CompTIA A+ Acronyms

The following is a list of acronyms that appear on the CompTIA A+ exams. Candidates are encouraged to review the complete list and attain a working knowledge of all listed acronyms as a part of a comprehensive exam preparation program.

ACRONYM	SPELLED OUT	ACRONYM	SPELLED OUT
AC	Alternating Current	CFS	Central File System or Common File System or Command File System
ACL	Access Control List		
ACPI	Advanced Configuration Power Interface	CGA	Computer Graphics and Applications
ACT	Activity	CIDR	Classless Inter-Domain Routing
ADSL	Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line	CIFS	Common Internet File System
AES	Advanced Encryption Standard	CMOS	Complementary Metal-Oxide Semiconductor
AGP	Accelerated Graphics Port	CNR	Communications and Networking Riser
AHCI	Advanced Host Controller Interface	COMx	Communication Port (x=Port Number)
AP	Access Point	CPU	Central Processing Unit
APIPA	Automatic Private Internet Protocol Addressing	CRT	Cathode Ray Tube
APM	Advanced Power Management	DAC	Discretionary Access Control
ARP	Address Resolution Protocol	DB-25	Serial Communications D-Shell Connector, 25 Pins
ASR	Automated System Recovery	DB-9	9 Pin D Shell Connector
ATA	Advanced Technology Attachment	DC	Direct Current
ATAPI	Advanced Technology Attachment Packet Interface	DDoS	Distributed Denial of Service
ATM	Asynchronous Transfer Mode	DDR	Double Data Rate
ATSC	Advanced Television Systems Committee	DDR RAM	Double Data Rate Random-Access Memory
ATX	Advanced Technology Extended	DDR SDRAM	Double Data Rate Synchronous Dynamic Random-Access Memory
AUP	Acceptable Use Policy		
A/V	Audio Video	DFS	Distributed File System
BD-R	Blu-ray Disk Recordable	DHCP	Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol
BIOS	Basic Input/Output System	DIMM	Dual Inline Memory Module
BNC	Bayonet-Neill-Concelman or British Naval Connector	DIN	Deutsche Industrie Norm
		DLT	Digital Linear Tape
BSOD	Blue Screen of Death	DLP	Digital Light Processing or Data Loss Prevention
BTX	Balanced Technology Extended		
CAD	Computer Aided Design	DMA	Direct Memory Access
CAPTCHA	Completely Automated Public Turing Test to tell Computers and Humans Apart	DMZ	Demilitarized Zone
		DNS	Domain Name Service or Domain Name Server
CAS	Column Access Strobe	DoS	Denial of Service
CCFL	Cold Cathode Fluorescent Lamp	DRAM	Dynamic Random Access Memory
CD	Compact Disc	DRM	Digital Rights Management
CD-ROM	Compact Disc-Read-Only Memory	DSL	Digital Subscriber Line
CD-RW	Compact Disc-Rewritable	DVD	Digital Video Disc or Digital Versatile Disc
CDFS	Compact Disc File System	DVD-RAM	Digital Video Disc-Random-Access Memory
CERT	Computer Emergency Response Team	DVD-ROM	Digital Video Disc-Read-Only Memory

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ACRONYM	SPELLED OUT
DVD-R	Digital Video Disc-Recordable
DVD-RW	Digital Video Disc-Rewritable
DVI	Digital Visual Interface
DVR	Digital Video Recorder
ECC	Error Correcting Code or Error Checking and Correction
ECP	Extended Capabilities Port
EEPROM	Electrically Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory
EFS	Encrypting File System
EIDE	Enhanced Integrated Drive Electronics
ELP	Electroluminescence Panel
EMI	Electromagnetic Interference
EMP	Electromagnetic Pulse
EPROM	Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory
EPP	Enhanced Parallel Port
ERD	Emergency Repair Disk
eSATA	External Serial Advanced Technology Attachment
ESD	Electrostatic Discharge
EULA	End-User License Agreement
EVGA	Extended Video Graphics Adapter/Array
EVDO	Evolution Data Optimized or Evolution Data Only
Ext2	Second Extended File System
exFAT	Extended File Allocation Table
FAT	File Allocation Table
FAT12	12-Bit File Allocation Table
FAT16	16-Bit File Allocation Table
FAT32	32-Bit File Allocation Table
FDD	Floppy Disk Drive
Fn	Function (referring to the function key on a laptop)
FPM	Fast Page Mode
FRU	Field Replaceable Unit
FSB	Front Side Bus
FTP	File Transfer Protocol
FQDN	Fully Qualified Domain Name
Gb	Gigabit
GB	Gigabyte
GDDR	Graphics Double Data Rate
GDI	Graphics Device Interface
GHz	Gigahertz
GUI	Graphical User Interface
GPS	Global Positioning System
GPT	GUID Partition Table
GPU	Graphics Processing Unit
GSM	Global System for Mobile Communications
HAL	Hardware Abstraction Layer

ACRONYM	SPELLED OUT
HAV	Hardware-Assisted Virtualization
HCL	Hardware Compatibility List
HDCP	High-Bandwidth Digital Content Protection
HDD	Hard Disk Drive
HDMI	High-Definition Media Interface
HIPS	Host Intrusion Prevention System
HPFS	High-Performance File System
HTML	Hypertext Markup Language
HTPC	Home Theater PC
HTTP	Hypertext Transfer Protocol
HTTPS	Hypertext Transfer Protocol Over Secure Sockets Layer
I/O	Input/Output
ICMP	Internet Control Message Protocol
ICR	Intelligent Character Recognition
IDE	Integrated Drive Electronics
IDF	Intermediate Distribution Frame
IDS	Intrusion Detection System
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
IIS	Internet Information Services
IMAP	Internet Mail Access Protocol
IMEI	International Mobile Equipment Identity
IMSI	International Mobile Subscriber Identity
IP	Internet Protocol
IPCONFIG	Internet Protocol Configuration
IPP	Internet Printing Protocol
IPS	In-Plane Switching
IPSec	Internet Protocol Security
IR	Infrared
IrDA	Infrared Data Association
IRP	Incident Response Plan
IRQ	Interrupt Request
ISDN	Integrated Services Digital Network
ISO	International Organization for Standardization/ Industry Standards Organization
ISP	Internet Service Provider
JBOD	Just a Bunch Of Disks
Kb	Kilobit
KB	Kilobyte or Knowledge Base
KVM	Kernel-based Virtual Machine
LAN	Local Area Network
LBA	Logical Block Addressing
LC	Lucent Connector
LCD	Liquid Crystal Display
LDAP	Lightweight Directory Access Protocol
LED	Light Emitting Diode
LI-ON	Lithium-Ion
LPD/LPR	Line Printer Daemon/Line Printer Remote
LPT	Line Printer Terminal
LVD	Low Voltage Differential
MAC	Media Access Control or Mandatory Access Control
MAN	Metropolitan Area Network

ACRONYM	SPELLED OUT	ACRONYM	SPELLED OUT
MAPI	Messaging Application Programming Interface	PCL	Printer Control Language
MAU	Media Access Unit or Media Attachment Unit	PCMCIA	Personal Computer Memory Card International Association
mATX	Micro Advanced Technology Extended	PE	Preinstallation Environment
Mb	Megabit	PGA	Pin Grid Array
MB	Megabyte	PGA2	Pin Grid Array 2
MBR	Master Boot Record	PGP	Pretty Good Protection
MBSA	Microsoft Baseline Security Analyzer	PII	Personally Identifiable Information
MDM	Master Data Management	PIN	Personal Identification Number
MFA	Multifactor Authentication	PKI	Public Key Infrastructure
MFD	Multi-Function Device	PnP	Plug and Play
MFP	Multi-Function Product	POP3	Post Office Protocol 3
MHz	Megahertz	PoS	Point of Sale
MicroDIMM	Micro Dual Inline Memory Module	POST	Power On Self Test
MIDI	Musical Instrument Digital Interface	POTS	Plain Old Telephone Service
MIME	Multipurpose Internet Mail Extension	PPM	Pages Per Minute
MIMO	Multiple Input Multiple Output	PPP	Point-to-Point Protocol
MMC	Microsoft Management Console	PPTP	Point-to-Point Tunneling Protocol
MP3	Moving Picture Experts Group Layer 3 Audio	PRI	Primary Rate Interface
MP4	Moving Picture Experts Group Layer 4	PRL	Preferred Roaming List
MPEG	Moving Picture Experts Group	PROM	Programmable Read-Only Memory
MSCONFIG	Microsoft Configuration	PS/2	Personal System/2 Connector
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet	PSTN	Public Switched Telephone Network
MT-RJ	Mechanical Transfer Registered Jack	PSU	Power Supply Unit
MUI	Multilingual User Interface	PVA	Patterned Vertical Alignment
NAC	Network Access Control	PVC	Permanent Virtual Circuit
NAS	Network Attached Storage	PXE	Preboot Execution Environment
NAT	Network Address Translation	QoS	Quality of Service
NetBIOS	Networked Basic Input/Output System	RADIUS	Remote Authentication Dial-In User Server
NetBEUI	Networked Basic input/output system Extended User Interface	RAID	Redundant Array of Independent (or Inexpensive) Discs
NFC	Near Field Communication	RAM	Random Access Memory
NFS	Network File System	RAMBUS	Rambus Dynamic Random Access Memory
NIC	Network Interface Card	RAS	Remote Access Service
NiCd	Nickel Cadmium	RDP	Remote Desktop Protocol
NiMH	Nickel Metal Hydride	RF	Radio Frequency
NLX	New Low profile Extended	RFI	Radio Frequency Interference
NNTP	Network News Transfer Protocol	RGB	Red Green Blue
NTFS	New Technology File System	RIP	Routing Information Protocol
NTLDR	New Technology Loader	RIS	Remote Installation Service
NTP	Network Time Protocol	RISC	Reduced Instruction Set Computer
NTSC	National Transmission Standards Committee	RJ-11	Registered Jack Function 11
OCR	Optical Character Recognition	RJ-45	Registered Jack Function 45
OEM	Original Equipment Manufacturer	RMA	Returned Materials Authorization
OLED	Organic Light Emitting Diode	ROM	Read-Only Memory
OS	Operating System	RPO	Recovery Point Objective
PAL	Phase Alternating Line	RTC	Real-Time Clock
PAN	Personal Area Network	RTO	Recovery Time Objective
PAT	Port Address Translation	SAN	Storage Area Network
PATA	Parallel Advanced Technology Attachment	SAS	Serial Attached SCSI
PC	Personal Computer	SATA	Serial Advanced Technology Attachment
PCI	Peripheral Component Interconnect	SC	Subscription Channel
PCIe	Peripheral Component Interconnect express	SCP	Secure Copy Protection
PCIX	Peripheral Component Interconnect Extended		

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ACRONYM	SPELLED OUT			
SCSI	Small Computer System Interface		UXGA	Ultra Extended Graphics Array
SCSI ID	Small Computer System Interface Identifier		VA	Vertical Alignment
SD Card	Secure Digital Card		VDC	Volts DC
SDRAM	Synchronous Dynamic Random-Access Memory		VDI	Virtual Desktop Infrastructure
SEC	Single Edge Connector		VESA	Video Electronics Standards Association
SFC	System File Checker		VFAT	Virtual File Allocation Table
SFF	Small Form Factor		VGA	Video Graphics Array
SFTP	Secured File Transfer Protocol		VM	Virtual Machine
SIMM	Single In-line Memory Module		VNC	Virtual Network Computer
SLI	Scalable Link Interface or System Level Integration or Scanline Interleave Mode		VoIP	Voice over Internet Protocol
			VPN	Virtual Private Network
S.M.A.R.T.	Self-Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Technology		VRAM	Video Random-Access Memory
SMB	Server Message Block or Small To Midsize Business		WAN	Wide Area Network
			WAP	Wireless Access Protocol or Wireless Access Point
SMTP	Simple Mail Transfer Protocol		WEP	Wired Equivalent Privacy
SNMP	Simple Network Management Protocol		WiFi	Wireless Fidelity
SoDIMM	Small outline Dual Inline Memory Module		WINS	Windows Internet Name Service
SOHO	Small Office, Home Office		WLAN	Wireless Local Area Network
SP	Service Pack		WPA	WiFi Protected Access
SPDIF	Sony/Philips Digital Interface Format		WPA2	WiFi Protected Access 2
SPGA	Staggered Pin Grid Array		WPS	WiFi Protected Setup
SRAM	Static Random-Access Memory		WUXGA	Wide Ultra Extended Graphics Array
SSH	Secure Shell		WWAN	Wireless Wide Area Network
SSID	Service Set Identifier		XGA	Extended Graphics Array
SSL	Secure Sockets Layer		ZIF	Zero Insertion Force
ST	Straight Tip		ZIP	Zig-zag Inline Package
STP	Shielded Twisted Pair			
SXGA	Super Extended Graphics Array			
TB	Terabyte			
TCP	Transmission Control Protocol			
TCP/IP	Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol			
TDR	Time Domain Reflectometer			
TFT	Thin Film Transistor			
TFTP	Trivial File Transfer Protocol			
TKIP	Temporal Key Integrity Protocol			
TLS	Transport Layer Security			
TN	Twisted Nematic			
TPM	Trusted Platform Module			
UAC	User Account Control			
UDF	User Defined Functions or Universal Disk Format or Universal Data Format			
UDP	User Datagram Protocol			
UEFI	Unified Extensible Firmware Interface			
UNC	Universal Naming Convention			
UPnP	Universal Plug and Play			
UPS	Uninterruptible Power Supply			
URL	Uniform Resource Locator			
USB	Universal Serial Bus			
USMT	User State Migration Tool			
UTM	Unified Threat Management			
UTP	Unshielded Twisted Pair			

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