March 14, 2011

Guide to Emerging Device Acronyms

Definition of Abbreviations and Acronyms

Acronym	Term	Description/Definition
2G	Second Generation Wireless	In mobile telephony, the use of digital encoding and technologies that include Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM), time division multiple access (TDMA), and code division multiple access (CDMA). Such networks are in use worldwide and support high bit rate voice and limited data communications. Most 2G protocols offer data, fax, and short message service (SMS), as well as different levels of encryption.
3G	Third Generation Wireless	3G is an ITU specification for the third generation of mobile communications technology. (Analog cellular was the first generation; Digital PCS the second.) 3G uses the Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS) standard. Key features of 3G systems are a high degree of commonality of design worldwide, compatibility of services, use of small pocket devices with worldwide roaming capability, Internet and other multimedia applications, and a wide range of services and devices.
4G	Fourth Generation Wireless	4G is the successor to 3G and 2G families of standards. Speed requirements for 4G service set the peak download speed at 100 Mbit/s for high mobility communication (such as from trains and cars) and 1 Gbit/s for low mobility communication (such as pedestrians and stationary users).
ABS	AT&T Business Solutions	This team leads the business device sales efforts (stocked and non-stocked) and manages the B2B channels such as the VARs and Master Agents.
AF	Audio Frequency	The specific range on the electromagnetic spectrum (approximately 20 Hz to 20 kHz) that, when transmitted as acoustic waves, can be heard by the normal human ear.
AP	Access Point	The device that provides connection to a wireless system or network, for example, a wireless local area network (WLAN). Also known as a base station, the access point is usually connected to a wired network.

Acronym	Term	Description/Definition
APN	Access Point Name	Identifies an IP packet data network (PDN), that a mobile data user wants to communicate with.
AVL	AT&T Verified Labs	AT&T Verified Labs (AVL) work with device vendors by helping them determine the best initial test strategies and understanding the minimum requirements that AT&T expects for lab entry. The AVL can assist with controlling R&D and acceptance costs and help to save time to carrier acceptance. AVLs provide device validation services that offer organizations the benefits of device testing and quality assurance procedures.
BGP	Boarder Gateway Protocol	A formal set of conventions governing the routing of message exchanges within or between Autonomous Systems (ASs). The primary function of a BGP speaking system is to exchange network reach ability information with other BGP systems, including the list of Autonomous Systems that reach ability information traverses.
dBi	Decibel over isotropic	An antenna gain measurement unit that refers to the gain of an antenna in comparison to a theoretical isotropic (radiates in all direction equally) antenna.
DF	Dissipation Factor or Loss Tangent of Dielectric Material	Dissipation factor is a measure of loss-rate of power of a mode of oscillation (mechanical, electrical, or electromechanical) in a dissipative system.
E-911	Enhanced 911	An emergency wireless service that provides the emergency caller's callback number and approximate location as determined by the cell site or base station used during the call. This data is displayed on a screen while the wireless user's voice is transmitted over the landline network. With the location information, the public safety answering point (PSAP) operator can dispatch the nearest emergency service provider.
EDGE	Enhanced Data rates for (GSM) Evolution	A backward compatible digital mobile phone technology that allows improved data transmission rates as an extension on top of standard GSM.

Acronym	Term	Description/Definition
EDO	Emerging Devices Organization	The team focused on working with partners to bring innovative devices to market.
EOD	Enterprise On Demand	EOD is AT&T industry-leading service delivery platform designed specifically to support specialized or large scale wireless data deployments.
GPRS	General Packet Radio Service	A packet oriented mobile data service available to users of the GSM network.
GSM	Global System for Mobile Communications (Formally, Groupe Sp cial Mobile)	The pan-European digital cellular system standard (developed by a committee of European telecommunications administrators, operators, and manufacturers), now deployed worldwide at 900 MHz and gaining popularity at 1800 and 1900 MHz. Defines a radio interface based on 8-user time division multiple access (TDMA) with 200-kHz channel spacing and advanced features.
HSPDA	High Speed Downlink Packet Access	An enhanced 3G mobile telephony communications protocol in the High-Speed Packet Access (HSPA) family.
HSPA	High Speed Packet Access	HSPA supports increased peak data rates of up to 14 Mbit/s in the downlink and 5.8 Mbit/s in the uplink. It also reduces latency and provides up to five times more system capacity in the downlink and up to twice as much system capacity in the uplink, reducing the production cost per bit compared to original WCDMA protocols.
HSUPA	High Speed Uplink Packet Access	HSUPA uses an uplink enhanced dedicated channel (E-DCH) on which it employs link adaptation methods similar to those employed by High-Speed Downlink Packet Access HSDPA.

Acronym	Term	Description/Definition
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission	The IEC is a non-profit, non-governmental international standards organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies – collectively known as "electrotechnology". IEC standards cover a vast range of technologies from power generation, transmission and distribution to home appliances and office equipment, semiconductors, fibre optics, batteries, solar energy, nanotechnology and marine energy as well as many others. The IEC also manages three global conformity assessment systems that certify whether equipment, system or components conform to its International Standards.
IP Code	Ingress Protection Code	The IP Code or sometimes also interpreted as Ingress Protection Rating consists of the letters IP followed by two digits and an optional letter. As defined in international standard IEC 60529, it classifies the degrees of protection provided against the intrusion of solid objects (including body parts like hands and fingers), dust, accidental contact, and water in electrical enclosures. The standard aims to provide users more detailed information than vague marketing terms such as waterproof.
Kbps	kilobits per second	A measure of data transmission speed as a multiple of 1,000 bits per second. Also abbreviated kbit/s or kb/s.
LAN	Local Area Network	A data communications system confined to a limited geographic area with moderate to high data transmission rates (100 kbps to 50 Mbps). The area served may include a single building or a group of buildings located near each other. The network uses some type of switching technology, and does not use common carrier circuits, although it might have gateways or bridges to other public or private networks. LANs link personal computers, workstations, printers, file servers, and other peripherals.
LOS	Line of Sight	Straight-line transmission through the air where there are no obstructions between transmitter and receiver.
LTE	Long Term Evolution	The fourth generation mobile broadband standard, successor to UMTS.

Acronym	Term	Description/Definition
M2M	Machine-to-Machine	M2M is a set of networking and IT technologies connecting the world's physical systems.
MDM	Mobile Device Management	Mobile Device Management (MDM) enables administrators to manage enterprise applications deployed on corporate mobile devices. The goal of MDM is to establish protocols and mechanisms that permit management of corporate mobile devices including the necessary configuration to access services and management of the software on mobile devices.
MID	Mobile Internet Device	A multimedia capable handheld computer providing wireless internet access.
MIMO	Multiple Input Multiple Output	In radio, multiple input and multiple output is the use of multiple antennas at both the transmitter and receiver to improve communication performance. It is one of several forms of smart antenna technology.
MMS	Multimedia Messaging Service	The ability to send messages consisting of a combination of text, sounds, images, and video to MMS-capable handsets.
NDA	Non-Disclosure Agreement	A document signed by an individual or a group representative that pledges to keep confidential certain information encountered in the process of working with or for a company.
NR	Network Ready	Network Ready (formerly Network compatible) is the current name of the device certification program that provides technical support and testing to determine that a GSM based device will do no harm to the AT&T network.
NRD	Network Ready Device	Devices that AT&T does not stock or sell itself but which are certified by AT&T to access its network
ODM	Original Design Manufacturer	A company which designs and manufactures a product which is specified and eventually branded by another firm for sale.
OEM	Original Equipment Manufacturer	Manufactures products or components which are purchased by a purchasing company and retailed under the purchasing company's brand name.

Acronym	Term	Description/Definition
OMA	Open Mobile Alliance	An organization with headquarters in Mountain View, California, formed in June 2002 by nearly 200 companies representing mobile operators, device and network suppliers, information technology companies, and content providers. OMA is designed to be the center of mobile service standardization work, supporting the creation of interoperable services across countries, operators, and mobile terminals. OMA companies work toward adoption of a variety of new, enhanced mobile information, communication, and entertainment services. OMA was created by consolidating the Open Mobile Architecture initiative and the Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) Forum.
OS	Operating System	A software program that manages the basic functions (operations) of a computer or group of computers.
OTA	Over-the-air	OTA is synonymous for wireless.
PCB	Printed Circuit Board	A PCB is used to mechanically support and electrically connect electronic components using conductive pathways, tracks or signal traces etched from copper sheets laminated onto a non-conductive substrate. It is also referred to as printed wiring board or etched wiring board.
PND	Personal Navigation Device	A portable electronic product which combines a positioning capability (such as GPS) and navigation functions.
PoC	Push-to-talk over cellular	A real-time direct one-to-one and one-to-many voice communication service in the wireless network. The connection is 'always-on', so calls can be started to both individuals and talk groups with just a push of a key. The call connection is almost instantaneous and the receiver doesn't have to answer the call.
PSAP	Public Safety Answering Point	A customer premise system served through the PSTN that is responsible for answering emergency calls (911). Also known as public safety access point or emergency services access point (ESAP).
PTCRB	PCS Type Certification Review Board	A certification body originally established in North America that is now used globally to ensure compliance to a set of requirements, including 3GPP standards.

Acronym	Term	Description/Definition
RF	Radio Frequency	Electromagnetic carrier waves upon which audio, video, or data signals can be superimposed for transmission.
RX	Receive Mode	A signal type that refers to an incoming transmission. Also abbreviated Rx. (Rx) The portion of a telecommunications device that accepts and decodes an encoded signal into its desired form.
SBP	Session Based Pricing	SBP is a mobile broadband platform marketed by AT&T as DataConnect Pass that lets customers access our high-speed 3G network through a self-service provisioning portal from any internet connection. DataConnect Pass offers multiple packages of mobile data that is perfect for travelers, vacationers or others "on-the-go" and in need of customized data access. Customers can purchase packages in advance for one day or one week or one month either by using the AT&T Service Activation client software or by visiting the DataConnect Pass website.
SIM	Subscriber Identity Module	Used to identify a subscriber on mobile telephony devices.
SVD	Specialty Vertical Devices	Former name of device category that was comprised of devices that were not stocked by AT&T, mostly enterprise in nature. It is also formerly known as (COAM) customer owned and maintained.
TDMA	Time Division Multiple Access	TDMA is a channel access method for shared medium networks. It allows several users to share the same frequency channel by dividing the signal into different time slots. The users transmit in rapid succession, one after the other, each using their own time slot. This allows multiple stations to share the same transmission medium (e.g., radio frequency channel) while using only a part of its channel capacity.
TIS	Total Isotropic Sensitivity	TIS refers to receiver sensitivity, in dBm, integrated over the sphere. TIS measures the minimum power required to achieve a specified Bit Error-Rate (BER) or Frame Erasure Rate (FER). **Note**: TIS refers to an antenna measurement. Additional information is available in the technical document called *Antenna Fundamentals* that is located in the EDO Resource Center.

Acronym	Term	Description/Definition
TRP	Total Radiated Power	TRP is a measure for the spherical integrated radiated power of the device. **Note**: TRP refers to an antenna measurement. Additional information is available in the technical document called ***Antenna Fundamentals*** that is located in the EDO Resource Center.
UICC	Universal Integrated Circuit Card	The smart card used in mobile terminals in GSM and UMTS networks.
UMTS	Universal Mobile Telecommunications System	One of the third generation mobile telecommunications technologies.
VARS	Value Added Resellers	Experts in delivering bundled B2B data-only solutions focused on vertical markets, such as vehicle tracking, point-of-sale processing, remote asset monitoring, utility meter reading, and other telemetry or machine-to-machine type solutions.
VSWR	Voltage Standing Wave Ratio	In a transmission line, the ratio of maximum to minimum voltage in a standing, or stationary, wave pattern. The VSWR is a measure of impedance mismatch between the transmission line and its load. The higher the VSWR, the greater the mismatch. The minimum VSWR, which corresponds to a perfect impedance match, is unity.
WAN	Wide Area Network	A data network that encompasses a large geographic area and may provide a link between several local area networks (LANs). It is also a network that interconnects geographically-distributed computers or LANs.
WAP	Wireless Application Protocol	WAP is an open, worldwide standard enabling mobile data applications on a variety of platforms. It enables independent access to the Internet and advanced telephony services by specifying application and communication protocols for wireless devices. It is also a standard for accessing the internet with wireless devices (e.g., mobile phones).

Acronym	Term	Description/Definition
WLAN	Wireless Local Area Network	A WLAN is a type of communication system that transmits and receives data by means of modulated electromagnetic waves, either as an extension or an alternative to a wired local area network. WLANs are typically found in a small client node-dense setting (such as a campus or office building), or anywhere a traditional network cannot be deployed for logistical reasons. It is also a type of communication system that transmits and receives data by means of modulated electromagnetic waves, either as an extension or an alternative to a wired local area network.
WWAN	Wireless Wide Area Network	A WWAN differs from WLAN (wireless LAN) in that it uses mobile telecommunication cellular network technologies such as WIMAX (though it's better applied to WMAN Networks), UMTS, GPRS, EDGE, CDMA2000, GSM, CDPD, Mobitex, HSDPA, HSUPA or 3G to transfer data.