Vocabulary #3: Chapters 8 & 9

1. **Controller:**

A hardware or software component of a modem that defines an individual modem’s capabilities. The controller interprets AT commands and handles communications protocols, for example.

1. **Daemon:**

An internal, automatically running program, usually in UNIX/Linux, that serves a particular function such as routing e-mail to recipients or supporting dial-up networking connectivity.

1. **Data pump:**

The hardware or software portion of a modem that is responsible for converting digital data into analog signals for transmission over a telephone line and for converting analog signals into digital data for transmission to the computer.

1. **Backbone:**

A main connecting link or highway between networks, such as between floors in a building or between buildings. Main internetworking devices, such as routers and switches, are often connected via the network backbone.

1. **Bus Topology:**

A network that is designed with a single central cable, to which all computers and other network devices attach. A bus topology has two end points. Each end point has a terminator to keep the electronic data signal from reflecting back along the path it just traveled.

1. **Ring Topology:**

A topology in which the data-carrying signal goes from station to station around the ring until it reaches the target destination. There is no beginning or end point, so there are no terminators.

1. **Loopback Address:**

An address used internally by a computer for diagnostics and testing and is usually 127.0.0.1 (or in the range 127.0.0.0 to 127.255.255.255) for IPv4 or 0:0:0:0:0:0:0:1 for IPv6.

1. **Multicast:**

A transmission method in which a server divides recipients of an application, such as a multimedia application, into groups. Each data stream is a one-time transmission that goes to one group of multiple addresses, instead of sending a separate transmission to each address for every data stream. The result is less network traffic.

1. **Protocol:**

An established guideline that specifies how networked data, including data sent over a telephone network, is formatted into a transmission unit, how it is transmitted, and how it is interpreted at the receiving end.

1. **Packet:**

A data unit sent over a network that contains source and destination, routing, control, and error-detection information, as well as data (related to the network layer of network data communications between two stations).