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Computer Communications

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Preface

The preface of the first edition of this text began with the sentence: "The subject of communications is changing very rapidly." The rate of change is sufficient to justify a new edition after only 3 years. Considerable material on the emerging international standards for networks has been added and the remaining material on networking substantially rewritten.

This book is intended for anyone familiar with using computers who wishes to understand the techniques used in computer communications. It is also an introduction to the architecture of computer communication systems. The text has been revised with the needs of the computer professional in mind. The mixture of theory, technique and example is intended to be easily followed and to allow reading of small sections as required.

I would like to thank Roland Ibbett, Steve Treadwell, Peter Kirstein and Del Thomas for their help with the first edition; much of their advice is carried into the second edition. Peter Lloyd and Jon Crowcroft have provided good advice on the changes in the second edition. I am grateful to Professor Kirstein for his continued support and encouragement, particularly in providing facilities which have made the text preparation considerably easier this time around. Finally I would like to acknowledge the help and support of Jo, Rosemary and George, who have a habit of putting everything into perspective.