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GLOSSARY OF TERMS – WEB
COMPANY » DOWNLOAD AREA

Accessibility
A term used to describe a website's ease of use for a variety of people. An Accessible site caters well for people with various disabilities, or people browsing the web on devices such as mobile phones, screen readers and brail readers. An Inaccessible site does not cater to these groups sufficiently.

ActiveX
A proprietary technology created by Microsoft for use in Windows and Internet Explorer. While potentially very useful ActiveX has become a major security vulnerability and is now deactivated by default.

Anti-Spyware
Software used to attempt to remove currently installed Spyware. Examples are Microsoft Anti-spyware, Spy-bot Search and Destroy, and Ad-Aware.

Backward Compatible
The ability for old and outdated software to understand modern files. Most often used to mean a modern website will work adequately on old outdated browsers.

Bandwidth
In terms of web hosting 'bandwidth' is a measure of how much data has been transferred from the server. There is usually a limit on how much can be transferred in one month. In terms of Internet Connection 'bandwidth' is a measure of how fast your connection to the internet is. 56kbps is standard dial-up. 512kbps, 1mbps and 2mbps are common broadband speeds.

Browser
The software with which you view the Web, such as Firefox or Internet Explorer.

Bug
A mistake in a programs code which causes unforeseen problems. A bug is not the same as a Virus.

CODEC
Compressor/DE-Compressor. A small utility which allows the compression and playback of audio and video data. If you download video or audio and can't see or hear it you likely need the proper CODEC.

CSS
Cascading Style Sheets are used to change the presentation of XHTML documents. CSS controls how a website looks, XHTML stores the textual content of the webpage.

Firefox
A modern browser with enhanced security, speed and standards support. It is Open Source and free to everyone.

Firewall
A firewall inspects incoming and outgoing network communication in an attempt to ensure no malicious connections are established. Firewalls can effectively block hackers. If you are running Windows, are connected to the Internet often, and do not have a firewall you are asking for trouble. A free software based firewall is available from ZoneAlarm. Windows XP has one built in, but must be made active.

Flash
A website platform created by Macromedia. It allows media rich, highly interactive website design, often at the expense of accessibility.

HTML / XHTML
The language most webpage's are made from. XHTML is a modern Web Standard version of HTML, which is used to store the content of a webpage.

IE
Microsoft's browser. Often criticised for poor security and relatively weak standards support.

ISP
Internet Service Provider. A company which connects you to the internet.

Linux
An alternative OS (Operating System) for many types of computer. It is Open Source, and while not as popular with standard users as Windows, it is highly popular with ISP's, Web Hosting companies and large corporations due to its superior reliability and security.

Mac
Apple Macintosh provide an alternative to a PC. They are functionally very similar, but the Mac is a proprietary hardware and software solution which is not compatible with a PC.

Mozilla
Both the name of the development group and the browser provided by that group. Mozilla are an Open Source community driven organisation which historically are an off-shoot of Time-Warner.

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MySQL
An open source relational database system, often used in conjunction with PHP

Open Source
The code which makes up a program is freely available for anyone to use and alter, unlike closed source software. This often means Open Source software is developed by thousands of enthusiasts and professionals, and is updated very often. Linux and Firefox are examples of Open Source software which have gained reputations for being very secure, fast and reliable.

OS
Operating System. The software which runs the computer. Examples are Windows, MacOS 9, Mac OS-X, Linux, Solaris and UNIX.

Outlook
Microsoft's fully featured Office application, including an Email client and day-planner.

Outlook Express
A trimmed down version of Outlook, providing Email functionality only.

PC
Personal Computer. The hardware upon which your software runs.

PHP
A powerful language which allows dynamic content in webpage's.

Resolution
A measure of how much you can fit onto a screen. It does not always equate with the physical size of the screen, a large screen may be set to a low resolution and a small screen set to a high resolution. It is always the case that the bigger your resolution the more you can fit onto a screen. 800x600, 1024x768 and 1280x1024 are common resolutions.

Screen Reader
Software which attempts to read the computer display verbally, for vision impaired users.

Spyware
Malicious software installed on your computer without your knowledge. Often used for information gathering, advertising or in conjunction with a virus.

Thunderbird
A modern Open Source Email client from the same people who provide the Firefox and Mozilla browsers.

URL
Uniform Resource Locator. Most commonly referred to as the 'web address' which is typed into your browser to get to a particular website.

Virus
A Malicious program which may do anything. Often installed without a users knowledge by exploiting security holes in Email clients and Operating Systems.

W3C
World Wide Web Consortium. A group of people who oversee internet related issues. They set standards to ensure the operability of the World Wide Web.

Web space
The physical space on the web server upon which your website is stored.

Web Standards
An internationally agreed set of standards for the Web, ensuring compatibility between all systems that use these standards.

Windows
The most popular OS (Operating System) for the PC platform. There are multiple versions of Windows including 95, ME, 2000, XP Home, XP Pro, and Server 2003.