

Common Terms when using your Computer, Tablet, or Smartphone

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Attachment

An attachment is a document sent with an email message. Many types of files can be sent this way (e.g. Word documents, PDFs, Excel files, pictures).

Bluetooth

Bluetooth is a wireless communications technology intended to replace cables. It allows short-range connections between two or more Bluetooth-compatible devices such as mobile phones, tablets, headsets, speakers or medical equipment.

Browser

A software program that allows you to surf the web. Popular web browsers include Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Microsoft Edge and Internet Explorer.

Cellular (or 'Cell') Data

Cellular refers to a network technology that facilitates mobile device communication over areas comprised of cells and transceivers, which are also known as base stations or cell sites. In a cellular network, the most widely used mobile transceivers are mobile phones, or cell phones. This allows you to have access to the internet when you are outside or in the car—anywhere where you do not have access to Wi-Fi. This comes from your Cell service company (Verizon, AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile).

Chromebook

A Chromebook is a laptop that runs on the Google Chrome operating system. The devices are primarily used to perform a variety of tasks using the Google Chrome browser, with most applications and data residing in the cloud rather than on the machine itself.

Cloud computing, or "in the cloud"

Cloud computing refers to the storing and accessing of data and programs over the Internet instead of on another type of hard drive. Examples of Cloud services include iCloud, Google Cloud and Dropbox.

Download

Downloading is the method by which users access and save software or other files to their own computer's Hard Drive from a remote computer via the Internet.

Email

Electronic mail, or "email" is a way of sending messages over the internet. Popular email programs include Outlook, Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo Mail, and Apple's iCloud email.

Flash Drive or Thumb Drive

A small device containing flash memory that is used for storing data or transferring it to or from a computer, digital camera, etc. It connects to a computer via the USB port.

Hard Disk or Hard Drive

The physical place where a computer stores information - applications and files - is known as its hard disk drive (HDD). The bigger the HDD, the more data it can store.

Internet

A set of interconnected networks that allow computers in different locations to exchange information. The Internet includes services such as the world wide web, electronic mail, file transfer protocol (FTP), chat and remote access to networks and computers.

Kilobyte (KB), Megabyte (MB), Gigabyte (GB), Terabyte (TB)

A measure of computer processor storage and real and virtual memory. The Kilobyte is the smallest unit of memory measurement but greater than a byte. A Kilobyte is 1,000 bytes. It antecedes the Megabyte, which contains 1,000,000 bytes. A Gigabyte is 1,000 Megabytes, and a Terabyte is 1,000 Gigabytes.

Megapixel

A million pixels - picture elements - or tiny dots that make up a digital image. It is a measure commonly used to describe the image quality that a digital camera is capable of - the more megapixels, the better.

Modem

A modem is a device that allows computers to transmit information to each other.

Podcast

A pre-recorded audio program that is made available for download (manually or automatically) so people can listen to them on personal computers or mobile devices.

Processor

The processor is the brains of your computer. It is responsible for performing calculations and tasks that make programs work. The faster the processor, the faster the computer works.

RAM

Random access memory (RAM) is usually referred to as a computer's "memory" - it stores information used by programs. Generally, the larger your computer's RAM, the more programs it can run at once without slowing down.

Router (wireless)

Allows devices like tablets, smartphones, Smart TVs, streaming devices, computers, and now even wireless appliances to connect to the internet without needing to plug a cord into the modem.

Search engine

A search engine enables a computer user to search information on the Internet. It is a type of software that creates indexes of databases or websites based on the titles of files, keywords, or the full text of files. The most popular search engines are Google.com, Yahoo.com and Bing.com.

Social Media

Websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking. These include Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, Snapchat, and many more.

Streaming

Streaming is a technology used to deliver content to computers and mobile devices over the internet. Streaming transmits data — usually audio and video, but increasingly other kinds as well — as a continuous flow, which allows the recipients to begin to watch or listen almost immediately.

Website

A website is a collection of publicly accessible, interlinked Web pages that share a single domain name. Websites can be created and maintained by an individual, group, business or organization to serve a variety of purposes. Together, all publicly accessible websites constitute the World Wide Web, or “the internet”.

Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is a technology that allows computers and other devices to communicate via a wireless signal. Essentially, it means you can browse the internet without tripping over phone cords.