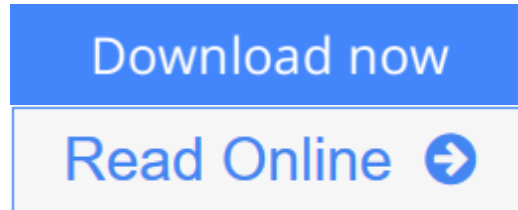


Webster's New World Telecom Dictionary

By Ray Horak



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Webster's New World Telecom Dictionary, by Ray Horak, is a comprehensive telecommunications dictionary of more than 7,500 terms critical to understanding voice, data, video, and multimedia communications system and network technologies, applications, and regulation. Given the convergence of computing and communications, the book also effectively is a computer dictionary with a telecom focus. It is thoroughly researched, highly objective, absolutely accurate, and includes just about every essential term, abbreviation, acronym, contraction, initialism, and portmanteau you might encounter in the telecom and datacom domains. Although the book is a technical dictionary, Horak's plain-English, commonsense style yields definitions that are as thoroughly understandable to the business professional or student as they are to the electrical engineer. In fact, many entries are encyclopedic in nature, discussing applications and issues. Horak also injects a bit of his wry sense of humor, sprinkling occasional telecom trivia and marginally related definitions that will have you smiling and chuckling to yourself, but not to the point that they detract from what is an important book on a serious subject. An instant classic, Webster's New World Telecom Dictionary is the one and only telecom dictionary you will need. It also makes a perfect companion to Horak's Telecommunications and Data Communications Handbook, published by Wiley-Interscience in October 2007.

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Editorial Review

Review

Webster's New World Telecom Dictionary is an excellent piece of work. A handful of other telecom dictionaries and encyclopedias are currently in print, by far the most popular of which is *Newton's Telecom Dictionary*. Because *Newton's* dominates the market and has done so for many years, any telecom dictionary or encyclopedia is inevitably compared to that work. *Webster's New World Telecom Dictionary* is no exception, particularly because Ray Horak was the contributing editor to *Newton's* from the 12th through the 22nd editions.

Although *Webster's* defines only 4,600 terms in comparison to *Newton's* highly dubious claim of some 24,500 terms, *Webster's* definitions are much better researched, much more precise, and much more efficiently worded (that is, there is much less "fluff"). Even if *Webster's* almost certainly will gain in bulk as future editions expand the coverage of the telecom domain, it contains all of the essential telecom and IT terms, and defines them clearly and concisely. *Webster's* includes many humorous definitions but, unlike *Newton's*, they are all relevant and meaningful. *Newton's*, on the other hand, is so full of personal observations and anecdotes, irrelevant humor (?), and inaccurate definitions as to make you wonder why bother to make the comparison at all.

Webster's New World Telecom Dictionary is an excellent piece of work. Ray Horak and his technical editor, Bill Flanagan, have collaborated to create a well-written, authoritative work that clearly sets a new standard for telecom dictionaries. I highly recommend it to anyone serious about telecom. (John R. Vacca, *The Internet Protocol Journal* (Cisco Systems), December 2008, pp. 36-38)

Webster's New World Telecom Dictionary by Ray Horak includes more than 4,600 terms essential to a clear and complete understanding of voice, data, video and multimedia communications system and network technologies, applications and regulations. Although the book is an excellent technical dictionary, Horak's plain-English, commonsense style yields definitions that are as thoroughly understandable to the business professional or student as they are to the electrical engineer. It is thoroughly researched, highly objective, absolutely accurate and includes just about every essential term, phrase, abbreviation, acronym, backronym, contraction, initialism and portmanteau you might encounter in the telecom and datacom domains. Many entries are encyclopedic in nature, discussing applications and issues, as well as technical specifics. The book clearly is the most authoritative contemporary telecom dictionary. (*NATD World*, October 27, 2008)

Webster's New World Telecom Dictionary by Ray Horak is comprehensive with more than 4,600 terms essential to a clear and comprehensive understanding of voice, data, video and multimedia communications system and network technologies, applications and regulations. Although the book is a technical dictionary, Horak's plain-English, commonsense style yields definitions that are as thoroughly researched, objective, accurate, and includes just about every essential term, abbreviation, acronym, contraction, initialism and portmanteau you might encounter in the telecom and datacom domains.

The book is the perfect companion to his *Telecommunications and Data Communications Handbook*, published by Wiley-Interscience in October 2007. Taken together, these two are all you need to get your arms around the essentials of telecom. (Reviewed by Mark Simon, Founder/CEO of EvinceMedia, *Telecom Reseller*, May/June 2008 Edition)

Many folks who entered the telecom trade during the 1980s and the go-go years of the 1990s came to rely on *Newton's Telecom Dictionary*, from long-time *BCR* columnist Harry Newton, as their guide to the wild and wooly world of telecom.

Unfortunately, those of us in the trade didn't think very highly of Harry's contribution. While it did not lack

for wit, Newton's Dictionary was woefully short on quality information. In fact, one of the ways the veterans identified the rookies was by the latter's dependence on what we looked at as a rather lame source.

For those who are entering the field today (and even for those who have been around for a while) there is a new dictionary that is worth the investment. Ray Horak, President of The Context Corporation, has written the *Webster's New World Telecom Dictionary*, and it's a gem. It's 559 pages of well-written, insightful information on everything from "A" (for Ampere) to "Zero-Water Peak Fiber", not to mention symbols like Octothorpe (i.e. the "#" sign) and all those terms we have that begin with numbers starting like "0B + D". Mr. Horak's book is thoroughly researched, and contains an unfathomable wealth of detail. I have taught data networking for over 25-years and pride myself on precision- this book is precise. Where you might *think* you know the definition of that term, here you'll find that definition expressed with absolute precision and find three other definitions you weren't even aware of.

Ours is a challenging field, and good sources of information are few and far between. The *Webster's New World Telecom Dictionary* is a source you can count on. If they have a Jeopardy category on "Telecom Trivia", my money's on Ray Horak.—Reviewed by Michael Finneran, dBrn Associates (*NoJitter.com*, May 29, 2008)

What's remarkable about this work is it defines over 4,600 telecom terms and, scanning through it, it appears there are more TLAs (three-letter acronyms) involved than the mind can comfortably encompass. I've found the dictionary incredibly useful when researching, and every now and then I find an interesting snippet of trivia (did you know Bob Metcalfe's middle name is "Melancton"?). (Reviewed by Mark Gibbs, *Network World*, 4/30/08)

Books about telecom subjects generally fall into one of two categories: Very Basic or Incomprehensible. For the vast majority of us that fall between these two extremes, there is a new dictionary of telecom terms that is neither too technical, nor condescending.

The standard text, and one of the most widely read books in telecom, has been Newton's Telecom Dictionary, now in its 23rd edition. But, the man who edited Newton's for much of its history, has now published his own version of a telecom dictionary. *Webster's New World Telecom Dictionary* (Wiley, 2008, ISBN 978-0-471-77457-0) is written by Ray Horak.

A dictionary is one of the most difficult books to write. Just coming up with a comprehensive list of terms is onerous enough in itself. But, to define each of these terms in a way that is understandable by the unwashed masses, is mind boggling.

Horak has done an admirable job, and created a work that can be used where Newton's can cause problems. For example, in the expert witness work I sometimes perform, Newton's funny or flippant definitions can be used to impugn the credibility of the source itself. You will not have this problem with Webster's; it is a work that will never cause you a red face if you use it in a hostile environment.

In all, I will continue to keep both on my bookshelf, and value them both, cognizant of the differences. (Reviewed by Gene Retske, *The Prepaid Press*, April 2008)

I found a lot to like about *Webster's New World Telecom Dictionary*. First, it is indeed very easy to read, and contains a lot of detail, as well as good cross referencing in the entries where needed. Second, it provides good illustrations and diagrams that get the point across. Finally, while touted as a dictionary, it feels more like an encyclopedia in that it does not have that dry dictionary form—but rather a more inviting feel that makes you want to come explore. Whether you are a telecom or IT professional, do yourself a favor and get *Webster's New World Telecom Dictionary* as it is highly recommended. (T. Michael Testi, *BC Books*, October 31, 2007)

Review

"For anyone who has to work in our field, and particularly for those who must describe it to others, I highly

recommend Ray Horak's Telecom Dictionary. It is over 500-pages of thoroughly researched, densely packed, and wonderfully entertaining information for anyone who works in the telecom field."

–**Jim Burton**, Unified Communications Strategies

From the Back Cover

Authoritative, complete, and user-friendly

The telecommunications field is exploding. Wired and wireless telecommunications networks today support data and video transmission as well as voice, and new terminology is constantly evolving.

Whether you're a telecommunications professional, technician, service provider, or student, this comprehensive reference offers you appropriate technical depth in commonsense plain-English style with an occasional dash of Ray Horak's unique sense of humor. You'll find it easy to locate terms, place them in context, and understand the latest developments, including:

- Power Line Carrier (PLC)
- Passive Optical Network (PON)
- 802.11, 802.16, Bluetooth and WiMAX
- Multiple Input Multiple Output (MIMO)
- Storage Area Networks (SANs)
- Digital Subscriber Line (DSL)
- DenseWavelength Division Multiplexing (DWDM)
- Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) vs. H.323
- Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Luther Brown:

Webster's New World Telecom Dictionary can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to set every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing Webster's New World Telecom Dictionary yet doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be one of it. This great information could drawn you into new stage of crucial considering.

Amber Payne:

In this period globalization it is important to someone to receive information. The information will make professionals understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information simpler to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, classifieds, book, and soon. You can observe that now, a lot of publisher that will print many kinds of book. The actual book that recommended to you personally is Webster's New World Telecom Dictionary this guide consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented so why is the world has grown up. The words styles that writer make usage of to explain it is easy to understand. Typically the writer made some research when he makes this book. That is why this book appropriate all of you.

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