The number of commonly-used acronyms is increasing every day. To help you sort them all out, here is a short list of selected technical acronyms related to computing, networking, PostScript, printing, and scanning.

A   AA . . . . Author's Alteration
A/D . . . . Analog to Digital
ADB. . . . . . . Apple Desktop Bus (Macintosh bus for input, i.e., keyboards, mice, etc.)
AFM . . . . . . Adobe Font Metrics
AFP. . . . . . . AppleTalk Filing Protocol (network file system from Apple)
ANSI . . . . . . American National Standards Institute
APD. . . . . . . Aldus Printer Description file
ASCII. . . . . . American Standard Code for Information Interchange
ASIC . . . . . . Application Specific Integrated Circuit
AT . . . . Advanced Technology, as in, PC-AT
ATM. . . . . . . Adobe Type Manager

B   BDR . . . . . . Basic Density Range
BMP . . . . . . As in bitmapped (PC file format)
BNC . . . . . . Bayonet-Neill-Concelman, or, British National Connector (for coaxial cables)
BPS. . . . . . . Bits Per Second (also KBS and MBS for Kilo- and Megabits Per Second)

C   CAD/CAM . . Computer Assisted Design/Computer Assisted Manufacturing
CCD . . . . . . Charge-Coupled Device
CCITT . . . . . Consultative Committee for International Telephony and Telegraphy
 . . . . (communications standards organization)
CD. . . . . Compact Disk
CDR . . . . . . Copy Density Range
CD-ROM . . . Compact Disk - Read Only Memory
CEPS . . . . . Color Electronic Prepress System
CGA . . . . . . Color Graphics Adapter (video display standard)
CGI . . . . Computer Graphics Interface
CGM . . . . . . Computer Graphics Metafile (file format)
CIE . . . . Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage (color standard which includes the
 . . . . following color spaces: CIE Lab, CIE L*a*b*, CIE Luv, CIE Lu'v', and CIE xyz)
CISC . . . . . . Complex Instruction Set Computer
CMOS . . . . . Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor (semiconductor type)
CMS . . . . . . Color Management System
CMYK . . . . . Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black (ink colors for printing)
CORA . . . . . Computer Orientated Reproducer Assembly (Linotype-Hell proprietary type-
 . . . . setting language, also, the name of the principle programmer's wife)
CPU . . . . . . Central Processing Unit
CRC . . . . . . Cyclical Redundancy Checking (error checking technique)
CRT. . . . . . . Cathode Ray Tube
CT . . . . Continuous Tone
CT2T . . . . . . Continuous Tone To Tape

D   DA . . . . Desk Accessory
DAT . . . . Digital Audio Tape
DCS . . . . . . Desktop Color Separation
DCT. . . . . . . Discrete Cosine Transform (encoding and decoding technique)
DCX . . . . . . (scanned image format)
DDCP . . . . . Direct-Digital Color Proof

DDES . . . . . Digital Data Exchange Standards
DENSY . . . . Direct ENtry SYstem (Linotype-Hell proprietary typesetting language)
DMA . . . . . . Direct Memory Access (standard memory access procedure)
DOS . . . . . . Disk Operating System
DPI . . . . Dots Per Inch
DRAM . . . . . Dynamic Random Access Memory
DSP. . . . . . . Digital Signal Processor (specialized computer chip)
DTP. . . . . . . DeskTop Publishing
DXF. . . . . . . (2-d graphics CAD format)

E EBCDIC . . . Extended Binary Coded Decimal Interchange Code
EDG . . . . . . Electronic Dot Generator (or Generation)
EEPROM. . . Electrically Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory (see EPROM)
EGA . . . . . . Enhanced Graphics Adapter (video display standard)
EISA . . . . . . Extended Industry Standard Architecture (PC bus standard)
EPROM. . . . Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory (see EEPROM)
EPS. . . . . . . Encapsulated PostScript
ESDI . . . . . . Enhanced Small Device Interface (hardware standard for connecting disk
. . . . and tape drives to computers)

F FDDI . . . . . . Fiber optic Data Distribution Interface (ANSI Standard for fiber optic LANs)
FLOPS . . . . FLOating point operations Per Second
FOND . . . . . FONt family Descriptor
FPU. . . . . . . Floating Point Unit
FTP . . . . File Transfer Protocol

G GATF. . . . . . Graphic Arts Technical Foundation
GB. . . . . Gigabyte
GCR . . . . . . Gray Component Replacement
GCR . . . . . . Group Coded Recording (disk format standard)
GEM . . . . . . Graphics Environment Manager (user interface and vector graphic file format)
GIF . . . . Graphic Interchange Format (CompuServe graphic file format)
GKS . . . . . . Graphical Kernel System
GPIB . . . . . . General Purpose Interface Board (or Bus)
GUI . . . . Graphical User Interface

H HADA . . . . . High Availability Disk Array
HCL. . . . . . . Hue, Chroma and Luminance (color model)
HDTV . . . . . High Definition Television
HeNe. . . . . . Helium Neon (graphic arts laser)
HGC . . . . . . Hercules Graphic Card (video display standard)
H&J . . . . Hyphenation and Justification
HPGL . . . . . Hewlett Packard Graphics Language (also a file format)
HQS . . . . . . High Quality Screening (HQS Screening is a Linotype-Hell registered trademark)
HSB. . . . . . . Hue, Saturation and Brightness (color model), similarly named models are:
. . . . HSI (I = Intensity), HSL (L =Lightness or Luminance) and HSV (V =Value)
Hz . . . . Hertz (frequency unit equal to one cycle per second, also KHz and MHz for
. . . . Kilo- and Megahertz)

I IEEE . . . . . . Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (involved with standards)
IGES . . . . . . Initial Graphics Exchange Specification (ANSI standard for CAD/CAM)
IMG . . . . As in image (GEM raster file format)
I/O . . . . Input/Output
IS. . . . . Irrational Screening (I.S. Technology is a Linotype-Hell trademark)
ISDN . . . . . . Integrated Services Digital Network
ISO . . . . International Standards Organization
ISV . . . . Independent Software Vendor

J, K, L JPEG. . . . . . Joint Photographic Experts Group
KB . . . . Kilobyte, (K or k by itself can mean 1024 or 1000 units)
LAN . . . . Local Area Network
LASER . . . . Light Amplification from the Stimulated Emission of Radiation

LCD . . . . Liquid Crystal Display
LED . . . . Light Emitting Diode
LIRA . . . . . . Linotype Image Rasterizing Accelerator
LI-2, LI-5 . . . Linotype Interfaces
LPI . . . . Lines Per Inch
LUT . . . . Look-Up Table
LVT . . . . Light Valve Technology
LW . . . . Line Work
LZW . . . . . . Lempel-Ziv-Welch (compression standard)

M   MB . . . . Megabyte
MCA . . . . . . Micro Channel Architecture (internal bus for IBM PS/2)
MDA . . . . . . Monochrome Display Adapter (video display standard)
MFLOPS . . . Million FLOating point instructions Per Second
MFM . . . . . . Modified Frequency Modulation (disk format standard)
MGA . . . . . . Monochrome Graphic Adapter (video display standard)
MICR . . . . . . Magnetic Ink Character Recognition
MIPS . . . . . . Million Instructions Per Second
MIS . . . . Management Information System
MODEM . . . MOdulator/DEModulator
MS-DOS . . . MicroSoft Disk Operating System
MSDS . . . . . Material Data Safety Sheet (data sheet that comes with chemical products)
MTBF . . . . . Mean Time Between Failure

N   NFNT . . . . . New FoNT numbering system
NFS . . . . Network File System (distributed file system from Sun)
NTSC . . . . . National Television Systems Committee (US Color TV standard)
NuBus . . . . . (32-bit bus architecture for Macintosh II computers)

O   OCR . . . . . . Optical Character Recognition
OEM . . . . . . Original Equipment Manufacturer
OPI . . . . Open Prepress Interface
OS . . . . Operating System
OSF . . . . Open Software Foundation
OSI . . . . Open System Interconnection (ISO standard communications protocol)

P   PAL . . . . Phase Alternating Line system (European color TV standard)
PAL . . . . Programmable Array Logic (customizable chip, also known as a gate array)
PC . . . . Personal Computer
PCB . . . . Printed Circuit Board
PCX . . . . (raster graphics format for PC Paintbrush)
PDL . . . . Page Description Language
PDS . . . . Processor Direct Slot
PDX . . . . Printer Description eXtension
PE . . . . Printer's Error
PGA . . . . . . Professional Graphics Adapter (video display standard)
pH . . . . Potential of Hydrogen (measure of acidity/alkalinity)
PHIGS . . . . . Programmers Hierarchical Interactive Graphics Standard (language for
 . . . . creating 2-D and 3-D graphic images)
PIC . . . . (Lotus file format)
PICT . . . . . . As in picture (Macintosh file format)
PMMU . . . . . Paged Memory Management Unit
PMS . . . . . . Pantone Matching System
PMT . . . . . . PhotoMechanical Transfer (photostat)
PMT . . . . . . PhotoMultiplier Tube
PPD . . . . PostScript Printer Description (includes APDs and PDXs)
PPI . . . . Pixels Per Inch
PROM . . . . . Programmable Read-Only Memory

Q,R   QC . . . . Quality Control
RAID . . . . . . Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks
RAM . . . . . . Random Access Memory

RC . . . . Resin-Coated (photographic paper)
RGB . . . . . . Red, Green and Blue (color space describing mixing of light)
RIFF . . . . . . Raster Image File Format
RIP . . . . Raster Image Processor
RISC . . . . . . Reduced Instruction Set Computer
ROM . . . . . . Read-Only Memory
RLE . . . . Run Length Encoding (compression technique)
RLL . . . . Run Length Limited (method for encoding data)
RRED . . . . . Right Reading Emulsion Down
RREU . . . . . Right Reading Emulsion Up
RS-232 . . . . (serial interface, RS may stand for registered specification or received signal)
RT . . . . Rational Tangent (RT Screening is a Linotype-Hell registered trademark)
RTF . . . . Rich Text Format

S   SCODL . . . . Scanned Conversion Object Description Language (also a PC file format
       . . . . for film recorders)
     SCSI . . . . . . Small Computer System Interface (interface standard)
     SECAM . . . . Sequential Couleur A'Memorie (French & Russian Color TV Standard)
     SGML . . . . . Standard Graphic Markup Language
     SIMM . . . . . . Single In-Line Memory Module
     SMPTE . . . . Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers
     SNAP . . . . . Specification for Non-heat Advertising Printing
     SPARC . . . . Scalable Performance ARChitecture (32-bit RISC computer)
     SWOP . . . . . (revised) Specifications for Web Offset Printing

T   TARGA . . . . Truevision Advanced Raster Graphics Adapter (video graphics standard)
     TCP/IP . . . . Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (network protocol)
     TGA . . . . . . TARGA (file format)
     TIFF . . . . . . Tagged Image File Format (raster image file format)

U   UCR . . . . . . Under Color Removal
     U&lc . . . . . . Upper & lower case
     UPC . . . . . . Universal Product Code
     USM . . . . . . UnSharp Masking
     UV . . . . Ultra Violet

V   VAR . . . . Value Added Reseller
     VDT . . . . Video Display Terminal
     VGA . . . . Video Graphics Array (video display standard)
     VLSI . . . . . . Very Large Scale Integration
     VM . . . . Virtual Memory
     VME . . . . . . (IEEE bus standard)
     VRAM . . . . . Video Random Access Memory

W, X, Y, Z   WAN . . . . . . Wide Area Network
     WATS . . . . . Wide Area Telephone Service
     WMF . . . . . . Windows Metafile (vector file format for the PC)
     WORM . . . . Write Once Read Multiple
     WRED . . . . . Wrong Reading Emulsion Down
     WREU . . . . . Wrong Reading Emulsion Up
     WYSIWYG . What You See Is What You Get
     XGA . . . . . . eXtended Graphics Array (video display standard)
     YIQ . . . . (color components in NTSC color space)
     YUV . . . . (color components in SECAM and PAL color spaces)

Comments   Please direct your comments to:

                                Jim Hamilton, Linotype-Hell Co., 425 Oser Ave., Hauppauge, NY 11788

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