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NEWTON'S TELECOM DICTIONARY

The Authoritative Resource for
Telecommunications, Networking,
the Internet and Information Technology

MORE THAN 20,000 TERMS DEFINED

18th

Updated and Expanded Edition

by Harry Newton

CMPBooks

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NEWTON's TELECOM DICTIONARY

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cabling to each location — one pair from the hub to the workstation and one pair from the workstation back to the hub to continue the ring. The IBM 8228 Multiple Access Unit (MAU) will support communications for eight PCs (workstations). Up to 33 IBM 8228 MAUs may be connected together into a single ring, supporting up to 260 data devices. MAU to MAU connection is accomplished with data connectors equipped with Type 1 cables from a MAU's RO (Ring Out) connection to the next MAU's RI (Ring In). The final MAU's RO connects back to the initial MAU's RI to complete the ring. See also Token Passing and Token Ring.

IBND Interim Billed Number Database

IBR Bellcore spec 54019, which covers specs on delivering fractional T-1.

IBS 1. Intelligent Battery System. A conventional battery system interfaces to its host product and charger through a power and perhaps a simple sensor port. An intelligent battery system has state sequential intelligence, memory, and a data communications protocol to the conventional battery sensor package. Three IBS additions allow sensor data, events and memory access to take place between the battery pack and the host device and charger.

2. International Business Systems.

3. INTELSAT Business Service.

IBX Integrated Business eXchange. Another name for a PBX. This is the name InteCom uses for their PBX family. InteCom is now owned by Matra, a French company.

IC 1. Intercom.

2. Integrated Circuit.

3. Intermediate Cross-connect. An interconnect point within backbone wiring. For example, the interconnection between the main cross-connect and telecommunications closet or between the building entrance facility and the main cross-connect.

4. Interexchange Carrier. Also (and more commonly) called IXC.

IC DRAM Integrated Circuit Dynamic Random Access Memory.

ICA International Communications Association. ICA is the biggest trade association of the largest corporate telecommunications users

— the people whose companies spend the most. ICA was founded in 1949 as the National Committee of Communications Supervisors. On behalf of its members, the ICA works to influence the FCC, Congress, and other regulatory and law-making bodies on issues of national telecom and information distribution issues. www.icanet.com

iCal See iCalendar.

iCalendar iCal. Internet Calendaring and Scheduling Core Object Specification is a specification from the Internet Engineering Task Force designed to allow people to share and coordinate their appointment calendar over the Internet. At the heart of iCalendar is the Time Zone Calendar Component, a protocol that accounts for different time zones. As a result, users of a typical day planner can schedule appointments with users in other time zones and with other calendaring programs. The iCalendar spec is the foundation for four new specifications. iTIP is the iCalendar Transport Independent Interoperability Protocol, which details how calendaring systems use iCalendar objects to interoperate and defines a message protocol for finding free time or searching to-do lists. iMIP is the iCalendar Message Based Interoperability Protocol which addresses defines interoperability among calendaring systems piggybacked on Internet email using MIME (Multipurpose Internet Mail Extension). iRIP is the iCalendar Real Time Interoperability Protocol that addresses the how diverse scheduling systems query each other in real time. Client Access Protocol (CAP) allows any calendaring client to access information from heterogeneous back-end systems. iCalendar is replacing an older specification called vCalendar. See vCalendar. www.ieff.org

ICANN The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (www.icann.org) is a non-profit, international organization based in California. ICANN has broad authority to reform and administer the present system of issuing Internet addresses, including adding new Top Level Domains, like biz, as in www.mycompany.biz. Officially, ICANN coordinates the assignment of globally unique identifiers that allow the Internet to function. Specifically, those identifiers include Internet domain names, Internet Protocol (IP) address numbers, and protocol parameters and port numbers. ICANN also coordinates the stable operation of the Internet's root server system.

Previously and by an accident of history (in that the ARPAnet was the precursor to today's Internet) a U.S. company held what amounted to a sanctioned monopoly on the business of assigning these names. Network Solutions of Herndon, Va., maintained the master databases that map Internet names to their real, numeric IP addresses. (For example, www.informationweek.com is mapped to the real address of 192.215.17.45.)

To correct that situation, the Clinton Administration authorized a nonprofit body "to take over responsibility for the IP address space allocation, protocol parameter assignment, domain name system management, and root server system management functions now

performed under U.S. government contract." The idea was to open up registration to multiple competing companies; to get the Internet, as a new kind of industry, to start maintaining and policing itself; and to provide some redundancy that's absent in today's all-the-domain-names-in-one-company's-basket approach.

The nonprofit body set up to do this is called the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). Approximately 100 registrars have been certified, thereby ending the monopoly. Coordination domain name assignment is through the Shared Registry System (SRS), which ensures that duplicate domain names are not assigned. In the event of a dispute over a domain name, the matter is referred to the CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution under the Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP). See also Internet and TLD.

ICAPI International Call Control API.

ICB Individual Case Basis. A service arrangement in which the regulations, rates and charges are developed based on the specific circumstances of the customer's situation. General tariffs which apply to the vast unwashed customer base do not apply in this case. The price is negotiated between the company (i.e. the phone company) and the customer.

ICCF Interexchange Carrier Compatibility Forum.

ICD International Code Designator. A 2-byte field of the 20-byte NSAP (Network Service Access Point) address, the ICD is used to identify an international organization. NSAP and ICD are used in a variety of networks, including ATM. The British Standards Institution is the registration authority for the International Code Designator. See also BSI.

ICE Information Content and Exchange. An emerging protocol in the form of a XML (eXtensible Markup Language) application, ICE is designed to facilitate the automation of content syndication on the World Wide Web. The ICE architecture is intended to define business rules that would support data (e.g., user profile) exchange among partner sites. Such data can then be processed, loaded into a repository and resold under the user interface of the licensee. For example, ICE would allow a review of a book, movie or theater production to be licensed to multiple Web site hosts. A kill date would automatically kill the content across all sites on a specified date.

ICEA Insulated Cable Engineers Association.

ICFA International Computer Facsimile Association. The mission of this new organization is to create awareness of the benefits and uses of computer fax to increase worldwide market size.

ICI 1. Interexchange Carrier Interface. The interface between carrier networks that support SMDS.

ICIT International Center for Information Technologies. A part of MCI.

Icky PIC Sticky Plastic Insulated Conductor. A gel-filled cable which is the only type recommended for direct burial, i.e., directly in the ground without any protective conduit system. As the gel is very sticky, working with "icky PIC" is a somewhat unpleasant experience.

ICM See Integrated Call Management.

ICMP Internet Control Message Protocol. An integral part of IP (Internet Protocol), ICMP is a mechanism by which IP software on a host or gateway can communicate with its peers on other machines to report errors and pass other information (e.g., time stamps) relevant to IP packet processing. As specified in RFC-792, ICMP also provides a number of diagnostic functions. One of the most frequently used ICMP messages is the Echo Request, commonly known as the Ping utility, which allows a device to test the communication path to another device. The ICMP header comprises 12 octets. See also Ping.

ICOMP Intel Comparative Microprocessor Performance Index. A test for measuring how fast microprocessors are.

Icon An icon is a picture or symbol representing an object, task, command or choice you can select from a piece of software (e.g. a trash can for a deletion command).

Iconography The science of icons. A fancy name for talking about icons — those little visual representations of objects, tasks or commands you find in Windows and other GUI (Graphical User Interface) programs and operating systems.

ICP 1. Intelligent Call Processing. The ability of the latest ACDs to intelligently route calls based on information provided by the caller, a database on callers and system parameters within the ACD such as volumes within agent groups and number of agents available.

2. Instituto das Comunicacoes de Portugal (The Portuguese Institute of Communications).

3. Intelligent Call Processor. The name of an AT&T service. ICP allows users to directly link their customer premise equipment to its network for individual call processing based on customer-specific information.

4. Independent Communications Provider. An ICP is a switchless CLEC (Competitive Local Exchange Carrier). Multi-service, integrated access.

5. Integrated Communications Provider. A fancy name for a competitive local exchange car-

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