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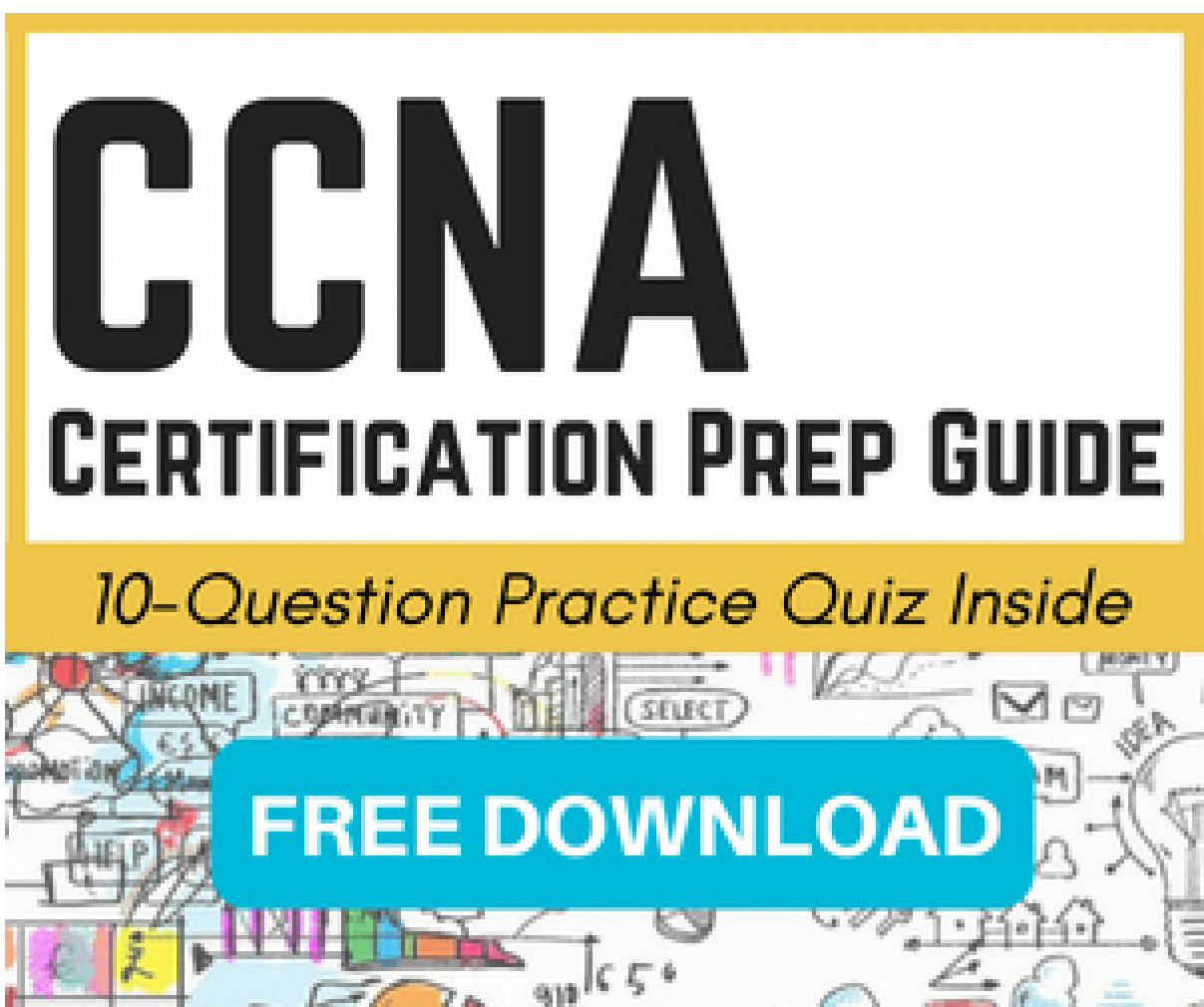
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DEFINITION

plasma display



By [TechTarget Contributor](#)

A plasma display is a computer video display in which each [pixel](#) on the screen is illuminated by a tiny bit of plasma or charged gas, somewhat like a tiny neon light. Plasma displays are thinner than cathode ray tube ([CRT](#)) displays and brighter than liquid crystal displays ([LCD](#)). Plasma displays are sometimes marketed as "thin-panel" displays and can be used to display either [analog](#) video signals or [display modes](#) digital computer input.

In addition to the advantage of slimness, a plasma display is flat rather than slightly curved as a CRT display is and therefore free of distortion on the edges of the screen. Unlike many LCD displays, a plasma display offers a very wide viewing angle. Plasma displays come in conventional PC displays sizes and also in sizes up to 60 inches for home theater and [high definition television](#) .

IBM built a monochrome plasma display in the 1980s that displayed orange letters against a black screen. Today's displays contain a grid of cells in which gas reacts with phosphors in varying degrees in red, green, or blue subpixels, making it possible to produce over 16 million different colors.

This was last updated in April 2005

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