

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A

3G

Third generation—the newest mobile phone network offering fast connections that can let you make video calls or access the internet at broadband speeds.

Address

Normally short for 'web address'—this is where you can find a particular web page or website on the internet. Can also be short for email address.

ADSL

Stands for 'Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line'. A fast way of sending computer data over an ordinary phone line, usually used to provide broadband internet access to homes, schools and offices. An alternative to a cable modem.

Adware

Computer programs that display adverts on the screen. Often installed without people realising, these can be malware.

Aggregator/Aggregation

A website that keeps track of blog posts, news feeds or other information. Gathering information from multiple websites, typically via RSS (Really Simple Syndication), an aggregator pulls together the most recently published information from a variety of sources.

Anti-virus software

A program that looks at the files on your computer and anything sent to you in email, chat or on a web page looking for viruses and other malware.

Apps

Short for 'application program', when referring to an Apps this typically refers to the applications downloaded and used on advanced mobile phones.

Attachment

A file that is sent along with an email message. It can be any sort of file and often pictures are sent this way.

Avatar

An avatar is a computer user's representation of himself/herself or alter ego whether in the form of a three-dimensional model used in a virtual environment.

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Block

To stop a computer reaching something on the internet, or stop a program running. Websites that are blocked can't be viewed on screen; chat programs that are blocked can't be started.

Blog

Short for weblog.

Blogosphere

A common term used to describe the large and diverse community of bloggers.

Bluejacking

Some users with Bluetooth-enabled mobiles use this technology to send anonymous text messages to strangers. This has been nicknamed 'bluejacking'.

Bot

A program that can do things without the user of the computer having to give it instructions. Many bots are malware as they are installed without people's permission and can be controlled over the internet and used to send spam or steal data.

Broadband

A relatively fast—above 512 kbps—connection to the internet. Most broadband connections are ‘always on’ so that your computer is connected to the internet all the time it is turned on.

Browser

A program that allows you to use the World Wide Web. Microsoft internet Explorer is the most commonly used browser but others, like Firefox, Netscape, Opera and Safari, are also available. Also called ‘web browser’.

Buddy

An online friend. Usually used to refer to people who you let contact you in instant messaging or chat programs.

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Cable modem

A special piece of equipment that lets you use your cable TV connection to link up to the internet. An alternative to ADSL.

CD

See compact disc.

Chat room

A special place on the internet where you can chat to one or more people.

Chatting

Taking part in an online chat, either in a chat room or by instant messaging.

Click

To press a button on your screen by moving your pointer over it and pressing your mouse button.

Community forums

Websites that allow members to contact each other take part in chats or create personal web pages.

Compact disc

A 12cm diameter plastic disc that can store relatively large amounts of data – around 650 megabytes. Originally used for music, CDs are also used for programs and other computer data files. Many home and office computers now have CD-writers as well as CD-readers and can write—or ‘burn’—data to share with friends.

Computer network

A number of computers that are linked together so that they can exchange data. Local area networks link computers in the same building, wide area networks like the internet connect computers that may be far apart.

Content filter

A way of limiting access to material on the internet by examining it before it is shown to the user and deciding whether or not it is acceptable. Often used to restrict access to certain web pages when children are using computers.

Cookie

A cookie is a small file that is sent to a web browser by a server and stored on the user’s computer. It can then be read by the server every time the user revisits the same website and is used to keep track of personal preferences, shopping choices and other information. Sometimes called a magic cookie.

Cloud Computing

Cloud computing is Internet-based computing, whereby shared resources, software, and information are provided to computers and other devices on demand, like the electricity grid.

Creative Commons

A non-profit organization that promotes free public licenses to content (<http://creativecommons.org>). Provides specific conditions through which content can be reused, such as attributions, links or other notification methods to correctly identify the original source.

Cyberbullying

Is the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behavior by an individual or group, which is intended to harm others.

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Data

Information stored on a computer is often called data. The computer stores everything in files as a series of 1s and 0s. These files are read by programs.

Downloading

Copying something from another computer, usually over the internet.

Download websites

A website that makes material available to download.

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e-commerce

Buying or selling over the internet, usually from a website.

Electronic signature

A way of adding a code to messages you send so that they can be proven to have come from you.

Email

A way to exchange messages over the internet. Messages are written by one person and then sent to one or more people at their email address.

Email address

An email address tells your email program where to send messages. The first part of the address is the name of the person's mailbox, where messages are stored. The second part, after the '@' sign, is the name of the organisation where messages should be sent over the internet.

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Family agreement

An agreement on how home computers and internet access will be used, drawn up after discussion between family members and usually posted up next to the family computer.

File

Some data stored on a computer. A file may contain any sort of digital content – a word processed document, a picture, some music or a film.

File sharing

Copying files over the internet. Usually the files contain music, films or programs, but any sort of file can be shared.

Filter

A means of preventing certain types of material from reaching your computer.

FTP

Short for File Transfer Protocol, the protocol for exchanging files over the Internet. Firewall

A program or, in large companies, a separate computer, that checks all the data passing between your computer and the internet to see if it is safe or permitted.

Freemium

Typically a site that offers basic services free, but charges a premium for advanced or special features.

Please note: Lots of home computers have personal firewalls, but these may not be safe unless they are set up by someone with technical knowledge.

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Grooming

See online grooming.

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Hacker

Originally thought of as a computer enthusiast, but now a hacker is normally used to refer to computer criminals, especially those who break into other people's computer networks.

Homepage

The page that appears when you type in an organisation's web address without any file name, for example, www.childnet.com. Also used to mean someone's personal web page.

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Icon

A small picture used to represent an action or a file on a computer screen.

IM (Instant Messenger)

Technology similar to that of chatrooms, which notifies a user when a friend is online, allowing them to 'converse' by exchanging text messages. The difference between IM and chatrooms is that IM requires you to set up a list of contacts before you can chat.

Infrared

A type of invisible light that some handsets and other devices can use to communicate. Most TV remote controls use the same technology.

It is an alternative to radio services like Bluetooth and wi-fi but requires direct line-of-sight to work.

Instant Messenger

A way of sending messages to other internet users by typing words which appear immediately on the other person's screen. Also known as IM. There are lots of programs around that let people send instant messages, including MSN Messenger, AOL Instant Messenger (AIM) and IRC.

Internet

A worldwide network which links together millions of computers and allows them to exchange data and work together.

Internet café

A public place, usually but not always serving refreshments, where you can pay to access the internet from a computer.

Internet Service Provider

A company that connects computers to the internet for a fee. Abbreviated to ISP.

IP (internet Protocol) address

Every computer connected to the internet is assigned a unique number known as an internet Protocol (IP) address. Since these numbers are usually assigned in country based blocks, an IP address can often be used to identify the country from which a computer is connecting to the internet. It is not possible to tell the exact address of an individual using the IP address.

IRC

internet Relay Chat: an old but still widely used way of having online chats with several people at the same time.

ISP

See internet service provider..

iTunes Music Store

An e-commerce site set up by Apple Computers which allows you to buy songs which you can listen to using the iTunes software (also provided by Apple) or transfer to your iPod personal music player. Songs bought from the iTunes Music Store can't be played on other players such as those from Creative or Sony.

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Kbps

Kilobits per second. A way of measuring the speed of a network by counting the number of bits – a single 1 or 0 – sent each second. A kilobit is a thousand bytes.

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Laptop

A laptop is a small computer that you can carry around with you and that runs off batteries. It has a screen and a keyboard built in.

Learndirect

A training organisation that offers online training courses for people, either on their own computers, at work or in an online learning centre.

Link

A connection between two web pages. A link on one page, often shown underlined in blue, will take you to another page or even another website when you click on it.

Login

A login is a name you use to tell a computer or a website who you are.

Log off

To disconnect from a computer, network or online service.

Log on

Identify yourself to a computer, network or online service, usually using a user name and password.

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Malware

Bad software. Programs that damage your computer (viruses), steal your personal information (spyware), display unwanted adverts (adware) or expose your computer to hackers (Trojan horses).

Mashup

Web application where content, data, or other services are combined from more than one source into an integrated experience. For example, you could arrange a series of news stories about your favorite athlete, politician or performer — or any topic — on a graphical timeline.

Mbps

Megabits per second. A way of measuring the speed of a network by counting the number of bits – a single 1 or 0 – sent each second. A megabits is a million bits.

Messenger

A program provided by Microsoft which lets people send messages to each other using Microsoft's network, MSN. Also known

Microblogging

Is a passive broadcast medium in the form of blogging. A microblog differs from a traditional blog in that its content is normally much smaller, typically 140 characters. The most popular example of this is Twitter.

Mind Mapping

A mind map is a diagram used to represent words, ideas, tasks, or other items linked to and arranged around a central key word or idea. Mind maps are used to generate, visualize, structure, and classify ideas, and as an aid in study, organization, problem solving, decision making, and writing.

Minimise

To shrink the window that a program is using to an icon.

MMS

Multimedia messages/photo messages – pictures and video you can send and receive with a mobile handset.

Modem

A device that connects a computer to the telephone network so that it can link to an ISP and access the internet.

Moderated Chatroom

A chatroom or other service where an adult is watching the conversations to make sure they do not break the hosting company's policy on online behaviour. This may include inappropriate language, the disclosure of personal information or behaviour which is considered dangerous.

Some chatrooms do not have a person watching all the time, but rely on a program that monitors all of the chats and alerts a moderator when particular words appear. It is, of course, easy to get round this by using misspellings or substitute words.

Moderation

Supervising what goes on in a chatroom, newsgroup or other online service.

Mouse

A small device connected to a computer that is used to control the position of a pointer on screen and has one or more buttons that can be used to make selections or carry out actions like clicking.

MSN

Abbreviation of 'Microsoft Network'. Often used to refer to Microsoft's Instant Messenger.

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Net

Abbreviation for internet.

Network

See Computer network.

Newsgroup

A USENET bulletin board on a single topic.

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Offline

Not online. Not connected to the internet.

Online

If you are online you are connected to the internet and can share data with other computers. Offline means activities which do not involve the internet.

Online grooming

Online grooming is defined by the UK Home Office as: "A course of conduct enacted by a suspected paedophile, which would give a reasonable person cause for concern that any meeting with a child arising from the conduct would be for unlawful purposes."

Operating system

The main program that controls the operation of a computer and lets the user call other programs and gain access to files and other data. The three most common operating systems are Microsoft Windows, Apple's Mac OS and Linux.

Open Source

Open Source refers to a product which is licensed to permit modifications and redistribution of its source code. Typically open source products are free to the consumer examples of Open Source products include Open Office, Moodle and the Linux Operating System.

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P2P

An abbreviation of peer-to-peer. P2P networks allow users to share files on their computer with people all over the world. Each computer runs a special program that lets it communicate with other computers running the same program, and they can then copy files between them.

P2P networks are sometimes called file-sharing networks for this reason. Young people will know them by their brand names, like Kazaa, LimeWire and BitTorrent.

Parent control software

Programs that can be installed on computers to limit what children – or anyone else – can do. Often used to restrict access to lists of inappropriate websites, block chatrooms and other potentially dangerous programs and even keep a record of all email and other messages sent and received.

No parental control software is completely reliable and it should only be used as part of a broader approach to online safety which involves talking to children and sharing online activities with them.

Parental controls

The limits that parents put on how their children use the family computer.

Password

A word or series of letters, numbers and punctuation that only you know, which you use to log on to computers, networks or online services.

PDA

Short for Personal Digital Assistant. A small, handheld computer.

Peer to Peer

See P2P.

Personal firewall

A firewall used for a home computer.

Personal Identification Number

A number, often only four digits, used like a password.

Phishing

Pronounced the same as 'fishing' this is an attempt to trick people into visiting malicious websites by sending emails or other messages which pretend to come from banks or online shops. The emails have links in them which take people to fake sites set up to look like the real thing, where passwords and account details can be stolen.

PIN

See Personal Identification Number.

Podcasting

A podcast is a series of digital media files that are released in a series or sequence and often downloaded through web syndication. The recipient then accesses the media file via a portable media player or computer.

Pointer

The arrow shape that appears on your computer screen and moves when you move your mouse or touch your trackpad.

Posting

A message on an online bulletin board or weblog.

Program

A program – spelt the America way – is a collection of instructions to a computer that get it to do something useful, like show a picture or display a web page or change a document. Every time you want to do something on a computer you need to use one or more programs.

Plagiarism/Copyright Infringement

The use or close imitation of the intellectual property of another author and the representation of that property as one's own original work.

Premium rate services

Premium rate services offer ring tones, logos and competitions. The phone numbers for these services often begin with 090. Information and entertainment is available via landline telephone, mobile phone, PC (by email, the internet or bulletin boards) and interactive digital TV services for a high charge. Some users have been caught out by premium rate subscriptions: they thought they were making a one-off purchase of a ring tone, but were in fact tied in to a reverse-billed subscription (in which you pay to receive rather than send text messages).

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Ripping

Ripping is the process of copying audio or video content

RSS (Really Simple Syndication)

A form of syndication that lets users “subscribe” to receive new or updated content from blogs, news, or other frequently updated online content sources.

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Screensaver

This is the often animated picture shown on phones that are switched on – but not in current use. These can be chosen and paid for.

Search engine

A website that lets you search other websites by typing in the words you are looking for. Search engines like Google and MSN Search are very popular and important.

Most search engines do not filter the results they return, so children should use more child-friendly ones like Yahoooligans!

Security updates

New versions of programs that fix problems that have been found. Often sent out automatically, it is important that security updates are installed as soon as they are released as hackers and malware often try to make use of the errors that have been fixed.

Server

See Web Server.

Site

See Web site.

Skype

A program that lets you make phone calls over the internet. You can talk to other Skype users for free, or pay if you want to call ordinary telephones.

SMS

Short for ‘short message service’. The proper name for text messages.

Social Bookmarking

Social bookmarking services such as Diigo or del.icio.us enable users to store lists of Internet resources they find useful and make them accessible to others with similar interests.

Social networking

Not the same as computer networking, social networking is a way of using the internet and the web to find and make friends and stay in touch with people.

Software

Programs that run on your computer.

Spyware

A type of malware that monitors what you are doing on your computer and sends the information to the person who runs it. Can be used to keep track of which websites you visit or even steal your passwords and login details for ecommerce sites.

Stranger danger

The concern that an unknown person might do some harm to a child. This is seen as a significant problem for online activities like chat and email as it is comparatively easy to pretend to be someone else online.

Subscribe

To sign up for a service or website. Usually you will be asked to set up a username and password, and may be asked for personal information like your name, address and age. It is important to check a site's privacy policy before you do this, as the information may be used in ways you do not expect.

Surf

To look at web pages, usually when you are browsing from one page to another quickly by following links.

Spam/Junk Mail

An unsolicited emails or text messages containing offers. Phishing and similar scams may trick young people (and their parents) into revealing personal or financial information which could be used for identity theft

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Tags

An informal approach of using keywords to classify content and a primary method for organizing content stored in Web 2.0 applications and environments.

Tag Cloud

A visual depiction of content tags used on a website. Typically, the more commonly used tags are displayed with a larger font or stronger emphasis. Each term in the tag cloud is a link to the collection of items that have that tag.

Text

Also called 'short message service' or SMS, a text is a way to send a short message from one mobile phone to another.

Trackpad

An alternative to a mouse often found on laptops. It is a small rectangle of touch-sensitive material, so you can move your pointer by touching it with a finger and moving your finger.

Trojan horse

A malware program that is not what it seems to be. Trojan horses pretend to be useful programs like word processors but really install spyware or adware or open up your computer to hackers.

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Uniform Resource Locator

See web address.

Upload

To copy information from your computer to another, usually over the internet.

URL

Short for 'Uniform Resource Locator'. See web address.

USENET

A type of online bulletin board where anyone can post a message on any topic. Divided into thousands of separate newsgroups, each of which is supposed to be about a single topic, though in practice the rule is often broken.

User-Generated Content (UGC)

Refers to media content produced or primarily influenced by end users (vs.traditional content publishers). Much of the content on YouTube.com is UGC. This is a broad term that describes online tools that allow users to share and express content, such as blogs, wikis and podcasts.

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Virtual World

Not real. A word sometimes used to describe things you find, places you visit or people you meet when you are on the internet.

Virus

A malware program that can hide itself on your computer by making changes to another program, and which can then make copies of itself. A virus can do lots of different things, like delete your files, steal your data or even take over your computer and let hackers control it.

Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

A virtual learning environment (VLE) is a system designed to support teaching and learning in an educational setting. A VLE accessible over the Internet and/or IT network and it can provide a collection of tools for assessment, communication, uploading of content, return of students' work, peer assessment, administration of student groups, collecting and organizing student grades, questionnaires, tracking tools, etc. New features in these systems include wikis, blogs, RSS and 3D virtual learning spaces.

VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol)

Technology that allows telephone calls (and even "video calls") to be made over the Internet instead of the traditional systems. Skype is one of the more popular iterations to bypass typical phone lines with VoIP.

Vodcasting

Video podcast (sometimes shortened to vodcast) is a term used for the online delivery of video on demand video clips. The term is used to distinguish between podcasts which most commonly contain audio files.

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Wallpaper

The usually still image on a phone screen. It can be changed and paid for.

WAP

Stands for 'Wireless Application Protocol'. This allows users to receive information instantly via handheld wireless devices such as mobile phones, pagers, two-way radios and communicators.

Web

Abbreviation for World Wide Web.

Web 2.0

The term Web 2.0 is commonly associated with web applications that facilitate interactive information sharing, interoperability, user-centered design, and collaboration on the World Wide Web.

Web address

Where on the World Wide Web to find a particular website. or web page. Also called Uniform Resource Locator or URL the address has three parts to it: **http://server/page/** they are: **http://** tells the web browser that this is a web address, server is the name of the computer to be contacted, like bbc.co.uk or childnet-int.co.uk

Web browser

See browser.

Web conferencing

Web conferencing is used to conduct live meetings, training, or presentations via the Internet. In a web conference, each participant sits at his or her own computer and is connected to other participants via the internet.

Webcast

A broadcast that takes place over the internet that uses both audio and visual effects.

Webinar

A webinar is a specific type of web conference. It is typically one-way, from the speaker to the audience with limited audience interaction. A webinar can be collaborative and include polling and question & answer sessions to allow full participation between the audience and the presenter.

Web Filter

Content-control software, also known as censorware or web filtering software, is a term for software designed and optimized for controlling what content is permitted to a reader,

Web page

A single screen of material stored on the World Wide Web and sent to a user's computer to be displayed by their browser.

Web server

A program that manages a website and sends web pages to people's browsers when they ask for them.

Website

A Website is a collection of web pages, usually all located on a single web server, and usually about the same topic.

Webcam

A camera, usually small and relatively low quality that can be plugged into a computer and used to send images and video over the internet. These days webcams are more often used for video chat than for providing images on websites.

Weblog

A website that is made up of a selection of separate entries, or 'posts', usually shown on the home page with the most recent first. Many weblogs are used by people to keep online diaries or write about areas of interest. Often shortened to 'blog'.

World Wide Web

An online service which allows people to put up web pages containing all sorts of information including words, images, video, sound and even programs like word processors. The Web is made up of many billions of separate web pages each stored on a web server. Each web page can link to other pages, creating a single vast library.

WWW

Abbreviation for World Wide Web.

Wi-fi

A wireless network that allows specially equipped computers to connect to the internet without any cables.

Wiki

A wiki is a website that allows the easy creation and editing of any number of interlinked web pages via a web browser using a simplified markup language or a WYSIWYG text editor.

WYSIWYG

WYSIWYG pronounced wiziwig, is an acronym for What You See Is What You Get. The term is used in computing to describe a system in which content displayed during editing appears very similar to the final output,

Widget

A "mini-application" embedded within a web page that provides specific information or functionality for example (weather, sports scores, movie times, etc.).

Web syndication

Web syndication is a form of syndication in which website material are made available to multiple other sites. Most commonly, *web syndication* refers to making web feeds available from a site in order to provide other people with a summary of the website's recently added content (for example, the latest news or forum posts).

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