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Networking is a field that is pockmarked with acronyms. Rather than provide a separate glossary (with most of the entries being acronyms), this index also serves as a glossary for all the acronyms used in the book. The primary entry for the acronym appears under the acronym name. For example, all references to the Internet Control Message Protocol appear under ICMP. The entry under the compound term ''Internet Control Message Protocol'' refers back to the main entry under ICMP.

The notation ''definition of'' appearing with a C function refers to the boxed function prototype for that function, its primary description. The ''definition of'' notation for a structure refers to its primary definition. Some functions also contain the notation ''source code'' if the source code implementation for that function appears in the text.