

Terminology



BPS

Bits Per Second. Measurement of the speed at which data can be transmitted over a telephone or network line.

Browser

An application that displays a Web page. Also known as a Web browser.

Chat

Live communication over the Internet Relay Chat service or an online service. As one person enters text it appears on the other person's screen in "real time", or almost instantly.

Data Encryption

A process that transforms information into random streams of bits to create a secret code for data security.

Domain Name

Denotes the name of a specific Internet area controlled by a company, school, or organization.

Email

Electronic Mail. Text messages sent through a network to specified individual or group. Email messages can also carry attached files.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions. A FAQ is generally a list of questions and answers about a specific subject. Most news groups have FAQ's, which should be read before you post any message to them.

FTP

File Transfer Protocol. The Internet protocol that allow the viewing, downloading, and uploading of files on remote computers.

Firewall

Software or hardware that limits certain kinds of access to a computer from a network or other outside source.

GIF

Graphic Interchange Format. A bit-mapped color graphics file format that is the preferred one to use if you want to put a graphic (as opposed to a photo) on a Web page.

Gig

Approximately one billion bytes, or one thousand megabytes.

HTML

Hypertext Markup Language. The standard for adding tags to a text file, so that the file is able to be interpreted by a Web browser.

HTTP

Hypertext Transfer Protocol. The Internet protocol that the Web uses to send information to the client, so the client browser can view Web pages.

Icon

A small abstract graphic representation of an object or idea.

IP Address

The number that identifies your machine as unique on the Internet. Without it, you cannot use any Internet protocols.

ISP

Internet Service Provider. A company that provides direct access to the Internet.

Java

An object-oriented, cross-platform programming language, similar to C++ that is designed for building applications for the Internet.

JPEG

Joint Photographic Expert Group. A file format using a compression technique to reduce the size of a graphics file by as much as 96 percent. JPEG is the preferred file format to use if you want to put a photograph on a Web page.

LAN

Local-Area Network. A group of computers, usually in one building, that are physically connected in a way that lets them communicate and interact with each other.

Link

A word or phrase emphasized in a hypertext document that acts as a pointer to related information. Links in a Web browser are usually underlined and are a different color than the rest of the text.

Mailing List

Discussion groups over the Internet that link a group of people together with common interests. If you belong to a mailing list, you receive every message posted to that list via email.

Mail Server

A computer that holds email messages for clients on a network.

Modem

A device that translates computer signals to analog signals suitable for send across cable or phone lines.

PDF

Portable Document Format. A standard used by Adobe Acrobat to display any sort of document on any computer. The Adobe Acrobat Reader can be downloaded as freeware.

RealAudio

A helper app that allows you to download sound files over Web pages in real-time. The player can be downloaded as freeware.

Router

A specialized machine that runs various protocols to direct network packets from one segment to another.

Search Engine

A utility that locates resources via searches for keywords and phrases. Click here for a large list of search engines.

Shareware

Software distributed via the honor system. You download shareware from the Internet, try it out, and if you keep it, are expected to pay a shareware fee.

Slip/PPP Account

When you log into this kind of account, your computer is actually connected to the Internet, and so is fully capable of all the TCP/IP services available.

Spam

Unsolicited email messages or Newsgroups postings, usually advertising a product.

T1

A type of data connection able to transmit a digital signal at 1.544 megabits per second.

TCP/IP

Transport Control Protocol/Internet Protocol. The protocol suite that makes Telnet, FTP, email, and other services possible among computers that aren't on the same local area network.

URL

Uniform Resource Locator. Describes the location and access method of a resource on the Internet. This is also known as the "Web site address."

World Wide Web

A collection of electronic documents loosely knit by a concept called "hypertext." Documents connect to each other by clickable "hyperlinks." You need to run a browser.