

“FTP MY URL TO YOUR PROXY?!?”

USEFUL INTERNET TERMS AND ACRONYMS

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.

Backbone — A high-speed line or series of connections that forms a major pathway within a network. The term is relative, as a backbone in a small network will likely be much smaller than many non-backbone lines in a large network.

Bandwidth — How much stuff you can send through a connection. Usually measured in bits-per-second. A full page of English text is about 16,000 bits. A fast modem can move about 15,000 bits in one second. Full-motion full-screen video would require roughly 10 million bits per second, depending on compression.

Baud — In common usage, the baud rate of a modem is how many bits it can send or receive per second.

Bit (Binary DigIT) — A single digit number in base-2, in other words, either a 1 or a zero. The smallest unit of computerized data.

Bps (Bits Per Second) — A measurement of how fast data is moved from one place to another.

Browser — A client program (software) that is used to look at various kinds of Internet resources.

Byte — A set of Bits that represent a single character. Usually there are eight Bits in a Byte, sometimes more, depending on how the measurement is being made.

Certificate Authority — An issuer of Security Certificates used in SSL connections.

Client — 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.

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.

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.

Digerati — The digital version of literati, it is a reference to a vague cloud of people seen to be knowledgeable, hip or otherwise in-the-know in regards to the digital revolution.

DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) — A method for moving data over regular phone lines. A DSL 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.

Domain Name — The unique name that identifies an Internet site. Domain names always have two or more parts separated by dots.

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) — FAQs are documents that list and answer the most common questions on a particular subject.

Fire Wall — A combination of hardware and software that separates a LAN into two or more parts for security purposes.

Flame — Originally, flame meant to write in a passionate manner in the spirit of debate. Flames most often involved the use of flowery language and flaming well was an art form. More recently flame has come to refer to any kind of derogatory comment no matter how witless or crude.

FTP (File Transfer Protocol) — A very common method of moving files between two Internet sites.

GIF (Graphic Interchange Format) — A common format for image files, especially suitable for images containing large areas of the same color.

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 three graphics, four “hits” would occur at the server: one for the HTML page, and one for each of the three graphics. “Hits” are often used as a very rough measure of load on a server.

Home Page (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.

HTML (HyperText Markup Language) — The coding language used to create Hypertext documents for use on the World Wide Web. HTML looks a lot like old-fashioned typesetting code, where you surround a block of text with codes that indicate how it should appear. Additionally, in HTML, you can specify that a block of text, or a word, is linked to another file on the Internet.

HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) — The protocol for moving hypertext files across the Internet. Requires a HTTP client program on one end, and an HTTP server program on the other end. HTTP is the most important protocol used in the World Wide Web (WWW).

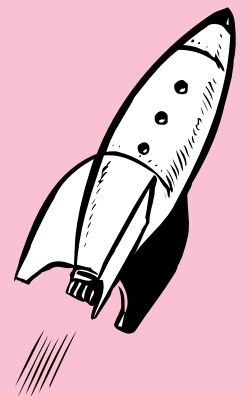
Hypertext — Generally, any text that contains links to other documents — words or phrases in the document that can be chosen by a reader and which cause another document to be retrieved and displayed.

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 '60s and early '70s.

Intranet — A private network inside a company or organization that uses the same kinds of software that you would find on the public Internet, but that is only for internal use. As the Internet has become more popular many of the tools used on the Internet are being used in private networks, for example, many companies have Web servers that are available only to employees.

ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) — Basically a way to move more data over existing regular phone lines. ISDN is rapidly becoming available to much of the United States and in most markets it is priced very comparably to standard analog phone circuits.

Domain Name — The unique name that identifies an Internet site. Domain names always have two or more parts, separated by dots.



Newspaper Agency Corporation
**New Media
Department**

(801) 237-2008 / teyre@nacorp.com

ISP (Internet Service Provider) — An institution that provides access to the Internet in some form, usually for money.

Java — Java is a network-oriented programming language invented by Sun Microsystems that is specifically designed for writing programs that can be safely downloaded to your computer through the Internet and immediately run without fear of viruses or other harm to your computer or files.

JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) — JPEG is most commonly mentioned as a format for image files. JPEG format is preferred to the GIF format for photographic images as opposed to line art or simple logo art.

Modem (Modulator, Demodulator) — A device that you connect to your computer and phone line that allows the computer to talk to other computers through the phone system. Basically, modems do for computers what a telephone does for humans.

Netizen — Derived from the term citizen, referring to a citizen of the Internet, or someone who uses networked resources. The term connotes civic responsibility and participation. See Also: Internet

Network — Any time you connect two or more computers together so that they can share resources, you have a computer network. Connect two or more networks together and you have an Internet.

Newsgroup — The name for discussion groups on USENET.

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.

Plug-in — 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-ins 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) — 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 an 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.

Portal — Usually used as a marketing term to describe a Web site that is or is intended to be the first place people see when using the Web. Typically a "portal site" has a catalog of web sites, a search engine or both. A portal site may also offer e-mail and other service to entice people to use that site as their main "point of entry" (hence "portal") to the Web.

Posting — A single message entered into a network communications system. (e.g. A single message posted to a newsgroup or message board).

PPP (Point to Point Protocol) — Mostly known as a protocol that allows a computer to use a regular telephone line and a modem to make TCP/IP connections and thus be really and truly on the Internet.

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.

Server — 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.

SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) — 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 e-mail is sent and received by clients and servers using SMTP, thus if one wanted to set up an e-mail server on the Internet one would look for e-mail server software that supports SMTP.

Spam (or Spamming) — 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 that featured the word spam repeated over and over.

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.

T-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 million bits-per-second. T-1 is the fastest speed commonly used to connect networks to the Internet.

T-3 — 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.

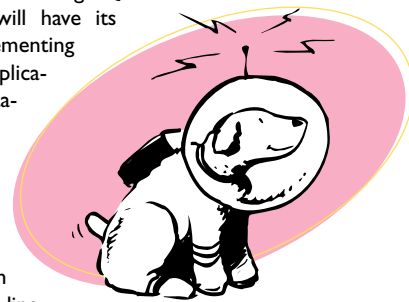
TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol) — This is the suite of protocols that defines the Internet. Originally designed for the UNIX operating system, TCP/IP software is now available for every major kind of computer operating system. To be truly on the Internet, your computer must have TCP/IP software.

URL (Uniform Resource Locator)

— 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: <http://www.matisse.net/seminars.html> or <telnet://well.sf.ca.us> or <news:new.newusers.questions>. The most common way to use a URL is to enter into a WWW browser program, such as Netscape or Explorer.

Web — See: WWW

WWW (World Wide Web) — 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) that are the servers that allow text, graphics, sound files etc. to be mixed together.



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have any
questions,
feel free to
call our
new media
specialists at
801-237-2008.



Newspaper Agency Corporation

New Media Department

(801) 237-2008 / teyre@nacorp.com