



ICT

E Commerce and Internet - The Jargon De-Mystified

Applet	- an applet is a small program that can be sent along with a Web page to a user. Java applets can perform interactive animations, immediate calculations, or other simple tasks without having to send a user request back to the server.	Cookie	- bookmarks which remember details about a site visited. They have evolved to become fairly intelligent robots. They store details about a site, what log on preferences have been set, passwords and specific buying patterns.
ASP	(Application Service Provider) - these offer on-line real-time access to standard packages. Users pay a metered charge to log on and perform tasks using standard accounting, spreadsheet and word processing packages.	Digital signature/certificate	- a method using encryption techniques and a public/private key to verify the authenticity of a person or transaction.
.ASP	(Active Server Pages) – A dynamic web page.	DSL	- is an abbreviation for Digital Subscriber Services. It is a method of transferring data over traditional BT copper wire lines. The data is transferred at higher speeds than normal.
Attachment	- an attachment is a file which is appended to an e-mail. The file may be a word-processing document, or a spreadsheet, for example. The importance is related to the security risks associated with opening attachments, as any program code stored in an attachment is executed. The code can contain a virus which can potentially damage a PC or network (see macro virus and virus below).	Dot com	- an expression referring to the internet industry. Frequently used in the context of 'a dot com company' and 'a dot com millionaire'.
Authentication	- a process which is used to confirm the identity of a person, or the integrity of a transaction.	e commerce	- conducting business over the internet and therefore by electronic rather than by paper-based methods.
Bandwidth	- the capacity of a system to deal with network traffic.	EDI	(Electronic Data Interchange) - is a standard method of exchanging documents, such as invoices, between companies who may have incompatible hardware and/or software. Electronic form filling and transmission is far quicker than manually completing a form and then posting it. A further extension of EDI is the processing of electronic funds.
Broadband	- high speed internet access.	Extranet	- a network, but only for 'invited' business partners. These are set up mainly to cope with B2B (business to business) transactions. One company may have access to a number of different extranets.
Blog	- Blog (originally weblog) is a diary or history. Blogs are used by all types of entity from corporates to personal users. Most personal blogs are anonymous and typically refer to issues in daily life – usually centred around the working environment.	Firewall	- a hardware and/or software based security system to prevent unauthorised access to a network or server.
Browser	- a program which enables web access.		
Cable-modems	- a service provided by cable TV companies to allow internet access. TV cable is used to send and receive data, and not the telephone line. The service relies on the provision of cable in the area.		

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Gateway	- a device or devices which enable two or more different types of network to communicate with each other. Sometimes described as a bridge.	Phishing	- this refers to the stealing of personal identifiers such as Pin numbers, Credit card numbers and passwords via a spoof web site or email.
HTML	(Hyper Text Markup Language) - a programming language used to create web pages.	Podcast	- a Podcast is an audio, and sometimes video, recording made available online.
Host	- a computer or network which holds information such as a web site on behalf of a number of different companies. Also see ISP below.	PKI	(Public Key Infrastructure) - the framework in which digital certificates are created and used, based on a public/private key.
Hyperlink	- a link which can be created in a document, for example, which can then branch to another document, or web site.	SaaS	- (Software as a Service) - a model of web-based software delivery, where a software vendor provides maintenance, operation and support for their software.
Intranet	- an internal network based on the internet, but containing material for company employees only.	SET	(Secure Electronic Transaction) - is one of several standards for ensuring credit card payments are secure over the internet.
ISP	- an Internet Service Provider. An ISP acts as a host (see above) providing e-mail services, web site services and access to information channels.	Spam	- unsolicited bulk e-mail.
JAVA	- a programming language which can be run across a variety of platforms. Its interoperability means that applets can easily be downloaded to any computer, when required.	TCP/IP	- a protocol designed to allow different computers to communicate with each other regardless of the hardware or operating system platform.
Local loop	- the last kilometre or so of cable from a telephone exchange to a house or business is known as the local loop.	URL	(Uniform Resource Locator) - a standard method of identifying web resources, such as web sites and web addresses.
Macro virus	- a macro virus is a program written within a standard application, which executes a malicious payload when the document or spreadsheet is opened. A macro virus can perform a variety of unwanted side effects from putting up strange messages to completely destroying data on a network.	Virus	- a generic term for a rogue piece of software. The internet has enabled viruses to be transferred from one network to another very quickly. The current crop of viruses rely on using some of the more common applications software to transmit their payload to the largest possible number of users.
Non-repudiation	- provides proof of the origin of a transaction. It protects the recipient against the sender denying that the transaction was originated by him (the sender).	Wireless	- The ability of a computer to access e-mails and the internet without being physically connected by cable.
.PDF	(Portable Data Format) – this is a read-only version of an existing document or spreadsheet. As the information is compressed, PDF files tend to be relatively small.	XBRL	(extensible business reporting language) – This uses XML (see below) data tags to transmit financial data. HMRC, for example use XBRL for e-filing of CT returns.
		XML	(extensible mark-up language) – this allows designers to create customized tags to enable information to be transmitted from one system into another (completely different) system.

How We Can Help

If you would like information as to how we can assist you with your e-commerce activities we will be more than happy to provide you with help.

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