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multicast router Router running a multicast enabled routing protocol, like MOSPF, used to route IGMP query messages on their attached local networks.

multicast server A specialized server that establishes a one-to-many connection to each device in a VLAN, thus establishing a broadcast domain for each VLAN segment. The multicast server forwards incoming broadcasts only to the multicast address that maps to the broadcast address.

multicasting A directory service agent uses this mode to chain a request to many other directory service agents.

Multichassis Multilink Point-to-Point Protocol (MMP) A Cisco protocol that allows multiple connections from a single site to terminate in multiple access servers while still looking like one single larger connection.

Multics Multiplexed Information and Computing Service was a mainframe time-sharing operating system that was developed in the 1963-1969 period through the collaboration of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), General Electric (GE), and Bell Labs. Multics was the first or one of the first operating systems that used page-segmented storage. The operating system was written in PL/I and run on GE hardware. By 1970, Bell Labs had withdrawn from the project, and Honeywell, which had bought GE's computer division, continued as the hardware provider.

multidrop line A communications line having multiple cable access points. Sometimes called a *multipoint line*.

multifunction peripheral (MFP) A single device that serves several functions, including printing. Typically, multifunction printers can act as a printer, a scanner, a fax machine, and a photocopier. These devices are becoming a popular option for SOHO users because they're less expensive than buying three or four separate devices.

multihomed host (a) Host attached to multiple physical network segments in an OSI CLNS network. (b) A TCP/IP host connected to two

or more physical networks; thus they have more than one address. They can serve as router-type devices.

multihoming Addressing scheme in IS-IS routing that supports assignment of multiple area addresses.

multilayer switch Switch that filters and forwards packets based on MAC addresses and network addresses. A subset of LAN switch. Compare with LAN switch.

Multilink Point-to-Point Protocol (MP) An extension to the PPP protocol that allows multiple physical connections between two points to be combined into a single logical connection. The combined connections, called a bundle, provide greater bandwidth than a single connection. Unlike *channel bonding*, which usually combines two channels for the duration of a connection, MP supports dynamic bandwidth allocation, which means that physical links can be added or removed from the bundle as needed. MP works with a number of technologies, including ISDN, X.25, and frame relay. It is an open standard, specified in RFC 1990.

multi-link PPP (MPPP) Method of extending PPP so that multiple connections can be added together for higher bandwidth and lower latency. Must be supported at both ends of the connection.

multilink transmission group According to IBM documentation, a transmission group containing two or more links.

multimedia A way of presenting to the user a combination of different forms of information such as text, data, images, video, audio, and graphics (i.e., videoconference). Nearly all PCs are capable of displaying video, although the resolution available depends on the power of the computer's video adapter and CPU. Because of the storage demands of multimedia applications, the most effective media are CD-ROMs.

multimode The transmission of multiple modes of light.

multimode fiber (MMF) A type of fiber mostly used for short distances such as those found in a campus LAN. It can carry 100 Mbs/sec for

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