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(314)432-0756

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
RESTRICTION	the condition or restrictions
ASSOCIATION	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.

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

OUTWARD DIALING (AIOD)

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").

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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 An arrangement for telecommunications

(CCSA) 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).

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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.

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CUSTOMER PREMISE EQUIPMENT (CPE) Telephone equipment, usually including

wiring located within the customer's

part of a building.

CUT To transfer a service from one facility

to another.

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.

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DATA TERMINAL

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

DECIBEL (db)

A unit measurement 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 to station calling without use of the attendant.

DIAL REPEATING TIE TRUNK

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

AT&T's electronically programmable

(DCTS)

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.

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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