



STRUCTURED CABLING GLOSSARY OF TERMS

10Base T: IEEE 802.3 Ethernet LAN standard, with data on CAT 3 or Cat 5 twisted-pair (TP) wiring, with a data rate of Mbps.

100Base T: IEEE 802.3 Ethernet LAN standard, with data on CAT 5 twisted-pair wiring, with data rate of 100 Mbps.

AC: Alternating Current. All electrical outlets in a home operate at 120V, 60Hz.

Amplifier: An active electronic device to increase the amplitude of a signal.

Analog: An analog signal is a wavel-shaped signal that represents information in a continuously variable and directly measurable physical quantity, such as voltage. The standard telephone signal is an analog signal.

Attenuator: A passive device to reduce the amplitude of a signal.

AWG: American Wire Gauge. AWG is the standard gauge for measuring the diameter of copper, aluminum and other conductors.

Baseband Video: Raw video signal video source (e.g. camera or VCR). Typically appears at a yellow phone jack labeled "Video".

Broadband Video: Modulated video signal. Usually comes from an antenna or CATV feed and contains many channels. Also applies to output of modulators. Typically carried on coax cable and connects to F-connector labeled "CATV/Antenna".

Cat 5, 5e & 6: Category 5, 5e & 6 is a performance class for cables, jumper cables, jacks, connectors and interconnection components. The performance level and testing is specified in the EIS/TIA 568A commercial wiring standard.

CATV: Community Antenna Television, commonly referred to as cable TV, is a TV signal received over a cable.

CCTV: Closed Circuit Television, such as a security or safety camera.

CEBus: Consumer Electronics Bus, a residential consumer product communications standard developed by the Electronics Industry Association (EIA).

Coax: Coaxial cable. A center conductor is surrounded by a dielectric, a shield and an outer insulator. The signal is unbalanced, and the shield provides noise immunity. General used for broadband TV transmission.

Digital: Information that is encoded in a series of "1"s and "0"s.

DBS: Digital Broadcast Satellite.

Decibel (dB): a logarithmic ratio used to indicate signal strength. Gains and losses expressed in dB should be added and subtracted (not multiplied)

HVAC: Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning.

Insertion Loss: The loss of signal die to attenuation or power splitting through a passive device.

IR: Infrared, commonly used by remote controls.

ISDN: Integrated Services Digital Network, residential or commercial digital telephone service.

Jack: The female connector, usually mounted in a faceplate or on equipment. Accepts a plug.

Jumper Cord: A short, connectorized cable, which interconnects two jacks, e.g. from equipment to a wall plate.

LAN: Local Area Network. The most common LAN today is the 10baseT network.

Mbps: Megabits (millions of bits) Per Second.

NIU: Network Interface Unit (or NID: Network Interface Device). A small box, usually mounted on the outside wall of the house, which is the boundary between the phone (or cable) company wiring and the house wiring. Also called the demarcation point.

Off-Air TV: Broadcast Television received by an antenna.

Plug: A male connector, usually on a cable. Plugs into a jack.

POTS: Plain Old Telephone Service. Also referred to as “analog” telephone service. Includes voice, fax, and modem.

T568A: Designation for the pin assignments in a modular jack. Most appropriate for use in the residence.

TP: Twisted-Pair Wire. A twisted pair consist of two insulated copper wires twisted together. Cat 5 cable is 4 twisted pairs in a common sheath. The twisted provide balance and noise immunity. Generally used for analog voice and digital data (LAN) transmission.

UTP: Unshielded twisted pair.