

Terminology

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| Antivirus | Software that helps protect a computer from malicious code |
| Attachment | A data file sent from one computer to another along with an email or instant message |
| Browser | A software program that allows internet users to interact with, navigate, or “browse” parts of the internet (examples of popular browsers include Netscape and Internet Explorer) |
| Buddy List | Instant-message addresses of favorite users (list enable designated users to know when their “buddy” is online so both can easily communicate) |
| Bulletin Boards | Message boards: public areas on the internet where messages or comments can be posted for other board members to read and reply to |
| Chat room | A virtual room or gathering place for internet users who have shared interests to congregate and converse |
| Chat Software | A type of internet-based application that enable groups of people to get together in a chat room and converse in real time through typewritten messages |
| Cot | Written instruction in a computing language |
| Copyright | The exclusive legal rights to reproduce, publish, and sell things produced by the person who owns the copyright |
| Cracker | A criminal or malicious hacker or intruder who breaks into computer systems to disable systems, delete files, or steal data, or simply for the challenge |
| Crash | The act of a computer’s operating system becoming inoperative |
| Cyber Grooming | The process that online predators use to trick their victims by building false trust and relationships |
| File | The specific location of data within a computer |
| File Extensions | The three or more letters at the end of a file name(i.e. exe, .jpg, or .doc) defining the file “type,” such as text file, executable file, database file, or graphic file |
| Flame | A mean or hurtful email message |
| Freeze | A computer screen that cannot be changes with an inoperable cursor (mouse action) |
| Fw | Forward: an indicator in the subject line of an email that lets the recipient know a message has been redirected to them from another user |
| Hacker | A person who uses the internet to break into a computer or computer network |
| Hacking | Gaining illegal or unauthorized access to a computer file or network |

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| Hardware | The physical machinery of the computer, monitor, keyboard, mouse, printer, etc. |
| Hate Mail | Harassing and/or threatening electronic mail |
| Hate Site | A web site dedicated to promoting intense hostility toward an individual or group |
| Identifying Information | Personal information that can be used by online predators to distinguish one person from another and possible to find a person in real life (i.e. name, gender, age, etc.) |
| Identity Theft | When someone uses your personal information (social security number, credit card number, PIN number, etc.) to steal your identity for illegal purposes. It is the fastest growing crime in the United States |
| IM | Instant messaging: a real-time internet communication application. While chat involves many users simultaneously, IM is one on one) |
| Intellectual Property | Materials protected by copyright laws, including songs, movies, books, etc. |
| Internet | A worldwide network of interconnected computer networks (no government agency or other central authority controls its use) |
| ISP | Internet Service Provider: a vendor that provides internet access to its customers |
| Looping | The term used to describe a web site that will not allow people to exit |
| Malicious code | A computer Program that is meant to hurt you and your computer (i.e. viruses, worms, and Trojan horses) |
| Netiquette | A blend of “network” and etiquette” describing the informal code of internet conduct |
| Parental Controls | Special features or software packages that enable restrictions on access to internet sites |
| Password | A secret word or series of letters and numbers that one uses to gain access to an online service or the internet, or to modify certain software like parental controls |
| Pharming | Deceitful method uses by identity thieves to redirect users to bogus sites with the intent of acquiring personal information |
| Phishing | Method used to fraudulently acquire sensitive information, such as p0asswords and credit card details, by masquerading as a trustworthy person or business in an apparently official electronic communication, such as an email or an instant message |
| Piracy | Robbery from internet sites to produce counterfeit copyrighted software and other material |
| Plagiarism | Stealing someone else’s work and pretending it’s yours |
| Posting | Sending a message to an online message board to be viewed by the members of that board |

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| Program | An instruction set written in a computer language that makes a computer perform |
| Programmer | A person who develops computer-software programs |
| Screen Name | Name/nickname used to identify oneself in communications on the internet |
| Search Engine | A software program that allows one to perform searches on the internet |
| Software | A computer program |
| Spam | Mass mailing (or mass posting) of messages, also known as internet junk mail |
| Stalk | To obsessively pursue a person from place to place on the internet, attempting to find out personal information |
| Steganography | A technology that makes it possible to embed hidden information in documents, pictures, and music files, and send them undetected over the internet social-networking site, web sites designed to encourage communication between persons of similar interests or geographic regions |
| Trojan Horse | Malicious code that appears harmless but, when executed, can launch a virus or worm |
| URL | Universal/Uniform Resource Locator: another name for a web address (the URL is located at the top of a web page and generally begins with http//www.....) |
| Virus | Executable code (computer program) that infects or attaches itself to other executable code (computer programs) to perform a malicious or mischievous act, such as erasing or editing files, or locking up systems |
| Web Site | A collection of pages or files on the would wide web that are linked together and managed by a company, institution, or individual |
| Worm | A self-propagating computer virus embedded in a file |