

Introduction to the Internet provided by the Front Range PC Users Group

What is the Internet

Sometimes referred to as the Information Highway.

Supports many types of communication known as protocols.

HTTP protocol is what provides web pages

Email protocol delivers our electronic mail messages.

Other protocols include Instant Messaging, IRC, and P2P.

Getting started

Computer with connection to Internet or Internet service provider (ISP)

Phone modem speeds up to 52Kbps. Most get less than 25Kbps.

DSL modem speeds 256Kbps up to 8Mbps

Cable modem speeds up to 1.5Mbps through 8Mbps

Wireless radio connection speeds up to 8Mbps

Satellite Internet service is available most everywhere, but has some disadvantages.

All operating systems support Internet communication.

Windows the most popular operating system had support for the Internet since Windows 95.

Macintosh has support for Internet connectivity since 1995.

Unix systems were connected to the Internet before it even became popular, in early 1980s.

Applications that provide access to Internet services.

Browser for accessing web pages and applications.

Internet Explorer, comes with Windows as part of operating system.

Mozilla Firefox, browser with many new features, free download.

Chrome, the newest browser from Google, free download.

Opera, free download browser with many innovative features.

Safari, browser that is packaged with Mac, recently a Windows version introduced.

Netscape, original Internet browser owned by AOL, no longer supported.

Email client program for management of email locally.

Outlook Express or Windows Live, comes with Windows operating system.

Macintosh mail comes with the Macintosh operating system

Mozilla Thunderbird, free download with many extra features.

Applications for many Internet services are available through the Browser extensions.

Google and Yahoo tool bars, add features not included in standard browser.

Flash player to render web pages with Adobe Flash content.

Adobe Acrobat plugin to open web pages authored in Adobe PDF format.

Windows media player, Quick Time and Real Player for sound and video content.

The World Wide Web is still growing continuously, putting greater demands on your Computer.

New Web page standards are drafted each year for added functionality.

Web pages include more unseen content to provide pages that have better formatting.

New Web browsers include engines that afford better security and greater performance.

Security issues, more people are finding ways to subvert the browser.

The browser acts more like a computer environment which can be infected by a virus.

Look alike web sites can request private information for questionable use.

A misspelled URL or a malicious link may result in a misleading web page.

One computer or browser crash is not a security problem unless you are unable to restart.

Pop up or pop under advertising windows are examples of executable code in the web page.

Capabilities for taking advantage of the new Internet features.

- The computer hardware needs to be upgraded.

- Display or Video hardware needed to render web pages quickly with more detail.

- More powerful CPU and larger memory capacity to handle interactive web pages.

- Larger hard drives to handle downloaded sound and movies.

Uses of the Internet

Exchange of Research between schools was one of the earliest uses of the Internet.

- Exchanging information between Universities using file transfers of data.

- Project collaboration using electronic mail or email.

WWW expanded the uses of the Internet for the world.

- Information: Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, and Maps

- Entertainment: Comics, Casinos. Music and Video

- Financial news, close to real time quotes, and market reports.

- Games played over the Internet.

- Government information

 - Postal rates and zip codes.

 - Government publications.

 - Tax forms and rules

- Shopping

 - Major department stores

 - Airline tickets

 - Auctions such as the most famous, Ebay

- Social Networking: Facebook, LinkedIn and MySpace.

- Politics, many web pages devoted to political campaigns.

- Services, Search engines, Price comparison, and Banking.

Early Internet use made email one of the most important features.

Instant Messaging, Web Logs or Blogs, Wikis, and RSS feeds are some of the other features.

Web 2.0 is the new description of the Internet, meaning that web pages are more like applications.

Web Applications, E-Mail, Spreadsheet and Word Processor programs accessible over the web.

- Web Applications provided by Google; calendar, docs, calc and presentation.

- Mash-up, programs that combines data from two or more Internet sources.

- Cloud Computing, using the virtual resources of a third party or Internet company.

Problems connected with the Internet.

- Privacy is a concern, as more of our information is available on the web.

- Security, exploits for bugs found in the Operating systems of our computers.

- Threat of viruses spread by email, the Internet connection, and malicious web pages.

- Adware and Spyware distributed and installed by downloaded files from the Internet.

- Health, some people become addicted to the WWW.

- Social problems, interpersonal skills are lost or not developed.

- Phishing or Confidence Exploits, trying to get personal information for ID theft.

Links to useful web pages:

Learn the Net

<http://www.learnthenet.com/english/index.html>

University of California at Berkeley Internet Tutorial

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/FindInfo.html>

List of Internet Tutorials

<http://www.internettutorials.net/>

One of the most popular search engines and source of Web Applications.

<http://www.google.com/>

Good Example of one of the early web portals.

<http://yahoo.com/>

Encyclopedia of Internet.

<http://www.wikipedia.com/>

Zillow provides free real estate information.

<http://www.zillow.com/>

Front Range PC Users Group

<http://www.frpcug.org/>

Exercises:

Find a map of your local area.

Find the number of hits a search on your surname or someone else would yield.

Find the Weather forecast for Fort Collins on Sunday.

Look up the definition of etymology, and how many sources did you find.

Find a book on Fort Collins history.

Find the Top news item today.

Find Recycle locations in Fort Collins.

How many nature trails can you find in Fort Collins.