

Introduction to the Internet

The Information Highway

“Internet”

Definition: A system connecting computers around the world. The Internet consists primarily of the collection of billions of interconnected webpages that are transferred using HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol), and are collectively known as the World Wide Web. The Internet also uses FTP (File Transfer Protocol) to transfer files, and SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) to transfer e-mail.

“World Wide Web” – WWW

Definition: a system of interlinked [hypertext](#) documents called web pages accessed via the Internet. A **web site** is a collection of related web pages. The World Wide Web is that part of the Internet that is made up of web pages and uses HTTP. Parts of the Internet that are accessed through FTP and SMTP are part of the Internet but not part of the World Wide Web.

Getting Connected

Dial-up – uses your telephone line.

DSL (digital subscriber line) – uses phone lines, and web pages load 3-5 times faster than dial-up.

“Broadband” (often called “high-speed Internet”) – a general term that means any technology with faster Internet than dial-up. Can refer to DSL or Internet via your television cable.

“Web browser” – a program that lets you view and explore information on the World Wide Web. The more widely used browsers available are:

Internet Explorer – most popular, and used in the Norfolk Public Library

Mozilla Firefox, Netscape, Opera, Safari (Apple computers)

Search engine: www.google.com and www.bing.com

Web portal and search engine: www.yahoo.com

Wiki: A collaborative Web site that allows users to add to, modify, or delete the web site content.

“Wikipedia” is a collaborative dictionary:

www.wikipedia.org

Database: A collection of data arranged for ease and speed of search and retrieval.

Blog: an “online diary” that can be personal or informational. www.blogtoplist.com/ is a list of blogs. gizmodo.com is an informational blog.

Personal: A personal web page produced by an individual.

Advocacy: www.democrats.org and www.gop.com and www.findlaw.com

Business/marketing: www.kraftfoods.com/kf and www.npl.lib.va.us/sites/business/index.html and coupons.com and www.fatwallet.com and www.retailmenot.com

Educational: dsc.discovery.com and www.ipl.org and ftc.gov/idtheft and www.si.edu and nationalzoo.si.edu and dictionary.reference.com and www.lva.lib.va.us and www.nasa.gov (*NASA home*)

Entertainment: youtube.com and www.pandora.com and www.music.com/home and www.web-radio.fm

Family: www.familywatchdog.us (*National Sex Offender Registry*)

Government: www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors.shtml

Informational: money.howstuffworks.com and www.mapquest.com and www.imdb.com and www.hgtv.com and www.foodnetwork.com and simplyrecipes.com and www.ivillage.com

Local government: www.norfolk.gov

Medical: www.medlineplus.gov and www.vahealthprovider.com and www.webmd.com and www.mayoclinic.com

National government: www.nlm.nih.gov and thomas.loc.gov

News: www.cnn.com

Technology: www.pcmag.com and www.cnet.com

University: www.odu.edu

VA government: sex-offender.vsp.virginia.gov/sor

Weather: www.weather.com and www.wunderground.com