

Internetworking Terms and Acronyms

In the business world, computer networks are becoming too useful to do without. Using a LocalTalk network, Macintosh users in Marketing can share product bulletins, data sheets, and slide presentations. Digital minicomputer users in Accounting can access a common database of customer information using DECnet. In Engineering, Sun workstation users can share product specifications using TCP/IP over Ethernet. And, in Manufacturing, IBM devices attached to a Token Ring network can process real-time data on material availability and fill orders sent in over serial links from remote offices.

This glossary attempts to gather and define the terms and acronyms of internetworking. As with any young technical field where firm definitions have yet to be standardized, many internetworking terms have several meanings. Where necessary, multiple definitions and acronym expansions are presented. Multiword terms are alphabetized as if there were no spaces; hyphenated terms, as if there were no hyphens.

Terms in this glossary are typically defined under their acronyms. Each acronym expansion is listed separately, with a cross-reference to the acronym entry. In addition, many definitions contain cross-references to related terms. On UniverCD, the interactive, online library of Cisco product information, these cross-references are hot links that allow jumps directly from the expansion to the acronym, or from one term to related terms.

While many product names and descriptions are included in this glossary, you are encouraged to get more specific information from the appropriate vendor. For information about Cisco products, refer to the *Cisco Systems Products Catalogue*.

We hope that this glossary adds to your understanding of internetworking technologies and specific Cisco terms. Suggestions for new terms or acronyms and their associated definitions can be submitted via electronic mail to cs@cisco.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

