

# **TECHNOLOGY GLOSSARY**

**Acceptable Use Policies** - Rules, restrictions, and policies developed for a specific network.

**Anonymous** - Use the word "anonymous" to log-on to many public FTP (File-Transfer Protocol) computers that contain text and binary files.

**Backbone** - A network acting as a primary conduit for traffic that is often both sourced from, and destined for, other networks. CanutilloNet has a Fiber backbone.

**Bandwidth** - The rated throughput capacity of a given network protocol.

**Baud Rate** - The number of discrete signal events per second occurring on a communications channel. For example: a 9600-baud modem changes the signal it sends on the phone line 9600 times per second.

**Broadband** - A transmission system that multiplexes multiple independent signals onto one cable. In telecommunications, any channel having a bandwidth greater than a voice-grade channel. In a LAN, a coax cable on which analog signaling is used.

**Browser, browsing** - The program that runs on your computer and lets you navigate the World Wide Web. Netscape and Internet Explorer are the two most common browsers.

**Byte** - Refers to a series of consecutive binary digits that are operated upon as a unit.

**Cable** - A transmission medium wire or fiber wrapped in a protective cover.

**Cat 6** - Category 6 wire.

**CR-ROM (computer disc read-only memory)** - computer, usually to provide access to encyclopedias, dictionaries, databases, and courseware.

**Chat room** - A computer location where participants can exchange notes, converse, and exchange data.

**Circuit** - A communication link between two or more points.

**Client** - A node or software program that requests services from a server.

**Coaxial Cable** - A cable consisting of a hollow outer cylindrical conductor that surrounds a single inner wire conductor.

**CODEC - Coder-decoder.** A device that typically uses PCM (pulse code modulation) to transform analog voice into a digital bit stream and vice versa.

**Communication Line -** The physical link (a wire or telephone circuit) that connects one or more devices to one or more other devices.

**Computer Literacy -** An awareness of the roles of computers in society; an understanding of the basic components of computers; an understanding of variations in types of computers; and a basic knowledge of software applications.

**Courseware/Software -** Programs used in the teaching and learning process.

**Digital -** system is one that uses discrete values rather than a continuous spectrum of values: compare analog.

**Document Scanner -** A device used to translate print media into computer language so that document can be viewed and altered on the computer screen.

**Electronic Mail (E-MAIL) -** The electronic transmission of letters, messages and memos from one computer to another.

**E-RATE –** To qualify for E-Rate funding:

A district must certify that they are enforcing a policy of Internet safety that includes measures to block or filter content for both minors and adults to certain visual depictions as required by THE Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

A district must have:  
Provided reasonable public notice and have held at least one public hearing to address proposed Internet Safety Policy. For schools, the policy must also include monitoring the online activities of minors included reasonable technology protection measure such as blocking filters.

**FAQ -** Abbreviation for “frequently asked question”.

**Firewall -** A security device that restricts access into a network.

**Flame -** An angry, perhaps even malicious, e-mail response against an individual or group.

**FTP -** File Transfer Protocol (defines how to transfer files from one computer to another).

**GOPHER** - A menu-based system used for exploring and transferring files on the INTERNET.

**Hacker** - People who explore computer systems via computers/modems/INTERNET connection. Includes those who break into computer network systems illegally.

**Hardware** - Physical computer equipment. For example, mechanical, magnetic, electrical, or electronic devices.

**Interactive** - Pertaining to an application in which each entry elicits a response. An interactive system may also be conversational, implying continuous dialogue between the user and the system.

**INTERNET** - A worldwide web of millions of computers that can intercommunicate.

**Internet Safety Policy.** An Internet Safety Policy must address the following:

- access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web;
- the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- unauthorized access, including so-called “hacking,” and other unlawful activities by minors online;
- unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; and
- measures designed to restrict minors’ access to materials harmful to minors.

**Internet Service Provider (ISP)** - A company, agency, or institution that provides electronic access to the Internet.

**Internet vs. Intranet** - Internet documents and information are available to anyone in the world, unless there is a security system. Intranet documents and information are available only to computers within a specific network. Intranets are closed and secure; the Internet is open.

**LAN (Local Area Network)** - A system for linking terminals, programs, storage and graphic devices at multiple work stations (usually microcomputers) over relatively small geographic areas for rapid communication.

**Link** - A place in a web document where you can click to travel to a different web location. Links collectively make a web of information.

**Microcomputer (PC)** - Small desktop computer usually running stand-alone applications or on a network.

**Modem Acronym** - for MOdulator-DEModulator. A device that modulates and demodulates signals transmitted over communication facilities.

**Network** - A computer communications system consisting of one or more terminals communicating with a single host computer system, which acts as the network control component through internal programming.

**Newsgroup** - A shared (and sometimes moderated) area on a computer, where anyone can put a message. Newsgroups are specific to a topic and are an excellent way to gather information or discuss issues with other people interested in the topic.

**On-Line** - The operation of peripherals or terminals in direct interactive communication and under control of the host computer via a communication channel.  
**PVBX** – Private Video Branch Exchange is a Video PBX or switch. A PVBX links classrooms and offices through a switch matrix. Cameras, Monitors, VCR and other video devices can all be interconnected. The PVBX switch is controlled by Web based software.

**Query** - A request for data (information).

**Server** - A computer that shares files and printers among several pieces of equipment usually on a local area network.

**Software** - A term coined to contrast computer programs with the hardware of a computer system. Software programs are stored sets of instructions that govern the operation of computer system and make the hardware run.

**Spam** - E-mail that is the electronic equivalent to junk mail. Usually advertisements, jokes, or notices.

**Stand Alone** - A computer system designed to function independently; not networked or attached to a host system or server.

**SysOp** - A Systems Operator.

**System Printer** - A larger high-speed printer, usually attached directly or via telecommunications to the host computer.

**Technology Protection Measure:** A Technology Protection Measure is a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access. It must protect against access by adults and minors to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or — with respect to use of computers with Internet access by minors — harmful

to minors. It may be disabled for adults engaged in bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

**Telecommunications** - Vast array of systems for communicating over distances.

**Video Conferencing** - An audio/video transmission over distance (from one or multiple sites).

**Webmaster** - The person responsible for maintaining the information on a web site that is available to the World Wide Web.

**Web page, web site, netsite, homepage, URL (uniform resource locator), web address, net address** - All refer to a location that can be visited on the World Wide Web.

**Web server** - A computer whose purpose is to hold information that is allowed to be published and viewed on the World Wide Web.