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# The IEEE Standard Dictionary of Electrical and Electronics Terms

Sixth Edition



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The  
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sion of two tones, one from a low-frequency and one from a high-frequency group. Each of these groups consists of four voiceband frequency tones no two of which are harmonically related. Only 12 of the 16 combinations are currently in use for customer address signaling. (COM) 820-1984r

(2) An address signaling method for PTS using 16 pairs of frequencies to represent digits and other characters. Although it is most commonly used by a station set to signal into a switching system, it may be used for signaling from a local switching system to another system for certain services. The DTMF codes are pairs of frequencies, each consisting of one out of four frequencies from a low group and one out of three or four frequencies from a mutually exclusive higher group. Performance is measured as tolerances for each frequency signaling level twist and timing. (COM) 973-1990w

**dual-tone multifrequency pulsing (telephone switching systems)** A means of pulsing utilizing a simultaneous combination of one of a lower group of frequencies and one of a higher group of frequencies to represent each digit or character. (COM) 312-1977w

**dubbing (electroacoustics)** A term used to describe the combining of two or more sources of sound into a complete recording at least one of the sources being a recording. *See also:* phonograph pickup; rerecording. (SP) [32]

**duck tape** Tape of heavy cotton fabric, such as duck or drill, that may be impregnated with an asphalt, rubber, or synthetic compound. (PE/T&D) [10]

**duct (1)** A single enclosed raceway for conductors or cable. (NESC/T&D) C2-1997

(2) (underground electric systems) A single enclosed runway for conductors or cables. (PE/T&D) [10]

**duct bank (conduit run)** An arrangement of conduit providing one or more continuous ducts between two points. *Note:* An underground runway for conductors or cables, large enough for workmen to pass through, is termed a gallery or tunnel. (PE/T&D) [10]

**duct edge fair-lead (cable shield)** A collar or thimble, usually flared, inserted at the duct entrance in a manhole for the purpose of protecting the cable sheath or insulation from being worn away by the duct edge. (PE/T&D) [10], [4]

**duct entrance** The opening of a duct at a manhole, distributor box, or other accessible space. (PE/T&D) [10]

**ductility factor (seismic design of substations)** The ratio of the maximum displacement (ultimate) to the displacement that corresponds to initiation of the yielding. (PE/SUB) 693-1984r

**ducting (1) (radio-wave propagation)** Guided propagation of radio waves inside a tropospheric radio duct. *See also:* atmospheric radio duct. (AP) 211-1990

(2) Confinement of near-horizontally directed electromagnetic waves to a restricted horizontal layer in the atmosphere, resulting from a sufficiently steep negative vertical gradient of the refractive index in a limited altitude region. *Note:* The region of steep gradient is not necessarily identical to the dimensions of the duct. *Synonym:* trapping or superrefraction. (AE) 686-1990w

**duct rodding (rodding a duct)** The threading of a duct by means of a jointed rod of suitable design for the purpose of pulling in the cable-pulling rope, mandrel, or the cable itself. (PE/T&D) [10]

**duct sealing** The closing of the duct entrance for the purpose of excluding water, gas, or other undesirable substances. (PE/T&D) [10]

**duct spacer (rotating machinery) (vent finger)** A spacer between adjacent packets of laminations to provide a radial ventilating duct. (PE) [9]

**duct system** A continuous passageway for the transmission of air which, in addition to ducts, may include duct fittings, dampers, plenums, fans, and accessory air handling equipment. (NEC/NESC) [86]

**duct ventilated (pipe ventilated) (rotating machinery)** A term applied to apparatus that is so constructed that a cooling gas can be conveyed to or from it through ducts. (PE) [9]

**DUI** *See:* duration of unscheduled interrupt.

**dumb terminal** A terminal that can only send and receive information; that is, one that is lacking in local processing capability and built-in logic. *Contrast:* intelligent terminal. (C) 610.10-1994

**dumbwaiter** A hoisting and lowering mechanism equipped with a car that moves in guides in a substantially vertical direction, the floor area of which does not exceed 9 square feet, whose total inside height whether or not provided with fixed or removable shelves does not exceed 4 feet, the capacity of which does not exceed 500 pounds, and which is used exclusively for carrying materials. (EEC/PE) [119]

**dummy (1)** Pertaining to a nonfunctioning item used to satisfy some format or logic requirement or to fulfill prescribed conditions. For example, a dummy report containing only titles and column headings with place-holding data instead of real data. (C) 610.5-1990

(2) (A) Pertaining to a nonfunctional item used to satisfy some format or logic requirement or to fulfill prescribed conditions. *See also:* dummy address; dummy instruction. (B) Pertaining to an item such as a character, data item or statement that has the appearance of a specified item, but not the capacity to function as such. *Synonym:* placeholder. (C) 610.10-1994

**dummy address** A nonfunctional address used for illustration or instruction purposes. (C) 610.10-1994

**dummy antenna** A device that has the necessary impedance characteristics of an antenna and the necessary power-handling capabilities, but that does not radiate or receive radio waves. *Note:* In receiver practice, that portion of the impedance not included in the signal generator is often called dummy antenna. *See also:* radio receiver. 188-1952w

**dummy-antenna system** An electric network that simulates the impedance characteristics of an antenna system. *See also:* navigation. (AE) 173-1959w

**dummy coil (rotating machinery)** A coil that is not required electrically in a winding, but that is installed for mechanical reasons and left unconnected. *See also:* rotor; stator. (PE) [9]

**dummy data** Data that is used to satisfy some format or logic requirement or to fulfill prescribed conditions. For example, an artificial character used as a placeholder variable within a program. (C) 610.5-1990

**dummy finger** A passive electrode that may be included in an interdigital transducer in order to suppress wavefront distortion. (UFFC) 1037-1992

**dummy instruction (A)** An item of data, in the form of an instruction, that requires modification before being executed. *Synonyms:* do-nothing instruction; no-op instruction. (B) An item of data, in the form of an instruction, that is inserted into a sequence of instructions, but that is not intended to be executed. (C) 610.10-1994

**dummy load (radio transmission)** A dissipative but essentially nonradiating substitute device having impedance characteristics simulating those of the substituted device. *See also:* artificial load; radio transmission. (IM) [40]

**dummy parameter** *See:* formal parameter.

**dump (1) (A) (computers)** To copy the contents of all or part of a storage, usually from an internal storage into an external storage. (B) (computers) A process as in definition (A). (C) (computers) The data resulting from the process as in definition (A). *See also:* dynamic dump; selective dump; snapshot dump; static dump. (ML) [2]

(2) (A) (software) A display of some aspect of a computer program's execution state, usually the contents of internal storage or registers. Types include change dump, dynamic dump, memory dump, postmortem dump, selective dump, snapshot dump; static dump. (B) (software) A display of the contents of a file or device. (C) (software) To copy the contents of internal storage to an external medium. (D) (software) To produce a display or copy as in definitions (A), (B), or (C). (C) 610.12-1990