

HTML

Hypertext Markup Language, used for writing pages for the World Wide Web. HTML allows text to include codes that define fonts, layout, embedded graphics, and hypertext links.



HTTP

Hypertext Transfer Protocol. The method by which World Wide Web pages are transferred over the network.

Hyperlink

An element found on web pages and other electronic documents that, when clicked with a mouse, automatically opens a file or web page in your web browser. A hyperlink may be a word, button, or graphic. When a hyperlink is text, it typically displays in a different color and may also be underlined. A text hyperlink that has already been visited is usually displayed in a different color.

[Hyperlink](#)

Internet Protocol (IP)

The transport layer protocol used as a basis of the Internet. IP enables information to be routed from one network to another in packets and then reassembled when they reach their destination.

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TCP/IP

Transfer Control Protocol/Internet Protocol. The system networks use to communicate with each other on the Internet.

URL

Uniform Resource Locator. The standard way to give the address of any resource on the Internet that is part of the World Wide Web (WWW). A URL looks like this: <http://www.ddjem.com>. The most common way to use a URL is to enter into a Web browser program, such as Microsoft Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator.

Open Source Software

Open Source Software is software for which the underlying programming code is available to the users so that they may read it, make changes to it, and build new versions of the software incorporating their changes. There are many types of Open Source Software, mainly differing in the licensing term under which (altered) copies of the source code may (or must be) redistributed.

Packet

A chunk of information sent over a network. Each packet contains the destination address, the sender's address, error-control information, and data.

Ping

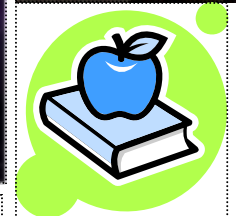
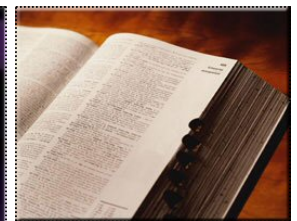
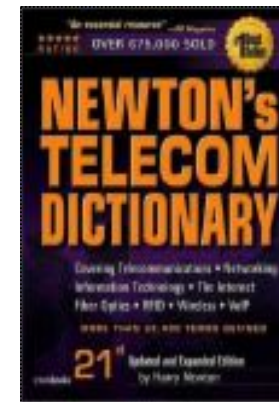
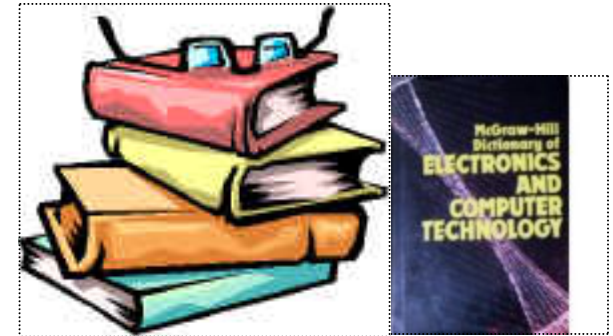
A network management tool that checks to see whether you can communicate with another computer on the Internet. It sends a short message to which the other computer automatically responds. If the other computer does not respond to the ping, you usually cannot establish communications.



Plug-ins

Small applications that add new functionality, multimedia, or audio-video capability to a program.

Common Tech Terms



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API (Application Programming Interface)

A standard interface built into a program that lets other programs communicate with it. Used by web browsers and databases as an alternative to CGI gateways. The client-side program is written in Java or JavaScript, and it downloads and executes on the end user's computer rather than executing on the server.

Backbone

A high-speed line or series of connections that forms a major pathway within a network. The term is relative, as a backbone in a small network will likely be much smaller than many non-backbone lines in a large network.

Bandwidth

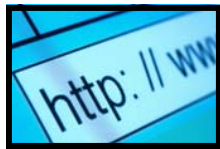
How much information can you send through a connection? Usually measured in Kilobits-per-second.

Broadband

Broadband is a faster way of accessing the Internet; typically 500Kbps or above.

CGI (Common Gateway Interface)

A server-side communication standard supported by all web servers for accessing external programs. Since HTML allows only one-way communication from the server, which is read by the web browser or client, CGI permits communication and interaction from the client to the server for two-way, dynamic web pages.



Digital Certificates

The digital equivalent of positive identification, such as a driver's license. Issued by various certificate authorities, digital certificates are used to prove that a web site, or a visitor to a web site, is the entity or person they claim to be.

Digital Signatures

Digital signatures work just like paper-and-ink signatures, allowing document recipients to confirm the source of a document. Digital signatures are generated by digital certificates.

Dithering

When a color that is not browser safe is displayed, two browser safe colors are mixed (or alternated) to create the desired color. This is called dithering.



Dynamic

A web document that is created from a database in real-time or "on the fly" at the same time it is being viewed, providing a continuous flow of new information and giving visitors a new experience each time they visit the web site.

DHTML (Dynamic HTML)

The next generation of HTML, the language that specifies exactly how text and images will be displayed on a web page. Dynamic HTML, developed by Netscape and the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), is based entirely on industry-standard HTML and Java. New features in Dynamic HTML, such as absolute positioning, give designers and developers greater control over the look and feel of web pages.

Encryption

A method of encoding messages to provide privacy for email, discussion group postings, and other communication as they move over intranets or the Internet.

File-transfer protocol (FTP)

A method of transferring one or more files from one computer to another on a network or phone line.

GIF (Graphic Information File)

Originated by CompuServe as a way of keeping image files small for easier transport over networks. GIFs are the most widely used graphic file type because they can be transparent or even animated. GIFs are limited to 256 colors and look best when using the 216 browser safe colors.

GUI (Graphical User Interface)

A user interface that displays in graphic or pictorial format rather than in text only.



HTML Editor

A software program that makes creating a web page nearly as easy as typing a memo using a word processor. Instead of learning HTML commands, users can format web pages using a menu. HTML editing tools support bullets, tables, paragraph alignment, font size, font color, indenting, and other common formatting features. Many HTML editor packages display the page being edited exactly the same way it will be displayed on the web - a feature called **WYSIWYG**, or what you see is what you get.