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## definitions & terms

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As we are becoming more familiar with the Internet and computers, we must also learn new terminology that goes along with it. The following glossary includes some of the more common and confusing terms:

<b><u>Application</u></b>	A program you use to get some practical work done, such as word processing.
<b><u>Bandwidth</u></b>	Measures the amount of information that can flow between two points in a certain period of time.
<b><u>Baud</u></b>	A measure of how fast your modem can send and receive information.
<b><u>Boot</u></b>	To start or turn on your computer.
<b><u>Cache</u></b>	A temporary holding area in the computer's memory where the computer stores information that is used often.
<b><u>Default</u></b>	An automatic decision already made for you which will be carried out unless you change it.
<b><u>Directory</u></b>	Organizes and keeps track of your files.
<b><u>Download</u></b>	To receive information from another computer to yours.
<b><u>Electronic mail (e-mail)</u></b>	An electronic way to send and receive messages.
<b><u>Error message</u></b>	When something goes wrong with your computer, a message usually appears to give you a clue as to what the cause of the problem is.
<b><u>Execute</u></b>	The command the computer follows that you have typed in.
<b><u>File transfer protocol (FTP)</u></b>	A way to transfer files across the Internet.
<b><u>Freeware</u></b>	Software made available for public use.
<b><u>Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)</u></b>	A document that contains questions and answers regarding a certain topic, usually located on the Internet.
<b><u>Homepage</u></b>	On the World Wide Web, a starting page with links to other pages.
<b><u>Hypertext</u></b>	Text that contains links to other text documents, allowing the reader to skip around the document.
<b><u>Icon</u></b>	Little pictures on the screen that represent the files stored within the computer.
<b><u>Internet</u></b>	An international network of thousands of networks linked together using TCP/IP protocols.
<b><u>Link</u></b>	A picture or highlighted bit of text that when selected, jumps the reader to another page.

<b><u>Page</u></b>	A document published on the World Wide Web.
<b><u>Search</u></b>	To have the computer look for something, either a particular file or some text or data within a file, usually by specifying keywords to match.
<b><u>Site</u></b>	An Internet host that allows some kind of remote access.
<b><u>TCP/IP</u></b>	A protocol designed to connect different networks together.
<b><u>Uniform Resource Locator (URL)</u></b>	A World Wide Web address.
<b><u>World Wide Web (WWW)</u></b>	An interlinked collection of hypertext documents.

Some definitions taken from *Jargon: an information dictionary of computer terms* by Robin Williams and Steve Cummings.

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## computer dictionaries on the internet

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- **ComputerUser.com High-Tech Dictionary** (<http://www.computeruser.com/resources/dictionary/>)  
An interactive searchable glossary of computer and Internet words, acronyms, abbreviations, buzzwords, etc...
- **Free On-Line Dictionary of Computing (FOLDOC)** (<http://foldoc.doc.ic.ac.uk/foldoc/>)  
This is a searchable dictionary of terms and definitions of most anything to do with the Internet and computing.
- **NetLingo.com Dictionary of Internet Terms** (<http://www.netlingo.com/>)  
An online dictionary containing thousands of words and definitions of vocabulary surrounding the technology and community of the Internet, including a chart of smileys and other text-messaging communication.
- **Netdictionary** (<http://www.netdictionary.com/>)  
An alphabetical reference guide to technical, cultural, and humorous terms related to the Internet.
- **Webopedia: Online Computer Dictionary for Computer and Internet Terms and Definitions** (<http://www.pcwebopedia.com/>)  
An online encyclopedia and search engine dedicated to computer technology.
- **TechWeb: TechEncyclopedia** (<http://www.techweb.com/encyclopedia/>)  
Thousands of definitions of computer terms and concepts.