

NEWTON'S TELECOM DICTIONARY

**The Official Dictionary of
Telecommunications & the Internet**

IP Telephony • LANs & Intranets • Call Centers & Computer Telephony
Fiber Optics, SONET and DWDM • Satellites
Voice, Data, Image & Video Networking • Wired
and Wireless Telecom • VoIP • T-1, T-3, T-4, E-1,
3 • ISDN & ADSL • Cable Modems • Cellular,

Updated
15th

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hook It is also called the Hook Switch. A switch hook was originally an electrical "switch" control "hook" on which the handset (or receiver) was the telephone was not in use. The switch hook is a plunger at the top of most telephones which is depressed when the handset is resting in its cradle (on-hook). When the handset is raised, the plunger pops up (the off-hook). Momentarily depressing the switch hook (0.8 of a second) can signal various services such as attendant, conferencing or transferring calls.

AT&T ISDN sets have several switch hooks; one for the speakerphone, a "virtual" switch hook an adjunct is attached, an adjunct switch hook. If a switch hook is "on-hook" or hung up, the ISDN set is off-hook. If a switch hook is "off-hook," then the ISDN set is on-hook. More than one switch hook is off-hook, the ISDN set uses a complex algorithm to determine whether the handset, speakerphone, or the adjunct has precedence (only one at a time).

hook Flash A signaling technique whereby the handset is depressed momentarily depressing the switch hook.

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soles (they're much smaller and they fit on desks). Switchboards are desks.

Switchboard Cable A cable used within and between the central office main frames and the switchboard.

Switched 56 A switched data service which lets you dial someone else and transmit at 56 Kbps over the PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network). Actually Switched 56/64, Switched 56 also is available at 64 Kbps, where the carrier supports non-intrusive signaling and control. It is a circuit-switched service, letting the user transmit data at 56/64 Kbps over a four-wire, digital, synchronous network. The cost of a Switched 56/64 call is calculated based on duration and time of day, with discounts for non-prime time calls; discounts also apply according to day of week, holidays, and so on.

Provided by LECs, Switched 56/64 was the first VPN (Virtual Private Network) service offered. The term "VPN" currently is applied to IXC services, with bandwidth available at 56/64 Kbps, increments of 56/64 Kbps, 384 Kbps, and 1.544 Mbps (T1). Switched 56/64 offers a high degree of redundancy, flexibility and scalability. It often is used as an alternative to private, leased-line networks — or as a backup for them.

Applications for Switched 56 include videoconferencing, high speed data transfer, digital audio broadcasting, Group IV fax and remote LAN access for telecommuters. It also is used as an access technology for IXC-provided VPNs. While it is widely deployed, Switched 56/64 faces a great deal of pressure from ISDN BRI, which offers as much as 144 Kbps, where available. Over time, Switched 56/64 will disappear for good in North America. See also VPN.

Switched Access A method of obtaining test access to telecommunications circuits by using electromechanical circuitry to switch test apparatus to the circuit.

Switched Access Line Service All residential and most businesses use this type of telephone access. It refers to the connection between your phone and the long distance companies' switch (POP) when you make a regular local or long distance telephone call over standard phone lines.

Switched Carrier In data terms, physical line specification selection indicating a half duplex line in a bisync network.

Switched Circuit Automatic Network SCAN. A service arrangement at certain Telco premises to interconnect private line telephone service channels of a switched service network provided to certain agencies of the federal Government.

Switched Circuit Ordering And Tracking System SCOTS. MCI's automated tracking and order processing system for Dial up products, IMTs, and the MCI switched network.

Switched DAL Switched Dedicated Access (Egress) Line. Dedicated trunk group (T-1, etc.) circuit(s) used to access (1+, etc.) or egress (800, etc.) through normal network switching facilities. The Switched DAL is dedicated to a particular inbound or outbound call type.

Switched Digital Services Applications Forum See SDSAF.

Switched Line A circuit which is routed through a circuit switched network, such as the telephone or telex network.

Switched Local Service You pick up the phone. You dial a local number. Bingo, you have switched local phone service. The reason this trivial definition is even in this dictio-

So things are changing, albeit very very slowly.

Switched Loop In telephony, a circuit that automatically releases connection from a console or switchboard, once connection has been made, to the appropriate terminal. Loop buttons or jacks are used to answer incoming listed directory number calls, dial "0" internal calls, transfer requests, and intercepted calls. The attendant can handle only one call at a time.

Switched Loop Operation Each call requiring attendant assistance is automatically switched to one of several switched loops on an attendant position.

Switched Multibeam A type of "smart antennae" used in Wireless Local Loop (WLL) systems. Switched multibeam antennae detect signal strength in a given connection, and select a beam between an end device and one of perhaps many WLL antennae, locking in on the strongest signal. Also in the general category of "smart antennae" systems is the phased array approach. See also PHASED ARRAY and WLL.

Switched Multimegabit Data Service SMDS. A 1.544 Mbps public data service with an IEEE 802.6 standard user interface. It can support Ethernet, Token Ring and FDDI (OC-3c) LAN-to-LAN connections. See SMDS and SMDS Interest Group.

Switched Network See PSTN.

Switched Private Line Network A network which results from combining point-to-point circuits with switches.

Switched Service Network A private line network that uses scan and/or CCSA type common control switching.

Switched Transport A name for telephone traffic between the local exchange carriers' Central Offices and an interexchange carrier's point of presence (POP). Switched transport is generally provided on a monopoly basis as part of a LEC's network.

Switched Virtual Circuit SVC. A call which is only established for the duration of a session and is then disconnected. See SVC.

Switcher Also called a production switcher. A video term. A device that allows transitions between different video pictures. May also contain special effects generators.

Switchhook A synonym for hookswitch or hook switch. Also spelled switch hook. See SWITCH HOOK.

Switching Connecting the calling party to the called party. This may involve one or many physical switches.

Switching Arrangement A circuit component which enables a Customer to establish a communications path between two phones on a network.

Switching Centers There are four levels in the North American switching hierarchy run at AT&T. They are: Class 1 — Regional Center, Class 2 — Sectional Center, Class 3 — Primary Center, Class 4c — Toll Center and Class 4P — Toll Point. In addition, the local Bell operating companies run a fifth level in the hierarchy, called the Class 5 — End Office.

Switching Equipment Premises equipment which performs the functions of establishing and releasing connections on a per call basis between two or more circuits, services or communications systems.

Switching Equipment Capacity A telephone company term. The capacity of switching equipment is expressed in network access lines. These components can be grouped into four categories. For D&F Chart purposes, the four categories

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