

WEB GLOSSARY

ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange)

A set of 128 alphanumeric and special control characters used for computer storing and printing of text. Used by HTML when transmitting data over the web.

Banner Ad

A (most often graphic) advertisement placed on a web page, which acts as a hyperlink to an advertiser's web site.

Bandwidth

A measure for the speed (amount of data) you can send through an Internet connection. The more bandwidth, the faster the connection.

Cache

In web terms: A web browser or web server feature which stores copies of web pages on a computer's hard disk.

Client/Server

In web terms: The communication and separation of workload between a web client and a web server.

Compression

A method of reducing the size (compress) of web documents or graphics for faster delivery via the web.

Cookie

Information from a web server, stored on your computer by your web browser. The purpose of a cookie is to provide information about your visit to the website for use by the server during a later visit.

CSS (Cascading Style Sheets)

A W3C recommended language for defining style (such as font, size, color, spacing, etc.) for web documents.

Database

Data stored in a computer in such a way that a computer program can easily retrieve and manipulate the data.

Dial-up Connection

In web terms: A connection to Internet via telephone and modem.

DNS (Domain Name Service)

A computer program running on a web server, translating domain names into IP addresses.

DNS Server

A web server running DNS.

Domain Name

The name that identifies a web site. (like: W3Schools.com)

Download

To transfer a file from a remote computer to a local computer. In web terms: to transfer a file from a web server to a web client. (*see also Upload*).

DSL (Digital Subscriber Line)

An Internet connection over regular telephone lines, but much faster. Speed may vary from 128 kilobit per second, up to 9 megabit per second.

E-mail Server

A web server dedicated to the task of serving e-mail.

Ethernet

A type of local area network (see LAN).

Firewall

Software that acts as a security filter that can restrict types of network communication. Most often used between an individual computer (or a LAN) and the Internet.

Flash

A vector-based multimedia format developed by Adobe for use on the web.

Frame

In web terms: A part of the browser screen displaying a particular content. Frames are often used to display content from different web pages.

FrontPage

Web development software for the Windows platform. Developed by Microsoft.

FTP (File Transfer Protocol)

One of the most common methods for sending files between two computers.

FTP Server

A web server you can logon to, and download files from (or upload files to). Anonymous FTP is a method for downloading files from an FTP server without using a logon account.

Gateway

A computer program for transferring (and reformatting) data between incompatible applications or networks.

GIF (Graphics Interchange Format)

A compressed format for storing images developed by CompuServe. One of the most common image formats on the Internet.

Hits

The number of times a web object (page or picture) has been viewed or downloaded.

Home Page

The top-level (main) page of a web site. The default page displayed when you visit a web site.

HTML (Hypertext Markup Language)

HTML is the language of the web. HTML is a set of tags that are used to define the content, layout and the formatting of the web document. Web browsers use the HTML tags to define how to display the text.

HTML Document

A document written in HTML.

HTML Editor

A software program for editing HTML pages. With an HTML editor you can add elements like lists, tables, layout, font size, and colors to a HTML document like using a word processor. An HTML editor will display the page being edited exactly the same way it will be displayed on the web (See WYSIWYG).

HTML Form

A form that passes user input back to the server.

HTML Tags

Code to identify the different parts of a document so that a web browser will know how to display it.

HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol)

The standard set of rules for sending text files across the Internet. It requires an HTTP client program at one end, and an HTTP server program at the other end.

HTTP Client

A computer program that requests a service from a web server.

HTTP Server

A computer program providing services from a web server.

Hyperlink

A pointer to another document. Most often a pointer to another web page. A hyperlink is a synonym for a hotlink or a link, and sometimes called a hypertext connection to another document or web page.

Hypermedia

An extension to hypertext to include graphics and audio.

Hypertext

Hypertext is text that is cross-linked to other documents in such a way that the reader can read related documents by clicking on a highlighted word or symbol. (see also hyperlink)

IE (Internet Explorer)

See Internet Explorer.

IMAP (Internet Message Access Protocol)

A standard communication protocol for retrieving e-mails from an e-mail server. IMAP is much like POP but more advanced.

Internet

A world wide network connecting millions of computers. (See also WWW)

Internet Explorer

A browser by Microsoft. The most commonly used browser today.

Internet Server

See Web Server

Intranet

A private (closed) Internet, running inside a LAN (Local Area Network).

IP (Internet Protocol)

See TCP/IP.

IP Address (Internet Protocol Address)

A unique number identifying every computer on the Internet (like 197.123.22.240)

IP Number (Internet Protocol Number)

Same as an IP address.

ISP (Internet Service Provider)

Someone that provides access to the Internet and web hosting.

Java

A programming language developed by SUN. Mostly for programming web servers and web applets.

JavaScript

The most popular scripting language on the internet, developed by Netscape.

JPEG (Joint Photographic Expert Group)

The organization that promotes the JPG and JPEG graphic formats for storing compressed images.

JSP (Java Server Pages)

A Java based technology allowing the insertion of server executable scripts in web pages. Mostly used on Linux, Unix and Solaris platforms.

Keyword

In web terms: A word used by a search engine to search for relevant web information.

In database terms: A word (or index) used to identify a database record.

LAN (Local Area Network)

A network between computers in a local area (like inside a building), usually connected via local cables. See also WAN.

Meta Data

Data that describes other data. (See also Meta Tags).

Meta Search

The method of searching for meta data in documents.

Meta Tags

Tags inserted into documents to describe the document.

MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface)

A standard protocol for communication between computers and musical instruments.

MIME (Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions)

An Internet standard for defining document types. MIME type examples: text/plain, text/html, image/gif, image/jpg.

Modem

Hardware equipment to connect a computer to a telephone network Typically used to connect to the Internet via a telephone line.

MOV

A codec for computer video developed by Apple. Common file extension for QuickTime multimedia files.

MP3 (MPEG-1 Audio Layer-3)

An audio compression format specially designed for easy download over the Internet.

MP3 File

An file containing audio compressed with MP3. Most often a music track.

MPEG (Moving Picture Expert Group)

An ISO standard codec for computer audio and video.

MS-DOS (Microsoft Disk Operating System)

A general disk based computer operating system (See OS). Originally developed by Microsoft for IBM computers, then developed by Microsoft as a basis for the first versions of Windows.

Multimedia

In web terms: A presentation combining text with pictures, video, or sound.

MySQL

Free open source database software often used on the web.

Newsgroup

An on-line discussion group (a section on a news server) dedicated to a particular subject of interest.

News Reader

A computer program that enables you to read (and post messages) from an Internet newsgroup.

News Server

An Internet server dedicated to the task of serving Internet news-groups.

Page Hits

The number of times a web page has been visited by a user.

Plug-In

An application built into another application. In web terms: A program built in (or added) to a web browser to handle a special type of data like e-mail, sound, or movie files. (See also ActiveX)

PNG (Portable Network Graphics)

A format for encoding a picture pixel by pixel and sending it over the web. A W3C recommendation for replacing GIF.

POP (Post Office Protocol)

A standard communication protocol for retrieving e-mails from an e-mail server. (See also IMAP).

Port

A number that identifies a computer IO (input/output) channel. In web terms: A number that identifies the I/O channel used by an Internet application (A web server normally uses port 80).

QuickTime

A multimedia file format created by Apple.

RAID (Redundant Array of Independent Disks)

A standard for connecting multiple disks to the same server for higher security, speed and performance. Often used on web servers.

Redirect

In web terms: The action when a web page automatically forwards (redirects) the user to another web page.

Router

A hardware (or software) system that directs (routes) data transfer to different computers in a network.

Search Engine

Computer program used to search and catalog (index) the millions of pages of available information on the web. Common search engines are Google and AltaVista.

Shareware

Software that you can try free of charge, and pay a fee to continue to use legally.

Shockwave

A format (technology) developed by Adobe for embedding multimedia content in web pages.

Streaming

A method of sending audio and video files over the Internet in such a way that the user can view the file while it is being transferred.

TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol / Internet Protocol)

A collection of Internet communication protocols between two computers. The TCP protocol is responsible for an error free connection between two computers, while the IP protocol is responsible for the data packets sent over the network.

Upload

To transfer a file from a local computer to a remote computer. In web terms: to transfer a file from a web client to a web server. (see also Download).

URL (Uniform Resource Locator)

A web address. The standard way to address web documents (pages) on the Internet (like: <http://www.w3schools.com/>)

W3C (World Wide Web Consortium)

The organization responsible for managing standards for the WWW.

Web Client

A software program used to access web pages. Sometimes the same as a Web Browser, but often used as a broader term.

Web Browser

A software program used to display web pages.

Web Host

A web server that “hosts” web services like providing web site space to companies or individuals.

Web Hosting

The action of providing web host services.

Web Page

A document (normally an HTML file) designed to be distributed over the Web.

Web Server

A server is a computer that delivers services or information to other computers. In web terms: A server that delivers web content to web browsers.

Web Site

A collection of related web pages belonging to a company or an individual.

Web Spider

A computer program that searches the Internet for web pages. Common web spiders are the one used by search engines like Google and AltaVista to index the web. Web spiders are also called web robots or wanderers.

WWW (World Wide Web)

A global network of computers using the internet to exchange web documents. (See also Internet)

WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get)

In Web terms: To display a web page being edited exactly the same way it will be displayed on the web.