

Glossary

ASCII American Standard Code for Information Interchange; text only

Browser

Software that interprets HTML and presents it to the viewer as a web page with text, links, and graphics. Examples are Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Internet Explorer. Different browsers will display the same page in slightly different ways, and this needs to be considered when creating pages for publication.

Byte A measurement for computer file size.

E-mail

Electronic mail; Mail sent online over a network from one computer to another as opposed to through the postal service.

FTP File Transfer Protocol; A tool that allows users to send and receive files from one computer to another on the Internet.

GIF Graphics Interchange Format. Graphics file format originally created by the CompuServe Online Service.

Hit The measurement of a single file being accessed from a website. This does not measure the number of visitors to a website, as is commonly mistaken. If for example, a homepage consists of one text file and one graphic file, when that homepage is downloaded or accessed by a visitor, that would equal two hits to the website.

HTML

Hypertext Markup Language – a relatively simple (though growing increasingly complex) document description language. Like early word processor programs, “tags” are embedded in the content that contain information about the format of the document or its relationship to other documents. Browsers interpret HTML for viewing by the user.

Http

Hypertext Transport Protocol – the language that servers and browsers use to communicate with each other when transferring data that has been published to the web. See URL. Other “languages” (e.g. ftp) coexist with http, but most of the data transfer on the WWW uses http.

Internet

The interconnected computers worldwide that can communicate with each other using the TCP/IP protocol. Think of the Internet connecting computers the way the long distance companies connect telephones. While the Internet supports data transfer other than WWW traffic (e-mail, for example), sometimes we say “Internet” when we mean the World Wide Web.

ISP

Internet Service Provider. A company (or other organization) that provides access to individuals' (and companies') computers and connects them to the rest of the Internet. Think of the ISP as the local service provider the way your local telephone company gives you access to telephone long distance service. Indeed, many local Baby Bell companies **are** acting as ISPs, but other companies also provide access using the local phone lines: there's no "monopoly" on local Internet service.

JPG, JPEG

Joint Photographic Experts Group; Graphics file format that handles 24-bit color (or 16.7 million colors) and is one of the smallest image file sizes.

PDF

Portable Document Format. A format supported by Adobe Acrobat software. The "Reader" is free and available for download at www.adobe.com. The advantage over HTML is that it is easy (with additional software) to "print" any document to PDF format thus preserving the original formatting.

Server

A host computer system where the data retrieved in a web search resides.

URL

Uniform Resource Locator, an address, e.g. "<http://www.aauw.org>", that is embedded in HTML pages.

WWW, The Web

The World Wide Web, a set of interrelated information published in "hypertext" format and allowing for documents to be linked to one another.