



FXS vs. FXO

INTRODUCTION

The question "What is the FXS and what is FXO?" is frequently asked by those using Virtual Console products. Foreign eXchange Subscriber (FXS) and Foreign eXchange Office (FXO) are the names of the two most common interfaces (ports or plugs) found in analog telephony environments.

DEFINITIONS

FXS - Foreign eXchange Subscriber interface (the plug on the wall) delivers POTS service from the local phone company's Central Office (CO) and must be connected to subscriber equipment (telephones, modems, and fax machines). In other words an FXS interface **points** to the **subscriber**. An FXS interface provides the following primary services to a subscriber device:

- Dial Tone
- Battery Current
- Ring Voltage

You may also see the FXS acronym rendered as Foreign eXchange System.

FXO - Foreign eXchange Office interface (the plug on the phone) receives POTS service, typically from a Central Office of the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN). In other words an FXO interface **points** to the Telco **office**.

An FXO interface provides the following primary service to the Telco network device:

- on-hook/off-hook indication (loop closure)

