Glossary

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Note:
The definitions used in this glossary pertain only to GreenNet and APC affiliated networks. While some definitions may be generic and applicable to other contexts or other computer networks, the purpose of this glossary is to familiarise you with terms used in this manual and on the APC Networks.

account — Your “subscription” to the Network.

account name — Same as your “log-in ID” or “User ID”. The word you type at the “`Login:`” prompt; your “electronic name”, or “username”. Your account name can be no longer than 12 characters, and have no spaces between them.

address — The phrasing you use to write email to another user on any network, including APC. Within APC, the address can take the form of **<username>@<network>** or **<network>:<username>**. We have used the first format throughout this manual for the sake of clarity. Note that the **@** or **:** is essential between the suffix and any user-name. The **<network>** part of the address (referred to here as the “suffix”) usually takes the form of an abbrevation of the full network name. See individual network details listed in this Glossary.

Alternex — Member of the Association for Progressive Communications (see APC). Located in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Identifying suffix is **ax**. Address format is **<user>@<ax>**. See entry for **address**.

APC — Association for Progressive Communications. Formed in 1987 to promote international communications among organisations and individuals working

in the peace, environmental, conflict resolution, development and aid, human rights, health and public interest communities worldwide. Members include: Alternex in Brazil; Chasque in Uruguay; ComLink in Germany; Ecuanex in Ecuador; GlasNet in Russia; GreenNet in London, England; IGC Networks (PeaceNet, EcoNet, ConflictNet and HomeoNet) in the USA; Nicarao in Nicaragua; NordNet in Sweden; Pegasus Networks in Australia; Web in Canada.

ASCII — American Standard Code for Information Interchange. The form in which text characters are handled in most computer systems and networks. ASCII text has no special characters for formatting such as underlined or bold characters, font changes, etc. Network files of ASCII text can be viewed on the screen (as opposed to binary files, which cannot be). In the context of protocols for uploading or downloading, “ascii” means “keep it quick and crude”.

ax — Identifying suffix for APC member “Alternex”. Appears in electronic mail and conferencing as part of the user’s address. See entry for **Alternex.**

bit	The smallest unit of data. Seven or eight bits are typically used to represent a single character of text. (The name is from BInary digiT: one binary digit can have a value of 0 or 1. A decimal digit can have a value of 0, 1, 2...9.)
baud rate	The speed at which data is transmitted over telephone lines. For example, a 1200 baud modem sends data at a rate of 1200 bits per second. The Network can operate at almost any speed, but dial-in direct-dial and Public Data Network access speeds are commonly 300, 1200, or 2400 baud.
binary file	A file containing data bits which do not represent printable characters. Some binary files may be computer programs or other forms of data that contain no text characters at all. Binary files cannot be displayed on your screen, but can be downloaded for use with appropriate applications on your computer.
bye	The BYE command logs you off the Network (closes your session); all Network charges cease but British Telecom, unlike civilised phone companies, goes on charging for the local call until you hang up the phone.
byte	A group of 8 bits. Almost all desk-top computers use this as their smallest unit of storage.
Cc:	Carbon Copy: The prompt in the mail system which allows the user to enter one or more user IDs in order to send copies of a message to them.
Carriage Return	The <RETURN> key on your keyboard. All commands used on the Network must be followed by <RETURN>. Also called <CR> or Enter. The name comes from early Telex-like terminals which had separate keys for carriage return (go to the beginning of the line) and Line Feed.
cdp	This acronym stands for Community Data Processing. It is also the name of the computer on which the USA-based IGC networks live (PeaceNet, EcoNet, etc). You may see it at times as part of an address of a user on the US networks; however, it is generally better to use the suffix “igc” when sending to a user on IGC (see entry for **igc**).
character	Any symbol (usually alphabetic, numeric, or punctuation) that can be entered into your computer or the Network
chasque	Identifying suffix for APC member “Chasque”. Appears in electronic mail and conferencing as part of the user’s address. See entry for **Chasque.**
Chasque	Member of the Association for Progressive Communications (see APC). Located in Montevideo, Uruguay. Identifying suffix is **chasque**. Address format is **<user>@<chasque>**. See entry for **address**.
comlink	Identifying suffix for APC member “ComLink”. Appears in electronic mail and conferencing as part of the user’s address. See entry for **ComLink.**
ComLink	Member of the Association for Progressive Communications (see APC). Located in Hannover, Germany. Identifying suffix is **comlink** . Address format is **<user>@<comlink>**. See entry for **address**.
command	An instruction you give to the Network to carry out a specific action. Some often-used commands are (c)onf and (m)ail.

communications Pertaining to (a) the software that allows you to communicate with a network; (b) the messages or postings you create or read online.

<CR> Shorthand for Carriage Return: the <RETURN> or <ENTER> key on your keyboard. All commands used on the system should be followed by <CR>.

(c)onf The CONFERENCE command takes you into the Network conference system.

conference On the APC Networks, an electronic "meeting place" dedicated to a particular subject where users come to participate in discussions or group projects. Conferences can be used to post a variety of information such as news services, newsletters, statistics, etc.

database A collection of information that can be sorted and searched in a variety of ways.

data bits See **bit.** In modem settings, the number of bits of data representing one text character; the number of bits sent between "stop bits". If your settings are S-7-1, each character is represented by 7 data bits (allowing 128 characters to be defined), plus one "parity bit" (*qv*) and one stop bit: a total of 9.

Datapac The Scandinavian Public Data Network through which users can access NordNet more cheaply than logging in via a national or international phone call. It features up to 9600 baud access (see entry for **PDN**).

delimiter A character which separates the different components of a name or "address" on a computer. Within APC, the delimiter for (m)ail addresses is **@** as in "`support@peg`" (or `support@gn` or `support@web`). You will also see the form "`peg:support`" or "`gn:support`". Both forms are valid - we have used the first type throughout the manual for the sake of clarity. (See entry for **address** in this Glossary.) The delimiter in (c)onference names is "." (full stop) as in "`reg.china`" (the conference on China in the regional conference group).

default A software function or operation which occurs automatically unless the user specifies something else.

Dialplus British Telecom local dial-in access method to the British Public Data Network, "PSS", through which you can access GreenNet more cheaply than by long-distance telephone line. It features access up to 2400-baud and MNP Level 5 error correction.

download To transfer a binary or ASCII file from the Network to your computer. So-called on the assumption that the transfer is "down" from our big computer to a smaller one.

ecuanex Identifying suffix for APC member "Ecuanex". Appears in electronic mail and conferencing as part of the user's address. See entry for **Ecuanex**.

Ecuanex Member of the Association for Progressive Communications (see APC). Located in Quito, Ecuador. Identifying suffix is **ecuanex**. Address format is **<user>@<ecuanex>**.See entry for **address**.

editor A program that allows you to correct or change your message. The Network editor program is named "Millie".

email Electronic mail; transfer of messages between you and other users in the APC system, or by means of gateways to or from users in other systems. Email is similar to an ordinary letter; you supply the address of the

recipient(s) and the

text of the message. It is different in that delivery takes place in minutes or hours rather than days.

Enter — The <RETURN> key on your keyboard. Almost all commands used on the Network should be followed by <RETURN>. Also called <CR> or Carriage Return.

facsimile (fax) — A machine that allows transmission of a visual image over phone lines to another fax machine. Originally, you needed a facsimile machine to send to another facsimile machine. Today you can send text-only files (not graphics or binary files) to any facsimile machine through the Network. But you cannot currently receive a fax from a facsimile machine through the system.

file — A named group of characters or data bits in your computer or on the Network. Files in a computer are similar to file folders in a filing cabinet.

font — The name used to describe a family of characters with distinctive shapes. Examples are Palatino, Avante Garde, and `Courier`.

full duplex — Communication providing simultaneous sending and receiving of data.

JANET — The Joint Academic NETwork, a computer messaging system for academics in the UK.

gateways — Electronic “doors” enabling you to transfer messages between the Network and many other computer systems such as Bitnet, Internet, Usenet, etc. APC gateways can also be used to send messages to fax and telex machines.

generic — A terminal type setting; can be changed using the (s)etup option at the main menu; when you select “generic” the current screen’s text scrolls up to make room for a new screen each time you “hit <RETURN> for more”. Text is never erased from the screen.

gn — The suffix appended to all GreenNet accounts in electronic mail and conferencing when they are received by another APC network. See entry for **GreenNet** . (If your account is on GreenNet, **gn** may not appear as part of your or other GreenNet accounts, but it does on the computers in Russia, Canada, the US, Uruguay, Brazil, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Germany, Sweden and Australia. Equally, when they write to a GreenNet user, they have to write to **<user>@<gn>**.)

GreenNet — A member of the Association for Progressive Communications (see APC); located in London, England and serving most of western Europe. Identifying suffix is **gn**. Address format is **<user>@<gn>**. See entry for **address**.

half duplex — Communication providing both sending and receiving, but alternating between sending and receiving rather than doing both simultaneously.

handshaking — A procedure performed by modems, terminals, and computers to establish communication correctly.

hardcopy — A printout of a computer file; a printed version of anything. What makes it “hard” is that it exists on paper. Example: “I have a hardcopy of the proposal here on my desk, but I’d rather make changes directly to the copy in my computer.”

hardware	Physical electronic devices such as computers, printers, keyboards, modems, or cables. As opposed to software, which is computer programs.
(h)elp	The HELP command can get you advice on how to use the Network . Use it or type “?” whenever you’re puzzled or unsure of what to do next.
igc	Identifying suffix for APC member IGC (Institute for Global Communications)., found in electronic mail and conferencing as past of a user’s account name. .See entry for **IGC.**
IGC	Institute for Global Communications. The U.S. member of the APC (Association for Progressive Communications), and provider of EcoNet, PeaceNet, HomeoNet and ConflictNet. Its identifying suffix is **igc**. See entry for **address**.
(i)ndex	On the Network, the INDEX command shows a list of mail messages or conference topic titles.
Internet	A global network of thousands of mainly academic computer sites Mail can be exchanged between the Internet and APC; several nodes also have full Internet membership, which allow cheap access for those users who have access to an Internet site. Your “Internet-style” address format is: **<user>@<network>.apc.org** - eg **support@gn.apc.org.** This style of address is recognisable to almost any other electronic mail system; use this form of your address when a non-APC person asks for your e-mail address.
kermit	A communications protocol that allows you to transfer files between your computer and the Network. Kermit has built-in error correction and can handle binary (non-text) files.
log in	Connect to the Network , then type your User ID and password after making the phone connection. Sometimes called “log on”.
log off	Leave the Network by entering “bye” at the main menu command line prompt. Sometimes called “log out”.
log-in ID	Same as “account name” or “user ID”. The 1-to-12 character word you type in at the “Login” prompt; your “electronic name”.
(m)ail	The MAIL command takes you into the Network Mail system.
menu	A list of selectable functions.
MNP	An error-correction protocol which is implemented in the hardware of a modem (or sometimes in communication software, such as zmodem). This has a number of advantages over protocols like xmodem and kermit which are invoked only for specific file transfers.
modem	A piece of computer hardware that enables your computer or terminal to communicate (read APC messages, exchange files, etc.) over telephone lines. You must have a modem in order to connect to the Network. (The name comes from MODulator-DEModulator: in this context “modulate” means to convert data into a series of not-quite-musical tones.).
modem setup	Instructions to your modem on how it should send data. Set the highest speed your modem handles (out of 300, 1200, 2400 and 9600 baud). If you are accessing the Network via a Public Data Network, and your communications software supports “Space parity”, set Space parity, 7 data bits, 1 stop bit (S-7-1).

Otherwise, set No parity, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, (N-8-1). Set full duplex to work correctly with the Network.

Network — In this manual, “the Network” refers to NordNet or GreenNet However, all member networks which form the global network of APC are implicit in this reference.

network — A collection of two or more computers interconnected by telephone lines, coaxial cables, satellite links, radio, and/or some other communication technique.

nicarao — Identifying suffix found in electronic mail and conferencing as part of a user’s account name. Identifies user as a member of Nicarao. Address format is **<user>@<nicarao>**. See entry for **Nicarao**.

Nicarao — Member of the Association for Progressive Communications (see APC). Located in Managua, Nicaragua. Identifying suffix is **nicarao**. See entry for **address**.

NordNet — Also known as PeaceNet Sweden (previously Fredsnatet). A member of the Association for Progressive Communications (see APC); located in Stockholm, Sweden. Identifying suffix is **pns** See entry for **address**.

offline — Work done when your computer is not connected to the Network; referring to being disconnected from the Network. You can save money by preparing your messages offline using your wordprocessing software, and uploading them instead of typing them in by hand while you’re connected to (or online with) the Network.

online — Work done on your computer while it’s connected to the Network. Examples: “Send me a message online.” In other words, send me an email message instead of sending me a letter through the postal service.

parity — In modem setup, the most primitive form of error checking. One extra bit optionally sent with each character: in Even parity the bit is 1 if the character is represented by an even number, 0 if odd; in Space parity it’s always 0; in None it’s not sent. A parity bit gives an evens chance of detecting an error in a single character.

password — A group of characters known only to you that must be entered as part of logging in to the Network . The password guarantees that only you can access your account. When you type it, the Network responds with “**xxxxxxxx**” to hide it from casual passers-by. You can change your password with the SETUP command. Users of Public Data Networks will also be asked for a password before they are connected to their particular network; this is quite distinct from your own private password you need to give once you’ve got “through” the PDN into your network.

PDN — Public Data Network (see next entry)

Public Data Network — Service provided by many national and international telecommunications systems which allow local charge rates for a national call when accessing electronic networks. You dial their local number, and your call is switched through to the network you want to connect to. This service is called “Dialplus” in the UK, and “Datapac” in Sweden. It will mean you have to pay a small surcharge to your network, but is invariably cheaper than making a national or international call to log on.

peg	Identifying suffix for accounts located on the Pegasus Network/EarthNet; appears in mail and conferencing headers. Address format is **<user>@peg** or **peg:<user>**. See entry for **Pegausus**.
Pegasus	Also known as EarthNet (in Australia). Member of the Association for Progressive Communications (see APC); located in New South Wales, Australia. Identifying suffix is "peg". See entry for **address**.
post	The act of placing a message in a conference on the Network. The noun "posting" is sometimes used to refer to a conference message.
ProComm	A communications program for the IBM PC or equivalent clone computers.
program	A set of computer instructions for carrying out a given task. The Network uses programs to carry out all its functions.
prompt	What appears on the screen when the Network is expecting you to enter a command or option. For example: "Mail?" is the prompt you will see once you've entered the Mail section. Any commands typed at the "Mail?" prompt refer only to the Mail section.
protocol	A set of "rules for a conversation"; a way of organising communication between computers so that the inevitable errors can be detected and corrected.
PSS	Packet SwitchStream, British Telecom's national data network in the UK, which is used to access GreenNet. The recommended access method is via Dialplus.
Red Ryder	A communications program for Macintosh computers.
<RETURN>	The <RETURN> key on your keyboard. All commands used on the Network must be followed by <RETURN>. Also called Carriage Return or <ENTER> or <CR>
rlogin	Command for connecting to another Internet system.
session	The period between log in and log off.
(s)etup	The SETUP command enables you to change your password, select your terminal type, and determine which key you use to delete characters.
softcopy	An electronic version of a file, usually in computer memory and/or on disk; as opposed to "hardcopy", the paper printout. Example: "Do you have a softcopy version of the newsletter on either a floppy disk or on the Network?"
software	Computer programs; wordprocessing programs (like WordPerfect or Microsoft Word), spreadsheet programs (like Lotus or Excel), or database programs (like dBase III+, Foxbase, or FileMaker) are all software.
Sprintnet	An international telecommunications service owned and operated by U.S. Sprint. Telenet provides users in the United States with local call access to IGC networks from most places in the USA; Telenet and IGC are completely separate entities.
string	A series of characters or data bits, organised simply by one coming after another.
Telenet	See Sprintnet.

telex	Telex was, and in many places still is, the first form of “electronic mail”. A telex machine uses telephone lines to call another telex machine and exchange messages using slow speed data transmission. You used to need a telex machine (or access to one) in order to send a message to another telex machine. Today, you can use the Network to exchange telex messages electronically between your computer and any telex machine.
telnet	Command for connecting to another Internet system.
terminal	A computer terminal can receive messages from the Network and display them on its screen; it can also send characters from its keyboard to the Network. Personal computer communications software packages like ZTerm and Procomm pretend to be a terminal when talking to the Network. The SETUP command can be used to tell the Network what kind of terminal you have, or what kind your communications software package is pretending to be. Three often-used terminal types are generic, capture, and vt100.
text	A string of characters. A text file should contain only ascii characters (as opposed to special characters, codes or commands).
switch	Using one command or key-stroke to change between one mode and its opposite. For example, the command sequence (c)apture (p)age switches the “--Hit <RETURN> for more--” page mode OFF, then ON the next time (c)apture (p)age is selected.
upload	To transfer a binary or ascii file from your computer to the Network.
(u)sers	The USERS command allows you to get correct IDs and other information about other GreenNet and NordNet users, and APC users overall, as well as limited information about users on a selection of non-affiliated networks, including GeoNet, TCN, etc.
User ID	Same as “account name” or “login ID”; the word you type at the “log in” prompt; your “electronic name”. Your User Identity can be no longer than 12 characters.
Usenet	An information co-operative linking 16,000 (mostly academic) computer sites and 580,000 people. Usenet provides a series of news groups analogous to APC conferences linking many sites and users on the Internet. Many Usenet news groups appear as APC conferences.
vt100	A terminal type setting; with this setting the Network assumes you are using a VT100 terminal or a computer program that acts like one. Use the (s)etup command to change your terminal type. When your terminal type selection is vt100 in conference mode, the screen will clear each time you “hit <RETURN> for more” in Mail mode, only the “--Hit <RETURN> for more--” message is deleted when you hit <RETURN>. The “generic” terminal type clears nothing from the screen.
web	The suffix found on all Web account holders both in electronic mail and in conferencing. Address format is **<user>@<web>**. See entry for **Web**.
Web	A member of the Association for Progressive Communications (see APC); located in Ontario, Canada. Identifying suffix is **web**.
xmodem	A communications protocol that allows you to transfer files between your computer and the Network. Xmodem has built-in error correction.

Xon/Xoff	A simple form of flow-control for uploading and downloading. The receiving computer sends an “Xon” character when it has too much data to handle safely, and an “Xoff” when it’s ready again.
ymodem	A communications protocol similar to xmodem, but faster and with better error recovery.
zmodem	A communications protocol similar to xmodem, but faster and with better error recovery than either xmodem or ymodem. If you have a choice, this is the best option to use.
ZTerm	A communications program for Macintosh users. This is generally better and faster than Red Ryder. Red Ryder is still used by many people, however, and almost all the instructions in this manual for ZTerm also apply to Red Ryder.

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