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Lilon Lithium Ion. The Lithium Ion battery is lightweight and does not suffer from memory effect. It also delivers a higher run time average and about 80% more power per ounce. Similar to NiMH technology, Lilon batteries have a life expectancy of 500 charge and discharge cycles. Lilon batteries are typically used in mid- to high-priced portables.

LIP Loop Initialization Protocol. Part of the FC-AL (Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop) standard for reconfiguring the system when nodes are added or removed from the loop.

lipstick Over her lifetime, the average American woman will swallow four pounds of lipstick. The good news is that that's a lot less than the Coca Cola I drink.

lipstick indicator The tendency for lipstick sales to increase prior to and during a recession.

Liquid Crystal Display LCD. A low power display that aligns material suspended in a liquid under the influence of a low voltage so it reflects ambient light and displays alphanumeric characters. LCD displays are finding great use as methods of displaying information on new electronic telephones, especially those positioned behind PBXs. The advantage of putting such displays on telephones is that the power to drive the display is very small. The display can be line powered—i.e. powered by the one or two pairs coming from the PBX. This avoids the necessity and cost of a transformer/rectifier—the little black box you plug into the wall to run your answering machine or to power up your rechargeable calculator/laptop computer. Such LCD displays on electronic phones can perform many functions. The most useful is that of “walking” the user through the phone call—showing him/her how to transfer a call, to make a conference call, to split a conference, etc. An LCD can also alert you as to who's calling you.

LIRC Long Run Incremental Cost.

LIS 1. Link Interface Shelf.

2. Local Interconnection Service. A local interconnection service arrangement with an ILEC (Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier) to provide trunking; E911, SS7 requirements for LNP (Local Number Portability).

Lisp Lisp is the LISf Processor language—is “the greatest single programming language ever designed,” according to computer scientist Alan Kay. It was born in 1958 because John McCarthy, then an assistant professor at MIT, working on new tools for artificial intelligence research, wanted a language in which one could write programs that would make logical inferences and deductions. Previous languages, including — Fortran — were numeric, which made for powerful number-crunching. But Lisp made use of symbolic expressions, which treated both data (such as numbers) and code as objects that could be manipulated and evaluated. This enabled programmers to create conditional expressions. Lisp made possible the now-familiar “if-then-else” structure — and today Lisp is used as a “macro” language, allowing users of software such as Emacs to create their own mini-applications that can automate tasks. This definition from Daniel Turner.

list box A Windows term. In a dialog box, a box that lists available choices, for example, a list of all files in a directory. If all the choices do not fit in the list box, there is a scroll bar.

list host A host computer, in the form of a server, that is used to support e-mail list services, usually on an outsourced basis. The service provider will place your e-mail list on its host computer, and associate it with an e-mail that you want to send to many e-mail addresses. You just send the e-mail to a special target mailbox, and the list host server forwards it to everyone on your list. If people want to be removed from the list, they so indicate with a return e-mail, and the list host server takes care of it. At least that's the theory.

list server An automated mailing list distribution system.

Listed Directory Number LDN. Incoming exchange network calls to the PBX via assigned listed local telephone directory number are directed to the attendant.

listen before talk LBT. Same as carrier sense multiple access (CSMA). Compare with Listen While Talk.

listen only A conference call mode wherein a participant can only listen to

the call, not speak. The listen-only mode can be toggled on/off by the conference moderator or operator. Listen-only mode is useful for blocking out background noise during press announcements, investor relations presentations, and other conference calls with a large number of conferees. Listen-only mode is also useful in these scenarios where only a designated subset of conferees are authorized to have a speaking role.

listen while talk LWT. Same as carrier sense multiple access with collision detection (CSMA/CD). Compare with Listen Before Talk.

LIT See Line Insulation Test.

lit fiber Let's start with optical fiber. When a carrier initially installs an optical fiber in the ground (sub-terrestrial), under the ocean (submarine), or through the air (hung on poles), it's called “dark” fiber. That means he hasn't put any electronics on it, so he's not sending any light down the fiber and thus he's not transmitting any information. Usually a dark fiber is one of many dark fibers in a cable containing a great many fibers, commonly 432 in sub-terrestrial cabling systems. The carrier deploys such a large cabling system because the incremental cost of pulling one large cable is much less than the incremental cost of pulling fibers one at a time, as needed. The dark fibers are designated for future use, or for backup purposes in the event that a fiber fails for some reason. Sometimes dark fiber is sold or leased by a carrier without the accompanying transmission service, e.g., SONET. The customer is expected to put his own electronics and photonics on the fiber and thus be able to make transmissions. This process is called “lighting” the fiber, since light now moves down the fiber. And the fiber is now called “lit” since that's the past participle of the verb “to light.” If a given optical fiber system supports WDM (Wavelength Division Multiplexing) or DWDM (Dense WDM), multiple wavelengths of light can be transmitted across the system simultaneously. If not all of the available wavelengths are active (e.g., only 10 of a possible 32), the fiber is said to be “dim,” i.e., neither dark nor fully lit. See also Dark Fiber, Dim Fiber, DWDM, SONET, and WDM.

lithium-ion Type of highly efficient rechargeable battery, often used in computer laptops and cellular portables. Here's an explanation from 1-800-BATTERIES, a seller of rechargeable batteries:

NiCad: Nickel Cadmium is the most popular and durable type of rechargeable battery. It is quick to charge, lasts about 700 charge and discharge cycles, and works well in extreme temperatures. Unfortunately, NiCads suffer from “memory effect” if they are not completely discharged during each cycle. The memory effect reduces the overall capacity and run time of the battery.

Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) batteries do not suffer from memory effect. Compared to a NiCad battery of equal size, NiMH batteries run for 30% longer on each charge. They are also made from non-toxic metals so they are environmentally friendly. The downside to NiMH technology is overall battery life. These batteries last for 400 charge and discharge cycles.

Lithium Ion (LiON) is the latest development in portable battery technology. These batteries do not suffer from memory effect. Compared to a NiMH of equal size, a LiON will deliver twice the run time from each charge. Unfortunately, these batteries are only available for a limited number of models and are expensive. Similar to NiMH technology, LiON batteries have a life expectancy of 400 charge and discharge cycles.

little endian A format for storage or transmission of binary data in which the least significant byte (bit) comes first. See Little-endian.

little LEO Relatively small and inexpensive low earth orbiting satellites that provide low-cost, low-data rate, two-way digital communications, and location positioning to small handheld terminals. The frequency allocations are in the VHF band below 400 MHz. Systems include Leosat, Orbcomm, Starnet, and Vitasat. For example, the Orbcomm system requires 34 satellites for reliable full-world coverage. See Big LEO.

little-endian See Big-endian.

LIU Line Interface Unit. Essentially a digital transceiver, an LIU is a generic term for a type of Circuit Terminating Equipment (CTE) used to terminate a T-1/E-1 circuit or ISDN PRI (Primary Rate Interface) circuit. In an optical environment, an OLIU (Optical Line Interface Unit) serves the same function for