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Geek-to-English Dictionary

Geek Stuff...In Plain English

This is a list of commonly used words we will be using as we work together. This is only a partial list of Internet terminology. You can find a printable version [here](#). Additional information can be found [linked to Wikipedia](#).

Accessibility - Meaning the degree to which something is useable by as many people as possible. In web design, this refers to making web sites available to all people, regardless of handicap.

Bandwidth - The amount of data that can be transmitted in a fixed amount of time. Dial-up net users are low-bandwidth, while those using DSL or cable are high-bandwidth.

Browser - A program used to view web pages. Internet Explorer, Netscape, Firefox, and Opera are among the more popular browsers.

Cross-platform - Refers to multiple computer and/or software types. For example, a program can be made to run on both Windows and Mac. This means the program is cross-platform. In web design, it means making web sites that can be accessed on many computers, phones, handhelds, operating systems and web browsers.

CSS - Cascading Style Sheets, used for presentation of web pages.

Domain or Domain Name - A web page address. Or, more commonly called a dot com. i.e. geekartist.net is a domain name. Also sometimes called a URL.

Download - Copying or transferring files from one computer to another via the Internet. If you are taking files from another computer, you are downloading them. Information that is transferred to you.

IE - Shorthand for Internet Explorer.

FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions - Document that has a list of common questions and answers regarding a specific subject.

FTP - File Transfer Protocol - Transferring files from one computer to another using the internet. This is how I transfer files from my computer to your web site.

Hit - When someone retrieves a page or graphic from a web server. For example, if a person pulls up a web page with 3 graphics on it, then that was four hits on the web server. Also can mean data is found matching criteria you set...for example, finding web sites after typing words into a search engine.

HTML - Hypertext Markup Language - The language (code) used to create web pages.

HTTP - Hypertext Transfer Protocol - The protocol used by the world wide web. Tells web servers and browsers how to respond to various commands.

ISP - Internet Service Provider - A company that provides access to the Internet.

Resolution - In web design, we're talking about monitor resolution. In this case, it means the number of dots on a screen. Easy way to remember how we use the term: high-resolution shows objects smaller on the monitor, while low-resolution shows objects much larger.

RSS - Stands for Really Simple Syndication. Basically, this is streaming information that you can sign up to receive on your computer or mp3 player.

Server - A computer that manages network resources. In this case, it is the computer a web host uses to 'serve up' web pages for surfers.

SSL - Secure Socket Layer - In other words, a secure connection often used for making internet purchases.

Upload - Copying or transferring files from one computer to another via the Internet. If you are putting files on another computer, you are uploading them. Information you transfer to another.

URL - Uniform Resource Locator - A web page address. For example: www.somewhere.com

Usability - Describes how easily a tool can be used by a variety of individuals. In web design, this refers to how easily a site can be navigated and how easily information is found on a site. In other words, clarity and simplicity of design and layout.

Web 2.0 - A concept created by O'Reilly in 2004, referring to the latest services, designs, and uses of the web today.

Web Host - A business that provides web service for hosting a web site. Generally they have a server that exists solely to serve up web pages.

XHTML - Extensible HyperText Markup Language, similar to HTML and due to replace HTML in time.