# Internet Glossary

**acceptable use policy (AUP)** A formal, written agreement that sets terms and conditions of Internet use.

**bookmark** A tool used to mark the address and title of a favorite site so it can be easily selected in the future.

**bulletin boards** Public areas on the Internet, usually devoted to specific subjects.

**chat room** A location on the Internet where you have a typed conversation with someone else, like a typed telephone exchange.

**communications software** Computer programs for communicating on the Internet.

**cyberspace** A word coined by science fiction writer William Gibson to describe the world inside a computer network.

**domain name** The name assigned to a specific Web site.

**domain name extension** The last letters of a domain name that give a clue to what type of organization owns a site, such as .gov for government.

**download** To transfer information from the Internet into your computer.

**e-commerce** Electronic commerce, or business conducted over the Internet.

**e-mail** Short for electronic mail, the most popular means of communication on the Internet.

**emoticons** Internet expressions and abbreviations used to convey a message, such as : ) for smile and lol for laughing out loud.

**filtering software** Software designed to prevent access to sites predetermined to be inappropriate.

**flaming** An Internet term for sending rude or insulting messages.

**go menu** A tool which lists the recent sites visited by someone on the Internet.

**history folder** A folder that displays a record of Web site searches.

**hyper links** Electronic cross-references which consist of specially designated words or images that, when selected, take your Web browser to a new Web site or to a different page of the current site.

**Internet** A giant, worldwide network of interconnected computers.

**Internet Service Provider (ISP)** A service, such as America Online, that provides access to the Internet, usually for a monthly fee.

**listserv** An automatic, free mailing list that forwards messages on a certain topic to its subscribers.

**mailing list** A collection of e-mail addresses all grouped under a certain name.

**modem** A device that converts the signal from your computer into a message that is able to travel over phone lines and into another computer.

**netiquette** Appropriate behavior when using the Internet.

**newsgroups** Public areas on the Internet, usually devoted to specific subjects.

**passphrase** A means of identifying a user by a series of letters and numbers which only the user knows and which is more secure than a password.

**password** A means of uniquely identifying a user by a name or word.

**plug-ins** Software programs, also known as helper applications, that permit access to certain Web sites or allow you to download and use specific types of files.

**processor speed** The rate at which a computer can turn data into information that you can recognize.

**Internet Activities**

**protocol**  An agreed-upon language computers need to use to communicate.

**search engine**  A kind of card catalog for all the Web sites on the Internet.

**software**  Computer programs.

**spam**  Junk mail sent over the Internet, or junk e-mail.

**Uniform Resource Locator (URL)**  A typed address for a Web site, usually starting with http://.

**virus**  A small program that replicates itself throughout your computer files, causing damage to files and to computer hardware.

**Web browser**  The actual program used to view information and Web sites on the World Wide Web, such as Microsoft Explorer or Netscape Navigator.

**Web site**  A location you can visit on the Internet.

**World Wide Web**  The data found on the Internet, as opposed to the Internet itself.