

Industry Terms Cheat Sheet

Telecommunications

Acronym	Meaning	Simple Definition
3G	Third Generation	An older mobile standard that improved voice quality and enabled faster data.
4G	Fourth Generation	A mobile standard that delivers faster, more reliable broadband than 3G.
5G	Fifth Generation	A newer mobile standard with higher speeds, lower delay, and more device capacity.
ADSL	Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line	Broadband over copper phone lines, usually with faster downloads than uploads.
CDMA	Code Division Multiple Access	A cellular method that lets multiple users share the same frequency band.
DSL	Digital Subscriber Line	A technology that provides internet service over standard copper phone lines.
FDMA	Frequency Division Multiple Access	A method that assigns separate frequency channels to different users.
GSM	Global System for Mobile Communications	A widely used digital cellular standard for voice and mobile data.
IP	Internet Protocol	The rules used to address and route data between devices across networks.
ISP	Internet Service Provider	A company that provides customers with internet access.
LTE	Long-Term Evolution	A high-speed wireless broadband standard commonly associated with 4G.
PSTN	Public Switched Telephone Network	The traditional worldwide network used for public telephone calls.
QoS	Quality of Service	Network controls that prioritize important traffic, such as voice or video.
RF	Radio Frequency	Electromagnetic frequencies used to carry wireless signals.
SIP	Session Initiation Protocol	A protocol used to start, manage, and end voice or video sessions over IP.
VoIP	Voice over Internet Protocol	Technology that carries phone calls and other voice traffic over the internet.
VPN	Virtual Private Network	An encrypted connection that protects data traveling over a public network.
WAN	Wide Area Network	A network that connects locations across a large geographic area.
Wi-Fi	Wireless Fidelity	Wireless networking technology based on the IEEE 802.11 standards.
WLAN	Wireless Local Area Network	A local network that connects devices wirelessly within a limited area.

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Cloud Computing

Acronym	Meaning	Simple Definition
API	Application Programming Interface	Rules that let different software applications communicate and share functions.
AWS	Amazon Web Services	Amazon's cloud platform for computing, storage, databases, and other services.
Azure	Microsoft Azure	Microsoft's cloud platform for building, hosting, and managing applications and services.
CDN	Content Delivery Network	A distributed server network that delivers content from a location close to the user.
CRM	Customer Relationship Management	Software used to manage customer information, sales activity, and interactions.
DRaaS	Disaster Recovery as a Service	A cloud service that helps restore data and systems after an outage or disaster.
GCP	Google Cloud Platform	Google's cloud platform for computing, storage, data, and application services.
IaaS	Infrastructure as a Service	On-demand virtual servers, storage, and networking delivered over the internet.
PaaS	Platform as a Service	A managed cloud environment for developing and running applications.
SaaS	Software as a Service	Subscription software accessed online and managed by the provider.
SLA	Service Level Agreement	An agreement that states expected service levels, responsibilities, and performance.
VM	Virtual Machine	A software-based computer that runs like a physical computer.
VPN	Virtual Private Network	An encrypted connection that protects data traveling over a public network.
VPC	Virtual Private Cloud	An isolated private network environment hosted within a public cloud.
HCI	Hyper-Converged Infrastructure	A single system that combines computing, storage, and networking.
DaaS	Desktop as a Service	Virtual desktops hosted and delivered by a cloud provider.
FaaS	Functions as a Service	A cloud model for running individual pieces of code without managing servers.
CaaS	Containers as a Service	A cloud service for deploying, scaling, and managing application containers.
EUC	End User Computing	Technology that lets employees access and use workplace applications and desktops.
K8s	Kubernetes	An open-source platform that automates deployment and management of containers.

Industry Terms Cheat Sheet

Cybersecurity

Acronym	Meaning	Simple Definition
APT	Advanced Persistent Threat	A targeted cyberattack in which an intruder stays hidden in a network for a long time.
AV	Antivirus	Software that detects, blocks, and removes malicious software.
BYOD	Bring Your Own Device	A policy allowing employees to use personal devices for work.
CIA	Confidentiality, Integrity, and Availability	Three core goals used to protect information and systems.
DDoS	Distributed Denial of Service	An attack that floods a system with traffic so legitimate users cannot access it.
DMZ	Demilitarized Zone	A separated network area used for public-facing services.
EPP	Endpoint Protection Platform	Security software that protects laptops, desktops, and other endpoint devices.
IAM	Identity and Access Management	Policies and tools that control who can access systems and data.
IDS	Intrusion Detection System	A tool that monitors systems or networks and alerts on suspicious activity.
IPS	Intrusion Prevention System	A tool that detects and automatically blocks suspicious network activity.
MDM	Mobile Device Management	Software used to manage and secure employee mobile devices.
NAC	Network Access Control	Rules and tools that decide which users and devices may join a network.
PKI	Public Key Infrastructure	Technology and processes used to manage digital certificates and encryption keys.
SOC	Security Operations Center	A team or facility that monitors and responds to security threats.
TLS	Transport Layer Security	A protocol that encrypts data sent between systems over a network.
VPN	Virtual Private Network	An encrypted connection that protects data traveling over a public network.
WAF	Web Application Firewall	A security filter that monitors and blocks harmful web application traffic.
2FA/MFA	Two-Factor Authentication / Multi-Factor Authentication	A login method requiring two or more types of identity proof.
SIEM	Security Information and Event Management	A platform that collects and analyzes security alerts and activity in real time.

Industry Terms Cheat Sheet

Cybersecurity Compliance

Acronym	Meaning	Simple Definition
PCI DSS	Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard	Security requirements for organizations that store, process, or transmit payment-card data.
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act	A U.S. law that sets privacy and security requirements for protected health information.
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation	An EU regulation governing how organizations collect, use, and protect personal data.
SOX	Sarbanes-Oxley Act	A U.S. law governing financial reporting and internal controls for public companies.
ISO 27001	International Organization for Standardization 27001	An international standard for creating and maintaining an information security management system.
NIST	National Institute of Standards and Technology	A U.S. agency that publishes widely used technology and cybersecurity standards and guidance.
FISMA	Federal Information Security Management Act	A U.S. law requiring federal agencies to maintain information security programs.
GLBA	Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act	A U.S. law requiring financial institutions to protect consumers' financial information.
COPPA	Children's Online Privacy Protection Act	A U.S. law regulating online collection of personal information from children under 13.
CCPA	California Consumer Privacy Act	A California law that gives consumers rights over how businesses use personal information.
FERPA	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act	A U.S. law protecting the privacy of student education records.
CISA	Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act	A U.S. law that supports sharing information about cybersecurity threats.
CMMC	Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification	A U.S. Department of Defense program for verifying contractor cybersecurity practices.
HITECH	Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act	A U.S. law promoting health technology and strengthening health-data protections.
RFPA	Right to Financial Privacy Act	A U.S. law limiting government access to customers' financial records.
NYDFS	New York Department of Financial Services	The New York regulator responsible for cybersecurity rules including 23 NYCRR 500.
DFARS	Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement	U.S. Department of Defense contracting rules that include cybersecurity requirements.