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GLOSSARY

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Access Network

That portion of a public switched network that connects access nodes to individual subscribers. The Access Network today is predominantly passive twisted pair copper wiring.

Access Nodes

Points on the edge of the Access Network that concentrate individual access lines into a smaller number of feeder lines. Access Nodes may also perform various forms of protocol conversion. Typical Access Nodes are Digital Loop Carrier systems concentrating individual voice lines to T1 lines, cellular antenna sites, PBXs, and Optical Network Units.

ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line)

ADSL refers to Asymmetric DSL, meaning the download and upload speeds are unequal or "asymmetric". Users can download at speeds between 1.5 and 6 Mbps (or roughly 25 to 100 times faster than normal phone lines). But uploading usually tops out around 10 times faster than usual phone lines.

ADSL is the predominant form of DSL offered to the home because most home users download far more information than they upload. For example, a user might send a command to a commercial website requesting information about a popular singer.

In response, the user may receive a full color image of the singer, a list of recent songs, a few paragraphs about the artist's life, and a few audio files for a test listen. In this typical case, the amount of information uploaded here is minuscule compared to the information received.

ADSL Forum

An organization that proposes DSL standards.

ADSL Lite

A type of DSL based on the G.Lite standard supporting up to 1.5 Mbps downstream and 512 Kbps upstream. This version of ADSL was designed to simplify user installation.

ADSL Splitter

A filter circuit that is installed on the customer premises, providing separate connections for the wiring that will carry ADSL and POTS signals. The POTS