

Kbps: Kilobits per second, the number of *bits* transmitted every second as measured in multiples of about one thousand (1024) bits per second.

LAN: Local Area Network, a group of computers and related equipment connected locally—usually within a single building—by a communications channel capable of sharing information among several users.

Mbps: Megabits per second, the number of *bits* transmitted every second as measured in multiples of about one million (1,048, 576) bits per second.

Multimedia: Communication that combines text with graphics, sound, animation, full-motion video, etc.—usually in a highly *interactive* way (see above).

Multimedia-capable computer: A computer that is capable of operating *multimedia* applications.

Narrowband: A voice-grade transmission channel capable of transmitting a maximum of 34,000 bits per second. See *bandwidth*.

On-line: Describes any application or information directly accessible on a computer or computer network, such as an “on-line database.”

POTS: Plain Old Telephone Service; a POTS line is a standard analog telephone line operating at *narrowband* speeds.

RAM: Random Access Memory—the main system memory in a computer, used for data, applications, and operations.

RBOC: Regional Bell Operating Company, or “Baby Bell.”

T-1: A long distance, point-to-point communications channel that transmits 1.5 megabits per second and can carry both voice and data.

T-3: A long distance, point-to-point communications circuit that transmits 44.7 megabits per second and can provide up to 28 T-1 channels. It usually runs over fiber-optic cable.

WAN: Wide Area Network, a long-distance computer network that enables users to share information across large geographical distances (e.g., state to state). A WAN may interconnect a number of *LANs* (see above) at different sites.

Wideband: A transmission channel capable of transmitting more information (as measured by bits per second) than narrowband, but less than broadband.

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