An acronym for the Infrared Data Association, located in Walnut Creek, CA. A membership organization founded in 1993 and dedicated to developing standards for wireless, infrared (IR) transmission systems between computers. With IrDA ports, a laptop or PDA can intelligently exchange data with any other IrDA computer or use an IrDA printer without a cable connection. IrDA requires line-of-sight transmission like a TV remote control; it is very similar in operation except that it uses data streams instead of a one command burst. IrDA products began to appear in 1995. The LaserJet 5P was one of the first printers with a built-in IrDA port. The IrDA model is comprised of the IrDA Serial IR physical layer (IrDA-SIR), which provides a half-duplex connection of up to 115.2 Kbps. This speed allows the use of a low-cost UART chip; however, higher non-UART extensions for 1.15 and 4 Mbps have also been defined. IrDA uses the Infrared Link Access Protocol (IrLAP), an adaptation of HDLC, as its data link protocol. The Infrared Link Management Protocol (IrLMP) is also used to provide a mechanism for handshaking and multiplexing of two or more different data streams simultaneously. See them at HTTP://WWW.IRDA.ORG.

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