

Appendix C. CompTIA Acronyms

CompTIA provides a list of acronyms that you need to know before you sit for the A+ exams. You can download the list from the CompTIA website at [comptia.org](https://www.comptia.org). The list is included here for your convenience. However, CompTIA occasionally updates the list, so be sure to check the CompTIA website for the latest version.

Acronym	Spelled Out
AAA	Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting
AC	Alternating Current
ACL	Access Control List
ADF	Automatic Document Feeder
AES	Advanced Encryption Standard
AP	Access Point
APFS	Apple File System

Acronym	Spelled Out
APIPA	Automatic Private Internet Protocol Addressing
APK	Android Package
ARM	Advanced RISC [Reduced Instruction Set Computer] Machine
ARP	Address Resolution Protocol
ATA	Advanced Technology Attachment
ATM	Asynchronous Transfer Mode
ATX	Advanced Technology Extended
AUP	Acceptable Use Policy
BIOS	Basic Input/Output System
BSOD	Blue Screen of Death
BYOD	Bring Your Own Device
CAPTCHA	Completely Automated Public Turing Test to Tell Computers and Humans Apart

Acronym	Spelled Out
CD	Compact Disc
CDFS	Compact Disc File System
CDMA	Code-Division Multiple Access
CERT	Computer Emergency Response Team
CIFS	Common Internet File System
CMD	Command Prompt
CMOS	Complementary Metal-Oxide Semiconductor
CPU	Central Processing Unit
DC	Direct Current
DDoS	Distributed Denial of Service
DDR	Double Data Rate
DHCP	Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol

Acronym	Spelled Out
DIMM	Dual Inline Memory Module
DKIM	DomainKeys Identified Mail
DMA	Direct Memory Access
DMARC	Domain-Based Message Authentication, Reporting, and Conformance
DNS	Domain Name Service or Domain Name Server
DoS	Denial of Service
DRAM	Dynamic Random Access Memory
DRM	Digital Rights Management
DSL	Digital Subscriber Line
DVI	Digital Visual Interface
DVI-D	Digital Visual Interface–Digital

Acronym	Spelled Out
ECC	Error Correcting Code
EFS	Encrypting File System
EMI	Electromagnetic Interference
EOL	End-of-Life
eSATA	External Serial Advanced Technology Attachment
ESD	Electrostatic Discharge
EULA	End User License Agreement
exFAT	Extended File Allocation Table
ext	Extended File System
FAT	File Allocation Table
FAT12	12-bit File Allocation Table

Acronym	Spelled Out
FAT16	16-bit File Allocation Table
FAT32	32-bit File Allocation Table
FSB	Front-Side Bus
FTP	File Transfer Protocol
GFS	Grandfather-Father-Son
GPS	Global Positioning System
GPT	GUID [Globally Unique Identifier] Partition Table
GPU	Graphics Processing Unit
GSM	Global System for Mobile Communications
GUI	Graphical User Interface
GUID	Globally Unique Identifier

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Acronym	Spelled Out
HAL	Hardware Abstraction Layer
HAV	Hardware Assisted Virtualization
HCL	Hardware Compatibility List
HDCP	High-Bandwidth Digital Content Protection
HDD	Hard Disk Drive
HDMI	High-Definition Media Interface
HSM	Hardware Security Module
HTML	Hypertext Markup Language
HTTP	Hypertext Transfer Protocol
HTTPS	Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure
I/O	Input/Output

Acronym	Spelled Out
IaaS	Infrastructure as a Service
ICR	Intelligent Character Recognition
IDE	Integrated Drive Electronics
IDS	Intrusion Detection System
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
IMAP	Internet Mail Access Protocol
IOPS	Input/Output Operations Per Second
IoT	Internet of Things
IP	Internet Protocol
IPS	Intrusion Prevention System
IPS	In-Plane Switching

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Acronym	Spelled Out
IPSec	Internet Protocol Security
IR	Infrared
IrDA	Infrared Data Association
IRP	Incident Response Plan
ISP	Internet Service Provider
ITX	Information Technology eXtended
KB	Knowledge Base
KVM	Keyboard-Video-Mouse
LAN	Local Area Network
LC	Lucent Connector
LCD	Liquid Crystal Display

Acronym	Spelled Out
LDAP	Lightweight Directory Access Protocol
LED	Light-Emitting Diode
MAC	Media Access Control or Mandatory Access Control
MAM	Mobile Application Management
MAN	Metropolitan Area Network
MBR	Master Boot Record
MDM	Mobile Device Management
MFA	Multifactor Authentication
MFD	Multifunction Device
MFP	Multifunction Printer
MMC	Microsoft Management Console

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Acronym	Spelled Out
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet
MSRA	Microsoft Remote Assistance
MX	Mail Exchange
NAC	Network Access Control
NAT	Network Address Translation
NetBIOS	Networked Basic Input/Output System
NetBT	NetBIOS over TCP/IP [Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol]
NFC	Near Field Communication
NFS	Network File System
NIC	Network Interface Card
NTFS	New Technology File System
NVMe	Non-Volatile Memory Express

Acronym	Spelled Out
OCR	Optical Character Recognition
OLED	Organic Light-Emitting Diode
ONT	Optical Network Terminal
OS	Operating System
PaaS	Platform as a Service
PAN	Personal Area Network
PC	Personal Computer
PCIe	Peripheral Component Interconnect Express
PCL	Printer Control Language
PE	Preinstallation Environment
PII	Personally Identifiable Information
PIN	Personal Identification Number

Acronym	Spelled Out
PKI	Public Key Infrastructure
PoE	Power over Ethernet
POP3	Post Office Protocol 3
POST	Power-On Self-Test
PPP	Point-to-Point Protocol
PRL	Preferred Roaming List
PSU	Power Supply Unit
PXE	Preboot Execution Environment
RADIUS	Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service
RAID	Redundant Array of Independent (or Inexpensive) Disks
RAM	Random Access Memory

Acronym	Spelled Out
RDP	Remote Desktop Protocol
RF	Radio Frequency
RFI	Radio Frequency Interference
RFID	Radio Frequency Identification
RJ11	Registered Jack Function 11
RJ45	Registered Jack Function 45
RMM	Remote Monitoring and Management
RTO	Recovery Time Objective
SaaS	Software as a Service
SAN	Storage Area Network
SAS	Serial Attached SCSI [Small Computer System Interface]

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Acronym	Spelled Out
SATA	Serial Advanced Technology Attachment
SC	Subscription Channel
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SCP	Secure Copy Protection
SCSI	Small Computer System Interface
SDN	Software-Defined Networking
SFTP	Secure File Transfer Protocol
SIM	Subscriber Identity Module
SIMM	Single In-Line Memory Module
S.M.A.R.T.	Self-Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Technology
SMB	Server Message Block

Acronym	Spelled Out
SMS	Short Message Service
SMTP	Simple Mail Transfer Protocol
SNMP	Simple Network Management Protocol
SODIMM	Small Outline Dual Inline Memory Module
SOHO	Small Office/Home Office
SP	Service Pack
SPF	Sender Policy Framework
SQL	Structured Query Language
SRAM	Static Random-Access Memory
SSD	Solid-State Drive
SSH	Secure Shell

Acronym	Spelled Out
SSID	Service Set Identifier
SSL	Secure Sockets Layer
SSO	Single Sign-On
ST	Straight Tip
STP	Shielded Twisted-Pair
TACACS	Terminal Access Controller Access-Control System
TCP	Transmission Control Protocol
TCP/IP	Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol
TFTP	Trivial File Transfer Protocol
TKIP	Temporal Key Integrity Protocol
TLS	Transport Layer Security

Acronym	Spelled Out
TN	Twisted Nematic
TPM	Trusted Platform Module
UAC	User Account Control
UDP	User Datagram Protocol
UEFI	Unified Extensible Firmware Interface
UNC	Universal Naming Convention
UPnP	Universal Plug and Play
UPS	Uninterruptible Power Supply
USB	Universal Serial Bus
UTM	Unified Threat Management
UTP	Unshielded Twisted-Pair

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Acronym	Spelled Out
VA	Vertical Alignment
VDI	Virtual Desktop Infrastructure
VGA	Video Graphics Array
VLAN	Virtual LAN [Local Area Network]
VM	Virtual Machine
VNC	Virtual Network Computer
VoIP	Voice over Internet Protocol
VPN	Virtual Private Network
VRAM	Video Random-Access Memory
WAN	Wide Area Network
WISP	Wireless Internet Service Provider

Acronym	Spelled Out
WLAN	Wireless Local Area Network
WMN	Wireless Mesh Network
WPA	Wireless Protected Access
WWAN	Wireless Wide Area Network
XSS	Cross-Site Scripting