
communications lines.

DATA TERMINAL

A station in a system capable of sending  
  
and/or receiving data signals.

DECIBEL (db)

A unit measurment represented as a ratio  
  
of two voltages, currents or powers and  
  
is used to measure transmission loss or  
  
gain.

DELAY DIAL

A dialing configuration whereby local  
  
dial equipment will wait until it  
  
receives the entire telephone number

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before seizing a circuit to transmit  
the call.

DELTA MODULATION (DM)

A variant of pulse code modulation  
whereby a code representing the  
difference between the amplitude of a  
sample and the amplitude of a previous  
one is sent. Operates well in the  
presence of noise, but requires a wide  
frequency band.

DEMODULATION

The process of retrieving data from a

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modulated signal.

DIAL LEVEL

The selection of stations or services

associated with a PBX using a one to

four digit code (e.g., dialing 9 for

access to outside dial tone).

DIAL PULSING

The transmitting of telephone address

signals by momentarily opening a DC

circuit a number of times corresponding

to the decimal digit which is dialed.

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DIAL REPEATING TIE LINE/	A tie line which permits direct station
DIAL REPEATING TIE TRUNK	to station calling without use of the  attendant.
DIAL SELECTIVE SIGNALING	A multipoint network in which the called  party is selected by a prearranged  dialing code.
DIAL TONE	A tone indicating that automatic  switching equipment is ready to receive  dial signals.

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### DIALING PLAN

A description of the dialing arrangements for customer use on a networks.

### DIGITAL

Referring to the use of digits to formulate and solve problems, or to encode information.

### DIMENSION CUSTOM TELEPHONE SERVICE

#### (DCTS)

AT&T's electronically programmable telephone station sets which use special buttons to access PBX features.

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### DIRECT DISTANCE DIALING (DDD)

A toll service that permits customers to dial their own long distance call without the aid of an operator.

### DIRECT INWARD DIALING (DID)

A PBX or CENTREX feature that allows a customer outside the system to directly dial a station within the system.

### DIRECT OUTWARD DIALING

A PBX or CENTREX feature that allows a station user to gain direct access to an exchange network.

DROP

That direction of a circuit which looks  
towards the local operator.

DRY CIRCUIT

A circuit which transmits voice signals  
and carries no direct current.

## DUAL TONE MULTI-FREQUENCY (DTMF)

Also known as Touch Tone. A type of signaling which emits two distinct frequencies for each indicated digit.

DUPLEX

Simultaneous two-way independent transmission.



DX SIGNALING

A long-range bidirectional signaling method using paths derived from transmission cable pairs. It is based on a balanced and symmetrical circuit that is identical at both ends. This circuit presents an E&M lead interface to connecting circuits.

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This concludes Part 1 Volume I of the MCI Telecommunications Glossary. Look for

more G-philes from The MCI School of Telecommunications Management Reference

Guide coming soon.

This has been a 2600 Club production

Thanx to Taran King