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NEWTON'S TELECOM DICTIONARY

The Official Dictionary
of Telecommunications
Networking and
the Internet.

16th
EXPANDED
& UPDATED
EDITION

SUPERSEDED

BY HARRY NEWTON

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The Official Dictionary of
Telecommunications & the Internet

**16th Updated, Expanded and Much
Improved Edition**

compresses information within a single frame. Compare to Interframe Coding.

IntraLATA Telecommunications services that originate and terminate in the same Local Access and Transport Area. See also Local Access and Transport Area. This can be either Interstate or Intrastate service, traffic or facilities.

Intramodal Distortion In an optical fiber, the distortion resulting from dispersion of group velocity of a propagating mode. It is the only form of multi mode distortion occurring in single-mode fibers.

Intranet A private network that uses Internet software and Internet standards. In essence, an Intranet is a private Internet reserved for use by people who have been given the authority and passwords necessary to use that network. Those people are typically employees and often customers of a company. An Intranet might use circuits also used by the Internet or it might not. Companies are increasingly using Intranets — internal Web servers — to give their employees easy access to corporate information.

According to my friends at Strategic Networks Consulting, Boiled down to its simplest, an Intranet is: a private network environment built around Internet technologies and standards — predominantly the World Wide Web. The primary user interface, called a Web browser, accesses Web servers located locally, remotely or on the Internet. The Web server is the heart of an Intranet, making selection of Web server software a crucial decision, even though much fanfare has focused on browsers (Netscape's Navigator vs. Microsoft's Explorer).

At its core, a Web server handles two arcane languages (HTML and CGI) that are the meat and potatoes of generating Web pages dynamically, making connections and responding to user requests. But in the rush to dominate the potentially lucrative Intranet market, these simple Web functions are being bundled into operating systems and vendors are now touting pricey "Intranet suites" which encompass everything from database and application interfaces, to e-mail and news-groups, to the kitchen sink.

Most medium- or larger-sized companies will need more than just a handful of simple Web servers to deploy a reasonably robust Intranet. To help a company post current job openings, or make up-to-date product specs and available inventory accessible by traveling sales reps, an Intranet needs the following capabilities:

- Database access. Getting at critical data housed in corporate databases can be accomplished via generic, universal ODBC linking or based on "native" links directly to Sybase, Oracle et al. allowing use of all the database's features.
- Application hooks. Used by developers, a standard programming interface (API) allows outside applications like Lotus Notes to interact with Web data and vice versa. In addition, proprietary APIs exist — most notably Microsoft's ISAPI (for "Internet Server API") which lets developers link directly to Microsoft applications.
- User publishing. In addition to dialogues via chat/news-group/bulletin board features, users will want to post their own content on Web servers without having to attain Webmaster status.
- Search vehicles. How does an engineer find the current specs on Project #686-2 among thousands of pages spread across a bunch of Web servers? The answer: an indexing and search engine that creates an internal Yahoo! for your own Web sites.
- Admin/management. A catch-all for loads of important, but still ill-conceived features for managing access, users, con-

tent and the servers themselves. Intranet administrators are currently fascinated with analyzing Web server logs which contain data of some sort, including user connections and page activity.

According to a white paper released by Sun Microsystems in the summer of 1996, the basic infrastructure for an intranet consists of an internal TCP/IP network connecting servers and desktops, which may or may not be connected to the Internet through a firewall. The intranet provides services to desktops via standard open Internet protocols. In addition to TCP/IP for basic network communication, these also include protocols for:

Browsing	HTTP
File Service	NFS
Mail Service	IMAP4/SMTP
Naming Service	DNS/NIS+
Directory Services	DNS/LDAP
Bootting Services	Bootp/DHCP
Network Administration	SNMP
Object Services	IIOIP (CORBA)

See also Extranet and Intranet.

Intranodal Service Intranodal service is a feature of some central office switches and smaller remote switches. It means that it will continue to switch in which

Intranode Communications path which originates and terminates in the same node.

Intraoffice Call A call involving only one switching system.

Intraoffice Trunk A telephone channel between two pieces of equipment within the same central office.

Intrapreneur An entrepreneur who works inside a big company. Hence, intra, as in inside. It's hard to imagine it actually happening. But the word has become popular as a way for large companies to motivate their employees to take personal career risks and introduce new products.

Intrastate Services, traffic or facilities that originate and terminate within the same state. Therefore, if related to telephone, falling under the jurisdiction of that state's telephone regulatory procedures.

Infrastructure A term coined by "Data Communications" and referring to the software, hardware, and Internet services underlying a corporate Intranet.

Intrinsic Joint Loss That loss in optical power transmission, intrinsic to the optical fiber, caused by fiber parameters, e.g., dimensions, profile parameter, mode field diameter, mismatches when two non identical fibers are joined.

Intrinsics Intrinsics are a component of many windows toolkits. The windows toolkit intrinsics definition has been developed by the MIT X Consortium. The intrinsics define the function of specific graphical user interface and window objects. They do not define any particular look or feel, just the function. Example: A pull down menu intrinsic would define the function of a pull down menu within a toolkit but not the appearance of it.

Intrusive Test Breaking a circuit in order to test its functionality. Testing intrusively will drop service on the circuit.

INTUG International Telecommunications Users Group.

Intumescent Firestop A firestopping material that expands under the influence of heat.

Inverse ARPA See Reverse DNS.

Inverse Fourier Transform Inversion of Fourier transform to convert frequency representation of signal to time representation.

Inverse Multiplexer I-Mux. An inverse multiplexer performs the inverse function of a multiplexer. "Multiplexer"

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