

# Internet Terminology and Definitions

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### The NETWORK:

#### Internet

the name given to the collective electronic network of computers and computer networks which are inter-connected throughout the world - started with the ARPAnet at the US Dept. of Defense.

#### USENET

the name given to the computer network which carries newsgroups - newsgroups are arranged in hierarchies based loosely on subject matter - the USENET is often confused with the INTERNET in the news media - started by two students at Duke University.

#### WorldWideWeb - WWW - W3

the name given to the collection of computers which serve information in hypertext format to the INTERNET - invented by Dr. Tim Berners-Lee, at the European Center for Nuclear Research (CERN), who wrote the first hyper text transfer protocol daemon (HTTPD) and the first hyper text markup language (HTML) browser, as a way to allow nuclear physicists to exchange working papers over the computer networks.

#### HTTPD - Hyper-text Transfer Protocol Daemon

a computer program which manages the transfer of hyper-text and multimedia documents over the INTERNET.

#### HTML - Hyper Text Markup Language

the text markup language used to insert tags which allow a Web browser to correctly display a hyper-text document. HTML1, HTML +, HTML 2 and HTML 3 are versions of HTML in use at this time. HTML is a subset of the Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML) first invented to display legal texts and now the world standard for large documentation projects.

#### VRML - Virtual Reality Modeling Language

a tagging language for conveying three dimensional information over the Internet using a VRML browser.

#### Hypertext

documents which contain links to other documents within them - footnotes are a form of hypertext link.

#### Multimedia

documents which contain text, sound, graphics and video elements that are all capable of being displayed to the user.

#### Hypermedia

documents which combine hypertext links and multimedia elements.

## NNTPD

the network news transfer protocol daemon which serves USENET newsgroups across the Internet.

## NNTTP Server

the computer which you connect to to receive USENET newsgroups and post USENET news articles.

## DNS

the Domain Name System which identifies each computer as a network node on the Internet using an internet protocol address system to translate from domain names to IP numbers and vice-versa.

## DNS Server

the computer you use to access the DNS to allow you to contact other computers on the Internet.

## FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions document which answers FAQs about various subjects.

## RFC - Request for Comments

a document which defines Internet operating protocols - despite the name it is more a statement of agreed standards than a request.

## Internet Access Provider (IAP)/Internet Service Provider (ISP)

an organization or commercial enterprise which provides access to the Internet.

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## **ACCESS METHODS:**

### Dial-up

a computer connection that is brought up and brought down as needed - a simple version is dialing in to a service provider over a modem as a dumb terminal - SLIP and PPP can also be dial-up connections - also known as a switched connection.

### Dumb Terminal

when a computer is running a terminal emulation program while connected to another computer.

### SLIP - Serial Line Internet Protocol

a non-standard method of electronically connecting a remote computer to an IP network as a node on the network most popular method at present to use graphical browsers on the Internet - first used to connect ham radios to the Internet.

### PPP - Point to Point Protocol

an Internet standard for electronically connecting a remote computer to an IP network - the method slowly replacing SLIP.

### Ethernet

a method for directly connecting a computer to a network in the same physical location - much faster connection than SLIP or PPP.

### Wireless Network

a method using infra-red, ultra-violet or radio waves, of connecting computers into a network.

### ISDN - Integrated Services Digital Network

- a digital telephone network that allows personal home computers to connect to remote networks.
  - Modem
    - a device that modulates and demodulates telephone tones to allow for the multiplexing of information on the telephone network.
  - Cable Modem
    - a device that allows a computer to connect to a cable television system and connect to a computer network - cable modems work at speeds approaching Ethernet connections - probable wide-spread future way to connect to the Internet.
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## **INTERNET TOOLS:**

- FTP - File Transfer Protocol
  - a method of serving and obtaining files over the Internet.
- telnet
  - a method of logging into another computer as a terminal on that computer.
- NFS - Network File System
  - a set of protocols that allow transparent access to a remote computer's file system - another type is the Andrew File System (AFS).
- gopher
  - a method of serving or retrieving files over the Internet - it has largely been replaced by the Web.
- Browser
  - a client program that retrieves documents and other materials from an HTTPD server and displays them in accord with the HTML specification - MOSAIC was the first widely available browser - CELLO was the second browser - NETSCAPE is the most used browser at this time.
- WinSock
  - a specification for a program that implements a "socket" connection under the MS Windows environment - a winsock is needed for SLIP or PPP connections under WINDOWS.
- MACTCP
  - a program used on Macintosh computers to provide socket connections for SLIP and PPP connections.
- Email
  - a software application that allows one to exchange messages with someone else.
- IRC - Internet Relay Chat
  - a method for serving and retrieving connections for real-time conferencing over computer networks.
- WAIS - Wide Area Information Service
  - a method of finding information on the Internet.
- archie
  - a system to find files available for retrieval by FTP.
- veronica
  - a system for finding files available from GOPHER servers.
- White Pages
  - lists of Internet users

TN3270

a terminal emulation of an IBM 3270 terminal.

VT100

a terminal emulation of a DEC VT100 terminal.

CU-SeeMe

a program for sending and receiving video and audio over the Internet - also contains a conferencing program and whiteboard facility.

### **MORE DEFINITIONS**

- [Internet and Unix Dictionary](#) (Kevin Kadow)
- [NetLingo: The Internet Language Dictionary](#)
- [Quick Gopher Help](#) (Bishop's Univ.)
- [Summary of Unix Commands](#) (Univ. of Michigan)
- [Summary of Lynx Commands](#) (Univ. of Kansas)

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<http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~au/workshop/int-def.htm>

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