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twinaxial cable (twinax) A cable system containing two thin coaxial cables, perhaps contained within a single cable sheath. Twinaxial cables once were used extensively with IBM System 36, System 38, and AS 400 computer systems. More recently (February 2006), the IEEE 802.3ak task force finalized the 10GBase-CX4 standard in support of 10 Gigabit Ethernet (10 GbE). The specification provides for twinax patch cord assemblies operating over distances up to 50 feet for interconnecting switches and aggregating servers in data centers. See also *10GBase-CX4*.

twist pitch The level or degree of twisting in a twisted pair. See also *lay length* and *twisted pair*.

twist ratio The number of twists per inch, foot, or meter in a twisted pair. See also *lay length*, *twisted pair*, and *twist pitch*.

twisted pair A twisted pair comprises two copper conductors, separately insulated by a dielectric material, and smoothly twisted in a helix with a constant pitch or distance to make a 360° twist. Shielded twisted pair (STP) and screened twisted pair (ScTP) incorporate special shields for protection from electromagnetic interference (EMI). Unshielded twisted pair (UTP), the most common configuration, has no such shielding. See also *EMI*, *ScTP*, *STP*, and *UTP*.

Twisted-Pair Distributed Data Interface (TPDDI) See *TPDDI*.

two-way paging (TWP) See *TWP*.

two-wire circuit A circuit that carries information signals in both directions over the same physical link or path. A two-wire circuit commonly is provisioned through the use of a single twisted pair copper wire, within which two wires are required to complete the electrical circuit, with the current in one wire opposite to the current in the other, and with both wires carrying the information signal. The most common example of a two-wire circuit is an electrically-based unshielded twisted pair (UTP) local loop access circuit between a telephone company central office (CO) switching center and a residential or small business premises, where the loop ultimately terminates in an individual single-line or multiline telephone set, data terminal, or key service unit (KSU) associated with a key telephone system (KTS). Two-wire circuits generally span a relatively short distance, and are analog, narrowband, and single channel in nature. Two-wire UTP local loops, for example, typically are designed to be less than 18,000 feet (6 kilometers) in length, analog voice grade, and single channel. However, the same loop will support ISDN BRI (Basic Rate Interface) service, a digital transmission technology. See Figure T-6. See also *BRI*, *channel*, *four-wire circuit*, *ISDN*, *local loop*, *narrowband*, and *voice grade*.

