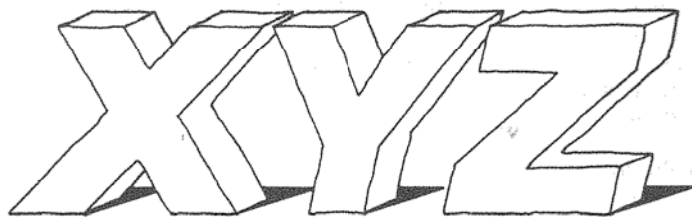


The Teleconnect Dictionary

A Glossary of
Telecom Acronyms,
Terms and Jargon

edited by Harry Newton



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The TELECONNECT Dictionary

An Explanation of Telecommunications Terms, Acronyms and Jargon

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TELECONNECT DICTIONARY

RADIO PAGING ACCESS: Provides attendant and phone user dial access to customer-owned radio paging equipment to selectively tone-alert, or voice-page individuals carrying pocket radio receivers. The paged party can answer by dialing an answering code from a phone within the PBX.

RADIO PAGING ACCESS WITH ANSWER BACK: Allows access to customer-provided paging systems, and provides the capability in the PBX to connect the paged party when the former answers the radio page by dialing a special code from any PBX.

RADIO WAVE: Electromagnetic waves of frequencies between 10 KHz and 3MHz, propagated without guide in free space (air).

RADOME: A plastic cover for a microwave antenna. Protects the antenna from awful weather.

RAIN ATTENUATION: Signal losses due to absorption are common when radio signals encounter a heavily moisture laden atmosphere. Generally, the higher the radio frequency, the more attenuation (i.e. the more loses). Since microwave signals (for satellite and for land line) are essentially line of sight, microwave radio is very susceptible to signal attenuation due to heavy rain. Modern microwave paths are engineered with weather patterns in mind. In areas where heavy rainfalls occur, microwave links may be closer together or more attention is paid to diverse routing.

RAIN BARREL EFFECT: Signal distortion of a voice telephone line caused by the under-attenuated echoes on the return path.

RAM: Random Access Memory. The primary memory in a computer. It's memory that can be overwritten with new information. The "random access" part of its name comes from the fact that the next "bit" of information in RAM can be located — no matter where it is — in an equal amount of time. This means that access to and from RAM memory is extraordinarily fast. By contrast, other storage media — like magnetic tape — have their information stored serially, one bit after another. Therefore you have to search for them. And your search time will depend on how far from the bit you're searching for, you are. Floppy disks are faster than magnetic tape, because their information is readily at hand, though the read/write head will have to search for it. Hard disks are even faster because there are multiple heads and because the disks spin faster and everything moves faster. RAM memory is the fastest of all. The

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problem with RAM memory is that it's volatile. This means when power is turned off (or power glitches occur) RAM memory is erased. RAM memory can be protected with rechargeable batteries — just remember to charge the batteries.

RANDOM ACCESS: Usually refers to computer memory or storage. Random Access is the ability to reach any piece of data in the memory directly without having to pass by other pieces of data. In telephony, this means the ability to reach any other subscriber through the telco switching network. See SEQUENTIAL ACCESS.

RANDOM ACCESS MEMORY: See RAM.

RANDOM NOISE: Interference to telephone communications which occurs at irregular intervals.

RANGE EXTENDER: A device that increases the length of a local loop by boosting battery voltage being sent out from the telephone company central office.

RASTER: A pattern of horizontal scanning lines on a TV screen. Input data causes the beam of the TV tube to illuminate the correct dots to produce the required characters.

RAT: A publisher or editor exhibiting unreasonable tyrannical tendencies. A condition often aggravated by emigration from English-speaking countries south of the equator.

RATE: The price of a particular service or piece of equipment from a telephone company. Telephone companies don't use the word "price." They use the word "rate." No one knows why, except that if they didn't cultivate their own jargon, there'd be no job for telecommunications dictionary writers. God forbid!

RATE ARRANGEMENTS: Telephone customer prices charged by tariffs for specified telephone services.

RATE AVERAGING: Telephone companies' method for establishing uniform pricing by distance rather than on the relative cost (to them) of the particular route. The theory is that some routes are more heavily trafficked, have huge transmission equipments and achieve great economies of scale. Some routes, on the other hand, have little traffic, have small transmission equipment, and achieve

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ROLMphone 120. In addition, Rolm has telephone/workstation devices called Cypress, Cedar and Juniper and will probably have more by the time you read this.

ROI: Return On Investment.

ROM: Read Only Memory. Computer memory which can only be read from. New data cannot be entered and the existing data is non-volatile. This means it stays there even when power is turned off. A ROM is a memory device which is programmed at the factory and whose contents thereafter cannot be altered. In contrast is the device called RAM, whose contents **can** be altered. See READ ONLY MEMORY.

ROOM CUT-OFF: Hotel/motel guest telephones restricted from outgoing calls when the guest room is unoccupied.

ROOM STATUS AND SELECTION: Provides the capability to store and display the occupancy and cleaning status and the type number of each guest room. This helps housekeeping management, maid locating and room selection. Also, communications between the front desk and the housekeeper are speeded up via real-time maid activity and checkout audit printouts to indicate which rooms need cleaning next. The occupancy status is normally changed by the maid or inspector dialing from the room telephone.

ROSE: As in Bodin. The very thoughtful lady who helps us, our friends and customers out. We couldn't survive without Rose. Call her and tell her this. 1-212-691-8215.

ROSE, ANNE: A wonderful lady who will get a real kick out of seeing her name in this dictionary.

ROTARY DIAL: The circular telephone dial. As it returns to its normal position (after being turned) it opens and closes the electrical loop sent by the central office. Thus it generates pulses for each digit dialed. You can hear the "clicks". The number "seven," for example consists of seven "opens and closes," or seven clicks. You can dial on a rotary phone without using the rotary dial. Simply depress the switch hook quickly, allowing pauses in between to signify that you're about to send a new digit. It's a good party trick.

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