

## Glossary of Terms Used in FCC Form 477 [Instructions](#)

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The following terms are as defined for the specific purposes of the FCC Form 477 information collection. The filer must interpret these terms in the context of the detailed reporting [Instructions](#). Terms in *italics* are defined elsewhere in the Glossary.

**Advertised speeds:** For purposes of this form, the terms “advertised speeds” or “advertised bandwidths” are to be distinguished from “theoretical capacity” or other engineering-based concepts that do not represent the downstream and upstream bandwidths that the end user reasonably may expect to receive. “Advertising” is not restricted to “on the web,” “in print,” “by broadcast,” “in person,” or any other specific format. Among other methods, a service is “advertised” to the end user when it is described at point of sale or when the end user is charged at a rate associated with a particular grade of service in the end user’s area. The grade of service may be characterized by, among other features, the downstream and upstream bandwidths that the end user may reasonably expect to receive. (*Clarification added December 5, 2016.*)

**Available:** For purposes of this form, fixed broadband connections are available in a census block if the provider does, or could, within a service interval that is typical for that type of connection—that is, without an extraordinary commitment of resources—provision two-way data transmission to and from the Internet with advertised speeds exceeding 200 kbps in at least one direction to end-user premises in the census block. **Clarification Notes, added September 10, 2014:** (1) Companies that would rely on the ordering or installation of a not-yet-leased circuit (including unbundled network elements defined in [47 C.F.R. § 51.319](#), TDM-based connections, or packet-based connections) to provide service in a census block not currently served should **not** treat that census block as having service available. (2) Dark fiber acquired under an Indefeasible Right of Use (IRU) should be considered the “owned” facilities of the company that acquired the IRU when the dark fiber is used as part of that entity’s own system.

**Broadband connections:** Lines (or wireless channels) that terminate at an end-user location and enable the end user to receive information from and/or send information to the Internet at information-transfer rates exceeding 200 kilobits per second (kbps) in at least one direction.

**Competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC):** An entity authorized, by the state regulatory authority (State commission), to provide local exchange telephone service within the Study Areas of one or more incumbent local exchange carriers in that state.

**Consumer Connection:** With respect to mobile broadband, a connection not billed to a corporate, non-corporate business, government, or institutional customer account.

**Consumer Service Plan (or Mass Market / Consumer Service Plan):** A service plan that is designed for, marketed to, or purchased by primarily residential end users.

**End user:** A residential, business, institutional, or government entity that uses services for its own purposes and does not resell such services to other entities. For the purposes of this form, an Internet Service Provider (ISP) is not an end user of a broadband connection.

**End-user premises:** A building, store, shop, apartment, or other structure, or group of structures, occupied by or under the control of an end user.

**Facilities-based broadband provider:** A provider of broadband connections to end-user locations that: (1) owns the portion of the physical facility that terminates at the *end-user premises* or obtains the right to use dark fiber or satellite transponder capacity as part of its own network to complete such terminations; (2) obtains unbundled network element (UNE) loops, special access lines, or other leased facilities that terminate at the end-user premises and provisions/equips them as broadband; (3) provisions/equips a broadband wireless channel to the *end-user premises* over licensed or unlicensed spectrum; or (4) provides terrestrial mobile wireless service using its own network facilities and spectrum for which it holds a license, manages, or has obtained the right to use via a spectrum leasing arrangement.

**Facilities-based mobile voice provider:** A service provider that serves a subscriber using its own network facilities and spectrum for which it holds a license, manages, or for which it has obtained the right to use via a spectrum leasing arrangement. (Mobile voice service resellers—including entities that have filed Lifeline Compliance Plans—are not facilities-based providers for purposes of Form 477.)

**Incumbent local exchange carrier (incumbent LEC, or ILEC):** The company that was providing telephone exchange service (local phone service) in a particular area on February 8, 1996, the date on which the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was enacted into law. See [47 C.F.R. § 51.5](#).

**In-service broadband:** A connection with information-transfer rates above 200 kbps in at least one direction that is (1) delivering Internet access service at the residential or non-residential premises of the end user that has purchased Internet access service on a month-to-month or longer-term basis (**in-service fixed broadband**), or (2) is service to a terrestrial mobile wireless service subscriber whose device and data plan provide the ability to transfer, on a monthly basis, either a specified or unlimited amount of data to and from lawful Internet sites of the subscriber's choice (**in-service mobile broadband**).

**Interconnected VoIP Service:** A service that: (1) enables real-time, two-way voice communications; (2) requires a broadband connection from the user's location; (3) requires Internet-protocol compatible customer premises equipment; and (4) permits users generally to receive calls that originate on the *public switched telephone network* and to terminate calls to the *public switched telephone network*. See [47 C.F.R. § 9.3](#). Interconnected VoIP service uses IP packet format to transmit voice calls **between** the end-user customer's specialized equipment (such as an IP telephone, IP PBX, or TDM-to-IP converter device that is attached to an ordinary telephone or conventional PBX) and the telecommunications network. **By contrast**, local exchange telephone service uses analog or Time Division Multiplexing (TDM) to transmit voice calls **between** the end-user customer's device and the *public switched telephone network*. Note that some end-user customer devices (such as an IP PBX or conventional PBX) can be configured to connect to both local exchange telephone service and interconnected VoIP service, but

the two types of service connections are distinct. A single end-user service connection **cannot be both** interconnected VoIP service and local exchange telephone service at the same time.

**Interconnected VoIP Subscription:** Interconnected VoIP service purchased by an end user (that is, by an entity that does not resell the VoIP service to other entities).

**Local exchange telephone service:** Local exchange (local telephone) or exchange access service that allows end users to originate and/or terminate local telephone calls on the *public switched telephone network*, whether used by the end user for voice telephone calls or for other types of calls carried over the *public switched telephone network* (for example, lines connected to facsimile equipment or lines used occasionally or exclusively for dial-up connection to the Internet). Local exchange telephone service uses analog or Time Division Multiplexing (TDM) format to transmit voice calls **between** the end-user customer's device and the telecommunications network. Commonly, the end-user device is an ordinary dial pulse or touch-tone (wired or cordless) telephone or a conventional PBX, but the device also could be an IP PBX to the extent that the PBX connects to TDM service at the end user's premises. **By contrast**, interconnected VoIP service requires, among other things, the end-user customer to have specialized equipment (such as an IP telephone or a TDM-to-IP converter device attached to an ordinary telephone), and it uses IP packet format to transmit voice calls **between** that specialized equipment and the telecommunications network. Note that a single end-user service connection **cannot be both** local exchange telephone service and interconnected VoIP service at the same time.

**Mobile telephony (mobile voice) service:** A real-time, two-way switched voice service that is interconnected with the public switched network using an in-network switching facility that enables the provider to reuse frequencies and accomplish seamless handoff of subscriber calls.

**Mobile telephony (mobile voice) subscriber:** A mobile handset, car-phone, or other revenue-generating, active, voice unit that has a unique phone number and that can place and receive calls from the *public switched telephone network*.

**Over-the-top interconnected VoIP:** Service delivered to the end-user customer over a high-capacity connection that the customer obtains from an entity **not affiliated** with the interconnected VoIP service provider. (Colloquially, "bring-your-own-broadband.")

**Owned local exchange service line:** A local exchange service line that terminate at the end user's premises over last-mile facilities that the filer (including affiliates) owns or has obtained the right to use as dark fiber within its own system.

**Presubscribed interstate long distance carrier:** The (facilities-based or reseller) carrier to which an interstate long distance call is routed automatically, without the use of any access code by the end user.

**Public switched telephone network:** The interconnected set of telecommunications networks that use analog or Time Division Multiplexing (TDM) format to transmit voice calls **between** end-user customers and the telecommunications network. The modern public switched telephone network frequently converts these voice calls into IP packet format for transport within and among networks ("IP-in-the-

middle”). However, such **within-network** format conversion is not relevant to the definitions of—and distinction between—local exchange telephone service and interconnected VoIP service.

**Registered location:** The most recent information obtained by an interconnected VoIP service provider that identifies the physical location of an end user. See [47 C.F.R. § 9.3](#).

**Residential lines:** Lines provided to residential end-user premises. Also includes any lines the filer provides to a shared-tenant service provider in an apartment building or similar residential setting.

**Study Area:** The particular area within which an incumbent local exchange carrier was providing local exchange telephone service (traditional local phone service) on February 8, 1996, the date on which the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was enacted into law. See [47 C.F.R. § 51.5](#). Each such area has a 6-digit Study Area Code (SAC). Additionally, some other voice service providers are eligible for Universal Service Fund support and therefore have a 6-digit SAC.

**UNE-Platform:** The combination of loop UNE, switching UNE, and transport UNE. (UNEs are defined in the FCC Rules. See [47 C.F.R. § 51.319](#).) UNE-P no longer exists as a required unbundling obligation.

**Voice-grade equivalent (VGE):** Generally, the number of DS0 (64 kbps) lines/channels in a higher-capacity circuit. In Form 477, the VGEs in a higher-capacity circuit must be counted **according to how the end user is charged** rather than on how the service is physically provisioned.