

# Technology Vocabulary\*

Word	Definition
Applications	Applications software (also called end-user programs) include database programs, word processors, spreadsheets, and multimedia programs.
AUP	Acceptable Use Policy A contract specifying what a subscriber can and cannot do while using an ISP's service or an organization's network and equipment.
Auxiliary Storage Devices	Various techniques and devices for storing large amounts of data. These include floppy disks, tape drives, zip drives, hard disks, CD's, firewire drives, and optical disks.
Averkey	Device used to connect the computer to a television to generate the image on the computer screen onto the television
Backup	Copy files to a second medium (a disk or tape) as a precaution in case the first medium fails and the files are lost.
Binary logic	The computer uses zeros and ones (0 and 1) to complete processes and interpret key strokes/mouse selections. See <a href="http://www.dnaco.net/~ivanjs/binprime.html">http://www.dnaco.net/~ivanjs/binprime.html</a> for more information.
Bit	An individual piece of computerized information
Boolean Search Logic	A search for specific data. It implies that any condition can be searched for using the operators AND, OR, and NOT.
Byte	The main unit of memory in a computer. Eight bits that are combined and recognized by the computer as numbers, letters, and symbols
CD	Compact Disk – Read Only Memory A round silver colored disk that comes with a large amount of information embedded and ready to use. (A CD-R is a one-time writable CD. A CD-RW allows you to write to the disk multiple times. A CD-ROM is a read only CD.)
Cold boot	Start-up a computer from a powered-down state (when the computer is not already on).
CPU	Central Processing Unit= The “brains” of the computer. This unit directs the computer's activities. Every instruction given by the operator must first pass through the CPU before it can be carried out.
Database	A computerized store (collection) of related information.
Desktop	A desktop is the metaphor to portray file systems on the computer's home screen. Such a desktop consists of pictures, called icons, which show files, folders, and various types of documents. You can arrange the icons on the electronic desktop to suit your particular needs.
Digital Camera	A camera that stores its pictures on digital media – disk, memory stick, or internal memory.
Digital Video Camera	A video camera that records on digital media – digital video tape or memory stick
Disk (Floppy)	A thin sheet of magnetic material on which a computer can store information
Disk Drive	A hardware device that accesses the data stored on a disk, a CD, or a Zip disk
Download	The process of transferring software/information from the Internet to your computer.
E-mail	Electronic Mail -- The transmission of messages over communications networks.

FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions - A listing of questions typically asked along with the answers to the questions. These lists are frequently prepared to help beginners to use computer software.
Fax machine	A machine that allows documents to be sent to another place over a phone line
Field	In a database record, a category that holds one type of information.
Firewall	A mechanism to keep unauthorized users from accessing parts of a network or host computer.
Folders	A folder is an object that can contain multiple documents. Folders are used to organize information/files.
Format a disk	Prepare a storage medium, usually a disk, for reading and writing information.
Graphics	A two-dimensional or three-dimensional computer image such as pictures, objects, bar graphs, or pie charts.
Hard drive	An inflexible magnetic disk with greater storage capacity than a CD; can be internal to the computer or external (i.e., Firewire drive)
Home Page	The front or main web page when a browser is launched, which provides access to web sites on the Internet.
HTML	HyperText Markup Language -- The language in which World Wide Web documents are written.
Internet	A global network connecting millions of computers.
ISP	Internet Service Provider
Keyboard	The part of the computer containing the keys and sometimes the mouse. It allows you to type and enter information on the computer.
LAN	Local Area Network-A group of computers and other devices dispersed over a relatively limited area and connected by a communications link that enables any device to interact with any other device on the network.
LCD	Liquid Crystal Display-A type of display used in digital watches, many portable computers, and flat screen monitors.
Listserv	An electronic mailing list used to deliver messages to the e-mail addresses of people interested in a particular topic.
Modem	A device that transmits digital data in tones over a phone line; an acronym for modulator-demodulator. A device or program that enables a computer to transmit data over telephone lines.
Monitor	The screen that displays the images, files, documents, etc. that the user is using.
Mouse	A handheld device that moves the computer screen cursor by rolling a plastic ball (or laser light) along a flat surface, communicating with the computer by cable.
Multimedia	Multiple forms of communication including sound, video, video-conferencing, graphics, and text.
Newsgroup	The Internet version of an electronic discussion group in which people can leave messages or post questions.
Operating system	The most important program that runs on a computer. Every general-purpose computer must have an operating system to run other programs. Operating systems perform basic tasks, such as recognizing input from the keyboard, sending output to the display screen, keeping track of files and directories on the disk, and controlling peripheral devices such as disk drives and printers.
PDF File	Portable Document Format- The page description language used in the Acrobat document exchange system.
Peripheral device	Any device added to the computer.

Printer	A device that outputs data on paper.
RAM (Random Access Memory)	This is a type of computer memory that allows data to be stored and retrieved as required. It is called random access because any part of the memory can be located without having to go through everything that comes before it.
ROM (Read Only Memory)	This is the permanent memory. Its contents can only be read by the computer. Nothing new can be stored in it.
Scanner	A device that can read text or illustrations printed on paper and translate the information into a format that the computer can use.
Server	A computer in a network that is used to provide services (such as access to files or shared peripherals or the routing of E-mail) to other computers in the network
Spreadsheet	A software tool used to organize data in a row and column format and to perform multiple calculations.
Surf	Move from place to place on the Internet searching for topics of interest.
Units	Bits – Bytes – Kilobytes – Megabytes – Gigabytes 8 bits to 1 byte; 1000 bytes to 1 kilobyte; 1000 kilobytes to 1 megabyte; 1000 megabytes to 1 gigabyte.
URL	Universal Resource Locator- The global address of documents and other resources on the World Wide Web.
Virus	A destructive computer program that invades by means of a normal program and damages the computer system.
WAN	Wide Area Network - A communications network that connects geographically separated areas.
Warm boot	Resetting (restarting) a computer that is already turned on. Resetting it returns the computer to its initial state; any data or programs in the main memory are erased. A warm boot is sometimes necessary when a computer has crashed, frozen, or “locked-up.”
WWW	World Wide Web - A hypertext-based collection of computers on the Internet that allows you to travel from one linked document to another, even if those documents reside on many different servers.

\*This vocabulary list compiled by Amy Scott from several sources with the principle source being: [www.fluco.org](http://www.fluco.org) (Accessed: July 30, 2003). TSIP Standard 2. TSIP2.doc

