

Glossary

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

A

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.

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.

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.

B

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.

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.

C

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.

D

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.

E

EBay A popular e-commerce site where people can put items up for auction and others can bid for and buy them. The UK site is at www.ebay.co.uk

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

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.

F

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.

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

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.

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

G

Grooming See online grooming.

H

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.selfdefenceit.eu

Also used to mean someone's personal web page.

I

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

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.

K

L

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.

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.

M

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

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.

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.

N

Net Abbreviation for internet.

Network See Computer network.

O

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.

P

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 home 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.

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

P

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.

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.

R

Ringtone The old fashioned phone ring has been replaced on mobiles by a wide range of sounds from pop songs to actual recordings of tropical parakeets. Some are free, but most must be downloaded and paid for.

S

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 Yahoo!igans!

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.

S

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.

Suscribe 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.

T

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 touchsensitive 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.

U

Uniform Resource Locator See web address.

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

U

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.

V

Virtual 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.

W

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 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 selfdefenceit.eu or maiz.at
- page is the name of the web page to be read, like index.html. If no page is given then the server sends back the homepage.

Web browser See browser.

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.

W

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.

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