

NEWTON'S TELECOM DICTIONARY

12th Edition

The Official Dictionary of Telecommunications
Computer Telephony, Data Communications
Voice Processing, Internet Telephony
Windows 95 & NT Communications
LAN and WAN Networking

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by Harry Newton

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is the control software running on a host computer that allows the host to communicate with terminals on an SNA network.

ACFG Short for AutoConFiGuration. The Plug and Play BIOS extensions, now turning up on PCs, are also known as the ACFG BIOS extensions.

ACIS Automatic Customer/Caller Identification. This is a feature of many sophisticated ACD systems. ACIS allows the capture of incoming network identification digits such as DID or DNIS and interprets them to identify the call type or caller. With greater information, such as provided by ANI, this data can identify a calling subscriber number. You can also capture caller identity by using a voice response device to request an inbound caller to identify themselves with a unique code. This could be a phone number, a subscriber number or some other identifying factor. This data can be used to route the call, inform the agent of the call type and even pre-stage the first data screen associated with this call type automatically. See also ANI, CALLER ID and SKILLS-BASED ROUTING.

ACK In data communications, ACK is a character transmitted by the receiver of data to ACKnowledge a signal, information or packet received from the sender. See also ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

ACK Ahead A variation of the XMODEM protocol that speeds up file transmission across error-free links. See XMODEM.

ACKT Bisync acknowledgment for odd-numbered message.

Acknowledgment In data communications, the transmission of acknowledgment (ACK) characters from the receiving device to the sending device indicates the data sent has been received correctly.

ACL 1. Access Control List. A roster of users and groups of users, along with their rights. See ACCESS CONTROL LIST.

2. Applications Connectivity Link. Siemens' protocol for linking its PBX to an external computer and having that computer control the movement of calls within a Siemens PBX. See also OPEN APPLICATION INTERFACE.

ACM 1. An ATM term. Address Complete Message. One of the ISUP call set-up messages. A message sent in the backward direction indicating that all the address signals required for routing the call to the called party have been received. See .

2. Association for Computing Machinery. www.acm.org

3. Automatic Call Manager. The integration of both inbound call distribution and automated outbound call placement from a list of phone contacts to be made from a database. Telemarketing and collections applications are targets for this type of system.

ACO 1. Additional Call Offering

2. Alarm Cut Off

ACONET A research network in Austria.

Acoustic Coupler An acoustic modem. A modem designed to transfer data to the telephone network acoustically (i.e. by sound), rather than electronically. An acoustic coupler looks like the reverse of a telephone handset and is typically made of rubber. The data communications link is achieved through acoustic (sound) signals rather than through direct electrical connection. It is attached to the computer or data terminal through an RS-232-C connector. To work the acoustic coupler, start the computer's communications program, dial the distant computer on a single line telephone with a normal (e.g. old-fashioned) handset. When the distant computer answers with a higher pitched "carrier tone," you place the telephone handset in the acoustic coupler and transmit data. Since the data is transmitted by sound between the handset and the acoustic coupler (and vice versa), the quality isn't always reliable. You can usually transmit up to 300 baud. People use acoustic couplers when they're short of time or cannot physically connect their modem electrically, e.g. they're using a payphone without an RJ-11 jack. (There are precious few.)

Acoustic Model In automatic speech recognition, an acoustic model models acoustic behavior of words by gluing together models of smaller units, such as phonemes. (Sorry for the definition of the word model with the word model. But it's actually the best way of defining this term. HN)

Acoustic (or Air) Suspension A loudspeaker system that uses an air-tight sealed enclosure.

Acoustics That branch of science pertaining to the transmission of sound. The qualities of an enclosed space describing how sound is transmitted, e.g. its clarity.

Acousto-optic The interactions between acoustic waves and light in a solid medium. Acoustic waves can be made to modulate, deflect, and focus light waves by causing a variation in the refractive index of the medium. See also FIBER OPTICS.

Acquisition 1. In satellite communications, the process of locking tracking equipment on a signal from a communications satellite.

2. The process of achieving synchronization.

3. In servo systems, the process of entering the boundary conditions that will allow the loop to capture the signal and achieve lock-on. See also phase-locked loop.

4. In mobile, the process by which a Mobile End System (M-ES) locates a radio Frequency (RF) channel carrying a channel stream, synchronizes to the data transmissions on that channel stream, and determines whether the channel stream is acceptable to the M-ES for network access.

Acquisition Time 1. In a communication system, the amount of time required to attain synchronization.

2. In satellite control communications, the time required for locking tracking equipment on a signal from a communications satellite. See also satellite.

ACP Activity Concentration Point.

ACR 1. Attenuation to Crosstalk Ratio: One of the factors that limits the distance a signal may be sent through a given media. ACR is the ratio of the power of the received signal, attenuated by the media, over the power of the NEXT crosstalk from the local transmitter, usually expressed in decibels (db). To achieve a desired bit error rate, the received signal power must usually be several times larger than the NEXT power or plus several db. Increasing a marginal ACR may decrease the bit error rate.

2. An ATM term. Allowed Cell Rate: An ABR service parameter, ACR is the current rate in cells/sec at which a source is allowed to send.

ACRFNET Academic Computing Research Facility Network. A network connecting various research units such as colleges and research and development laboratories in the U.S.