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NEWTON'S TELECOM DICTIONARY

Covering Telecommunications, Networking,
Information Technology, the Internet,
the Web, Computing, Wireless and Fiber

MORE THAN 21,900 TERMS DEFINED

20th Updated and Expanded Edition
by Harry Newton

CMPBooks

Newton's Telecom Dictionary . M

NEWTON'S TELECOM DICTIONARY

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Contents

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

— The telecom recession is finally ending.
Here's where the opportunities are v

THE BEST MONEY SAVING TIPS

— Harry Newton's favorite ways to save on telecom, computing,
airlines and hotels vii

WHY IS IT SO HARD TO BUY?

— How you should orient your precious telecom budget in today's tight times xxi

DISASTER RECOVERY PLANNING

— How to protect your computing and telecom resources xxiii

RULES FOLLOWED IN THIS DICTIONARY

— How to figure our ordering of definitions and our spellings xxv

THE AUTHOR, Harry Newton

— Harry does have a life outside this dictionary xxix

THE CONTRIBUTING EDITOR, Ray Horak

— Ray Horak teaches, consults and lives in Paradise xxxi

THE DICTIONARY

— The Dictionary begins with Numbers, then goes into Letters 1

APPENDICES

— Standards Organizations and Special Telecom Interest Groups 944
— Publications, Computer and Telecom 950
— International Calling Codes 951
— Standard Plugs and Connectors 952

both POTS and special services and the computer console operator can select one pair at a time or select thousands for sequential transfer.

Receipt Notification A report prepared by a recipient UA (User Agent) or Access Unit (upon request) and sent to the originating UA or Access Unit when a message is received by a recipient.

Receive Interruption The interruption of a transmission to a terminal to receive or send a higher priority message from the terminal.

Receive Only RO. Describing operation of a device, usually a page printer, that can receive transmissions but cannot transmit.

Received Line Signal Detector Modem interface signal defined in RS-232-C EIA interface which indicates to the attached data terminal equipment that it is receiving a signal from the distant modem.

Received Signal Level RSL. The strength of a radio signal received at the input to a radio receiver.

Received Signal Strength Indication The measured power of a received signal.

Receiver 1. Any device which receives a transmission signal.

2. Any portion of a telecommunications device which decodes an encoded signal into its desired form.

3. The earpiece portion of a telephone handset, which converts an alternating electric current into sound waves, usually through an electromagnet moving a diaphragm.

4. An electronic component capable of collecting radio frequency broadcasts and reproducing them in their original audio and/or video form, e.g. a TV or radio receiver.

Receiver Congestion A Token Ring error reported by any ring station that receives a frame addressed to itself, but has no room in its buffer to store the frame. The frame is then discarded, and within two seconds the station will report how many times this happened over the reporting period.

Receiver Multicoupler A receiver multicoupler is a device that enables several radio receivers to use a single antenna system. Typically a receiver multicoupler will consist of a bandpass preselector (filter) to determine range of receiving frequencies, and a RF amplifier with low noise figure and high gain to overcome multicoupling losses, and a balanced impedance power divider to divide the amplifier's output into the number of receiving channels required. A regulated power supply is also required for the amplifier. A received multicoupler is used extensively for cellular and trunked radio sites. Natalie Duran of the Area Transmission Engineering department of the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power writes "We use it for the simple reason of having to run only one coaxial cable versus three."

Receiver Off-Hook Tone The loud tone sent by the central office to tell the telephone user that his/her phone is off the hook.

Receiver Sensitivity The magnitude of the received signal necessary to produce objective BER or channel noise performance.

Receiving Perforator Reperforator. A telegraph instrument in which the received signals cause the code of the corresponding characters or functions to be punched in a tape.

Recent Change Changes to line and trunk translations in a stored program control switching machine that have not been merged with the permanent data base.

Recession A recession is defined by economists as two consecutive quarters in which the nation's GDP (gross domestic product) declines.

Recip Comp See Reciprocal Compensation.

Recipient Switch The switch to which a local number being ported is ported to. Sorry for the mouthful.

Reciprocal Agreements Also called Intercarrier Roaming Agreements. An agreement between two cellular carriers that allows the respective customers of the two carriers to use each others' systems automatically, without the necessity of registering as roamers.

Reciprocal Compensation Recip comp. A form of financial compensation that occurs when a local or long distance service provider terminates a call on another provider's facilities. Imagine a phone call from New York to Los Angeles. It may start with the customer of a new phone company, then proceed to a local phone company (let's say New York Telephone, now called Bell Atlantic). Then it may proceed to a long distance company before ending in Los Angeles and going through another one or two local phone companies before reaching the person dialed. Under the existing rules, all the companies carrying these phone calls have to be paid in some way for their transmission and switching

services. There are programs in place such that the company doing the billing and collecting the money pays over some of those monies to the other phone companies in the chain. One such program is called "reciprocal compensation." The opposite of reciprocal compensation is called "Bill and Keep." Under this program, the company billing the call gets to keep all the money. The others in the chain (or most of the others in the chain) get nothing.

Reciprocal Compensation Call A telephone exchange service call, completed between the end users of different carriers, which qualifies for reciprocal compensation under the terms of an interconnection agreement and any prevailing regulatory rules that may exist. Reciprocal compensation is the payment by telecommunications providers to one another for terminating each other's local exchange traffic.

Reciprocal Link A hyperlink or link placed on one Web site to return the favor of another site putting a link on their page.

RECO A line item Profit and Loss description for a typical networking services business signifying the four major cost classifications: Resources (People), Equipment, Circuits and Other. RECO is used by countless IBMers.

Recognition Assisted Data Entry Commonly known as Forms Processing.

Recognized Operating Agency See ROA.

Recognized Private Operating Agency RPOA. The ITU-T term for a packet interexchange carrier. The status granted to a communications entity by its national government after it pledges to abide by mandatory regulations under Article 44 of the ITU (International Telecommunications Union) convention. For example, a publicly recognized VAN (Value Added Network).

Recognizer A voice recognition term. A system that attempts to classify speech (input utterances) as words from an active vocabulary.

Reconfiguration A fancy word for rearranging equipment, features and options.

Record In a database, a record is a group of related data items treated as one unit of information — for example, your name, address and phone number. Each Record is made up of several fields. A field is simply your last name.

Record Communications Any form of communication which produces a "written" record of the transmission. Teletypewriter and facsimile are examples of record communications. Companies such as RCA Globecom, ITT Worldcom, TRT and MCI, which provide international telex, are known as international record carriers. Before deregulation, that business was exceptionally profitable.

Record Head The electromagnetic device which magnetizes the surface of a magnetic recording — tape, disk, etc. — in proportion to an electrical signal.

Record Length The number of bytes in a record. See Record.

Record Locking Think about an airline reservation. You call up. You want to change your reservation. While the airline has your record open, your travel agent calls up to change it. You change your reservation. Your travel agent changes it. Which one ends up in the "permanent" record? Confusion reigns. Clearly it makes sense to only allow one person to access one record at once and lock everyone else out. Record locking is the most common and most sophisticated means for multi-user LAN applications to maintain data integrity. In a record locking system, users are prevented from working on the same data record at the same time. That way, users don't overwrite other users' changes and data integrity is maintained. But though it doesn't allow users into the same record at the same time, record locking does allow multiple users to work on the same file simultaneously. So multi-user access is maximized. Contrast with file locking, which only allows a single user to work on a file at a time.

Recorded Announcement Intercept Provides a recorded message to an intercepted call indicating why the call cannot be completed, as an alternative to attendant intercept or intercept one for DID and CCSA calls to restricted or unassigned numbers.

Recorded Announcement Service A special type of central office trunk which when dialed, will connect the caller to a prerecorded message.

Recorded Answering Device See RAD.

Recorded Telephone Dictation Phone users can dial into centralized telephone dictation equipment. The dictation equipment is usually handled as a trunk connection or it can be wired on an extension level.

Recorded Voice Announcement See RVA.

Recorder A device many large phone users use to record conversations with their callers. Recording truck dispatches can help a company gain the upper hand in customer service. Purchasing departments may use the recorder to remind vendors of their promises.

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How to protect your computing and telecom resources.



Harry Newton

Harry Newton has spent 33 years studying, writing, lecturing and investing in telecommunications and technology. He founded key telecom magazines—LAN (now Network), Teleconnect, Call Center, Computer Telephony and Technology Investor. He also founded the trade shows, Computer Telephony Conference and Exhibition (CT Expo) and Call Center

Demo. He sold his telecom publishing group in September, 1997 to concentrate on writing.

Newton has an MBA from the Harvard Business School and an Economics degree from the University of Sydney, Australia, where he was born. He is not an engineer, but wishes he were. He wrote this dictionary to teach himself his first loves—telecom and technology. In this dictionary, Newton explains complex technology in non-technical, business language. He believes it's critical to understand what the technology does, what its benefits are and the key tips to using and installing it. That's what this dictionary does.

Most dictionaries are updated every ten to twenty years. Not this one. Newton updates this dictionary every day and issues a new, expanded, improved and updated edition every year. This edition is current as of early 2004.

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