

Computer Applications Technology & Information Technology

Terms, Acronyms and Definitions

FET CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Computer Applications Technology and Information Technology Terms & Acronyms

32-bit/16-bit	This denotes the number of "pieces" (or bits) of information required by an operating system to run a certain application. It also deals with the construction of the computer's CPU (Central Processing Unit) or brain. The Pentium CPU easily runs 32-bit applications because the wires that hold all the pieces together (known as busses) are big enough to flow through 32 bits at a time. 486s, 386s, and below aren't big enough. They work with 16 bits at a time.
Access Control List	ACL Stands for "Access Control List." An ACL is a list of user permissions for a file , folder , or other object. It defines what users and groups can access the object and what operations they can perform. These operations typically include read , write , and execute . For example, if an ACL specifies read-only access for a specific user of a file, that user will be able open the file, but cannot write to it or run the file.
Access time	The performance of a hard drive or other storage device – how long it takes to locate a file.
Accelerated Graphics Port (AGP)	High-speed, 32/64-bit bus technology designed to support the acceleration of 3D computer graphics.
Active partition	Partition on a hard disk drive that is set as the bootable partition and usually contains the operating system to be used on the computer. Only one partition on a computer can be set as an active or bootable partition on a hard disk drive.
Active program or window	The application or window at the front (foreground) on the monitor.

ActiveX	ActiveX is a technology used to view desktop documents in Web browsers as it links interactively with the World Wide Web. In order for ActiveX to work correctly so you can view all Web content, you must make sure you have the latest version of ActiveX installed on your computer.
ActiveX controls	Software add-ons created with ActiveX are called ActiveX controls. These controls can be implemented in all types of programs, but they are most commonly distributed as small Web applications. For example, a basic ActiveX control might display a clock on a webpage. Advanced ActiveX controls can be used for creating stock tickers, interactive presentations, or even Web-based games.
Address Bar	An address bar is a text field near the top of a Web browser window that displays the URL of the current webpage . The URL, or web address, reflects the address of the current page and automatically changes whenever you visit a new webpage. Therefore, you can always check the location of the webpage you are currently viewing with the browser's address bar.
ADSL	Stands for "Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line." ADSL is a type of DSL , which is a method of transferring data over copper telephone lines. While symmetrical DSL (SDSL) uploads and downloads data at the same speed, ADSL has different maximum data transfer rates for uploading and downloading data.
Adware	Adware is free software that is supported by advertisements. Common adware programs are toolbars that sit on your desktop or work in conjunction with your Web browser. They include features like advanced searching of the Web or your hard drive and better organization of your bookmarks and shortcuts. They are free to use, but require you to watch advertisements as long as the programs are open.

Alert	(alert box) – A message that appears on screen, usually to tell you something went wrong.
Algorithm	An algorithm is a set of instructions, sometimes called a procedure or a function that is used to perform a certain task. This can be a simple process, such as adding two numbers together, or a complex function, such as adding effects to an image.
Alias	An icon that points to a file, folder or application.
ALU	Stands for "Arithmetic Logic Unit." An ALU is an integrated circuit within a CPU or GPU that performs arithmetic and logic operations. Arithmetic instructions include addition, subtraction, and shifting operations, while logic instructions include Boolean comparisons, such as AND, OR, XOR, and NOT operations.
All-in-one type printer	Multi-functional device designed to provide services such as printing, fax, and copier functions.
Android	Android is a mobile operating system developed by Google. It is used by several smartphones , such as the Motorola Droid, the Samsung Galaxy, and Google's own Nexus One. The Android operating system (OS) is based on the open Linux kernel . Unlike the iPhone OS, Android is open source , meaning developers can modify and customize the OS for each phone.
ANSI	Stands for "American National Standards Institute." ANSI is a U.S.-based non-profit organization that works to develop and promote standards in the United States and around the world. By standardizing new products and technologies, ANSI both strengthens the United States' position in the global marketplace and helps ensure product integrity and safety. ANSI was originally called the "American Engineering Standards Committee" (AESC).

ASCII	<p>American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII)</p> <p>8-bit code for character representation (7 bits plus parity)</p>
Apache	<p>Apache is the most popular Web server software. It enables a computer to host one or more websites that can be accessed over the Internet using a Web browser. Apache Group became the Apache Software Foundation, a non-profit organization that currently maintains the development of the Apache Web server software.</p>
Applet	<p>An applet is a small application designed to run within another application. While the term "applet" is sometimes used to describe small programs included with a computer's operating system, it usually refers to Java applets, or small applications written in the Java programming language</p>
Application software	<p>Program that performs a specific function by accepting input from the user and then manipulating it to achieve a result, known as the output.</p>
Array	<p>An array is a data structure that contains a group of elements. Typically these elements are all of the same data type, such as an integer or string. Arrays are commonly used in computer programs to organize data so that a related set of values can be easily sorted or searched.</p>
Artificial Intelligence	<p>Artificial Intelligence, or AI, is the ability of a computer to act like a human being. It has several applications, including software simulations and robotics. However, artificial intelligence is most commonly used in video games, where the computer is made to act as another player.</p>

Asynchronous:	Transferring data with the help of start and stop bits that indicate the beginning and end of each character being sent.
Autoresponder	Autoresponder is most commonly used on email accounts to send an automatic response to any emails sent to a certain email address. It can be run through a mail server or a Web-based interface. Individuals often use an autorepsonder if they will not be checking their emails for a while and anyone who sends one to them will be automatically sent a reply informing them that the individual is not able to respond.
AVI	Stands for Audio/Video Interleaved. Microsoft's format for encoding video & audio for digital transmission.
Backbone	Backbone is system used to carry data to the smaller transmission lines in a network. A local backbone is made up of network lines that connect several LANs together, this creates a wide area network which is linked by the backbone connection. The result is a wide area network (WAN) linked by a backbone connection.
Background	Part of the multitasking capability. A program can run and perform tasks in the background while another program is being used in the foreground.
Backlink	A backlink is an incoming link from an external website to specific webpage . For example, if you publish a webpage and 20 other websites link to it, your webpage has 20 backlinks. Links to the page from within your own website are not included in the backlink total.
Backside Bus	Backside and Frontside buses are used to carry data back and forth from a computers CPU. The Frontside bus does this between the memory and CPU while the Backside bus moves data in and out of the computer's L2 cache. As this data is frequently used it is stored near to the

processor, and as a result the computer's CPU can work much faster.

Backup A copy of a file or disk you make for archiving purposes.

Bandwidth The capacity of a networked connection. Bandwidth determines how much data can be sent along the networked wires. Bandwidth is particularly important for Internet connections, since greater bandwidth also means faster downloads. Bandwidth is a word used to describe the amount of data that can be sent down a digital connection in a certain time period i.e how many bytes can be sent per second.

Baud Baud is a unit of measurement that states how many electrical signals per second, are sent to networks, modems and other data transfer devices. This is a measurement of the amount of data that can be transferred in one second. Example: A 14.4 baud modem can transfer 14,400 bits of information in one second.

Beta Software Beta Software is software that is still in its testing phase, it can contain bugs, errors and other problems which are ironed out before the software becomes available to the general public. If there is a beta in a program's properties it is beta software.

Binary This is a basic system of numbering using ones and zeros.

Biometric device Tool that uses sensors, such as a fingerprint or retinal scanner that identify physical characteristics of the user to allow access to a device or a network.

BIOS Stands for Basic Input/output System. This is the little set of programs that lets all the different parts of the computer talk to each other. BIOS is pre-installed on every Windows computer and means Basic Input/output System. It is used when the computer starts up and it checks all the devices and hardware connections on a

computer. If everything is functioning the boot up process will begin.

Bit/s	It is the smallest piece of information used by the computer. Derived from "binary digit". In computer language, either a one (1) or a zero (0).
Bit rate	Speed at which bits are transmitted, usually expressed in bits per second (bps)
Blogs	A blog is an online diary or journal that is usually in chronological order that is normally about one topic. The entries are known as posts and people can comment on these posts on a blog. Also known as Web logs, these allow users to post thoughts and updates about their life on the Web.
Bluetooth	Bluetooth is a wireless connection that is used to transmit data between Bluetooth enabled devices at short range. Laptops, PDAs and mobile phones as well as scanners and printers use Bluetooth frequently.
Blu-ray	Blu-ray is a recently developed optical disk format which can be used for holding huge amounts of data in HD format. One disk is capable of containing 25GB of data – a CD can only hold 700MB of data while a DVD can hold 4.7GB.
BMP	(Pronounced "bimp"): It's a bitmap, an image made up of little dots.
Boolean	Boolean is the artificial logic that a computer uses to decide if something is true or false. Boolean uses 4 operators AND, NOT, OR and XOR and it is the combination of true and false within these operators that allows a computer to come to a true or false decision.

Boot	To start up a computer.
Boot record	A file containing a table that describes the partition, the number of bytes per sector, and the number of sectors per cluster.
Bootable disk	Troubleshooting tool that allows the computer to boot from a disk when the hard drive will not boot.
Bot	Bots are usually used online and they are software programs that are automated and perform specific functions when ordered to. For example they can monitor online chat rooms and can throw people who do not abide by the rules of the chat room out.
Bridge	Bridges connect LANs together and allow for faster transmission of data between them. A bridge is much faster than a router, but it cannot act as a firewall like the majority of routers do.
Broadband	Multiple signals using multiple frequencies over one cable.
Browse	To explore a website or a number of websites by scanning and reading information.
Browser	Software, such as Microsoft Internet Explorer, used to find information on the Web. The most visible part of a browser sits at the top of the computer screen, above the web page.
Buffer:	The buffer is a section of the computer where data is stored before being used. This buffering allows time for an application to fix differences in bit rates among other things. It creates a space of time for compensation.
Bug	A programming error that causes a program to behave in an unexpected way.

Bus	An electronic pathway through which data is transmitted between components in a computer.
Byte	A piece of computer information made up of eight bits.
Cache	Data storage area that provides high-speed access for the system
Card	A printed circuit board that adds some features to a computer.
Cartridge drive	A storage device, like a hard drive, in which the medium is a cartridge that can be removed.
CD	CD is the term used for the circular disk that was created in the 1980s. CDs can hold 700MB of data and this data (stored in the form of notches) is read by a laser in a CD player's optical drive.
CD-R	CD-R (Compact Disk Recordable) is a CD which is able to have data written to it. A CD burner must be used for this. Although they can hold audio data they can also be used to store other data such as Power Point presentations and Word documents.
CD-ROM	CD-ROM or Compact Disk Read-Only Memory are CDs that are able to be read by a computer as long as it has an optical drive. CD-ROMs cannot be changed or wiped and contain a large amounts of different data as they are not formatted the same way as CDs. They are usually retail software.
CD-RW	A CD-RW (Compact Disk Re-Writable) is a Rewritable CD that can have data burned onto it. The difference between a CD-R and a CD-RW is that a CD-RW can be written on countless times, it cannot however be overwritten and needs to be erased first. Due to their

nature CD-RW are not the best way of backing up data so it would be better to use a CD-R.

Clipboard	A portion of memory where the Mac temporarily stores information. Called a Copy Buffer in many PC applications because it is used to hold information which is to be moved, as in word processing where text is "cut" and then "pasted".
Clock Rate (MHz)	The instruction processing speed of a computer measured in millions of cycles per second (i.e., 200 MHz).
Clock Speed	Clock Speed is the term used to measure the rate that a processor can complete its processing cycles. They are normally measured in Megahertz (1,000,000 cycles per second) and Gigahertz (1,000,000,000 cycles per second).
Cloud computing	Cloud computing refers to the on-demand provision of computational resources (data, software) via a computer network, rather than from a local computer.
CMOS	Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor Type of semiconductor, or low-power memory firmware, that stores basic configuration information
CMOS battery	Battery that supplies power to maintain basic configuration information, including the real time clock, when the computer is turned off.
CMYK	CMYK (Cyan Magenta Yellow Black) these colours are the four main colours used for printing documents. Computers screens use Red, Blue and Green, CMYK colours can be blended to make various colours and shades and are known as subtractive.

Coaxial cable	Copper-cored cable surrounded by a heavy shielding used to connect computers in a network
Command	The act of giving an instruction to your Mac either by menu choice or keystroke.
Compiler	A program that converts programming code into a form that can be used by a computer.
Compression	A technique that reduces the size of a saved file by elimination or encoding redundancies (i.e., JPEG, MPEG, LZW, etc.)
Cookie	Cookies are data that is sent to your computer when you have visited a Website. If you revisit the site the cookie will load particular pages depending on what information is contained in it.
Crash	A system malfunction in which the computer stops working and has to be restarted.
Crosstalk	Interfering energy, such as Electro Magnetic Interference (EMI) that is transferred from one circuit to another
Cursor	The pointer, usually arrow or cross shaped, which is controlled by the mouse.
Data	(The plural of datum) information processed by a computer.
Database	An electronic list of information that can be sorted and/or searched.

Database	<p>A database is a collection of related fields grouped into records. : Anything that accepts data is a database. A pile of newspapers is a database. A computer database has the ability to manipulate that data. It is possible to attach applications to that database to search the contents.</p>
DDR	<p>DDR or Double Data Rate is an up to date version of SDRAM (computer memory) that is twice as fast as it's predecessor. It is also called DDR-SDRAM and due to its efficient performance (it can both send and receive signals in half the time) it is often used in notebook computers.</p>
DDR2	<p>DDR2 (Double Data Rate 2) is a faster, advanced version of DDR memory and like DDR it can send data on the rising and falling edges of the processors clock cycles although it is twice as fast. DDR2 RAM has an improved design to DDR RAM and this gives the DDR2 RAM a larger bandwidth and this allows a greater volume of data to be passed through the RAM chip.</p>
Defragment	<p>To concatenate fragments of data into contiguous blocks in memory or on a hard drive.</p>
Denial of service (DoS)	<p>Form of attack that prevents users from accessing normal services, such as e-mail or a web server, because the system is busy responding to abnormally large amounts of requests. DoS works by sending an abundance of requests for a resource to cause the system to overload and cease to operate.</p>
Dialog box	<p>An on-screen message box that appears when the system requires additional information before completing a command.</p>
Digital signatures	<p>A digital signature (not to be confused with a digital certificate) is an electronic signature that can be used to authenticate the identity of the sender of a message or</p>

the signer of a document, and possibly to ensure that the original content of the message or document that has been sent is unchanged.

Digital subscriber line (DSL)	Public network technology that delivers high bandwidth over conventional copper wiring at limited distances. Always-on technology that allows users to connect to the Internet.
Disk drive	The machinery that writes the data from a disk and/or writes data to a disk.
DNS	This stands for Domain Name System. The Internet runs by assigning different sites "Names." They are actually 4-part strains of numbers associated with names, but names nonetheless. Getting a DNS error means that the address you are attempting to reach is not recognized by the Internet community.
Document	A file you create, as opposed to the application which created it.
DOS	Acronym for Disk Operating System – used in IBM PCs.
Dots per inch (dpi)	Measurement of print quality. How the quality of print is measured on a dot matrix printer, and the higher the dpi, the higher the quality of print
Download	To transfer data from one computer to another. (If you are on the receiving end, you are downloading. If you are on the sending end, you are uploading).
DPI	Acronym for Dots Per Inch – a gauge of visual clarity on the printed page or on the computer screen.

Driver	A file on a computer which tells it how to communicate with an add-on piece of equipment (like a printer).
Dual core CPU	Two cores inside a single CPU chip. Both cores can be used together to increase speed, or they can be used in two locations at the same time.
DVD	Digital Video Disc—Similar to a CD-ROM, it stores and plays both audio and video.
Dynamic RAM (DRAM)	RAM that stores information in capacitors that must be periodically refreshed. Delays can occur because DRAMs are inaccessible to the processor when refreshing their contents. However, DRAMs are less complex and have greater capacity than SRAMs
e – books readers/ digital readers	An e-book reader, also called an e-book device or e-reader, is a portable electronic device that is designed primarily for the purpose of reading digital books and periodicals.
eBay	eBay is an online auction and shopping website in which people and businesses buy and sell a broad variety of goods and services worldwide. eBay generates revenue from various fees.
ebook	An electronic (usually hand-held) reading device that allows a person to view digitally stored reading materials.
Encryption	Security feature that applies a coding to a file so that only authorized users can view the file
Ethernet	A protocol for fast communication and file transfer across a network.

Expansion slot	A connector inside the computer which allows one to plug in a printed circuit board that provides new or enhanced features.
Facebook	Facebook is a social utility that connects people with friends and others who work, study and live around them
FAQs	Stands for Frequently Asked Questions. These are commonly asked questions and answers that appear on many websites.
FAT32	FAT32 (File Allocation Table) is the term used for the method that Windows uses to store data on a hard drive. It helps your computer to find files even if they have been fragmented. As it uses a greater number of bits in order to recognise a cluster it is a better version of FAT. FAT32 has a serious amount of storage space – 2 terabytes on a hard disk which is more than enough for a home computer user.
Fiber–Optic Cable	Fiber–Optic Cables are cables that are made of extremely thin strands of glass or other material which is transparent and capable of carrying beams of light. Data can be sent through fiber–optic cables at the speed of light, due to the fact that they are light–based. A laser transmitter sends the signal and it is translated back into data when it reaches the end and this is used by a computer. Fiber–optic cables are useful as they are not able to be interfered with by noise or vibrations, the only downside to them is that they are very fragile. Due to this they are usually installed underground but this is expensive and mending broken fiber–optic cables is a difficult, expensive and time consuming process.
File	The generic word for an application, document, control panel or other computer data.

Fingerprint reader	Input device that scans fingerprints to authenticate login using biometric identification.
Firewall	A set of security programs that protect a computer from outside interference or access via the Internet. A Firewall is used to protect a client machine or networked server from any unauthorised access. A firewall can be either software or hardware-based and routers are a hardware device that has an inbuilt firewall. Monitoring and restricting software programs are also classed as firewalls as they only allow particular messages from the Internet enter the network.
Firmware	Permanent software programmed into a read-only memory. Firmware is a software program or set of instructions programmed on a hardware device. It provides the necessary instructions for how the device communicates with the other computer hardware.
Folder	An electronic subdirectory which contains files.
Font	A typeface that contains the characters of an alphabet or some other letterforms.
Form factor	Physical size and shape of computer components. Components that share the same form factor are physically interchangeable
Foursquare	Foursquare is a location-based social networking website based on software for mobile devices.
Fragmentation	The breaking up of a file into many separate locations in memory or on a disk.
freeware	Software created by people who are willing to give it away for the satisfaction of sharing or knowing they helped to simplify other people's lives. It may be

freestanding software, or it may add functionality to existing software.

Freeze	A system error which causes the cursor to lock in place.
FTP	File Transfer Protocol (FTP) Set of rules governing how files are transferred. FTP allows multiple simultaneous connections to remote file systems.
Gig	A gigabyte = 1024 megabytes.
Gigahertz (GHz)	Common measurement of a processor equal to one billion cycles per second
GNU Free Call	GNU Free Call is a new project to develop and deploy secure self-organized communication services worldwide for private use and for public administration.
Gopher	A Gopher is a means of finding information through the use of a text interface. The whole system works on a client – server basis in which a gopher client server will search through other gopher servers. Menus which contain links to programs and documents are used in place of hyperlinks.
GPS	GPS (Global Positioning System) is a military developed satellite navigation system that enables the exact position, speed and direction of travel of an object fitted with GPS. Today many cars use GPS systems to help the driver with directions.
Graphical user interface (GUI)	Interface that allows the user to navigate through the operating system using icons and menus
Grayware	Spyware that installs on a computer without being prompted and downloads additional applications without permission from the user

Gum tree	Gumtree is an extensive network of online classifieds and community websites. Classified ads are either free or paid for depending on the product category and the geographical market. Sellers may promote their listing through featured placements on the homepage or under product categories
Hacker	A Hacker was once known as a person who was an expert in programming, now it is used to refer to someone who can hack their way through the security systems of a network or computer system. This can be done on many levels, from working out a password to creating a code or program to get into such systems.
Hard drive	A large capacity storage device made of multiple disks housed in a rigid case. (see below)
Hard disk drive (HDD)	Device that stores and retrieves data from magnetic-coated platters that rotate at high speeds. The hard drive, or HDD, is the primary storage medium on a computer.
HDMI	High Definition Multimedia Interface. Video, plasma, LCD, or DLP projector.
HDTV	HDTV (High Definition Television) is a new video standard that is of a high quality has been created in order to replace the traditional SDTV. It has many advantages over SDTV which include: digital signals, which reduce interference and improve picture quality, the picture is also shown in 16:9 ratio which is closer to how humans view the world thus making them more realistic. HDTV also has a higher resolution which further improves picture quality as it is finer and sharper. However in order to be able to view HDTV you will need to have a HD compatible television.

Home Page	The first thing you see when you come to a website, or the opening page of a website. It provides information about the site and directs you to other pages on the site.
Hot-swappable interface	Allows peripherals to be changed while the system is running. USB is an example
HTTP	Hypertext Transfer Protocol. Governs how files are exchanged on the Internet.
Hub	A Hub is a device that enables a number of computers to be connected together in a network and it acts as a central connection. It is normally Ethernet based and enables any information that is sent to flow to any computer on the specific network.
Hyperlink	A highlighted or underlined feature on a web page that, when clicked, will take you to another web page. A link most often appears as underlined words or an image.
Hypertext Markup Language (HTML)	Page-description language used by browser applications such as Windows Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox.
Hyper-Threading	Hyper-Threading is an Intel Corporation developed technology that is used to enable a processor, such as an Intel Xeon to have two threads of information being executed at the same time.
Icon	A small picture or image representing a command (such as print), a file, or a program. When you click on an icon, you start a command, open a file, or launch a program.
IM	IM (Instant Messaging) is a method of communication via the internet whereby users are in private chat rooms and can see which of their list of buddies is online at any time and invite them to chat. You can have more than

one chat room open at any one time and have as many conversations as you like.

Infrared (IR)	Electromagnetic waves whose frequency range is above that of microwaves, but below that of the visible spectrum. Electromagnetic radiation) having a wavelength just greater than that of the red end of the visible light spectrum but less than that of microwaves.
Instant messaging (IM)	Real-time text-based method of communication conducted over a network between two or more users.
Installer	Software used to install a program on your hard drive.
Internet	A vast, international collection of computer networks that transfers information. A combination of the words international and network. Websites and e-mail are part of the Internet.
Internet Protocol (IP)	Network layer protocol in the TCP/IP stack that offers a connectionless internetwork service. IP provides features for addressing, type-of-service specification, fragmentation and reassembly, and security.
Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN)	Communication protocol, offered by telephone companies, that permits telephone networks to carry data, voice, and other source traffic
Internet service provider (ISP)	Company that provides Internet service to home users, such as the local phone or cable company
Interrupt button	A tool used by programmers to enter the debugging mode. The button is usually next to the reset button.
Interrupt request (IRQ)	A request from a device for communication with the CPU

Intranet	Intranet is an internal form of the Internet, many businesses have their own Intranet that contains information relating to the business and only those within the organisation have access to it.
iPad	The iPad is a line of tablet computers designed, developed and marketed by Apple Inc. primarily as a platform for audio-visual media including books, periodicals, movies, music, games, and web content. Its size and weight falls between those of contemporary smartphones and laptop computers
IRC	IRC (Internet Relay Chat) is a method of online communication that takes place in real time over the Internet. In order to use it you have to be on the same IRC server and connect to the same channel. Chat rooms use this method to allow users to chat to each other.
IRQ	IRQ (Interrupt Request) is a term used to describe the managing of various hardware operations on one processor. When a program is run it will send an interrupt request to the processor that lets the program join the list of requests running.
JPEG	JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) is a format for images that is popular. It is normally used to encode photographic pictures and art.
Kalahari.net	South Africa's leading online retailer, selling books, music, DVDs, games, electronics, iphones, ipads, cameras, toys, gifts and more.
Kernel	Kernel is a term that is normally only used by computer experts and refers to the base layer of a computers operating system. Operating systems are created in layers with each layer being responsible for a certain function such as disk access. The kernel is responsible for memory management and hardware-software

interaction, the better the kernel of a computer, the better the computer.

Keyboard shortcut	A combination of keystrokes that performs some function otherwise found in a pulldown menu.
Kilobyte	1024 bytes.
Kilobytes per second (KBps)	Measurement of the amount of data that is transferred over a connection such as a network connection. A data transfer rate of 1 KBps is a rate of approximately 1,000 bytes per second
Landscape	In printing from a computer, to print sideways on the page.
Liquid crystal display (LCD)	Type of light-weight, high-resolution display that works by blocking light rather than creating it
Log On	To gain access to a computer system or to a page on a website by entering a password or user ID.
Mac Address	Mac Address (Media Access Control Address) is a term that describes the unique number assigned to each device that is located on a network. Every single Ethernet or WiFi card has them as do network cards and as they are entered during the manufacture they cannot be altered.
Malware	Malware (Malicious Software) is a term used to describe any software that has a malicious intent. These include things like viruses and worms which can cause untold damage to your computer if allowed. In order to protect your computer it is essential that you have up to date anti-virus protection.

MB	Short for megabyte. 1 Megabyte – 1024 kilobytes.
Memory	The temporary holding area where data is stored while it is being used or changed; the amount of RAM a computer has installed.
Menu	A list of program commands listed by topic.
Modulator/demodulator (modem)	Device that converts digital computer signals into a format that is sent and received over an analog telephone line
Moodle	Moodle (Modular Object–Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment) is a form of interface that is organised so large organisations can utilise e–learning or learn over the Internet. This method of learning is opening up new gateways to learners who wish to learn at home and educators can provide the appropriate online course.
Motherboard	Main printed circuit board that connects all the components of the computer such as the CPU, BIOS, memory, mass storage interfaces, serial and parallel ports, expansion slots, and controllers required for standard peripheral devices.
Multiprocessing	To enable programs to share two or more CPUs.
Multi tasking	Running more than one application in memory at the same time.
Myspace	Myspace is the leading social entertainment destination powered by the passion of fans.
Nanosecond	One billionth of a second. (Or, the time between the theatrical release of a Dudley Moore film and the moment it begins to play on airplanes).

Netbook	Netbooks are a category of small, lightweight, legacy-free, and inexpensive laptop computers.
Netiquette	Netiquette is the etiquette a person should follow when using the Internet, this includes things like not doing anything that is likely to upset or annoy other people. Online chat rooms, newsgroups and e-mails are three areas where netiquette is very important. If you are unsure about the netiquette of a chat room you are in you should take some time to watch others and see how they behave.
Network interface card (NIC)	Computer interface with the LAN. This card typically is inserted into an expansion slot in a computer and connects to the network medium
Newsgroup	A newsgroup is a discussion about a particular subject consisting of notes written to a central Internet site and redistributed through Usenet, a worldwide network of news discussion groups.
OCR	OCR (Optical Character Recognition) is a type of software that is used to adapt a text that has been scanned into a readable and editable word document.
Open Source	Open Source or OSS (Open Source Software) is a way of sharing software that is under license. Most of these programs will have an Open Source Definition written into their license agreement.
Operating system	The system software that controls the computer. Software program that performs general system tasks, such as controlling RAM, prioritizing the processing, controlling input and output devices, and managing files
Optical drive	Disk drive that uses a laser to read and/or write CDs and DVDs

Optical disk	A high-capacity storage medium that is read by a laser light.
Palette	A small floating window that contains tools used in a given application.
Partition	A subdivision of a hard drives surface that is defined and used as a separate drive.
Paste	To insert text, or other material, from the clipboard or copy buffer.
PCI	Acronym for Peripheral Component Interchange – the newer, faster bus architecture
Peripheral	An add-on component to your computer.
Pharming	Pharming is a method of manipulating those who use the Internet by redirecting them to false Web sites. DNS servers are used to translate a domain name into an IP address and then redirects the user to the Web site. Once this has happened the information will be stored on the users DNS cache if they ever revisit the site. Pharming poisons the information stored on a user's DNS cache and is then able to redirect the user to which ever site the hacker has designated.
Phishing	Phishing is method that phishers use to try to get personal data about people. This can be done in many ways, such as sending out fake e-mails that look very much like they are legitimate. These e-mails will normally ask you to part with personal information, either by clicking into a link or by sending out false forms to fill in and e-mail back. If you are ever suspicious of an e-mail go to the Web site that claims to have sent it and check the details, DO NOT ever click through an e-mail that you suspect to be false. If once you get to the Web site of whoever was supposed to have sent you the e-mail (ebay for example) see if there are any alerts there for you. If not it is likely that the e-mail

was a phishing attempt. Also reputable companies such as eBay will be addressed to you by name or your user name.

Plug-and-play (PnP)	Technology that allows a computer to automatically configure the devices that connect to it
Podcasts	A podcast (or non-streamed webcast) is a series of digital media files (either audio or video) that are released episodically and often downloaded through web syndication.
Pop-up menu	Any menu that does not appear at the top of the screen in the menu bar. (may pop up or down)
Port	A connection socket, or jack on the computer.
Portal	Portal is a term, generally synonymous with gateway, for a World Wide Web site that is or proposes to be a major starting site for users when they get connected to the Web or that users tend to visit as an anchor site.
Power-on self-test (POST)	Diagnostic test of memory and hardware when the system is powered up
Power PC	A processing chip designed by Apple, IBM and Motorola (RISC based).
Print spooler	A program that stores documents to be printed on the hard drive, thereby freeing the memory up and allowing other functions to be performed while printing goes on in the background.
Proxy Server	Proxy Servers are used by large companies and it a server that every networked computer must pass through before gaining Internet access. Using a proxy server improves the Internet connection and as it caches web pages they don't have to reload so the process is faster.

Another use of a proxy server is restricting access from networked computers onto certain Internet sites, these are usually those with questionable content.

RAID	Raid (Redundant Array of Independent Disks) is the term for using multiple disks for storing data, when they are placed in a RAID Configuration they will appear to be one large disk which operate better than single disks. As the disks can be accessed and read at the same time the hard drive access time becomes faster.
Random access memory (RAM)	Acronym for Random-Access Memory. Memory that temporarily stores data for processing by the CPU. Also called physical memory
Read only memory (ROM)	Memory that permanently stores prerecorded configuration settings and data on a chip, that can only be read. This type of memory retains its contents when power is not being supplied to the chip (see below)
Redundancy	The general definition of redundancy is exceeding what is normal. However, in computing, the term is used more specifically and refers to duplicate devices that are used for backup purposes. The goal of redundancy is to prevent or recover from the failure of a specific component or system.
Repository	In software development, a repository is a central file storage location. It is used by version control systems to store multiple versions of files. While a repository can be configured on a local machine for a single user, it is often stored on a server , which can be accessed by multiple users.
Resize box	The small square at the lower right corner of a window which, when dragged, resizes the window.

Resolution	Number of distinct pixels in each dimension that can be displayed on a computer screen. The higher the resolution, the better quality the screen display is. Also referred to as display resolution
RISC	Acronym for Reduced Instruction Set Computing; the smaller set of commands used by the PowerPC.
ROM	Acronym for Read Only Memory; memory that can only be read from and not written to.
Root directory	The main hard drive window.
Router	A network layer device that uses one or more metrics to determine the optimal path along which network traffic should be forwarded. Routers forward packets from one network to another based on network layer information. Occasionally called a gateway, although this definition of gateway is becoming increasingly outdated
Save	To write a file onto a disk.
Save as	A File menu item to save a previously saved file in a new location and/or with a new name.
Scroll	To shift the contents of a window to bring hidden items into view.
Scroll bar	A bar at the bottom or right side of a window that contains the scroll box and allows scrolling.
Scroll box	The box in a scroll bar that is used to navigate through a window.

SCSI port	A 25 pin connector on the back of a PC (native SCSI port); used to connect SCSI devices to the CPU.
Serial port	A port that allows data to be transmitted in a series (one after the other), such as the printer and modem ports on a PC
Server	A central computer dedicated to sending and receiving data from other computers (on a network).
Service level agreement (SLA)	Contract that defines expectations between an organization and the service vendor to provide an agreed upon level of support
Shareware	There is commercial software and then there is shareware. With commercial software, you have to pay for the product before you use it. With shareware, you can use the product for a trial period and then decide if you want to keep it. If you want to keep the software after the trial period is up, you're supposed to (and should) register the product and pay the shareware fee. As an extra incentive to pay for the software, many shareware programs disable certain features in the non-registered version and some will keep bugging you to register the program after the trial period has expired
Shut down	The command from the Special menu that shuts down the computer safely.
Site Map	A list of the contents on a website, similar to an index in a book. A link to the site map is usually found at the top or bottom of the home page.
Skype	Skype allows users to make telephone calls from their computer to other Skype users free of charge, or to landlines and cell phones for a fee.

Smartphone	Smartphone is a mobile phone that includes advanced functionality beyond making phone calls and sending text messages. Most smart phones have the capability to display photos, play videos, check and send e-mail, and surf the Web. Modern smart phones, such as the iPhone and Android based phones can run third-party applications , which provides limitless functionality.
Social networking	Sites like Facebook and MySpace allow users to build and customize their own profile sand communicate with friends.
Software	Files on disk that contain instructions for a computer.
Spam	SPAM or Spamming is used to send unsolicited messages in large volumes through any medium that is uses electronic communication. The most common form of spam is e-mailing advertising although it can be used for other purposes and spam is not just confined to e-mailing.
Spoofing	The word "spoof" means to hoax, trick, or deceive. This is typically done by hiding one's identity or faking the identity of another user on the Internet. Spoofing can take place on the Internet in several different ways. One common method is through e-mail . E-mail spoofing involves sending messages from a bogus e-mail address or faking the e-mail address of another user.
Spreadsheet	A program designed to look like an electronic ledger.
Spyware	This is software that "spies" on your computer. Spyware can capture information like Web browsing habits, e-mail messages, usernames and passwords, and credit card information. If left unchecked, the software can transmit this data to another person's computer over the Internet.

SSL Certificate	Certificate or SSL or secure certificate is an installed file on a Web server and is there to prove the identity of the site and ensure it is secure. This gives consumer's added security when shopping online and they are verified.
Start up disk	The disk containing system software and is designated to be used to start the computer.
Static Website	A static website contains Web pages with fixed content. Each page is coded in HTML and displays the same information to every visitor. Static sites are the most basic type of website and are the easiest to create. Unlike dynamic websites , they do not require any Web programming or database design. A static site can be built by simply creating a few HTML pages and publishing them to a Web server.
Streaming	Streaming is a method of playing back video clips and the like without downloading it first. Shareware and software updates do not stream as they need to download fully in order to operate. QuickTime is one example of documents that can be steaming whilst you are watching them.
Surge suppressor	A power strip that has circuits designed to reduce the effects of surge in electrical power.
Switch	A Switch is used when networking multiple computers. Consumer switches normally have up to 8 Ethernet ports and are used to connect DSL or cable modems, computers and other switches. High-end switches however are larger and can be rack mounted and can have 50 ports. Switches are further advanced than hubs, as they can limit the traffic flowing in and out of each port in order to maintain the bandwidth for each device connected to it. Unlike a router a switch is unable to provide a log or firewall and a switch can only function in the way the hardware was made for, a router however can be software configured. Switch can also be used in

refer to a button or small lever that can be found on computer hardware.

System file

A file in the System folder that allows your PC to start and run.

TCP/IP

Stands for "Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol." The purpose was to allow computers to communicate over long distance networks. The TCP part has to do with the verifying delivery of the packets. The IP part refers to the moving of data packets between nodes. TCP/IP has since then become the foundation of the Internet. Therefore, TCP/IP software is built into all major operating systems, such as Unix, Windows, and the Mac OS.

Tunneling

The term "tunneling" probably brings to mind images of digging tunnels underground, perhaps for a subway system, or for you more technically-minded, a [fiber optic cable](#) connection. In the virtual world of computers world, however, tunneling refers to a [protocol](#) in which one protocol is encapsulated within another. Tunneling protocols are often used for establishing various types of connections over common protocols, such as [HTTP](#).

Tweak

When you modify a certain piece of hardware for better performance, it is often referred to as "tweaking" it. Overclocking the computer's [CPU](#) or changing jumper settings on the motherboard are common examples of hardware tweaking. Removing system limitations and adding [plug-ins](#) or extensions to a computer's operating system are types of software tweaking

Tweet

For most of history, "tweet" has been the sound a bird makes. However, with the advent of [Twitter](#), the word "tweet" has taken on a whole new meaning

Tweet	A tweet is an online posting, or " micro-blog " created by a Twitter user. The purpose of each tweet is to answer the question, "What are you doing?" However, tweets can contain any information you want to post, such as your plans for the weekend, your thoughts about a TV show, or even notes from a lecture. You can publish a tweet using a computer or a mobile phone.
Twitter	Twitter is an online service that allows you to share updates with other users by answering one simple question: "What are you doing?" In order to use Twitter, you must first sign up for a free account. Once you have created your account, you can post your own updates and view the updates others have posted. Once you have selected a number of users, their most recent posts, or "tweets," will show up on your Twitter home page. Likewise, your own latest tweets will show up on the home pages of people who have decided to follow you
Uninterruptible Power Source (UPS)	Acronym for Uninterruptible Power Source. A constantly charging battery pack which powers the computer. A UPS should have enough charge to power your computer for several minutes in the event of a total power failure, giving you time to save your work and safely shut down.
Upload	To send a file from one computer to another through a network.
Virtual computers	With a singular goal of using virtualization to make PC's more flexible, manageable, reliable and secure, without sacrificing the end-user's computing experience, Virtual Computer leads the market in distributed desktop virtualization
Virtual keyboard	A virtual keyboard is a software component that allows a user to enter characters. A virtual keyboard can usually be operated with multiple input devices, which may include a touch screen, an actual keyboard, a computer mouse, a head mouse and an eye mouse.

VoIP	VoIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) is a telephone line that is used over the Internet. The information is digitally sent and using VoIP is free so eliminates long distance phone call bills. In order to use VoIP you need (as well as a computer and Internet access) VoIP software which can be downloaded for free and a microphone and speakers, although you can buy VoIP telephones and headsets.
VPN	VPN (Virtual Private Network) is used mainly by large companies as it encrypts all the data being transferred via the Internet so that it cannot be seen. Hence the term "Virtual Private Network" it is similar to having the Intranet via the Internet.
Universal Serial Bus (USB) port	External, hot-swappable, bi-directional connection for USB cables connecting to peripheral devices
Universal Serial Bus (USB)	External serial bus interface standard for the connection of multiple peripheral devices. USB can connect up to 127 USB devices at transfer rates of up to 480 Mbps, and can provide DC power to connected devices
Virtual memory	Memory created and controlled by the operating system by manipulating free hard disk space to mimic more RAM than is actually installed in the system
Virtual private network (VPN)	Encryption system that protects data as it travels, or tunnels, over the Internet or other unsecured public network
Voice over IP (VoIP)	Method to transmit telephone calls over the Internet using packet-switched technology

Web 2.0	The term that was introduced in 2004 and refers to the second generation of the World Wide Web . The term "2.0" comes from the software industry, where new versions of software programs are labeled with an incremental version number. Like software, the new generation of the Web includes new features and functionality that was not available in the past. However, Web 2.0 does not refer to a specific version of the Web, but rather a series of technological improvements.
Web Address or URL	The address for a website. (URL stands for Uniform Resource Locator.) Web addresses usually start with the letters www (for World Wide Web) and end with a dot followed by letters that indicate the type of website it is: .com = commercial enterprise or business.org = non-profit organization.edu = educational institution.gov = government agency.mil = military agency.net = another ending for a commercial website.
Web applications	A broad range of new applications make it possible for users to run programs directly in a Web browser
Webinars	Webinars is short for Web-based seminar, a presentation, lecture, workshop or seminar that is transmitted over the Web. A key feature of a Webinar is its interactive elements the ability to give, receive and discuss information. Contrast with Webcast, in which the data transmission is one way and does not allow interaction between the presenter and the audience.
Website	A location on the World Wide Web (and Internet) that contains information about a specific topic. A website usually contains multiple pages with different types of information about the topic.
WEP	Stands for "Wired Equivalent Privacy." WEP is a security protocol for Wi-Fi networks. Since wireless networks transmit data over radio waves, it is easy to intercept data or "eavesdrop" on wireless data transmissions. The goal of WEP is to make wireless networks as secure as

wired networks, such as those connected by Ethernet cables.

Wi-Fi	Wi-Fi (Wireless Fidelity) is a term used to describe wireless network devices that are founded on the Wireless Alliances 802.11 standards. This means that any Wi-Fi device can be used with any Wi-Fi certified access point.
Wikis	Sites like Wikipedia and others enable users from around the world to add and update online content.
World Wide Web	Also known as the Web, it is a system that lets you access information on the Internet. People often use the term Web to refer to the Internet, but they are not exactly the same thing. The World Wide Web operates over the Internet, and it is the most widely used part of the Internet.
XML	Stands for "Extensible Markup Language." XML is used to define documents with a standard format that can be read by any XML-compatible application. The language can be used with HTML pages, but XML itself is not a markup language. Instead, it is a "meta-language" that can be used to create markup languages for specific applications.
YouTube	video website
Wizard	A feature of Microsoft Word software that helps a user create a customized document; it asks the user questions about formatting and content options and uses the answer to create the document.
Workstation	A desktop computer than runs applications and serves as an access point in a local area network.
WWW	The World Wide Web.

Worm	A type of computer virus that runs a program to destroy data on a user's hard drive. Worms spread by sending copies of themselves to everyone on the user's list of e-mail addresses.
WYSIWYG	(pronounced wiz-zy-wig). An acronym derived from what you see is what you get. A computer design standard that lets the user see on the screen how a page will look when it is printed.
Zero insertion force (ZIF) socket	Chip socket that permits the insertion and removal of a chip without using tools or force. This is common for delicate chips like a CPU
Zombie	A computer that has been hijacked by a cracker without the owner's knowledge and used to perform malicious tasks on the Internet.