

## Internet Terms/Glossary

**10BASE-T** The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) specification for Ethernet over unshielded twisted pair cable at 10Mbps.

**100BASE-T** The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) specification for Ethernet over unshielded twisted pair cable at 100Mbps.

**ADSL** Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line. High speed technology utilizing existing phone lines to transmit data. Typical speeds are from 144Kbps to over 8Mbps currently. See DSL Types for more info.

**ATM** Asynchronous Transfer Mode. High Bandwidth packet technology that uses 53 byte fixed sized cells to deliver data, voice and video.

**ATU ADSL** Transceiver Unit. Equipment used for DSL technology. In the Central Office it is called ATU-C (central) and in the Customer locations it is called ATU-R (remote).

**Backbone** A central very high speed fiber network that is used to connect smaller, independent networks. Bandwidth A term used to describe the number of bits that can move across a communications system in a given amount of time.

**BPS** Bits per second. The number of bits passing a point every second. The rate of transmission for digital signals. Broadband Data transmissions of voice, data and video signals over a single medium at high speeds.

**CLEC** Competitive Local Exchange Carrier. The new competitors to the original Bells after deregulation. See also ILEC.

**C.O.** Central Office. The building used by telephone companies to connect local users to their infrastructure.

**CPE** Customer Premises Equipment. Terminating equipment supplied by carrier for use at customer site ie. Modems, phones, routers.

**DS3** Digital transmission at 45Mbps, usually operates on fiber optics. Equivalent to 30 T1 circuits.

**DSL** Digital Subscriber Line. Technology that combines two way voice and data transmissions at very high speeds over normal phone lines. See DSL Flavors and Speeds for more info.

**DSLAM** Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer. Equipment used in the telephone company Central Office to concentrate local DSL users onto a high

capacity Backbone.

**DSU** Digital Service Unit. Digital device at customer premises to facilitate xDSL service. Also known as a Modem or Router.

**Ethernet** Term used to describe a baseband LAN specification originally designed by Xerox. IEEE 802.3 describes the current standards for this protocol.

**Firewall** A secure gateway or virtual wall between two different computer networks that will prevent unauthorized use or access.

**Fractional T1** A portion of a T1 circuit that has been divided into 24 separate 64Kbps channels. Actual size is a multiple of 64.

**Frame Relay** A data communication technology based on packet switching of variable length frames that are protocol independent.

**HDSL** High bit rate Digital Subscriber Line. See DSL Flavors and Speeds for full definition.

**IDSL** Integrated Digital Subscriber Line. An ISDN based version of DSL operating at 144 Kbps. See DSL Flavors and Speeds for full definition.

**ILEC** Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier. All the original Bells are called ILEC's after the Telecommunications Act deregulation. All new competitors are known as CLEC's

**ISDN** Integrated Services Digital Network. Public circuit switched network that combines voice and data into a single medium. Usually runs at 64K or 128K, predecessor to DSL technology.

**ISP** Internet Service Provider. Company that provides connection to the Internet typically via a dial-up link

**Kbps** Kilo Bits Per Second. A measure of time relating to telecommunications speeds. One kilobit is 1,000 bits of information, the higher the number the faster the transmission speed.

**LAN** Local Area Network. A data communications networks of computers, printers, file servers, etc.. in a local environment.

**Local Loop Also called the "last mile".** The length of telephone wire from the local Central Office to it's final termination at customer premises. Usually about 1-3 miles or less.

**Mbps** Mega Bits Per Second. Like Kbps a measure of transmission rates. One Megabit equals 1,000,000 bits of information. 1.5Mbps is over 50 times faster than a 28.8 Kbps dial-up Modem.

**NIC** Network Interface Card. The hardware that handles the protocol conversion between your computer and a connected network. Used in DSL service to talk to router.

**POTS** Plain Old Telephone Service. As it sounds, your basic telephone service.

**Repeater** Electronic device used to regenerate and enhance signal quality over long cable distances.

**Router** Electronic device that transmits and receives data packets in a network.

**SDSL** Symmetrical Digital Subscriber Line. See DSL Flavors and Speeds for full definition.

**T1** Digital transmission at 1.544Mbps. T1 is the most common transmission technique used in North America.

**T3** Digital transmission at 45Mbps. Basically 30 T1 circuits.

**TCP/IP** Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol. Open communication protocol that allows computers with different operating systems to communicate with each other on the Internet.

**VPN** Virtual Private Network. A network service that is provided over a public network that is secure and works like a private network.

**WAN** Wide Area Network. A network with devices over a wide geographical area.

**xDSL** Refers to all variations of the DSL family or technologies.

From <http://www.dslx.net/faq.html>