Definitions

- **PSTN**
  - Public Switched Telephone Network
  - "The Telephone Network"
- **IXC**
  - Interexchange Carrier
  - Company that connects local carriers to long-distance carriers. May itself be a long-distance carrier.

Definitions

- **ILEC**
  - Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier
  - A local carrier formed as one of the original monopoly RBOCs (Regional Bell Operating Companies)
  - Usually also the "Carrier of Last Resort"
- **CLEC**
  - Competitive Local Exchange Carrier
  - Formed after 1996 when competition was introduced into local service

Definitions

- **Local Calling Area**
  - Served by a single LEC. Local rates (tariffs apply)
  - Less important now due to flat-rate calling
- **LATA**
  - Local Access and Transport Area
  - Not the same as a local calling area (usually bigger); not the same as an Area Code
  - Service area of one or more RBOCs
  - Area where the RBOC had a monopoly before 1996
How did we get there?

- Reduction due to mergers, buyouts:
  - SBC series:
    - SBC bought Pacific Telesis, Ameritech, SH&T, AT&T, and Bell South
    - SBC renamed itself at&t
  - Verizon series:
    - NYNEX, Bell Atlantic merged
    - Bell Atlantic bought GTE
      - Renamed itself Verizon
    - MCI sold to WorldCom, then was bought by Verizon
    - Qwest bought US West

More Definitions

- POP
  - Point of Presence
  - The point where local carriers connect to an IXC
  - Note: we saw the same term used for ISPs

- Central Office (CO)
  - aka Class 5 Office, End Office, etc.
  - Switching center where subscriber lines are connected to the network.

More Definitions

- Customer Premise Equipment
  - Switching equipment installed (and most often leased or owned) by a subscriber
  - Technically refers to equipment which is managed for the customer by the LEC

- Demarc
  - Point of Demarcation
  - Formal boundary between LEC and customer wiring