The Telecommunications Industry

ITS 214
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
Original RBOCs
Ohio LATAs

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All LATAs
RBOCs – 2008

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From Prof. Phil Campbell
How did we get there?

- Reduction due to mergers, buyouts:
  - SBC series:
    » SBC bought Pacific Telesis, Ameritech, SNET, 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
RBOC Merger / Acquisition Timeline

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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