



PATRICK-TURNER'S  
**INDUSTRIAL  
AUTOMATION  
DICTIONARY**

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*First Edition*

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and  
S.P. Jones

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#### COMMUNICATION LINK

**communication link:** An electrical and logical connection between two devices. On a local area network, a communication link is the point-to-point path between sending station and receiving station.

**communication network:** 1) A group of stations connected or in communication contact so that messages can be transmitted among them, although not necessarily on the same channel. 2) Two or more interrelated circuits, switches, or terminals for communications.

**communication oriented production information and control system (COPICS):** Individual compatible program modules that provide applications support for advanced function material requirements planning, bill of materials, routing data control, shop order release, facilities data control, product cost calculations, inventory accounting, and customer order servicing.

**communication protocol:** The rules governing the exchange of information between devices on a data link.

**communication security:** 1) The protection resulting from the application of measures that deny unauthorized persons access to information transferred in a communication system. 2) The protection of a communication system from unauthorized access to, information in, or information concerning the system (e.g., codes, locations of equipment, frequencies, and protocol).

**communication system:** A system or facility capable of providing information transfer between persons and equipment.

**communication traffic volume:** A measure of the number of calls, messages, words, or other data units handled by a communication system per unit time. Also see *erlang*.

**Community Antenna Television (CATV):** A method of delivering quality television reception by taking signals from a well-situated central antenna and delivering them to people's homes by means of coaxial cable network. The electrical components for such systems can also be used to create broadband local area networks.

**commutator:** The part of a motor or generator that provides contact between the armature windings and brushes. It is made of copper segments separated by mica or other insulation. The brushes ride on the commutator as the armature turns.

**compactness:** A measurement describing the distribution of pixels within a blob with respect to the blob's center; a shape factor.

**comparator:** A device or circuit that accepts and compares two analog signals and gives a digital output to indicate whether the compared signals are equal or unequal.

**compare:** To determine whether a particular quantity is greater, equal to, or less than