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email: Harry@HarryNewton.com

personal web site: www.HarryNewton.com

business web site: www.InSearchOfThePerfectInvestment.com

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control flag A cellular phone term. A 6-bit flag transmitted in the forward channel data stream, comprised of a 5-bit busy/idle flag and one bit of the 5-bit decode status flag.

control head room lights Indicates that the cellular phone is outside the "home" system.

control messages Signalling messages that provide the control of setup, maintenance, and teardown of L2TP sessions and tunnels. See L2TP.

control of electromagnetic radiation 1. Measures taken to minimize electromagnetic radiation emanating from a system or component, or to minimize electromagnetic interference. Such measures are taken for purposes of security and/or the reduction of interference, especially on ships and aircraft.

2. A national operational plan to minimize the use of electromagnetic radiation in the United States and its possessions and the Panama Canal Zone in the event of attack or imminent threat thereof, as an aid to the navigation of hostile aircraft, guided missiles, or other devices.

control of flow language Programming-like constructs (IF, ELSE, WHILE, GOTO, and so on) provided by Transact-SQL so that the user can control the flow of execution of SQL Server queries, stored procedures, and triggers. This definition from Microsoft SQL server.

control panel The control panel on the Apple Macintosh is for general hardware and software settings. Icons allow a user to customize the system or application, or select a particular service, such as a specific printer, set the sound level, the date and time and choose an Ethernet connection through the network control panel.

control plane The ATM protocol includes a Control Plane which addresses all aspects of network signaling and control, through all 4 layers of the model.

Control Point CP. In IBM SNA (Systems Network Architecture) networks, a Control Point is a type of NAU (Network Accessible Unit, previously known as Network Addressable Unit). A CP manages the network resources within its domain of control, controlling the activation and deactivation of resources and the monitoring of their status. Such resources can include physical resources such as links and nodes, and logical resources such as network addresses. As a Network Accessible Unit, a Control Point is accessible over the SNA network itself. See also SNA.

control segment A worldwide network of Global Positioning System monitoring and control installations that ensure the accuracy of satellite positions and their clocks.

control signal 1. In the public network, control signals are used for auxiliary functions in both customer loop signaling and interoffice trunk signaling. Control signals are used in the customer loop for Coin Collect and Coin Return and Party Identification. Control signals used in interoffice trunk signaling include Start Dial (Wink or Delay Dial) signals, Keypulse (KP) signals or Start Pulse (ST) signals.

2. In modem communications, control signals are modem interface signals used to announce, start, stop or modify a function. Here's a table showing common RS-232-C and ITU-T V.24 control signals

Pin	Control Signal	From	To
4	Request-To-Send (RTS)	DTE	DCE
5	Clear-To-Send (CTS)	DCE	DTE
6	Data Set Ready (DSR)	DCE	DTE
8	Carrier Detect (CD)	DCE	DTE
20	Data Terminal Ready (DTR)	DTE	DCE
22	Ring Indicator (RI)	DCE	DTE

control station On a multi-access link, a station that is in charge of such functions as selection and polling.

control theory The mathematical analysis of the systems and mechanisms for achieving a desired state under changing internal and external conditions.

control tier An AT&T term for the tier within the Universal Information Services network node that provides the transport network's connection control function.

control unit An architectural component of a processor chip which orchestrates processor activity and handles timing to make sure the processor doesn't overlap functions.

controlled access When access to a system is limited to authorized programs, processes or other systems (as in a network).

controlled environment vault CEV. It is a low maintenance, water-tight concrete or fiberglass container typically buried in the ground which provides permanent housing for remote switches, remote line concentrators, pair gain and fiber transmission systems. Because it is buried, it can often be installed in utility easements or other places

where local building laws may be a problem. This below ground room that houses electronic and/or optical equipment is under controlled temperature and humidity conditions.

controller 1. In the truest sense, a device which controls the operation of another piece of equipment. In its more common data communications sense, a device between a host and terminals that relays information between them. It administers their communication. Controllers may be housed in the host, can be stand-alone, or can be located in a file server. Typically one controller will be connected to several terminals. The most common controller is the IBM Cluster Controller for their 370 family of mainframes. In an automated radio, a controller is a device that commands the radio transmitter and receiver, and that performs processes, such as automatic link establishment, channel scanning and selection, link quality analysis, polling, sounding, message store and forward, address protection, and anti-spoofing.

2. Participant in a conference call who sets up the conference call.

Controller Card Also called a hard disk/diskette drive controller. It's an add-in card which controls how data are written to and retrieved from your PC's various floppy and hard drives. Controller cards come in various flavors, including MFN and SCSI. Controller cards are the devices used to format hard drives. Controller cards are not hard drive specific (except within categories). Controller cards will format many drives. But once you have a hard drive that has been formatted by that one controller card, it tends to prefer talking to that controller card forever. If you switch your hard disk to another machine, switch the controller card along with it. If you switch your hard disk to another machine, but not the controller card, then format the hard disk. That's not a "100% Do It Or Else You'll Be Disappointed" rule. But just a "Play It Safe and Switch Them" rule.

controllerless modem A modem that shifts all the protocol management, error detection and correction, and data compression onto software running on the system's CPU. This allows the modem manufacturer to make a much cheaper modem that does not require the memory or processing power of a traditional modem. Also known as a soft modem.

conturing In digital facsimile, density step lines in received copy resulting from analog-to-digital conversion when the original image has observable gray shadings between the smallest density steps of the digital system.

CONUS A term for CONTiguous United States (lower 48 states). See Contiguous United States.

convection cooling Design techniques used in switching system construction to permit safe heat dissipation from the equipment without the need for cooling fans.

convector The device which covers the steam heating radiator in buildings and typically sits underneath a window. Also called a weathermaster.

convector area An area allocated for heat circulation and distribution. Convector areas, typically built into a wall, can be used as a satellite location only if a more suitable area is unavailable.

convention A rule of conduct or behavior which has been reached by general agreement, commonly by a standards-making body, whether formal (e.g., the ITU) or ad hoc (e.g., Bell Telephone Laboratories) in nature. For example, the T-1 framing conventions were developed by Bell Labs for use within the Bell System network in North America, and later were formalized at the international level by the ITU-T. See also Bell Telephone Laboratories, ITU-T, and T-1.

conventional signaling The inter-machine signaling system that has been traditionally used in North America for the purpose of transmitting the called number's address digits (telephone number) from the originating end office to the switching machine that will terminate the call. In this system, all dialed digits are received by the originating switching machine, a path is selected, and the sequence of supervisory signals and outpulsed digits is initiated. No overlap outpulsing, ten-digit Automatic Number Identification (ANI), information digits, or acknowledgment wink are included in this signaling sequence.

converged network, Used to describe trends toward the bundling of services by operators. Principally found in the United States, where regulation historically has separated the local and long distance carrier functions.

convergence 1. A measure of the clarity of a color monitor. A measure of how closely the red, green and blue guns in a color monitor track each other when drawing a color image. The other measures are focus and dot pitch.

2. A routing term. The point at which all the internetworking devices share a common understanding of the routing topology. The slower the convergence time, the slower the recovery from link failure.

3. The word to describe a trend—now that most media can be represented digitally—