

Beginners Internet Glossary

ARPANET: A project of the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA), this was the name of the original network that evolved into the Internet.

Bandwidth: A measurement of the rate of data transfer. More bandwidth allows for faster data transfer (faster downloads or loading of web pages).

Blog or Weblog: A journal-like personal web page.

Broadband: High-speed Internet access.

Browser: Web viewing program such as *Internet Explorer* or *Mozilla Firefox*.

Cookies: Small files generated by a web server and saved to the user's computer. Cookies are used to identify users and load customized pages for them.

Computer virus: A software program designed to spread from one computer to another and to interfere with computer operation. A virus might corrupt or delete data on your computer, use your e-mail program to spread itself to other computers, or even erase everything on your hard disk.

Dial-up connection: A network connection between two computers via a telephone line.

Email address: The unique private Internet address to which email is sent. Every email address is composed of a username and a server name separated by an "@".

Firewall: Network security system used to restrict external and internal traffic.

Google: Popular search engine located at www.google.com. “To google” is often used as a verb meaning “to search for on the internet.”

Hacker: One with expertise in circumventing computer security systems.

Homepage: “Homepage” has two separate meanings. It can mean either the first page loaded by your browser at startup, or the main webpage for a particular group, organization or person.

Hypertext: Hypertext documents contain links (also known as hyperlinks) to other documents. The World Wide Web is the most common example of hypertext.

Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP): A programming language that allows Web pages to be linked together on computers across the Internet. Most web addresses start with “HTTP.”

Secure Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTPS): A combination of standard hypertext transfer protocol and some variety of encryption system to protect data moving to or from a website. Addresses of secure sites start with “HTTPS.”

Intranet: A privately owned internal network most often used for communication and exchange of information within a company.

Internet Service Provider (ISP): A company that sells access to the Internet.

Internet Protocol (IP): Defines how packets of data get from source to destination. IP by itself is something like the postal system. It allows you

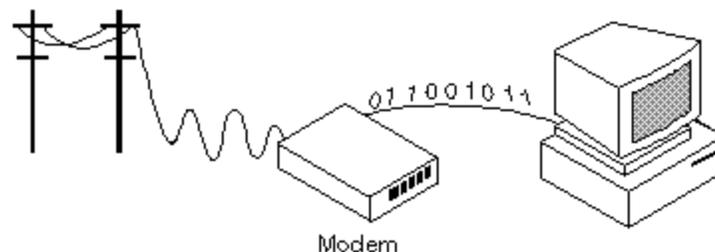
to address a package and drop it in the system, but there's no direct link between you and the recipient.

IP address: A computer's unique numeric address while connected to the Internet.

Link: In hypertext, as in a web page, a link is a reference to another document. When you click on a link in a browser, that document will be retrieved and displayed.

LAN (Local Area Network): A computer network that spans a relatively small area such as an office.

Modem: Short for *modulator-demodulator*, a modem is a device that converts information between a digital form that can be used by computers and an analog form that can be transmitted along phone or cable lines.



Operating System: The fundamental program on any computer, the operating system organizes files and information, controls peripherals such as monitors or keyboards, and allows other programs to function. Windows is the operating system on all the library's computers.

Phishing (pronounced fishing): The crime of using bogus e-mails or websites to trick people into revealing personal information such as account numbers and passwords.

Pop-up window: A window that opens automatically in response to a command from a website or other program. Many pop-ups are ads and open in front of the program one is using. Due to this nuisance, most web browsers now contain a built in pop-up blocker, preventing websites from opening new windows.

Search engine: A program that searches a database of web pages for specific words and returns a list of all relevant pages. Each search engine has its own method of determining which websites will be most relevant.

Spam: Unsolicited email, usually advertisements.

Web page: A single hypertext document made available through the Internet.

Website: A collection of related web pages. For example, the library has a website composed of numerous pages pertaining to the library's various activities.

Wi-Fi: The common name for the 802.11b protocol that allows nearby computers and other devices to communicate wirelessly.

World Wide Web (WWW or the Web): A collection of documents connected by hyperlinks. The World Wide Web was first developed on private computers but later made freely available to the general public.