

NEWTON's TELECOM DICTIONARY

25th Anniversary Edition

Harry Newton



New York

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NEWTON'S TELECOM DICTIONARY

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Harry Newton email: Harry@HarryNewton.com

book site: www.NewtonsTelecomDictionary.net

personal web site: www.HarryNewton.com

investment web site: www.InSearchOfThePerfectInvestment.com

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Gail Saari, Layout, Production and Cover Design

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tribit transmission A transmission technique used by some modems in which three bits are transmitted simultaneously.

tributary The lower rate signal input to a multiplexer for combination (multiplexing) with other low rate signals to form an aggregate higher rate signal.

tributary circuit A circuit connecting an individual phone to a switching center.

tributary interfaces On a multiplexer, the ingress ports for tributaries.

tributary office A local office, located outside the exchange in which a toll center is located, that has a different rate center from its toll center.

tributary PBX An exchange within the main PBX configuration but with its own listed number. The only difference between a satellite and a tributary PBX is that the tributary PBX has a direct incoming connection from the public network. See Satellite PBX.

tributary station In a data network, a station other than the control station. On a multi point connection or a point-to-point connection using basic mode link control, any data station other than the control station.

tributary unit The SDH equivalent of a Virtual Channel in SONET terminology. A Tributary Unit might comprise a voice channel within a Virtual Tributary, which might take the form of a T-1 frame.

trichromatic The technical name for RGB representation of color to create all the colors in the spectrum.

trickle The name of a BITNET mail server package which provides access to anonymous FTP archive sites via e-mail.

trickle charge The continuous charging of an electrical battery. It keeps the batteries continuously charged, which is a good thing. That way, the phones still work when the lights go out—at least until the batteries run down.

trickle down economics Some economists believe that if the government reduces taxes, rich people will spend their money, buying and building things. And the money they spend will go to other people and other companies and that they will cause the economy to boom. This is, of course, nonsense. The economy booms much better when middle class people are given tax breaks, because they spend all the money. Basically trickle down economics seems to me to be an excuse to give tax breaks to rich people. There is another explanation of trickle down economics, which reinforces my point that it's more productive to give poor people money. At the Roosevelt Island Tennis, my locker is below that of a very rich man, Skip Hartman. Before he plays tennis, Skip takes money out of his pocket and puts it in his locker. Usually, several of Skip's coins fall through the crack of my locked locker door into my locker. I am most appreciative of the free money, the ultimate manna from heaven. I spend Skip's money with consummate glee. Skip's money falling into my locker is the ultimate trickle down economics, proving conclusively that trickle down economics works with poor people, like me, especially if the money comes from rich people like Skip. See also trickle down ergonomics.

trickle down ergonomics The practice of stealing (or being given) an Herman Miller Aeron chair, desk, computer, a monitor, or other tools of the trade after you've been laid off. See Trickle Down Economics.

trigger An application-specific process invoked by a database management system as a result of a request to add, change, delete, or retrieve a data element. For example, Local Number Portability (LNP) currently typically involves the use of two telephone numbers when a customer ports from one carrier to another. If a caller dials the old telephone number, the Central Office (CO) of the previous carrier recognizes that the old number is no longer active. That old 10-digit number triggers the CO to consult the SCP (Signaling Control Point) of the supporting AIN (Advanced Intelligent Network). The SCP dips into a database, extracts the new 10-digit telephone number and the CIC (Carrier Identification Code) of the CLEC (Competitive Local Exchange Carrier) to which the service has been ported, and provides the CO with that information, in order that the call can be handed off to the new carrier and eventually terminated. See also AIN, Basic Call State Model, CIC, CLEC, LNP, and SCP.

trigger dataset A dataset, typically on an IBM mainframe, that trig-

gers the execution of a program. For example, when a D.176 dataset (i.e. a file containing international collect call data, formatted in accordance with ITU Recommendation D.176) is transmitted from international carrier A to international carrier B, the scheduling software on carrier B's mainframe, when it detects the newly arrived D.176 dataset, will launch an application to process the file for end-user billing.

triggering The process of detecting a word (or utterance) and capturing the speech data associated with that word (or utterance) for subsequent processing. See also Trigger.

triggers Uncompiled code residing on an intelligent database server. See also Trigger.

TRIM A new system called "transmission imaging modulator," or TRIM, which is to be heart of a "light engine" for a projector or television, that translates the signals that come into the system to the image seen by the viewer. The TRIM consists of two microchip devices and a tiny optical component. The technology comes from a tiny Vancouver, Washington startup called Sheridan Inc. I first got wind of the company in early December, 2004.

trinkets A low to modestly priced item. Typically these are T-shirts, hats, cups and pens used for promotional or motivational purposes. Also used to bribe and cajole software developers into working even more excessive hours. When the telex business was in full bloom, trinkets were used to motivate telex operators into preferring one supplier over another. Trinkets were necessary because the price for service and equipment was identical, since it was heavily regulated.

trinkets and trash A new term for trinkets. See Trinkets.

triode A combination of a heated cathode, a relatively cold anode, and a third electrode for controlling the current flowing between the other two; the whole enclosed in an evacuated bulb. Various called, audion, pilotron, radio-tron, oscillon, audiotron, aerotron, electron tube, vacuum tube, etc.

TRIP Telephony Routing over IP protocol. TRIP was engineered by a working group of the IETF as a tool for inter-domain exchange of telephone routing information. It can also be used as a means for gateways and soft switches to export their routing information to a Location Server (LS), which may be co-resident with a proxy or gatekeeper. This LS can then manage those gateway resources. TRIP will give VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) providers the ability to dynamically exchange routing and line propagation information between one another helping to create the global Public Internet Telephone Network.

Triple DES 3DES. A security enhancement of single-DES encryption that employs three successive single-DES block operations. Different versions use either two or three unique DES keys. This enhancement is considered to increase resistance to known cryptographic attacks by increasing resistance to known cryptographic attacks by increasing the effective key length.

Triple LNB dish This definition applies specifically to DirecTV's satellite operation. It's an 18" x 20" dish with three LNBs and four outputs. This dish looks at the 101°, 110°, and 119° satellites. It is required for HD customers, Spanish language services, and locals in some markets because these services are not all available from the 101° satellite.

triple mode A combined analog and digital mobile phone. Allows operation of the phone in the existing analog system frequency (800 MHz) and in both digital frequencies (800 MHz and 1900 MHz).

triple play In telecommunications, triple play refers to the delivery of voice, high speed Internet access and video over a single broadband network. The term generally applies to a closed, QoS-enabled (Quality of Service) broadband network such as a PON (Passive Optical Network) local loop or CATV network. Triple play services typically require 25 to 50 megabits per second of bandwidth per subscriber—the problem being that most local loops are copper cable, whereas for these bandwidths fiber is needed. Hence, many telecom companies are investing billions in "wiring" their subscribers with fiber.

triple-tap An input method for entering text messages or search queries on a cell phone where, because the 26 letters of the alphabet are distributed 3 to a key, the user has to press a key up to 3 times to select a letter. For example, the 2 key on a cell phone keypad has ABC on it. If a user wants to