

Fact Sheet—Cyberspace Glossary

Read the terms below to familiarize yourself with Internet jargon. Knowing these terms will make it easier to understand many Internet sites.

Anti-Spyware

Programs designed to remove or block spyware from your computer.

Cyber

Refers to computer use and the Internet.

Cyber Bullying

Using the Internet to bully or hassle someone.

Cyberspace

An informal expression for the virtual world of the Internet. (*See also* Internet, Web site)

E-Mail

Electronic mail. Mail written on a computer and sent to a computer.

Executable

Ready to be run by a computer; includes instant messaging (IM), text messaging and blogging.

Harassment

The hateful or mean act of annoying or threatening someone through various means, such as bullying or telling lies about a person behind his or her back.

Internet

A system of computer networks that operates worldwide using a common set of communications procedures. (*See also* Cyberspace, Web site)

Padlock Icon

Another type of security technology. Originally developed to protect the security of checks, it is now also used to indicate a secure Web site.

Phishing

Trying to get private information, such as a password or credit card number, by pretending to be a trustworthy person or business with a real need for such information in an apparently official electronic message.

Pop-Up

A window that appears automatically on top of the browser window. Pop-ups are often used to display advertising or unwanted content on the screen. Pop-ups that are part of a specific Internet site are used by the Web site author to give users a list of choices.

Pop-Up Blockers

Software that prevents unsolicited (unwelcome) advertisements and unwanted new browser windows of pop-ups.

Quarantine Message

A message sent indicating that computer security software has detected a virus it cannot clean off your computer, and has isolated the virus in a special folder.

Site Map

An overview of a Web site that lists all the pages available and provides active links to them.

Social-Networking Site

A site on the Internet that builds networks of people who share interests and activities and who want to learn about the interests and activities of others in the network. They are primarily Web-based and provide a collection of ways for users to interact.

SSL (Secure Socket Layer)

The leading type of security technology on the Internet.

Storyboard

A series of diagrams or pictures that show how a project or Web site will look when completed.

Spam

Electronic junk mail or junk newsgroup postings that can carry computer viruses or spyware.

Spyware

A general term for a program that secretly monitors your web surfing habits.

Surfing the Internet

To jump around from page to page on the Internet, skimming information, possibly without any particular page destination.

Virus

A computer program that spreads by inserting copies of itself into other executable code or documents. Usually intends to cause harm to the computer.

Virus Blocker

A program that works behind the scenes, scanning your incoming e-mail for viruses. If a message is infected, a virus blocker takes one of two actions:

1. Cleans viruses from attachments and message headers
2. Quarantines messages that can't be cleaned

Web Site

A collection of related Web pages. (See also Cyberspace, Internet)