

# Glossary



## Category 6 Augmented, CAT 6A

Also referred to as 10G or 10Gigabit Ethernet. A cable standard for Unshielded Twisted Pair (UTP) supporting signaling rates up to 500 MHz. Applications include 10GBase-T, ATM, 10 Gigabit Ethernet, VoIP, and applications under development.

## Category of Performance

Cabling and cabling component standard adopted by the telecommunications industry.

## Channel

The entire horizontal cabling system. Everything between the computer and the LAN hub in the telecom closet, excluding the equipment connections.



## Coaxial Cable

A cable composed of an insulated central conducting wire wrapped in another cylindrical conductor (the shield). The whole thing is usually wrapped in another insulating layer and an outer protective layer. A coaxial cable has great capacity to carry vast quantities of information.

## Compliance

A wiring device that meets all characteristics of a standard is said to be in compliance with that standard.

## Conductor

Any substance, usually a wire or cable that can carry an electrical current.

## Connecting Block

Also called a terminal block, punch-down block, quick-connect block, or cross-connect block, this plastic block contains metal wiring terminals to establish connections from one group of wires to another. Usually each wire can be connected to several other wires in a bus or common arrangement. There are several types of connecting blocks: 66 clip, BIX, Krone, 110, etc. A connecting block has insulation displacement connections (IDCs), which means you don't have to remove insulation from around the wire conductor before you "punch it down" (terminate it).

## Connector

A device that connects wires or fibers in cable to equipment or other wires or fibers. Wire and optical connectors most often join transmission media to equipment or cross connects. Connectors are sometimes referred to as jacks, but though all jacks are connectors, not all connectors are jacks.

## Consolidation Point

An interconnect device that allows the horizontal cable to be split into two parts. Used for zone cabling.

## Cross-connect

Distribution system equipment used to terminate and administer communication circuits. In a wire cross-connect, jumper wires or patch cords are used to make circuit connections. In an optical cross-connect, fiber patch cords are used. The cross-connect is located in an equipment room, riser closet, or satellite closet.

## Crosstalk

See Near-End Crosstalk.

## Daisy Chain

In telecommunications, a wiring method where each telephone jack in a building is wired in series from the previous jack. Daisy chain is NOT the preferred wiring method, since a break in the wiring would disable all jacks "downstream" from the break. See also Home Run.

## Data Center

A data center is a facility used for housing a large amount of electronic equipment, typically servers, computers, and communications equipment. Data centers are designed to assure that the servers and the data housed on them are protected from environmental hazards and security breaches. Data centers can be private, serving a single company or a public "utility" serving a variety of companies.

## Data Rate

The speed, measured in bits per second, that a particular network transmits data.

## db (Decibel)

A dB is a unit of measure of signal strength, usually the relation between a transmitted signal and a standard signal source. Every 3dB equals 50% of signal strength, so therefore a 6dB loss is a loss of 75% of total signal strength.

## Delay Skew

The difference in propagation delay between the slowest and fastest pairs in a cable or system.

## Demarcation Point

The point of interconnection between telephone company terminal equipment and your building wiring. The protective apparatus or wiring at a subscriber's premises.

## Device

As distinguished from equipment. In telecommunications, a "device" is the physical interconnection outlet. Equipment (a computer, phone, fax machine, etc.) then plugs into the device. See also Equipment and Plug.

## Drop

Refers to the horizontal cabling for one work area.

