

WEB GLOSSARY

Abbreviations

- BTW = By the way
- LOL = Laughing out loud
- IMHO = In my humble opinion
- AFAIK = As far as i know
- TTFN = ta ta for now
- LMAO - laughing my ass off

Account

To use a particular computer system, you are given an account. Associated with the account are a unique and . You enter these to show that you are a legitimate user of the system.

Address

A unique name (or number) identifying a computer user or computer. Address are used in network communications in transmitting messages to a particular person or machine.

Address, Internet

Four numbers separated by dots (dotted quad) which uniquely identifies a computer system connected to the Internet. (Example: ESU 7's address is 162.127.7.1). For each address there is a name. Either the address or the domain name can be used to access an Internet host for remote login () or file transfer ().

ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line)

1. It's a form of high-speed networking designed to pipe data quickly into domestic buildings (that is, your house) using existing telephone networking wiring. It's asymmetric, which means it can be downloaded extremely quickly (10 Mbps), but uploaded at more conventional rates.
2. A method for moving data over regular phone lines. An ADSL circuit is much faster than a regular phone connection, and the wires coming into the subscriber's premises are the same (copper) wires used for regular phone service. An ADSL circuit must be configured to connect two specific locations, similar to a leased line. A commonly discussed configuration of ADSL would allow a subscriber to receive data (download) at speeds of up to 1.544 megabits (not megabytes) per second, and to send (upload) data at speeds of 128 kilobits per second. Thus the "Asymmetric" part of the acronym. Another commonly discussed configuration would be symmetrical: 384 Kilobits per second in both directions. In theory ADSL allows download speeds of up to 9 megabits per second and upload speeds of up to 640 kilobits per second. ADSL is often discussed as an alternative to ISDN, allowing higher speeds in cases where the connection is always to the same place. See Also: bit , bps , ISDN Anonymous FTP

WEB GLOSSARY

3. Technology for sending information over a high bandwidth using existing phone lines. ADSL has the advantages of being much faster than conventional modems and providing an always-on connection.

Anonymous FTP

Also known as "anon FTP"; a service provided to make files available to the general Internet community.

A method of transferring files to or from the publicly accessible section of an site. Using anonymous ftp means you don't have to have an account on that site. You simply enter the username "anonymous" and your e-mail address when it asks for a password.

Applet

A small Java program that can be embedded in an HTML page. Applets differ from full-fledged Java applications in that they are not allowed to access certain resources on the local computer, such as files and serial devices (modems, printers, etc.), and are prohibited from communicating with most other computers across a network. The current rule is that an applet can only make an Internet connection to the computer from which the applet was sent.

ASP (Active Server Pages)

An HTML page that contains scripts that are executed on a Microsoft server. This script often calls information from a database and builds a page on the fly for the browser that requested it. The HTML file is named with a **.asp** suffix.

Asynchronous Communication

A method for transmitting data that sends one character at a time.

Asynchronous Connection

The type of connection a modem makes over a phone line, this connection is not synchronized by a mutual timing signal or clock.

B2B (Business to Business)

The electronic transmission of business documents between two or more businesses.

B2C (Business to Consumer)

Electronic commerce - The same as B2B electronic commerce with the exception than one party is a consumer. For example, a consumer buys from eToy.com.

WEB GLOSSARY

Baud

1. A measure of information transfer speed. The rate at which a modem transfers data from one computer to another. Common modems range in baud rate from 300 to 19200 baud.
2. In common usage the baud rate of a modem is how many bits it can send or receive per second. Technically, baud is the number of times per second that the carrier signal shifts value - for example a 1200 bit-per-second modem actually runs at 300 baud, but it moves 4 bits per baud ($4 \times 300 = 1200$ bits per second). See Also: Bit , Modem
3. A unit of speed in data transmission, or the maximum speed at which data can be sent down a channel. Baud is often equivalent to bits per second. Named after J. M. E. Baudot (died 1903).

Binary - Newsgroups

A type of newsgroup article that contains encoded binary information, such as a picture, sound, or software application. There are special groups for binary files, such as alt.binaries.clip-art. AOL members can decode binary files automatically using FileGrabber.

Bit

1. The smallest unit of information. A bit can have the value of 1 or 0. Everything in computing is based on collecting hunks of bits together, manipulating them, and moving them from place to place. It takes 8 bits to represent a standard letter.
2. A single digit number in base-2, in other words, either a 1 or a zero. The smallest unit of computerized data. Bandwidth is usually measured in bits-per-second.
3. A contraction of binary digit, a bit is the smallest unit of information that a computer can hold. Eight bits is equivalent to a byte. The speed at which bits are transmitted or bit rate is usually expressed as bits per second or bps.

Bookmark

A shortcut back to a favorite Web page. When you find a Web page that you like, you can add it to your list of bookmarks, usually by choosing from your Web browser's menu bar. The next time you want to return to that Web page, just select it from your list of bookmarks.

The return of a piece of mail because of an error in the way it was addressed or in its delivery.

BPS (bits per second)

The speed at which bits are transmitted over a communications medium.

WEB GLOSSARY

Broadband

A contraction of binary digit, a bit is the smallest unit of information that a computer can hold. Eight bits is equivalent to a byte. The speed at which bits are transmitted or bit rate is usually expressed as bits per second or bps.

Browser

1. A computer program you use to view pages on the World Wide Web. Most browsers can display words, pictures, and sounds, and many browsers can also play movies, animations, news tickers, and more. Common browsers include Internet Explorer, Netscape Navigator and the AOL browser.
2. A Client program (software) that is used to look at various kinds of Internet resources. See Also: Client , URL , WWW , Netscape , Mosaic , Home Page (or Homepage)
3. The program used to view web pages on the . The big two are Microsoft Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator.
4. A type of software that allows you to navigate information databases; examples are Netscape Navigator and NCSA Mosaic.
5. Software used to display "pages" of information transmitted by web servers. For example, Microsoft Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator.

Byte

1. A set of Bits that represent a single character. Usually there are 8 Bits in a Byte, sometimes more, depending on how the measurement is being made.
2. The number of bits used to represent a character.

CD-R or Compact Disk-Recordable

Refers to computer peripheral disk drives that allow the user to record content on to a blank compact disk.

CD-ROM

Compact Disk-Read Only Memory; an optical disk from which information may be read but not written.

Certificate Authority

An issuer of Security Certificates used in SSL connections.

cgi-bin

The most common name of a directory on a web server in which CGI programs are stored. The "bin" part of "cgi-bin" is a shorthand version of "binary", because once upon a time, most programs were referred to as "binaries". In real life, most programs

WEB GLOSSARY

found in cgi-bin directories are text files -- scripts that are executed by binaries located elsewhere on the same machine.

.

Click

A verb meaning "to select something with a mouse".

Client

1. A relationship in which one device or computer program is dedicated to serving another device or program. Can be a software application that works on your behalf to extract some service from a server somewhere on the network. Think of your telephone as a client and the telephone company as a server.
2. A computer or program that processes information or does tasks by sending requests and receiving information from a server (a computer in another location that is set up to do a particular set of tasks). For example, an e-mail client would connect to an e-mail server to send and receive e-mail messages.
3. A software program that is used to contact and obtain data from a Server software program on another computer, often across a great distance. Each Client program is designed to work with one or more specific kinds of Server programs, and each Server requires a specific kind of Client. A Web Browser is a specific kind of Client. See Also: Browser ,
4. A technology where a "client" (e.g., your desktop computer) connects over a network to a "server" (e.g., a computer with a database of information) and requests a certain piece of information to be sent back. By not being constantly logged on (as a terminal would be logged on to a host computer) a client/server system can efficiently deal with many "clients" and doesn't waste computer cycles on an idle connection.
5. A computer that has access to services over a computer network. The computer providing the services is a server. *Note: in an X-11 environment, the meanings of client and server are reversed.*

Client-Server Architecture

An information-passing scheme that works as follows: a client program, such as Mosaic, sends a request to a server. The server takes the request, disconnects from the client and processes the request. When the request is processed, the server reconnects to the client program and the information is transferred to the client. This architecture differs from traditional Internet databases where the client connects to the server and runs the program from the remote site. *Note: in an X-11 environment, the meanings of client and server are reversed.*

WEB GLOSSARY

Cookie

The most common meaning of "Cookie" on the Internet refers to a piece of information sent by a Web Server to a Web Browser that the Browser software is expected to save and to send back to the Server whenever the browser makes additional requests from the Server. Depending on the type of Cookie used, and the Browser's settings, the Browser may accept or not accept the Cookie, and may save the Cookie for either a short time or a long time. Cookies might contain information such as login or registration information, online "shopping cart" information, user preferences, etc. When a Server receives a request from a Browser that includes a Cookie, the Server is able to use the information stored in the Cookie. For example, the Server might customize what is sent back to the user, or keep a log of particular user's requests. Cookies are usually set to expire after a predetermined amount of time and are usually saved in memory until the Browser software is closed down, at which time they may be saved to disk if their "expire time" has not been reached. Cookies do not read your hard drive and send your life story to the CIA, but they can be used to gather more information about a user than would be possible without them. See Also: Browser , Server

Configure

The act of changing software or hardware actions by changing the settings.

Configuration

This is a general-purpose computer term that can refer to the way you have your computer set up. It is also used to describe the total combination of hardware components that make up a computer system and the software settings that allow various hardware components of a computer system to communicate with one another.

Cyberspace

1. A term coined by William Gibson in his fantasy novel Neuromance to describe the "world" of computers, and the society that gathers around them.
2. Cyberspace Term originated by author William Gibson in his novel Neuromancer the word Cyberspace is currently used to describe the whole range of information resources available through computer networks.
3. A term coined by William Gibson in his novel "Neuromancer" to refer to a near-future computer network where users mentally travel through matrices of data. The term is now used to describe the Internet and the other computer networks.

WEB GLOSSARY

Database

A computer holding large amounts of information that can be searched by an Internet user.

Dial-Up

To connect to a computer by calling it up on the telephone. Often "dial-up" only refers to the kind of connection you make when using terminal emulator and a regular modem.

Dial-up Connection

The most popular form of Net connection for the home user, this is a connection from your computer to a host computer over standard telephone lines.

Domain

A classification category used for identifying computers in a network. Syntactically, a domain name consists of a sequence of names or other words separated by dots.

Domain Name

1. The name divided by dots which uniquely identifies a machine on the Internet. The leftmost group of characters is the hostname; the rightmost is the top-level domain--the most general category to which the computer belongs; between these are categories (sub domains) which become narrower as they move to the left. The domain name of the ESU 7 server is gilligan.esu7.k12.ne.us; Gilligan is the hostname; esu7.k12.ne.us is the domain.
2. The unique name of an address on the Internet. Domain names usually consist of a name, like aol, followed by a period (called a "dot") and ending with one of several top level domains that describe the type of organization that runs that address.
3. The unique name that identifies an Internet site. Domain Names always have 2 or more parts, separated by dots. The part on the left is the most specific, and the part on the right is the most general. A given machine may have more than one Domain Name but a given Domain Name points to only one machine. For example, the domain names: matisse.net mail.matisse.net workshop.matisse.net can all refer to the same machine, but each domain name can refer to no more than one machine. Usually, all of the machines on a given Network will have the same thing as the right-hand portion of their Domain Names (matisse.net in the examples above). It is also possible for a Domain Name to exist but not be connected to an actual machine. This is often done so that a group or business can have an Internet e-mail address without having to establish a real Internet site. In these cases, some real Internet machine must handle the mail on behalf of the listed Domain Name. See Also: IP Number

WEB GLOSSARY

4. The primary top level domains are:

- .com - Companies
- .net - Internet Service Providers
- .edu - Educational Institutions
- .mil - Military
- .org - Non-profit organizations
- .gov - Government
- .it - Italian extensions
- .co.uk - British
- .biz - Business
- .ws - Web Site

Document

When used in reference to the World Wide Web, a document is any file containing text, media or hyperlinks that can be transferred from an HTTP server to a client program.

Document Window

This is the Web browser's scrollable window in which HTML documents can be viewed.

Download

1. The process of transferring files to your local machine using the network or via modem and communications software.
2. To receive files from a computer somewhere else (like a server) onto your computer. Also, a file that has been so transferred.
3. To transfer to your computer a copy of a file that resides on another computer.
4. Copying files, or other data from another computer to yours.

e-commerce and e-business

The terms now used to describe the business strategy of using EDI to provide better customer service, increase sales, lower costs and increase profits.

e-mail (Electronic Mail)

1. Online messaging services between computer users.
2. Messages, usually text, sent from one person to another via computer. E-mail can also be sent automatically to a large number of addresses (Mailing List).
3. The form of instant mail communication used by programs such Netscape Mail, Internet Mail, cc:mail, Eudora, etc.

WEB GLOSSARY

Email Address

1. The UUCP or domain-based address that a user is referred to with.
2. The Internet address, such as _____, to which messages are sent.

A computer specifically intended for storing files that people can share over a network. The computer being used as the file server might not be able to be used for other common workstation tasks.

GIF (Graphic Interchange Format)

1. A common format for image files, especially suitable for images containing large areas of the same color. GIF format files of simple images are often smaller than the same file would be if stored in JPEG format, but GIF format does not store photographic images as well as JPEG. See Also: JPEG
2. Graphics Interchange Format for compressed images. Good for line graphics and required for in lined images.
3. This format is best used when there are only a few colors making up an image. Not suitable for pictures with a lot of different colors or detail.
4. This acronym stands for Graphic Interchange Format, a commonly used file compression format developed by CompuServe for transferring graphics files to and from online services.

Hit

As used in reference to the World Wide Web, "hit" means a single request from a web browser for a single item from a web server; thus in order for a web browser to display a page that contains 3 graphics, 4 "hits" would occur at the server: 1 for the HTML page, and one for each of the 3 graphics. "hits" are often used as a very rough measure of load on a server, e.g. "Our server has been getting 300,000 hits per month." Because each "hit" can represent anything from a request for a tiny document (or even a request for a missing document) all the way to a request that requires some significant extra processing (such as a complex search request), the actual load on a machine from 1 hit is almost impossible to define.

Home Page

1. (or Homepage) Several meanings. Originally, the web page that your browser is set to use when it starts up. The more common meaning refers to the main web page for a business, organization, person or simply the main page out of a collection of web pages, e.g. "Check out so-and-so's new Home Page." Another sloppier use of the term refers to practically any web page as a "homepage," e.g. "That web site has 65 homepages and none of them are interesting." See Also: Browser , Web
2. The starting point or main menu of a Web site or document collection.
3. The document displayed when you first open your Web browser. Home Page can also refer to the first document you come to at a Web site.
4. Generally, The first page you see on a web site.

WEB GLOSSARY

Host

1. Any computer (node) connected to a network which is directly used by resources (e.g., public domain programs, text/data files, mailboxes, etc.). An Internet host can be identified by its dotted quad address or its distinctive domain name. This computer system may also be the source of network services on which you may hold an interactive session if you are a valid user of that system.
2. Any computer on a network that is a repository for services available to other computers on the network. It is quite common to have one host machine provide several services, such as WWW and USENET. See Also: Node , Network
3. A computer acting as an information or communications server.
4. A computer that controls other computers on a .

Hostname

The name given to a machine. (See also FQDN)

Hotlists

Lists of frequently used Web locations and URLs (Uniform Resource Locators).

Hyperlink (also link)

Hyperlinks tie information on the Web together, making it easy to jump between connected Web pages. Text hyperlinks are usually underlined text, and when you click on a hyperlink with your mouse, you will "go" to another Web page. For example, a Web page about Sports might have a hyperlink to more information about Basketball -- click on the hyperlink, and the Basketball page is brought to your computer screen. (In most Web browsers, when you move your mouse over a hyperlink, the mouse arrow will turn into a pointing finger, which means you can click that link.)

Hypertext

1. Generally, any text that contains links to other documents - words or phrases in the document that can be chosen by a reader and which cause another document to be retrieved and displayed.
2. This term describes the system that allows documents to be cross- linked in such a way that the reader can explore related documents by clicking on a highlighted word or symbol.
3. A word, phrase or image on a web page that can be selected to move to another page or location on the same page. Usually it is underlined and/or another color.

WEB GLOSSARY

Internet

1. The world-wide "network of networks" that are connected to each other, using the TCP/IP protocol and other similar protocols. The Internet provides file transfer, remote login, electronic mail, news, and other services.
 2. The world's largest computer network, made up of thousands of smaller networks and computers all connected together.
-
1. *Internet (Upper case I)* - The vast collection of inter-connected networks that all use the TCP/IP protocols and that evolved from the ARPANET of the late 60's and early 70's. The Internet now (July 1995) connects roughly 60,000 independent networks into a vast global internet. See Also: internet
 2. *internet (Lower case i)* - Any time you connect 2 or more networks together, you have an internet - as in inter-national or inter-state. See Also: Internet , Network
 3. A public network which can be use to connect computers to other computers virtually anywhere in the world. The terms intranet and extranet refer to Internet computers which require "passwords" for access. For example, Drexel dealers can use the "Drexel Link" intranet to view order status.
 4. The largest connection of computers in the world. It is also the connections or data paths between them.

Internet Site

A computer connected to the Internet that contains information that can be accessed using a navigation tool such as ftp, telnet, gopher, etc.

IP address

A specially formulated number assigned to an

K

A suffix meaning "about 1000", derived from the Greek kilo. For example, 8.6K characters meaning 8600 characters.

Login

1. An opening procedure to identify yourself to a system as a legitimate user and begin a session. To log in you usually need a valid user name and password that were preassigned by the system administrator of the system.
- **Noun:** The account name used to gain access to a computer system. Not a secret (contrast with Password)
 - **Verb:** The act of entering into a computer system, e.g. Login to the "Messenger" and then go to the "chat" conference.

WEB GLOSSARY

Logout

A closing procedure to formally end a session with a system.

Mailing List

1. A possibly moderated discussion group, distributed via email from a central computer maintaining the list of people involved in the discussion.
2. A discussion forum that use e-mail to send messages on a particular topic to a group of subscribers.
3. A (usually automated) system that allows people to send e-mail to one address, whereupon their message is copied and sent to all of the other subscribers to the maillist. In this way, people who have many different kinds of e-mail access can participate in discussions together.

Megabyte

A million bytes. Actually, technically, 1024 kilobytes.

MPEG

1. Motion Picture Experts' Group. Also a standard created by this group for compressed video.
2. The acronym for Moving Pictures Expert Group, MPEG is an international standard for video compression and desktop movie presentation. A special viewing application is needed to run MPEG files on your computer.

Network

1. Any time you connect 2 or more computers together so that they can share resources, you have a computer network. Connect 2 or more networks together and you have an internet. See Also: internet , Internet , Intranet
2. A group of computers joined together and sharing data. The Internet is the largest network in the world.

Offline: Any work performed while not actually logged onto your computer. A preferred way to accomplish lengthy letters and compositions. It helps keep network congestion down. This document was prepared offline.

Online

1. When you are logged onto a computer through your modem, you are said to be online.
2. Any work performed while connected to your computer. Reserved (hopefully) for active surfing, chatting, game playing, quick responses, etc.

WEB GLOSSARY

Online Service

A service that is proprietary and specific. are not necessarily an Online Service. Some examples are America Online, Prodigy, CompuServe, and Microsoft Network.

Password

A code used to gain access to a locked system. Good passwords contain letters and non-letters and are not simple combinations such as virtue7. A good password might be: Hot\$1-6 See Also: Login

Plug-in

1. A small program that improves the capabilities of your Web browser in a specific way. Downloading and installing a specific plug-in gives you a specific feature, like the ability to listen to streaming audio (with the RealAudio plug-in), or the capability to view animated movies (with the Flash plug-in). See the Multimedia Showcase for more information and the most popular plug-ins.
2. A (usually small) piece of software that adds features to a larger piece of software. Common examples are plug-ins for the Netscape® browser and web server. Adobe Photoshop® also uses plug-ins. The idea behind plug-in's is that a small piece of software is loaded into memory by the larger program, adding a new feature, and that users need only install the few plug-ins that they need, out of a much larger pool of possibilities. Plug-ins are usually created by people other than the publishers of the software the plug-in works with.

POP (Point of Presence, also Post Office Protocol)

1. Two commonly used meanings: Point of Presence and Post Office Protocol. A Point of Presence usually means a city or location where a network can be connected to, often with dial up phone lines. So if an Internet company says they will soon have a POP in Belgrade, it means that they will soon have a local phone number in Belgrade and/or a place where leased lines can connect to their network. A second meaning, Post Office Protocol refers to the way e-mail software such as Eudora gets mail from a mail server. When you obtain a SLIP, PPP, or shell account you almost always get a POP account with it, and it is this POP account that you tell your e-mail software to use to get your mail. See Also: SLIP , PPP
2. POP is a service provider's location for connecting to users. Generally, POPs refer to the location where people can dial into the provider's host computer. Most providers have several POPs to allow low-cost access via telephone lines.

Portal

A computer connected to the Internet (web site) that provides access to a wide variety of information. A "real world" analogy would be a shopping mall as compared to a unique retail store. Yahoo and Excite are two of the most popular portals.

WEB GLOSSARY

Search engine

1. A tool that lets you find information on the Internet. You type words describing what you're looking for, and the search engine scours the Internet for Web sites that match your description. An example of a search engine is AOL NetFind.
 2. This term refers to a program that helps users find information in text-oriented databases.
 3. The service on the _____ that allows us to find what we are looking for.
- For example: _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____

Search terms

Words that describe what you're looking for. Another name for search terms is "key words," not to be confused with AOL keywords.

Security Certificate

A chunk of information (often stored as a text file) that is used by the SSL protocol to establish a secure connection. Security Certificates contain information about who it belongs to, who it was issued by, a unique serial number or other unique identification, valid dates, and an encrypted "fingerprint" that can be used to verify the contents of the certificate. In order for an SSL connection to be created both sides must have a valid Security Certificate. See Also: Certificate Authority , SSL

Server

1. A computer that shares its resources, such as printers and files, with other computers on the network but is used only to store and retrieve information. An example of this is a Network File System (NFS) server which shares its disk space with others
2. A computer that processes information or does tasks by handling requests from client computers. For example, a file server is a computer on which files are stored, so that users can transfer files to and from the server.
3. A computer, or a software package, that provides a specific kind of service to client software running on other computers. The term can refer to a particular piece of software, such as a WWW server, or to the machine on which the software is running, e.g. Our mail server is down today, that's why e-mail isn't getting out. A single server machine could have several different server software packages running on it, thus providing many different servers to clients on the network. See Also: Client , Network
4. A computer system that manages and delivers information for client computers. *Note: in an X-11 environment, the meanings of client and server are reversed.*
5. In this case a computer that _____ on the _____. Although more specifically it is also a computer that controls other computers in a situation.

WEB GLOSSARY

Shareware

1. This term refers to software that is available on public networks and BBSs. Users are asked to remit a small amount to the software developer, but it's on the honor system.
2. As opposed to [Freeware](#), this is software that someone has worked extremely hard on in order to make a living. The author expects a return on his time and energy investment but believes in his product enough to let you try it for free for a period of time. Always register your shareware. Some [Shareware](#) are built in part using a paid for copy of Hot Dog Pro 4.5 and Homesite 3.0. Both excellent shareware programs.

Signature

1. The small, usually four-line message at the bottom of a piece of email or Usenet article. In Unix, it's added by creating a file '.signature' in the user's home directory. Large signatures are a no-no.
2. Text added to the bottom of an article or e-mail to give the reader more information about the poster. Signatures can include e-mail and Web addresses, quotes, text art, and more, though signatures should not be longer than 4 or 5 lines.

Smiley

: -)

; -)

: -(

SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol)

1. The Internet standard protocol for transferring electronic mail messages from one computer to another. SMTP specifies how two mail systems interact and the format of control messages they exchange to transfer mail.
2. The main protocol used to send electronic mail on the Internet. SMTP consists of a set of rules for how a program sending mail and a program receiving mail should interact. Almost all Internet email is sent and received by clients and servers using SMTP, thus if one wanted to set up an email server on the Internet one would look for email server software that supports SMTP. See [Also: Client](#), [Server](#)

Snail Mail

The traditional and conventional Postal Service/Royal Mail.

WEB GLOSSARY

Spam

1. An article that is sent to hundreds or thousands of different newsgroups, and has nothing to do with any of them. Often advertisements or "MAKE MONEY FAST"-type chain letters. Very annoying and a very bad violation of netiquette. The act of sending spam is "spamming." Someone who sends spam is a "spammer." The term "spam" comes from the Monty Python sketch where the name of the canned meat product is used so often that it crowds everything else out.
2. An inappropriate attempt to use a mailing list, or USENET or other networked communications facility as if it was a broadcast medium (which it is not) by sending the same message to a large number of people who didn't ask for it. The term probably comes from a famous Monty Python skit which featured the word spam repeated over and over. The term may also have come from someone's low opinion of the food product with the same name, which is generally perceived as a generic content-free waste of resources. (Spam is a registered trademark of Hormel Corporation, for its processed meat product.) E.g. Mary spammed 50 USENET groups by posting the same message to each. See Also: Maillist , USENET

SQL (Structured Query Language)

A specialized programming language for sending queries to databases. Most industrial-strength and many smaller database applications can be addressed using SQL. Each specific application will have its own version of SQL implementing features unique to that application, but all SQL-capable databases support a common subset of SQL.

SSL (Secure Sockets Layer)

A protocol designed by Netscape Communications to enable encrypted, authenticated communications across the Internet. SSL used mostly (but not exclusively) in communications between web browsers and web servers. URL's that begin with "https" indicate that an SSL connection will be used. SSL provides 3 important things: Privacy, Authentication, and Message Integrity. In an SSL connection each side of the connection must have a Security Certificate, which each side's software sends to the other. Each side then encrypts what it sends using information from both its own and the other side's Certificate, ensuring that only the intended recipient can de-crypt it, and that the other side can be sure the data came from the place it claims to have come from, and that the message has not been tampered with.

Streaming

A particular way that files are sent over the Web that lets you see or hear information as it arrives, so you don't have to wait for the entire file to download.

WEB GLOSSARY

Synchronous

Data communications in which transmissions are sent at a fixed rate, with the sending and receiving devices synchronized.

Synchronous Connection

An analog to analog or digital to digital connection that is able to perform two or more processes at the same time by means of a mutual timing signal or clock.

Sysop (System Operator)

Anyone responsible for the physical operations of a computer system or network resource. A System Administrator decides how often backups and maintenance should be performed and the System Operator performs those tasks.

T1

1. A leased-line connection capable of carrying data at 1,544,000 bits-per-second. At maximum theoretical capacity, a T-1 line could move a megabyte in less than 10 seconds. That is still not fast enough for full-screen, full-motion video, for which you need at least 10,000,000 bits-per-second. T-1 is the fastest speed commonly used to connect networks to the Internet.
2. High-speed data line connection. T-1 operates at 1.45 Mbps.

T3

A leased-line connection capable of carrying data at 44,736,000 bits-per-second. This is more than enough to do full-screen, full-motion video.

Tags

These are formatting codes used in HTML documents. Tags indicate how parts of a document will appear when displayed by browsing software.

TCP/IP(Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol)

1. The language used of the Internet to support services such as remote login (), file transfer () and mail (SMT). Allows millions of people to use hundreds of computers at the same time.
2. This is the suite of protocols that defines the . Originally designed for the UNIX operating system, TCP/IP is now available for every major kind of computer operating system. To be truly on the Internet, your computer must have TCP/IP .
3. The standard language used by computers on the Internet to communicate with one another.
4. This is the standard that allows computers of various types to connect to the and communicate with each other.

WEB GLOSSARY

Telnet

1. The Internet standard protocol for providing connection to a remote computer (remote login). Telnet allows a user at one site to interact with a remote system at another site as if the user's terminal were connected directly to the remote computer.
2. The command and program used to login from one Internet site to another. The telnet command/program gets you to the login: prompt of another host.

Terabyte

1000 gigabytes.

Test

A test message, usually posted by newbies. Test messages should only be sent to newsgroups specifically designed for this purpose, such as misc.test. Warning: put "Ignore" in your test message's subject or body, unless you want lots of automatically generated response mail. thread A thread is an ongoing discussion of related messages that grows from one particular posting. troll A purposely stupid, inflammatory, or downright wrong article (closely related to flamebait). Its purpose is to get people mad and make them look stupid and gullible when they post a reply. Also, a person who indulges in trolling.

TIFF (Tagged Image File Format)

A graphic file format developed by Aldus and Microsoft. Mosaic supports the viewing of TIFF images.

UNIX

1. An operating system available for a wide range of computers. It is commonly referred to as the "operating system" of the Internet.
2. A computer operating system (the basic software running on a computer, underneath things like word processors and spreadsheets). UNIX is designed to be used by many people at the same time (it is multi-user) and has TCP/IP built-in. It is the most common operating system for servers on the Internet.

Upload

1. To send files from your computer to somewhere else (like a server). Also, a file that has been so transferred.
2. Copying files from your computer to another one.

URL (Uniform Resource Locator)

1. The standard way to give the address of any resource on the Internet that is part of the World Wide Web (WWW). A URL looks like this:

WEB GLOSSARY

- The most common way to use a URL is to enter into a WWW browser program, such as Netscape, or Lynx.
2. The complete address to specify a particular document on the Web. For example, connects the browser to the initial page of the site of frankthedragon.
 3. This is the text that is contained in the box above you that is the address of a . You should be seeing <http://www.geocities.com/webglossary/>
 4. The addressing system used in the World Wide Web and other Internet resources. The URL contains information about the method of access, the server to be accessed and the path of any file to be accessed.

Username or ID

1. Address representing a personal account on a large computer, ie.
2. The name that you are using to log on to the , as well as a name you might use in any number of chatting, and situations.

Virtual

Something that is simulated by a computer, rather than actually being a physical object. Virtual reality is a computer simulation that allows the user to interact with 3D graphics.

Virus

A program that "infects" other programs by embedding a copy of itself in them.

WAN (Wide-Area Network)

1. A network spanning hundreds or thousands of miles.
2. Any internet or network that covers an area larger than a single building or campus. See Also: Internet , internet , LAN , Network Web See: WWW
3. The same as a LAN except the computers are not physically close to each other. For example, Hitchcock Furniture uses a WAN to connect their 11 retail stores.

Windows

Operating System developed by Microsoft. There have been various incarnations.

Windows 3.0, v3.1, v 3.11, NT, 95, 98, ME:

Web address

The location of a page on the World Wide Web, which usually looks like "http://www.aol.com." Web addresses are officially known as URLs, which stands for Uniform Resource Locator.

WEB GLOSSARY

Web page (also page)

1. A document on the World Wide Web, created using _____ and seen with a Web _____. A Web page can contain text, pictures, sounds, software files, movies, and more. Each Web page has a unique Web address that describes how to get to it. A _____ is a specific kind of Web page, usually the main page on a Web site.
2. The document that you are viewing now. A web page is almost always generated with _____ and can contain words, _____, images, sounds, video, and more.
3. An HTML document that is browsable on the Web.

Webmaster

This term refers to the person in charge of administrating a World Wide Web site.

Web site

1. A collection of Web pages. World Wide Web (also WWW, Web) The World Wide Web uses the Internet to create a network of information, made up of documents ("Web Pages") containing text, sounds, pictures, movies, and more, tied together with hyperlinks so that all this information is just a few clicks of the mouse away.
2. An interconnected series of _____, usually evident by similarity in style and content.

Webspace

This term refers to the space created by the World Wide Web.

Workstation

A networked personal computing device with more power than standard IBM PC or Macintosh. Typically, a workstation has an operating system such as UNIX that is capable of running several tasks at the same time.

Worm

A computer program which replicates itself. The Internet worm was perhaps the most famous; it successfully (and accidentally) duplicated itself on many of the systems across Internet.

WWW (World Wide Web)

1. A revolutionary Internet browsing system that allows for point and click navigation of the Net information contained on the World Wide Web. The WWW is a spider web-like interconnection of millions of bits of information

WEB GLOSSARY

- across the Internet. A hypertext document contains text and graphical "links" to information spread out over the WWW.
2. Frequently used (incorrectly) when referring to "The Internet", WWW has two major meanings - First, loosely used: the whole constellation of resources that can be accessed using Gopher, FTP, HTTP, telnet, USENET, WAIS and some other tools. Second, the universe of hypertext servers (HTTP servers) which are the servers that allow text, graphics, sound files, etc. to be mixed together.
 3. Often shortened to the Web, in a general sense, this is the presented to us in
 4. All the HTML documents that can be reached on the Internet using HTTP.
 5. Also known as W3, the World Wide Web is a hypertext- based Internet service used for browsing Internet resources.

WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get)

A computer industry term which indicates that the work you do on your screen will appear exactly the same when you print it on the printer.