

INTERNET TERMS

- Bookmark** A Web address in the form of a URL that a user keeps a record of in order to be able to return to it easily.
- Bit** The smallest measure of computer storage space. Each typed character equals about 1 bit of storage information.
- Boolean Logic** Developed by the English mathematician George Boole, this is a type of search logic that uses words or symbols to combine search keywords together.
- Boolean Operator** Conjunctions, including "and", "or" and "not." For example if you would search for information on "apples and oranges" you would retrieve web pages that contained information on apples and oranges. If you would search for information on "apples or oranges" you would retrieve web pages on apples or web pages on oranges. Likewise, if you would search for information on "apples not oranges" you would only retrieve information on web pages about apples, not web pages about apples and oranges.
- Byte** 1 byte equals 8 bits. 1 byte equals about one word of typed characters.
- Cache** A method the computer uses to store frequently accessed commands or information. The cache can either be in RAM or on the hard drive of the computer.
- CD-ROM** Compact Disk Read Only Memory. These disks can hold more information than floppy disks. Most CD-ROM's can hold up to 650mb of information. One detriment to them, though, is that you cannot "write" information to them. Most computer programs are now coming on CD-ROM instead of floppy disks.
- CD-R** Compact Disk Recordable. Same as CD-ROM, only you can "write" information to them if you have the correct equipment. These drives also read regular CD-ROM disks.
- CD-RW** The CD-RW technology goes one step further by providing re-write functionality. The CD-RW technology allows you to re-write the disk approximately 1000 times. The disk can hold up to 650 MB of data or 74 minutes of audio.
- Cookie** Information transmitted between a web server and a browser that enables a web page to adjust it's display specific to the client that connects to it. This can be used to develop a "profile" of a user. It is possible to disable them or to activate an alert when they are received.

- CPU** Central Processing Unit. It refers to the box that contains your microprocessor, hard drive, disk drive, and, if you have them, your CD-ROM drive and modem. This term has fallen out of use and usually is just called generically "the computer."
- E-mail** A method of electronic communication. You type a message or letter to someone and send it electronically over the Internet. You need to know their Internet address. There are many e-mail programs on the market, and Netscape Navigator and Microsoft's Internet Explorer have mail programs built in. These e-mail programs cannot be accessed on District 91 computers. A free e-mail service that can be accessed throughout District 91 or at home is Yahoo™. This service can be found at <http://www.yahoo.com>.
- FAQ** Frequently Asked Question(s). Some Internet sites have a file or page that will answer the most "frequently asked questions" about the site or a particular subject.
- Floppy Disk** A method of storing information that needs to be taken from one computer to another. The original floppy disks measured 5 1/4" and were floppy (the plastic case enclosing the disk was very bendable and "floppy"). A few years after the 5 1/4" disks made their appearance, the 3 1/2" disk came on the scene. This disk was enclosed in a hard, plastic case that had a moveable metal shutter that protected the disk. However, they were still called floppy disks to differentiate them from hard drives (also called hard disks).
- FTP** File Transfer Protocol. This protocol allows information (such as computer programs) to be transferred from one computer to another over the Internet. Unlike e-mail, these files usually contain hundreds of thousands of lines of computer code that need to be transferred exactly, or else the program would not work, hence the need for its own protocol outside of Internet Protocol. Usually the computer you are FTP'ing to will ask for a login name and address. Most FTP servers allow anonymous logins, although with restricted access
- GigaByte** 1 gigabyte equals approximately 1,024 megabytes. Also abbreviated gb. Most hard drives now come with gigabytes of storage capacity. One gigabyte is about equal to one million pages of text.

Gopher	Gopher programs were the first on the Internet to organize and allow access to information stored on computers. They were developed by the University of Minnesota (whose mascot is the Golden Gopher, hence the generic name of the programs). Mainly text based, they have fallen out of disuse as more and more information gets transferred to the WWW. Gopher is available through Navigator.
Hard Drive	Also called the hard disk. The drive in your computer that stores information you would like to keep permanently (at least until you delete it or the drive fails!). Hard drives come in many different sizes, with the largest currently around 23 gigabytes.
HTML	Hypertext Markup Language. This is the computer language that a WWW page is programmed in.
Hyperlink	(or Link) A highlighted word, phrase, image or icon that, when clicked on, brings you to another page of related or specified information.
Internet Address	This is your unique identity on the Internet. Usually it is in the form of "yourname@domainname.com (or.edu or gov, etc.). In District 91, your name and D91 is used prior to yahoo.com. For example, using Yahoo mail, Superintendent Donna Gray's Internet address looks like: grayd91@yahoo.com.
IP	Internet Protocol. A communications "language" that allows two or more separate networks to "talk" to each other.
IRC	Internet Relay Chat. These are the Internet's infamous "chat rooms." You use special IRC software to talk to people in real time over your connection to the Internet.
ISP	Internet Service Provider. This is the business entity that you purchase time and service from so you can access the Internet.
Kbps	Kilobits per second. A rating of the speed of your connection to the Internet. Most modems come in 28.8, 33.6, and 56Kbps speeds. Translated, that's 28,800 bits per second, 33,600 bits per second and 56,000 bits per second. However, due to the limitations of copper wire phone lines, 56k modems, at best, are able to reach peak speeds of 53Kbps. Most only reach 33.6Kbps due to line noise and other interference.

Kilobyte	1 kilobyte equals approximately 1,024 bytes. Also abbreviated kb. This equals roughly one page of text.
Megabyte	1 megabyte equals approximately 1,024 kilobytes. Also abbreviated mb. Most RAM comes in different megabyte amounts. One megabyte equals about one thousand pages of text.
Metasearch	(Or metasearch engine) This is not really a search engine. What this service does is it takes your query and then goes out to other single site search engines and searches all of them for you. This prevents you from visiting each separate search engine and performing the same search over and over. Dogpile is an example of a metasearch engine. It searches Alta Vista, Yahoo, Excite, Infoseek, Lycos, Northern Light and many other engines from your one single search!
Mhz	Megahertz. This is the speed that the microprocessor runs on your computer. Most microprocessors, in the IBM compatible world, start at 233 Mhz in low-end systems and go up to 733 Mhz in high-end systems. Speeds double approximately every eighteen months. Going by this, we could see 800 Mhz processors by the end of 2000!
Microprocessor	This is the "brains" of the computer. This chip contains all the instructions to boot the computer and use the resources you tell it to run the computer and various programs. In the IBM compatible world the common processors are the Pentium, Pentium with MMX (these are only found in low end systems), Celeron, Pentium II, Pentium II with MMX, and Pentium III all made by Intel, and the K6, K6-II, K6-III, and Athlon all made by AMD. Early microprocessors were designated by number. First there was the 286, then the 386, then the 486. We now have all Pentium II's with MMX in the library.
Operating System	The computer software that allows you to use your computer. It includes all the settings that make your computer run. Windows 98 is an operating system. Other operating systems out there are Windows NT (a network version of Windows), Windows 98, MacOS, UNIX, and some other smaller ones.
Peripheral Device	Any device that is separate from your computer. Printers, scanners, mice, keyboards, etc. are all considered peripheral devices.

- RAM** Random Access Memory. This is the amount of memory your computer has. It is called random access because your computer can store instructions there temporarily as it needs them. Your computer can then selectively delete things from there, as it needs to. Most of the information that you see on your monitor is stuff that is stored temporarily in RAM. Most RAM configurations in computers are anywhere from 16mb to 600+mb. Most of our computers have 32 to 64mb of RAM. This is entirely different than the hard drive. RAM is temporary storage; the hard drive is permanent storage. Some of the more advanced systems can now take one full gigabyte of RAM!
- Search Engine** A system used to search the Internet. Some search engines search by subject, some search by keyword. Each has its own strengths and weaknesses. Some popular search engines are Yahoo, Alta Vista, Hot Bot and Infoseek.
- Surfing** Term used when randomly exploring the Internet. To surf is to go from link to link, page to page, with no real destination or purpose in mind.
- Telnet** This is a program that allows you to use another computer's resources from a remote location. Not all computers are setup to telnet to or from. If you use Netscape Navigator, you need to configure it to use a separate telnet program because telnetting is not built in. Also, you need to have permission to use the particular computer you are telnetting to (this usually entails getting a user identification and a password from whoever runs the computer system). Some telnet locations do allow anonymous access, although with restrictions. The instructions on how to log in anonymously vary from computer to computer, but the instructions are usually on the welcome screen (the first screen you see).
- Terabyte** A terabyte is approximately equal to 1,024 gigabytes. Currently, there are no devices commercially available that come in terabytes, but in the near future we could see them in our personal computers. One terabyte is equal to one billion pages of text.
- URL** Uniform Resource Locator. The URL provides location information to Internet Explorer and Navigator so it can find the file you are looking for. There is an in-depth look provided on the next page:

http://home.mcom.com/newsref/news/index.html



- 1) This is the type of URL, the "protocol" used to use the resource. In this example, it is the http, the colon, and the two slashes (http://). More on these below. We do not have access to all of these protocols through Navigator.
- 2) This is the host name of the computer containing the file you are seeking (home.mcom.com). Also called the domain name.
- 3) This is the directory path to the file you are looking for (/newsref/news)
- 4) This is the name of the file itself (/index.html).

URL Types

URL Type Purpose

- http://** HyperText Transfer Protocol - points to a web document.
- https://** Points to a web document on a secure server.
- file://** References a file on your hard disk.
- ftp://** File Transfer Protocol - points to an FTP site from where you can transfer files from.
- gopher://** Enables you to go to a Gopher site.
- telnet://** Launches whatever telnet program you've configured and starts a telnet session.
- tn3270://** Launches a tn3270 program (similar to telnet) (No Access)
- wais://** Wide Area Information Server - opens a WAIS database (No Access)
- mailto:** Starts the Navigator's mail program (No Access)
- news:** Opens the Navigator's news program and displays a newsgroup (usenet) (No Access)
- snews:** Opens the Navigator's news program and displays a newsgroup on a secure server (No Access)
- about:** Provides information about the program (and some weird stuff). Try the following: about:plugins, about:mozilla, and about:jwz.
- Usenet** Usenet is a global electronic bulletin board system. You use special Usenet programs to read and post messages to the lists. Netscape Navigator has such a program, but we do not have access to Usenet itself. The more popular Usenet lists usually have archives on the WWW.