

## Internet Jargon

**Address:** See **Uniform Resource Locator**.

**Address Bar:** Part of the **window** in **Internet Explorer** that displays the **URL** of the **web site** currently being viewed. This is also the location where **URLs** are entered to visit those **web sites**.

**Adware:** Refers to software that is unknowingly installed on a user's computer that continuously displays advertisement **windows**, sometimes even when the computer is not **online**. Adware is usually installed when another file, such as a **web page**, is **downloaded**.

**Anti-Virus Software:** Program that helps to protect your computer against unwanted applications such as **viruses** and **worms**. If you are going to be using the **Internet** on your computer, you should have an anti-virus program installed on your computer.

**Attachments:** Files that are sent via **email** messages from one user to another. Common **email** attachments are photographs and resumes.

**Block/Blocking Software:** See **Filters/Filtering Software**.

**Blog:** An **online** journal in which many people are able to create entries. The journal entries are usually in reverse chronological order with the most recently added entries appearing at the top of the list. A person who uses blogs is referred to as a blogger and the act of using a blog is called blogging.

**Boolean Searching:** Using the terms AND, OR, and NOT, to combine **keywords** for more precise search **results** in **search engines**.

**Broadband:** Refers to the ability to have a faster connection to the **Internet** with greater bandwidth than the traditional **modem dial-up** access. Usually this includes **DSL** and cable connections.

**Browse:** To follow links from **web page** to **web page**. Exploring and looking around in a random way, but not specifically searching.

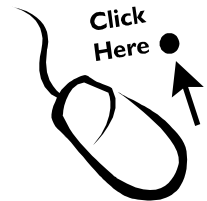
**Browser:** The software that makes **web pages** viewable and easy to use. The browser translates **HTML** files and accesses resources related to that file. It also facilitates movement between and among **web pages**. The two most popular browsers are Netscape and **Internet Explorer**.

**Cache:** Space in the **browser** where visited **web pages** are stored temporarily. This is for fast retrieval if you decide to revisit that page. The history of **web pages** visited can be stored in the cache for a number of days.

**Chat:** A group conversation feature on the **Internet** that allows a user to type a message and have it displayed on screen for other individuals at different computers in different locations to read and respond to.

**Chat Room:** A **web page** on the **Internet** where people meet and “**chat**” with other users in real time. Chat rooms are usually organized by topic. Individuals in chat rooms usually use nicknames or pseudonyms for privacy.

**Click:** To press and release a **mouse** button once, usually the left one, to select something on the screen or connect with an **Internet** link.



**Cookie:** A piece of information sent by a **web site** and **saved** in the **web browser**. This information helps the **browser** and **web site** identify each other for future visits and customizes the **web site** for the user based on preferences or **login** information. Cookies do not share hard drive information with the **web site**, but information about the user is shared with the **web site** through the cookie that has been **saved**.

**Cursor:** The insertion point for text on a computer. Cursors are usually represented as a blinking black vertical line. To place a cursor for typing, click once with the **mouse pointer** in the **text entry box**.

**Cyberspace:** Term used to describe the entirety of resources available through computer **networks**.



**Dial-Up:** First and most basic way for computers to connect with the **Internet**. Through the use of a **modem**, one computer calls another computer and exchanges information via sound over the phone line.

**Directory:** See **Subject Directory**.

**Discussion Board:** See **Discussion Group**.

**Discussion Group:** Works like an **online** bulletin board where users can post messages for others to read and respond to. See **Newsgroup** and **Usenet**.

**Domain Name:** The unique name that identifies a **web site**. This is usually the center part of a **URL**.

**Domain Suffix:** The last three characters of a **URL** after the second dot. The domain suffix will identify the type of **web site** it is. **.com** is for a commercial or for profit

company. *.org* is for a non-profit organization. *.edu* is for an educational institution. *.gov* is for a government site. *.net* is for **ISPs**. *.mil* is for the military.



**Download:** To receive files or information from another computer. Every time you open a **web page** you are downloading information.

**DSL:** Abbreviation for Digital Subscriber Line. This is a faster method for transferring data via phone lines than the traditional **dial-up** service but uses those same phone lines.

**Email:** Short for electronic mail. These are usually text messages that are sent to one person from another via the **Internet**. The benefit to email is that the messages are received almost instantly.

**Emoticons:** Symbols made up of special characters that are used in **emails** and **chat rooms** to show emotions. Examples: :) is happy :( is sad.

**Error Message:** A message displayed by a piece of software to inform you that something has gone wrong. Error messages often indicate the nature of mistake or problem.



**Extension:** See **File Extension**.

**FAQ:** Stands for Frequently Asked Questions. This is a common **web page** within a **web site** that provides answers to questions that are asked often.

**Favorites:** Way to store frequently used **web pages** in **Internet Explorer** for easy retrieval.

**File Extension:** The two to four characters that follow the dot in a filename. The file extension indicates what type of computer file it is. *.doc* is for MS Word documents. *.jpeg* is for picture files. *.txt* is a plain text file.

**File Transfer Protocol (ftp):** The process a computer uses to transfer files from one **Internet** site to another.

**Filters/Filtering Software:** Computer programs that attempt to control access to the **Internet** by restricting certain **web pages** based on content or other specified criteria.

**Firewall:** Hardware or software that secures a computer and its files by blocking unauthorized access.

**Flame:** An online derogatory comment about another user, usually seen in **chat rooms, blogs, email, and usenets.**

**Frames:** A technique used in designing **web pages** that divides the display area into smaller independent sections, each with its own scroll bar and **URL.** Although frames provide flexibility for the **web page** designer, they are not viewable with every **browser.**

**Gateway:** A program or **web site** that provides access to another.

**GIF (Graphic Interchange Format) File:** Computer format for picture files. It works best for line art and images that have large areas of the same color. This is not the best storage, however, for photographic files.

**Graphics:** Another name for pictures.

**Graphical User Interface (GUI):** A visual computer environment that represents files, commands, and software with picture images. The user selects these options through a **pointing device** such as a **mouse.** Microsoft Windows operating system is an example of a GUI.

**Hits/Hit List:** See **Results/Results List.**



**Home Page:** A home page can be the main **web page** of a **web site** OR it can be the **web page** you set your computer to display when you first open the **Web browser** or click on the Home button in the Navigation toolbar in the **browser.**

**Host:** See **Server.**

**Hyperlink:** See **Link.**

**Hypertext Link:** See **Link.**

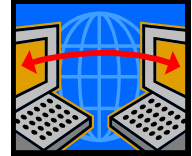
**Hypertext Markup Language (html):** The computer programming language used to create files for use on the **WWW.** All **web pages** are written in HTML and then interpreted by a **browser** making them viewable.

**Hypertext Transfer Protocol (http):** The basic process a computer uses to locate, retrieve, and send information over the **WWW.**

**Icons:** Images that can be pictures, photographs, or **graphics,** which act as **links** to **web pages,** programs, commands, or files. Users can point and **click** on icons to select these objects. This is a key aspect of the **graphical user interface.**

**Instant Messaging (IM):** A communication tool that combines the real time feature of **chat rooms** with the individual contact of **email**. Users agree to be part of a group and utilize the same software. The software is then able to notify a user when one of their group logs on or wants to talk to them.

**Internet:** The interconnected array of **networks** of computers all over the world that communicate and share information over the phone lines, cable lines and other wires using the **TCP/IP protocols**.



**Internet Explorer (IE):** See **Microsoft Internet Explorer**.

**Internet Service Provider (ISP):** A company that, for a fee, provides access to the **Internet**. Your computer calls the **ISP** and they connect your computer to the **Internet**. America Online, Net Zero, and MSN are some of the most well known ISP's currently available.

**Java:** A network-friendly programming language that can be run on any type of computer, which makes it very useful in designing applications for the **WWW**. It is also used to design **GUI** software. The animated functions created with this language will sometimes be called Java applets.

**JavaScript:** A scripting language that allows designers to make their **web sites** more interactive. JavaScript is usually embedded into the **HTML** code and can only be used on **browsers** that are set to read JavaScript.

**JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) File:** Computer file format preferred for storing photographic images.

**Junk Email:** See **Spam**.

**Keywords:** A word or phrase used to describe a topic. These are usually entered into a **search engine** or **subject directory** for the retrieval of related **web pages**.



**Link:** A portion of text, an image, or an **icon** that when **clicked** upon will take you to a new **web page**. When you roll your **mouse** over a link, the **mouse pointer** will always change from the white arrow to a hand with a pointing finger.

**Listserv:** See **Mailing List**.

**Login:** This can either mean the act of connecting to a computer **network** or the account name used to gain access to a system or a **web site**.

**Mailing List:** An automated system that allows for **email** users to join a group, usually based on a topic, and facilitates the ability for those users to send an **email** to the entire group at once.

**Menu:** List of options presented by a program or **web site**. The desired option is **clicked** on using a **mouse** to select it.

**Meta-search Engine:** A special type of **search engine** that runs your **keyword** search on several **search engines** at the same time and combines the **results** into one viewable list.

**Microsoft Internet Explorer:** Popular Microsoft Windows based **web browser**.

**Modem:** The telephone-like device that allows one computer to call another computer or **server** and enables access to the **WWW**. This device changes computer data into signals that can be carried over phone lines, and decodes data it receives over those lines into a form readable by the computer. Modems are responsible for our **Internet** connections.



**Mouse:** A pointing device that allows users to choose **icons**, select information, and move objects. It usually consists of two buttons at the top of the mouse and a rounded body.

**MP3 File:** Computer format used to store audio or sound files.

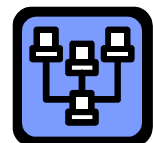
**Multimedia:** Information presented in more than one format, such as text, pictures, sound, and video.

**Natural Language:** The ability to use typical English language sentences or phrases to perform a search in a **search engine**.

**Netiquette:** Principles of courtesy, or etiquette, observed when using the **Internet** and sending **email**.

**Netizen:** Refers to a citizen of the **Internet**, basically any user. The term is used to imply civic responsibility and appropriate participation from those users.

**Network:** An arrangement by which computers are connected so that users of each computer can share files, applications, and other services. When two or more networks are connected, this creates an **Internet**.



**Newsgroup:** Name for **discussion groups** on **Usenet**.

**Online:** Word that signifies the act of being on the **Internet**.

**Online Auction:** Type of shopping **web site**. Users will register to create an account and then use their account to bid on items placed up for sale by multiple sellers under one **web site**.

**Password:** A secret code you create, usually consisting of a series of letters and/or numbers, to gain access to a computer system, such as an **email** account.

**PDF (Portable Document Format) File:** Special computer file format which allows a document's formatting (font, pictures, layout, etc.) to remain the same for **printing** and viewing regardless of what type of operating system is being used.

**People Finder:** A **web site** that allows for searching for individuals, either by name, address, phone number, or email address.

**Personal Page:** A **web page** created by and for an individual. They can contain valid **links** and important information, but more often they are biased and non-factual. In the **URL**, the words "users", "people", a name (jsmith), or the symbols ~ and % will usually indicate a personal page.

**Phrase Searching:** Searching for more than one **keyword** together in an exact order. Usually this is indicated by placing quotation marks around the words, such as "Three Mile Island".

**Plug-in:** A small piece of software that adds features to a larger piece of software. Common plug-ins for **web browsers** enable them to play audio and video files.



**Pointer:** An on-screen indicator, controlled by a **mouse** or other pointing device, you use to select objects. Examples are the white arrow or hand that are controlled by the movement of the **mouse**.

**Portal:** A term used to describe a **web site** that is intended to be the first place people see or a "jumping off point" when using the **Internet**.



**Print:** To create a paper copy of a computer file.

**Print Preview:** To see before printing how the printed pages will look.

**Privacy Policy:** A company or organization's agreement about how they collect, handle, store, and share the personal information you have provided to them and your rights within that policy. You should always check the privacy policy of any **web site** before entering sensitive information such as your name, address, phone, and banking information.

**Protocol:** Refers to the set of rules that outline the exact plan for communications between computer systems. One example of this would be the **http protocol** used between web **servers** and **web browsers**.

**Results/Results List:** If you run a **keyword** query on a **search engine**, this is the group of **web sites** found that match your entered search.

**RSS (Really Simple Syndication) Feed:** This is a way to deliver constantly changing and updating information from the web directly to the user. A person subscribes to the feed(s) of their choice and is able to access new information from several web sites all in one place.

**Save:** To record files onto a disk (the hard drive, a floppy disk, CD-RW, or Flash Drive) for permanent storage. Until work is saved, it exists only in memory and will be lost if the computer is turned off or its power is otherwise interrupted.



**Scroll:** To move up, down, left, or right in a **window**, usually accomplished by using a scroll bar.

**Search Engine:** A **web site** that searches for **keywords** or **phrases** on the **Web** and returns a **hit list** of related **web pages**. *AltaVista*, *Ask Jeeves*, and *Google* are examples of search engines.

**Server:** A special computer that houses **web sites** and provides to other computers access to those **web pages**. If the server housing certain **web pages** is not working, those pages will not be available.

**Spam/Spamming:** Term used both for the unsolicited or junk **email** received by those who have **email** accounts and also for the act of sending out that unwanted **email**.

**Sponsor:** When seen in a **results list** from a **search engine**, this indicates those **web pages** that have paid for the privilege of being placed at the top of the list page. These links should be considered advertisements unless otherwise indicated.

**Spyware:** Refers to software that is unknowingly installed on a user's computer that monitors and reports computer usage without the user's knowledge or consent. Spyware is usually installed when another file, such as music or a game, is **downloaded**.



**Secure Socket Layer (SSL): Protocol** designed to enable the transfer of encrypted data across the **Internet**. This is a security features that ensures that the information being sent cannot be intercepted by a third party during transmission.

**Subject Directory:** A type of searchable **web site** that organizes **web sites** according to their subject. This allows a user to browse a category for related **web sites**, as well as perform a **keyword** search to locate matches. *Yahoo* and *About.com* are examples of subject directories.

**Subject Index:** See **Subject Directory**.

**Surf:** See **Browse**.

**TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol):** This is the group of **protocols** that define the **Internet** and are in use by your computer when on the **Internet**.

**Telnet:** A program that allows you to connect to or **login** to another computer **server** from your computer using the **Internet**. Telnet can be used to access **email** accounts.

**Text Entry Box:** The empty white boxes often seen on **web pages** that are used for entering **keywords** or other information to the **web site**.

**Trojan Horse:** A **virus** or security breaking program that is disguised as something benign, such as a video or game, to trick users into **downloading** it.



**Uniform Resource Locator (URL):** The address of **web site**. A URL is always unique and usually consists of three parts. First, the **server** or **host type**. This is usually *www*. Second, a word or set of words that identify the site owner (also known as the **domain name**). This can be anything—it is usually the company's name. Finally, the **domain suffix** that identifies what type of site it is. Example URL's include: *www.honda.com* and *www.whitehouse.gov*.

**Upload:** Opposite of **download**. This is when your computer sends or transfers files to another computer.

**Usenet:** A world-wide network of **discussion groups**, called **newsgroups**. Registered users are able to post messages for others to read and respond to. The **newsgroups** are organized by topic.



**Virus:** A usually destructive program written specifically to “infect” one or more other programs. When the infected program is used, the embedded virus also opens and performs its predetermined action on the software, files, or computer. Viruses can be transmitted from computer to computer through the **downloading** and sharing of files received on floppy disks, via **email** or by **downloading** files from the **Internet**.

**Web:** Short for **World Wide Web**.

**Web Browser:** See **Browser**.

**Web Directory:** See **Subject Directory**.

**Web Log:** See **Blog**.

**Web Page:** A single screen of information within a **web site**. A web page is to a **web site** as a page is to a book.

**Web Site:** A collection of linked **web pages** that are dedicated to a certain subject or organization.

**Webmaster:** Person responsible for the maintenance of a **web site**.

**Wi-Fi:** Popular nickname for a form of wireless data communication. This means that the computer does not have to be plugged directly into a phone or cable line to access the **Internet**.

**Window:** Name for the screen that opens when a **program** is started using the Microsoft Windows operating system.

**World Wide Web (WWW):** A vast **network** of computer files from around the world that are connected via **hypertext links**. This is the visual component of the **Internet** providing information through the use of pictures, sound, and videos, as well as text.



**Worm:** A program, usually destructive such as a **virus**, that propagates itself over a **network**, reproducing itself as it goes from computer to computer.