About This Manual

This section of the *Terminal Server Configuration and Reference* introduces the manual's audience and scope, organization, use and conventions.

Audience and Scope

This manual addresses two audiences: first, it provides information needed by the system administrator for configuring and maintaining a Cisco™ terminal server running Release 8.3 and earlier software (software changes from previous releases are noted in the release note accompanying this manual); second, this manual provides details on how users can make connections to network resources using a Cisco terminal server.

Document Organization and Use

The *Terminal Server Configuration and Reference* publication provides information about using and configuring the Cisco terminal servers—use and administration of the system interface, system configuration, and network configuration. This manual, an appropriate *Hardware Installation and Reference* publication, and a software release note are included with each Cisco terminal server system.

This manual is divided into parts; each part is comprised of chapters describing related tasks or functions. Dividers separate four distinct parts:

■ Part One: "System Introduction," contains an overview of the Cisco terminal server, and introductory information concerning first-time startup, and a description of the Cisco EXEC Command interpreter.

■ Part Two: "System Configuration and Management," contains details about general system configuration procedures. You will want to turn to this section of the manual after performing procedures described in Chapter 2, "First-Time Startup."

■ Part Three: "Transmission Protocols," contains chapters that provide information and procedures for configuring protocol-specific parameters for customizing connections.

■ "Appendices," includes an ASCII chart, system error messages, and a brief list of recommended documents for terminal server users and system administrators.

- "Glossary," contains definitions of terms and concepts described in this manual.
- "Index," provides page references to the topics and commands covered in this manual.

Document Conventions

The command descriptions use these conventions:

- Commands and keywords are in **boldface**.
- Variables for which you supply values are in *italics.*
- Elements in square brackets ([ ]) are optional.
- Alternative keywords are grouped in braces ({ }) and are separated by a vertical bar (|).
- Definition of string: A string is defined as a nonquoted set of characters. For example, when setting up a community string for SNMP to "public", do not use quotes around the string or the string will be set to "public".

The samples use these conventions:

- Terminal sessions are printed in a typewriter-type font.
- Information you enter is in **boldface.**
- Nonprinting characters are shown in angle brackets (<>).
- Information the system displays is in typewriter-type, with default responses in square brackets ([ ]).

Italicized type also emphasizes new terms and concepts and is used for the titles of books and periodicals.

Note: is a special paragraph that means *reader take note.* It usually refers to helpful suggestions, the writer's assumptions, or references to materials not contained in this manual.

Caution: is a special paragraph that means *reader be careful.* It means that you are capable of doing something that might result in equipment damage, or worse, that you might have to take something apart and start over again.