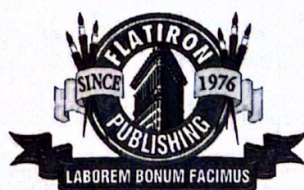


NEWTON's TELECOM DICTIONARY

24th Edition

Harry Newton



New York

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Stay In Touch

For suggestions, corrections, updates, special offers: please send an email to Harry@HarryNewton.com

I promise you I won't give your name to anybody. Nobody. Promise.

Harry Newton

Attachment (ATA) standard ATA-1 developed by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) in 1994 in the X3.221 specification. IDE is a hard disk drive standard interface for PCs. It appeared in 1989 as a low-cost answer to two other standard hard disk interfaces, ESDI and SCSI. The distinguishing feature of the IDE interface is that it incorporates the drive controller functions right on the drive. Instead of connecting to a controller card, an IDE drive attaches directly to the motherboard with a 40-pin connector. IDE drives offer a data transfer rate of three megabytes per second, which is not very fast. Several methods of data encryption can be used with the IDE interface, including MFM and RLL. Many laptops use IDE drives. IDE has a limit of 528 megabytes. Enhanced IDE drives, which appeared around 1994 to solve the problem that computers had gotten much faster and IDE wasn't keeping up, have a data transfer rate of between 11 and 13 megabytes per second and can handle drives of up to 8.4 gigabyte. See also Enhanced IDE.

2. Integrated Development Environment. A term for products such as Microsoft's Visual C++ and Borland's Delphi that combine a program editor, a compiler, a debugger, and other software development tools into one integrated software package. The first of the IDEs, Borland's Turbo Pascal changed the way programmers write code by allowing programs to be edited and compiled within the same application.

IDEA 1. International Data Encryptions Algorithm. A secret key encryption algorithm developed by Dr. X. Lai and Professor J. Massey in Switzerland to replace DES.

2. Internet Development & Exchange Association, formed in 1995 and developed as part of a capstone MBA strategy project at West Virginia University to address the ever increasing competitive nature of the ISP market. Today, IDEA claims to be the largest trade association of independent Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in the world. www.auidea.org.

iDEN Integrated Dispatch Enhanced Network. A wireless technology developed by Motorola, iDEN operates in the 800 MHz, 900 MHz and 1.5 GHz radio bands; the 900 MHz development is aimed at operators of digital Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS), also known as ESMR (Enhanced Specialized Mobile Radio). iDEN is a digital technology using a combination of VSELP (Vector Sum Excited Linear Prediction) and T6QAM (Quadrature Amplitude Modulation) for compression, and TDMA (Time Division Multiple Access) over frequency channels of 25 kHz. Through a single proprietary handset, iDEN supports voice in the form of both dispatch radio and PSTN interconnection, numeric paging, SMS (Short Message Service) for text, data, and fax transmission. The iDEN system, developed by Motorola and used by Nextel, also adds a walkie-talkie feature to phones. See also ESMR, QAM, SMS, TDMA, and VSELP.

identification failure Automatic Number Identification (ANI) equipment in the originating office failed to identify the calling number. See ANI.

identified outward dialing Same as AIOD. It's a PBX feature which provides identification of the PBX extension making the outward toll calls. This identification may be provided by automatic equipment or by attendant identification of the extension.

identifier The name of a database object (table, view, index, procedure, trigger, column, default, or rule). An identifier can be from 1 to 30 characters long.

identity chaos The situation that exists when an organization's users have different userids and passwords for different networks, systems, and applications. The problem is further complicated by different systems' having different rules for password length, permissible and insisted-upon characters and numerics in userids and passwords, and different password expiration dates. The resulting chaos takes two forms: the burden on users, who have to remember multiple userids, passwords and rules; and the burden on network and systems administrators, who have to assist users when they inevitably forget their loginids and passwords. There are two "solutions." The first is to use the browser, Firefox, which remembers some (not all) userids and passwords and fills them in automatically for you. The other is a piece of software called eWallet, which does a fairly rigorous job of remembering, managing and filling in passwords, etc. My son loves it.

identity fraud The wholesale lifting of someone's financial persona to secure bank loans, credit card and mortgages in that person's name. The key to successful identity theft is the victim's social security number. It is not a good idea to give your number to anyone - especially online. Even when the identity theft is discovered, it can take months, sometimes years, for innocent victims to restore their tattered credit histories. Identity theft is accomplished in many creative ways - from dumpster diving to phishing. For more, see both those terms.

IDEO locator The "you are here arrow" on a map is called the IDEO locator.

IDF Intermediate Distribution Frame.

idiot-proof A device, system, or software application that has a highly intuitive user interface can be so easy to operate correctly that even a person ignorant of its intricacies can do it. That's "idiot-proof." See also Cockpit Problem.

IDLC See Integrated Digital Loop Carrier.

idle 1. Not being used but ready.

2. An SCSI term. A state of the SCbus or SCxbus Message Bus where no information is being transmitted and the bus line is pulled high.

idle cell An ATM cell used for cell stuffing where rate adaption is required. As Physical Layer cells, idle cells are required and cannot, therefore, be replaced by assigned cells during the process of cell multiplexing; this is unlike Unassigned Cells, which are not necessary at a network level and which can be replaced, therefore. See also ATM Reference Model, Physical Layer, Rate Adaption and Unassigned Cell.

idle channel code A repetitive pattern (code) that identifies an idle channel.

idle channel noise Noise which exists in a communications channel when no signals are present.

idle line termination An electronic network which is switch controlled to maintain a desired impedance at a trunk or line terminal when that terminal is in an idle state.

idling signal Any signal that indicates no data is being sent.

IDN Integrated Digital Network.

IDNX 1. International Data Exchange Network.

2. Integrated Digital Network eXchange.

IDP InterDigital Pause.

IDR Intermediate Data Rate.

IDS 1. Internal Data Services.

2. Intrusion Detection Service. See deep packet inspection.

IDSL A xDSL variant that uses ISDN BRI (Basic Rate Interface) technology to deliver transmission speeds of 128 Kbps on copper loops as long as 18,000 feet. IDSL is symmetric, i.e., equal bandwidth is provided in both directions. IDSL is a dedicated service for data communications applications, only. In that respect, IDSL differs from ISDN, which fundamentally is a circuit-switched service technology for voice, data, video and multimedia applications. IDSL terminates at the user premise on a standard ISDN TA (Terminal Adapter). At the LEC CO, the loop terminates in collocated ISP electronics in the form of either an IDSL access switch or a IDSL modem bank connected to a router. The connection is then made to the ISP POP via a high-bandwidth dedicated circuit. IDSL is used by LECs to deliver relatively low speed DSL services in geographic areas where ISDN technology is in place, but ADSL technology is not. See also xDSL, ADSL, BRI, ISDN, HDSL, RADSL, SDSL, Terminal Adapter, and VDSL.

IDT 1. Inter-DXC Trunk.

2. Inter-Machine Digital Trunk.

IDTS Integrated Data Test System. A software package that allows the user to test Analog, Digital, Fractional T-1, and T-1 Circuits, remotely, at the various MCI terminal locations.

IDTV Improved Definition TeleVision. See Improved Definition Television.

IDU 1. Interface Data Unit: The unit of information transferred to/from the upper layer in a single interaction across the SAP. Each IDU contains interface control information and may also contain the whole or part of the SDU.

2. Indefeasible Right of Use. A right to use something, which right cannot be taken away from you, i.e. voided or undone. A term that generally applies, in contemporary terms, to the purchase of an optical fiber within a sheath of fibers owned by another company. Companies that lay optical fiber generally lay much more than they need. They do so because so much of the cost is associated with securing the right-of-way, trenching, burying conduit, etc. So they "lay a lot of pipe," much of which initially is left "dark" (i.e., inactive). They then are in a position to either lease or sell the extra fibers, and the bandwidth they represent. If you buy, rather than lease, a fiber, you have an IRU.

IE Incoming Exclusion.

IEC 1. InterExchange Carrier. Also called an IXC (as in IntereXchange Carrier). In practice, an IEC or IXC is any common carrier authorized by the FCC to carry customer transmissions between LATAs. In practice this means anyone and his brother who print up stationery, rent a few lines and proclaim themselves to be in the long distance phone business. Except for AT&T, regulation of long distance carriers by the FCC is perfunctory. It is less perfunctory by the local state authorities, some of whom still think competition in telecommunications is a mild form of insanity.

2. International Electrotechnical Commission. The international standards and conformity assessment body for all fields of electrotechnology, including electricity and electronics. The IEC publishes a number of international standards and technical reports on a wide variety of subjects including telecommunications (LANs, MANs and WANs), video cameras, electrical cables, communications protocols (e.g., HDLC), Open Systems Interconnection (OSI), optical fiber cables and connectors, and diagnostic X-ray imaging equipment. The IEC was founded in 1906 by British scientist, Lord Kelvin. www.iec.ch.