

Absolute URL A path to a file that includes the entire address, such as <http://redrival.com/chriscassell/handouts.html>

ActiveX A proprietary Microsoft technology that hooks into the Windows operating system, allowing web pages more access to the user's computer than normal. Generally spawns a security warning.

Anti-aliasing Particularly important in graphical text. A graphics editing program will simulate a smooth curve by blending pixels of two different colors along their common border.

Applet A Java program embedded in a web page.

Architecture The organization of content and pages in a website.

ASCII Plain text data.

ASCII -- American Standard Code for Information Interchange -- A document in ASCII code contains primarily textual information and is absent of any special format information, like italics. Until recently, much of the information available on the Internet was in the ASCII format in order to facilitate the transfer of data.

ASP Active Server Pages. A database system for producing customized web pages on the fly.

ANSI -- American National Standards Institute -- A private, non-profit organization that facilitates the development of U.S. standards for the information processing industry.

ANSI is involved in defining network protocol standards.

Application -- Software that performs a specialized, useful function. For example, an electronic mail application such as Eudora, or a Web browser like Netscape.

ARPA -- Advanced Research Projects Agency -- The former name of what is now known as DARPA.

ARPAnet -- Advanced Research Projects Agency Network -- An experimental network implemented by the U.S. Defense Department. The first large-scale packet-switched network, ARPAnet was designed to help military researchers develop a communications system that could continue to function despite partial outages (like bomb attacks). It served as the basis for early networking research as well as a central backbone during the development of the Internet.

baud -- Refers to the speed at which data is transmitted, especially with regard to modems, although "baud" does not correspond exactly with the number of bits that are

transmitted per second because it refers to the number of times the medium's "state" changes per second. For example, a 28,800 baud modem changes the signal it sends on the phone line 28,800 times per second. Since each change in state can correspond to several bits of data, the actual bit rate of data transfer may exceed the baud rate. See bits per second.

bit -- binary digit -- The smallest amount of information which may be stored in a computer; the basic unit of measure in a computer.

BITNET -- Because It's Time Network -- An international cooperative network established to promote the non-commercial electronic exchange of information in support of research and education. At one time BITNET was the largest academic network in the world for computer-based communications, but by 1993, the number of academic organizations connected to the Internet outnumbered those participating in BITNET.

bits per second -- bps -- The speed at which bits are transmitted over a communications medium, such as a phone line.

browser -- A software application that reads hypertext. Applications used to access the World Wide Web (i.e. Netscape and Lynx) are often called Web browsers.

Byte -- One character of information, usually made up of eight bits.

Bandwidth The rate of data transfer over a network connection.

Binary Encoded or compressed data; not ASCII text.

Bit A single unit of data, commonly represented by a 1 or a 0.

Bit depth The number of bits dedicated to describing a color. Each additional bit doubles the number of available colors.

Bitmap A graphic type based on a grid of dots or pixels where the color of each dot is described by a set number of bits.

Byte Eight bits of data.

Breadcrumbs A list of pages that indicates your position within a website, typically shown at the top of the page. Breadcrumbs show your navigation trail in a site with deep site architecture.

Browser Safe Colors set of 216 colors that can be displayed on any 8-bit monitor by any graphical browser on any platform without dithering.

Bookmark – A way of saving a location on the web in your browser program. Makes it easy to return to that location for future viewing.

Cache A set of files that are temporarily stored on the hard drive for quicker access to web pages. The browser doesn't need to download every file each time a page is viewed.

Cascading Style Sheets An extension of HTML that allows formatting of a web page to be separated from its content. Irregularly supported by 4.0+ browsers.

CGI Common Gateway Interface: A server-side script or program that handles requests and data submissions from client. An example is a program that deals with data from an online form.

Chrome The interface elements of a browser, or any other program, that create the frame around the window that displays pages.

Clickthrough Following a hyperlink

Client The computer requesting and receiving files from the web.

Cookie A small text file saved to a client computer by web pages. Generally used to identify a unique user.

Client -- Software that enables you to extract a service from a server on the network. For example, Netscape is a client that allows you to browse the WWW, and Eudora, QuickMail, and Pine are examples of e-mail clients. The relationship between telephones and the telephone company is analogous to the client/server relationship, where the telephone is a client and the telephone company is a server.

CREN -- Corporation for Research and Educational Networking -- An organization established to serve the Internet community with software and services, with a primary focus on "supporting educational outreach, worldwide collaboration, and easy access to information resources throughout the network."

DARPA -- U.S. Department of Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency -- The government agency that funded the ARPAnet and later started the Internet.

DNS -- Domain Name System -- A database system used to translate computer names such as shakespeare.globe.org into numeric Internet addresses like 156.416.16.16.

DHTML Dynamic HTML. A loosely-used term referring to the combination of JavaScript and Cascading Style Sheets to introduce interactivity to web pages.

Dithering The use of several different colors to simulate another color. Shows up as a

dotted pattern. Dithering generally occurs on an 8-bit monitor with non-web safe colors

Directory A folder that holds files

DOM Document Object Model. The way that JavaScript or another scripting language accesses elements in a web page.

Domain name A unique identifier for a website, for example yahoo.com.

Drag-and-drop A GUI interface technique of dragging an onscreen element with the mouse from one location to another. Drag-and-drop can be used for moving files, as well as for dropping files into a program window for quick display.

Ethernet -- A network standard for hardware and data links. Ethernet is the fastest networking technology. See also PPP, ARA, modem.

FAQ Frequently Asked Questions

Flash A vector-based authoring program that is used for animation and interactivity. Requires a plugin.

FTP File Transfer Protocol. A method of file transfer between computers. Used for downloading and uploading files to servers.

FAQ -- Either a frequently-asked question, or a list of frequently asked questions (and their answers) usually regarding an Internet site or a newsgroup.

FONT -- The letters you see on a page.

Forum -- A place on the net where you can ask question get answers by writing a question and adding it to the forum.

FireWall -- Software that prevents people or programs from the internet getting into your computer

FTP -- File Transfer Protocol -- (a) The Internet standard protocol for transferring files from one computer to another. (b) The act of transferring files from one computer to another using the File Transfer Protocol (FTP).

Gateway -- A computer system that allows data transfers between dissimilar, normally incompatible networks.

Gopher -- A menu-based system for exploring Internet resources. Gopher has been largely superseded by the World Wide Web and Web browsers, although much useful information is still available from many Gopher sites. YaleInfo used to be a Gopher site

before it migrated to the Web.

GIF Graphic Interchange Format. A compression format for images that utilizes a maximum of 256 colors (8 bit). It uses the LZW compression method, which is best suited for graphics with large areas of flat color.

Graceful degradation Coding pages in such a way that they look good and function at an acceptable level in older browsers. Certain features employed through javascript and stylesheets may not work, but the page looks acceptable.

GUI Graphical User Interface. A visual system for using a computer or software.

HTML -- HyperText Markup Language --
The code that browsers use to format and layout web pages

HTTP -- HyperText Transport Protocol --
A method of transferring files between computers. It is the protocol used for web pages.

Hyperlink A section of text or an image that allows web pages to connect to each other.

header -- The portion of a packet, preceding the actual data, containing source and destination addresses and error-checking fields.

hypertext -- A method of presenting information by using selected words in a text (known as links) to connect to other documents, which may be text, images, software, etc. The World Wide Web is an example of hypertext technology.

IRC – Internet relay chat– Software that is made for people can chat in large groups

IM – Instant Message

IP -- Internet Protocol -- A body of rules that forms the foundation for all communications over the Internet.

IP Address -- A unique, specific address assigned to every computer on the Internet. A unique number, or address, assigned to a computer on a network. IP addresses can be static or dynamic. Static IP's never change, Dynamic IP's change every time a computer connects to a network.

ISO -- International Organization for Standardization -- An organization that has defined a different set of network protocols, called the ISO/OSI protocols. In theory, the ISO/OSI protocols will eventually replace the Internet protocols.

Image Map An single graphic that has multiple links embedded in it.

Java A programming language developed by Sun Microsystems.

JavaScript A scripting, or programming, language used to enable interactivity in web pages. Most javascript programs work on the client side within the browser, although some servers use javascript programs as well. No relationship to Java.

JPEG Joint Picture Experts Group graphics format. A graphic format that can yield extremely efficient data compression, inversely proportionate to image quality. It is best suited for continuous-tone images, such as photographs.

Modern browser A DOM-compliant browser. Generally 5.0+ browsers.

LISTSERV -- A special messaging program created around a particular theme or topic; numerous LISTSERVs exist, covering various fields and subject areas. Once you've subscribed to a LISTSERV (by sending e-mail to the group's LISTSERV address), messages posted to that list by its members will be sent directly to your e-mail address.

Monospace font A font where each character takes up the same amount of horizontal space. Courier is the most common. This is a monospace font.

modem -- A piece of equipment that connects a computer to a data transmission line (typically a telephone line).

newsgroup -- A forum which allows users to exchange messages relating to a particular topic or theme. Unlike LISTSERV postings, newsgroup messages are not delivered to a subscriber's e-mail address, but must be retrieved by using a news reader.

nodes -- Specialized devices or computers on a network that communicate with one another either through direct physical links or through intermediate devices such as modems or routers.

P2P – Peer to Peer. A way of connecting computers together directly with software to trade files and information

Path A list of directories separated by slashes that shows how to access a file.

Peripherals– any device that attached to the computer like the printer or a Joystick for playing games

Pixel The basic unit of onscreen display. From “Picture Element”

Platform The operating system on a computer. i.e. Windows, Mac OS, UNIX.

Plugin A small program that can be called by a browser to display certain types of content.

packet -- The unit of data sent across a packet-switched network.

packet-switched network -- A network in which data exchanged between nodes are broken into packets that contain origin and destination information, packet length data, the actual data, and a flag that the packet has ended. The Internet is a packet-switched network.

port -- A number that identifies a particular Internet application. When your computer sends a packet to another computer, that packet contains information about what protocol it's using, and what application it's trying to communicate with. The "port number" identifies the application. For example, the Orbis port from the Multi-Protocol Gateway (MPG) is 06520, so if you were to telnet to the MPG without including a port number in the address (umpg.cis.yale.edu), you would get the MPG screen. If, however, you were to attach the appropriate port number to the telnet address (umpg.cis.yale.edu 06520), you would go directly to Orbis, bypassing the MPG screen.

posting -- An individual article sent to a newsgroup or listserv.

PPP -- Point-to-Point Protocol -- A protocol that allows a computer to use the TCP/IP (Internet) protocols with a standard telephone line and a high-speed modem. For more information, see the Internet Information Center's Web page on remote network access at yale.

protocol -- A formal description of the rules two computers must follow to exchange messages or data.

Relative URL A path to a file described in relationship to the current file. For example: graphics/buttons/normal/handouts.gif

Resolution The number of pixels per inch of a monitor or of a graphic.

Rollover An image that changes when the users' mouse is over it.

Sans serif font A font without slabs at the top and bottom of each character. Most commonly used sans serif fonts for the web are Arial, Helvetica, and Verdana. This page uses a serif font.

Serif font A font with slabs or strokes at the top and bottom of each character. The most common web serif fonts are Times New Roman, Times, and Palatino.

Server The computer that holds web pages and distributes them on the web.

Shockwave

A bitmap-based authoring program that is used for animation and interactivity. Requires a plugin.

SGML

Standard Generalized Markup Language. A general structural way of marking up text for publication or display. HTML is derived from SGML.

SPAM is email sent to a large groups of users without their consent and is generally sent to sell or market some product or service. This is not an exact definition but most junk email falls into this category.

Subdomain

The prefix of a web address, such as "stu" in stu.wccnet.org

search engine -- A tool which allows keyword searching for relevant sites or information on the Internet. Like Google Yahoo Dogpile

server -- (a) A computer that controls access to network resources. (b) Software that allows a computer to offer a service to another computer. Other computers contact the server program by means of matching client software.

TCP -- Transmission Control Protocol -- One of the communications protocols on which the Internet is based.

TCP/IP -- Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol -- The two protocols which, together, define the way in which messages (data or commands) are passed among computer networks on the Internet.

Telnet -- a) An application program that allows you to establish a connection with another computer anywhere on the Internet and use the resources available to that computer in a one-to-one connection. For example, you use Telnet to log into the server and read your email. b) The act of using a Telnet program to log in to another computer system.

tn3270 -- a special version of the Telnet program that interacts properly with IBM mainframes.

Tag

An HTML unit that starts with < and ends with >.

TCP/IP

Transmission Control Protocol/ Internet Protocol. A pair of protocols that control the transmission of data on the Internet. IP specifies the format of data as it's sent, TCP specifies how to reassemble the data.

Top Level Domain

The three letter extension at the end of a URL, such as .com, .edu, etc.

UNIX -- A computer operating system that supports multi-user and multitasking operations. UNIX was very important in the development of the Internet, although you do not have to use UNIX to use the Internet. The operating system for the Pantheon accounts is UNIX.

URI

Universal Resource Identifier (See URL).

URL

Universal Resource Location. The web address of a website, such as www.wccnet.org.

URL -- Universal Resource Locator -- Provides a location for data, software, images, etc. URL's are used by Web browsers to locate WWW sites.

Usability

The ease of use of a website, or any other product. Usability encompasses many different disciplines, from Cognitive Psychology to graphic design.

Variable

A letter or name used in a script or program to represent data that can change.

Virus --

VBScript

A proprietary Microsoft scripting language used to enable interactivity in web pages.

W3C

World Wide Web Consortium. The governing body that sets standards for the web.

Whitespace

The unused area surrounding text and images in a page layout. Whitespace gives the viewer or user visual rest and helps to make a webpage easier to understand.

Work-around

The process of writing code that is needlessly complex due to bugs in a particular browser. Relatively simple Javascripts require work-arounds due the lack of a uniform implementation of the standard for accessing elements in a web page.

WYSIWYG

What You See Is What You Get. Visual layout programs used for designing web pages, such as Dreamweaver and FrontPage. The program writes the HTML based on direct entry of content into a browser-like environment. Often, what you see is NOT what you get.

WWW -- World Wide Web -- A hypertext-based system for finding and accessing Internet resources.

XML

An extension of HTML that allows the coder to custom define tags and attributes of those tags.