



Sometimes it's easy to get confused by technological jargon. Here's a glossary to help with knowing your 'consoles' from your 'cookies'.

A

Anti-Spam: A computer program that blocks unwanted emails

Attachment: A file that can be added to an e-mail, like a document, photograph, or song

Avatar: A graphic or icon used to represent a person in an online chat-room or game

B

Back Up: An extra copy of a file or a document.

Block: To prevent other users from communicating or interacting with you online.

Blog: A web log or blog is an online journal or diary in which writers, known as 'bloggers', can write about their daily lives or comment on news.

Bluetooth: A wireless technology used to connect devices over short distances so they can share information.

Bookmark: A way to quickly access a favourite website.

Browse: Using a web browser application to look at websites on the internet.

Browser: A program that allows users to view web pages.

C

Chat Room: An interactive forum where you can talk in real-time. Many chat rooms are established so that people can discuss a common interest like music, films or games.

Console: A term often used for a computer built for a specific purpose such as playing games. Examples include PlayStation, Wii, Xbox and DS.

Cookie: File used by websites to store information on your browser, such as your log-in or registration identification, user preferences, and online shopping information.

Cyber Bullying: Using the internet, mobile phones or other devices to send or post text or images intended to hurt, embarrass or harm another person.

D

Data: Any information stored by a computer. It can be files, e-mails, video games, songs, pictures etc.

Download: Information saved from the internet onto discs, CDs, DVDs or other computers.

E

E-mail: A service that allows people to send messages with pictures and sounds from their computer to any other computer in the world. To send someone an e-mail message you need an e-mail account to know the other person's e-mail address.

Encryption: The science of scrambling data in text, audio or video so that it can only be read by the authorised sender and recipient.

F

File-sharing: Directly sharing files between users such as films, music and images with other computer users.

Filtering: the use of software which prevents people from accessing unwanted internet content. filtering software may also block specific functions, such as e-mail or instant messaging.

Firewall: A system that creates a special 'wall' to keep out unwanted information like spam and viruses, and unwanted people, like hackers.

Forum: Internet discussion group for users with common interests, e.g. films, music and sport.

G

Geolocation: The process of identifying geographical location of someone or something by means of digital information processed via the internet.

Google: A well known search engine. Google is so popular, it's given its name to a verb: 'googling'. This word is used to mean searching online, e.g. 'I googled the football results last night.'

GPS: Global Positioning System, an accurate worldwide navigational system based on the reception of signals from orbiting satellites. It can pinpoint your location and time anywhere on Earth.

H

Hacker: Someone who accesses computer information illegally.

Homepage: The web page that your browser is set to open when it starts up, or is the main page of any website.

I

Identity Theft: Stealing and then using someone's personal details for immoral gain.

IM Instant Messaging: a form of real-time communication between two or more people based on typed text. The text is sent over a network such as the internet. Messages appear almost instantly on the users' screen.

Instant Messaging: Users can quickly exchange messages with other online users, simulating a real-time conversation or 'chat'. Messages appear almost instantly on the user's screen.

Internet: A giant network of high-speed computer networks, connecting countries and continents worldwide.

Intranet: A private computer network inside a company or organisation that uses the same kinds of software that you would find on the public internet.

M

Malware: Short for 'malicious software': any software used to disrupt computer operation, gather sensitive information or gain access to private computer systems.

Memory: This is the data that a computer stores. Long-term memory must be saved to the hard drive.

N

Network: Two or more computers connected together so that they can share resources.

P

Password: A code used to gain access (login) to a locked system. Good passwords contain letters and non-letters, and are not simple combinations.

PC: A personal computer or general computing device.

Phishing: An online scam that uses e-mail to 'fish' for users' private information by pretending to be sent from genuine people or organisations.

Piracy: Illegally copying copyrighted software, music or films.

Podcast: An audio show that is broadcast over the web. Podcasts may include discussion shows, music or other types of audio.

Privacy: freedom from being observed or intruded upon without permission. Online it can mean to protect a user's personal details and information.

Privacy settings: Settings that allow the user to control what can be seen by other users.

Profile: Personal information that a user chooses to share on a social network, such as their names, hobbies and interests.

S

Search engine: A program that searches for information on the World Wide Web by looking for specific keywords and returning a list of information found on that topic.

Social media sites: Internet applications used to facilitate communication between users.

Social networking sites: An online community where people from all over the world may meet and share common interests. These sites allow members to set up a profile, which may include information such as name, location, phone number, age and gender. Often users will post pictures and videos.

Spam: Unwanted e-mail from someone you don't know. It is usually aimed at trying to sell you something.

Streaming: Listening to music or watching video in 'real time', instead of downloading an entire file to your computer and watching or listening to it later.

T

Tweets: Text-based posts on the social networking site Twitter. They are displayed on the author's profile page and delivered to their 'followers': people who ask to be told of any changes to the author's page.

U

Upload: Transferring data (usually a file) from one computer or device to another; the opposite of 'download'.

URL: The address of documents and resources on the internet.

V

Virus: A chunk of computer programming code that can make copies of itself. Some viruses do more than simply copy themselves:- they might display messages, install other software or files, or delete software or files.

W

Web: Abbreviation of the World Wide Web.

Webcam: Video camera set up on a home computer or laptop that can be accessed via the World Wide Web.