

PC Jargon Buster!

A is for...Apps and Android

Apps: Short for 'applications', which is another way of saying 'computer program'. They usually run on a mobile device like a smartphone or tablet – and they can do almost anything (within the limitations of the device)! Fancy turning your phone into a remote control for a toy aeroplane? There's almost certainly an app for that.

Android: With a logo that's instantly recognisable as a little green man who looks a tiny bit like a seasick Dusty Bin, the Android operating system is probably Apple's biggest rival. In a nutshell, it's a piece of software developed for smartphones and tablets, and it runs the device and everything on it. A bit like Windows on your computer.

B is for...BlackBerry, BBM, Browser, BinWeevils, Blog and Botnet

BlackBerry: A range of smartphones or mobile devices, similar to the iPhone, Android and Windows phones. Most BlackBerries have a physical QWERTY keyboard, but newer ones have a touch screen. They have a great Push email service, and their own messenger service (BBM).

BBM: Exclusive to BlackBerry devices, the BlackBerry Messenger is an internet-based instant message application. It's fairly secure because it uses the BlackBerry PIN system, so you can only use it to communicate with other BlackBerry devices. It's a very efficient and secure way to reach a LOT of people at once. It gained notoriety during 2011 when it was used to 'organise' the riots.

Browser: A browser is not an operating system (like Windows) or a search engine (like Google). It's short for 'web browser' and is a computer program that allows you to visit websites and display the webpages you access. Your browser is the gateway to the internet. The four main browsers are Chrome, Firefox, Safari and Internet Explorer.

BinWeevils: A 3D interactive game aimed at 7 to 13-year-olds and apparently designed to drive parents crazy. The virtual world enables children to create an avatar (character) for free, make friends, and interact with them online. They must use their social skills to complete tasks and missions, and earn 'mulch' to spend in the 'shops'.

Blog: Short for 'weblog', a blog is an online journal or diary. Once the preserve of a few dedicated writers, the 'blogosphere' expanded to include people dedicated to telling the world about their cats/dinner choices/hobbies. There are still a lot of personal blogs (many of them excellent), but many businesses now maintain blogs, and influential bloggers are a great alternative source of news.

Botnet: A botnet is a collection of computers connected to the Internet which are all running a piece of software designed to coordinate some kind of repetitive activity. A botnet may be used for legitimate reasons such as forwarding messages in messaging systems but most often these days botnets are associated with malicious activities such as spamming or server attacks. Usually, the owner of the computer is unaware that their computer is part of a botnet and do not know that the software is on their computer. The botnet software will often have been acquired by the user being tricked into downloading something such as by clicking on an email attachment or a link on a Web site.

C is for...CEOP, Computing, Cyber, Call of Duty, Club Penguin, Cloud and Chrome

CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre): Formed in 2006, CEOP's aim is to eradicate the sexual abuse of children. It is part of UK policing and works with a variety of national and international agencies to investigate wrongdoing. Raising public awareness and educating children and parents so that they can look after themselves is a key part of what the organisation does.

Computing (instead of ICT): This complements ICT. Computing looks at the design and implementation of computers. ICT is the equivalent of learning to drive a car, while Computing is more akin to teaching automotive engineering: how the brakes work, how to maintain cars, and how to design new ones. It's more techie.

Cyber: An adjective that describes a noun in terms of computers, information technology and the virtual age. It can be prefixed to an enormous range of words, such as cyber bullying (online bullying), cybercrime (online crime), cyberspace (the non-physical space created by computer systems) or cyberpunk (a genre of literature based on science fiction, but with the emphasis on advanced technology).

Call of Duty: A computer game responsible for the boredom of thousands of long-suffering partners. Call of Duty is a first-person and third-person shooter video game that is designed to be realistic. It started on the PC and later expanded to consoles. It is set primarily in World War II, but later versions have shifted the focus to modern warfare.

Club Penguin: Another interactive game for children. Club Penguin is a massively multiplayer online game (MMO) with a virtual world containing a range of activities. Players use cartoon penguin avatars. The game is aimed at 6 to 14-year-olds, but anyone can play. Because of this, the creators have put a major focus on child safety. They also believe that it's fun to be a penguin.

Cloud: In the simplest terms, the cloud is the internet. It's an intangible place where an enormous amount of digital information is stored (through services like Dropbox), moved around (using services like Hotmail) or created (with services like Google Docs). It's handy because it enables us to access our emails, documents, photographs, etc. from anywhere without needing a specific computer or device. And it doesn't take up storage space on our own hard-drives, which can get clogged.

Chrome: Google Chrome is one of the 'big four' web browsers, alongside Firefox, Internet Explorer and Safari. There are many arguments between nerds as to which browser is the best.

C is also for ... Cookies

Cookies: A cookie, also known as an HTTP cookie, web cookie, or browser cookie is a small text file stored on a user's computer and contains some data sent from the server of a web site. For a more detailed definition visit the [E-safety Support Knowledge Base](#).

D is for...Dongle, Download, Desktop and DOS Attack

Dongle: A dongle is an amusingly named device that connects computers to the internet via wireless broadband. Dongles can be used as software protection devices, providing a layer of security to prevent theft of licensed software.

Download: Downloading is the transfer of data, software or other information from the internet or a remote system to a personal computer or nearby device. It also describes the action of transferring data from a larger to a smaller computer, or from a computer to a mobile or peripheral device. A download is a file that can be or has been transferred.

Desktop: The meaning of desktop in computing is twofold. Firstly, it can be the background image of a display screen, on which windows, icons and other graphical items appear. Secondly, it can describe a desktop computer - a non-portable device that sits, literally, on your desktop. Simple!

Denial of Service (DOS) Attack: A DOS attack is a malicious attack on a Web server designed to interrupt, inconvenience or curtail that server's normal operation. A DOS attack usually takes the form of the co-ordination of thousands of client computers all trying to interact with the server simultaneously. The server can not cope with the sudden rush of traffic and thus fails. DOS attacks are often achieved through the use of botnets.

E is for...E-learning and Emoticon

E-learning: Sometimes known as computer-based training, or web-based learning, e-learning is short for 'electronic learning'. It includes all types of electronically supported learning and teaching. It adds an extra dimension to traditional teaching, incorporating new technology and is delivered via the internet, video, DVD, CD, etc. It also means learning materials can be accessed from anywhere – making teachers' and pupils' lives easier!

Emoticon: An emoticon is a representation of a facial expression formed by combinations of punctuation marks, numbers and letters. It's a useful shorthand way of expressing your feelings or mood, and can help to give clarification where misunderstandings may arise. Here are the usual suspects: :-) = happy, :-(= sad, ;-) = winking, \m/ = let's rock! Interestingly, the first documented emoticons appeared in the March 30, 1881 issue of American satirical magazine Puck.

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F is for...Facebook, Firewall, Firefox and Flash

Facebook: Facebook is an immense social networking service with around 1.15 billion active monthly users (as of June 2013). Launched in 2004, it's open to anyone aged 13 or over. Users can upload a photograph of themselves, update their details, and tell the world what they've just had for lunch. It's a great way to stay in touch with friends, share photographs and organise events. Privacy is important, and Facebook has put a lot of work into helping make sure everyone - especially young people - can keep themselves safe online.

Firewall: A computer connected to the internet is visible to anyone else on the internet - and this makes it vulnerable. A firewall sits between the computer and the network - like the physical firewall designed to contain a fire in a building. It is a device that controls the flow of information across networks of computers. It examines the source, destination and type of communication and compares them with existing lists of allowed and disallowed actions. Firewalls are border control for your computer.

Firefox: One of the 'big four' web browsers, together with Google Chrome, Internet Explorer and Safari. Created by Mozilla.

Flash: Flash, or Adobe Flash, allows web designers to create animated websites containing graphics, cartoons, games or movies. It's quick to load, and can stream media. To play many games or watch video clips online, you'll need Flash Player. It can make web pages slow to load, so not everyone is a fan...

Fapchat: This is a term being used to describe sexting using the Snapchat app. People may think this is an opportunity to 'sext' without the picture being permanently online. However, there are ways to capture images from Snapchat, so this is not the case.

G is for...Geocaching, Google, Gigabyte and Grooming

Geocaching: Geocaching is treasure-hunting for the modern age! It's an outdoor activity in which participants use a GPS (Global Positioning System) device to hide and seek containers - known as 'geocaches' anywhere in the world. A typical cache is a small waterproof container (like Tupperware or a film case) containing a logbook and perhaps a trinket or two for trade. The geocacher enters the date they found it and their nickname. It's a great way to get out and about, and can be addictive...

Google: Google is an internet search engine: it lets you find other sites on the web based on keyword searches. It's one of the five most popular websites in the world. Google has grown - it's now a huge multinational business that provides email services, social media platforms, operating systems, and much more. It's so popular, that 'google' is now a verb: you can spend hours googling something, when you should be doing something else...

Gigabyte: A byte is a unit of digital information in computing and telecommunications. Historically, a byte was the number of bits used to encode a single character of text in a computer. The prefix 'giga' means 10 to the power 9 - so one gigabyte is 1,000,000,000 bytes. It has the symbol GB.

Grooming: According to the Cambridge dictionary, grooming is defined as 'the criminal activity of becoming friends with a child, especially over the internet, in order to try to persuade the child to have a sexual relationship with you'.

H is for...Habbo, Hacker, Halo and HTML

Habbo: (Formerly Habbo Hotel) This is a virtual gaming world aimed at children. While this one has had some problems with child safety, it has also taken steps to rectify the issues. It's well worth talking about during e-safety classes.

Hacker: The term 'hacker' refers to two distinct groups of people. As well as describing someone who breaks into computer systems by circumventing security, it can also refer to an enthusiastic hobbyist. The first set of people is criminal; the second enjoys customising or combining electronic and computer equipment. Ethical hacking is often used by businesses and governments to find and repair weaknesses in their computer systems.

Halo: Halo is a multibillion dollar science fiction computer game franchise. Owned by Microsoft Studios, it's been hailed as one of the best first-person shooter games. The game revolves around an interstellar war between humanity and a theocratic race of aliens known as the Covenant. It has been known to suck teenage boys in for days.

HTML: Short for Hypertext Markup Language, HTML is the main language used to create webpages and other information that can be displayed in a web browser. It's the bricks and mortar of webpages, the coding framework that tells the page what to look like.

I is for...iPod, iPad, iPhone, Internet and Icon

iPod: A pocket-sized device used to play music files. It is designed and marketed by Apple.

iPad: A tablet computer designed and developed by Apple. It's shiny and pretty, used as a more portable version of a laptop and a more user-friendly version of a smartphone. It's also a fabulous little TV.

iPhone: Apple's smartphone. It does everything a phone can do, plus most of what an iPad or a regular computer can do.

Internet: The internet is a global network of computers. It's everywhere, but you can't touch it. It enables people to send and receive data almost instantly over vast distances. Even from space (NASA's astronauts regularly tweet from the space station). Incidentally, someone with a lot of time on their hands worked out that the internet is about the same weight as a strawberry.

Icon: An icon is a small graphic image, picture or object that represents a file, program, webpage or command. They are easily recognisable and help you execute commands and open files, programs or documents quickly. In theory, anyway...

J is for...Java and JPEG

Java: Java and JavaScript are programming languages used to write software applications that can run inside a web browser. They're used to create very complex webpages that change in response to people's input. Confusingly, Java and JavaScript are not actually related (aside from the fact that they're both used to write computer programs that run inside a web browser...). It's named after Java coffee, consumed in large quantities by the language's creators (and, indeed, programmers everywhere).

JPEG: A commonly used method of compressing digital images with very little loss of image quality. 'Raw' images are enormous, and people would quickly run out of storage space without image compression. JPEG is an acronym that stands for the Joint Photographic Experts Group, which created the standard.

K is for...Kilobyte, Keyword and Kindle

Kilobyte: Rather than simply being 1,000 bytes, as the name suggests, a kilobyte is sometimes 1,024 bytes. It depends on the context. The symbol is kB. As an example: a very short story represents about one kilobyte of data.

Keyword: Once defined as a code word identifier in ciphers, it's easy to see how the meaning has evolved. Keywords are words used by search engines in their search for relevant webpages. They're also words used in computer programming, but that's a little more complicated!

Kindle: The Kindle, from Amazon, is an electronic reading device. There are other brands available, but the word 'Kindle' is becoming shorthand for any e-reader. Like 'Hoover'. They can put an entire library in the palm of your hands (depending on the storage capacity). Unlike computer screens, Kindles use e-ink. It's much easier on the eye than looking at a computer screen – and the whole experience is pretty close to reading a normal book.

L is for...Leetspeak, Like and LinkedIn

Leetspeak: The term 'leet' or '1337' is derived from 'elite'. It's an alternative alphabet for the English language, used primarily on the internet, substituting numbers for letters (or vice versa). The more obscure the substitution, the more 'leet' the user. It used to be reserved solely for

hackers, nerds and geeks, but it's since entered the mainstream and is often used to poke fun at n00bs (newbies) or get past censorship (@\$\$ is a good example of this...).

Like (Facebook): The Facebook 'like' button does just what it says on the tin: by clicking that button next to a status update, image or video, you can show your appreciation, support or amusement without having to actually type any words! There has long been a call for a Facebook 'dislike' button, but they seem to be holding out so far...

LinkedIn: Another social networking platform, this one has been described as 'Facebook for grownups'. It's a little misleading though; most Facebook users are grownups (allegedly). LinkedIn is more about business networking. Users upload their work histories, skills, etc. – much like a CV. It's a very useful tool for businesses, too.

M is for...MovieStarPlanet, Moshi Monsters, Malware and Megabyte

MovieStarPlanet: An online game aimed at children. The game is set in a social universe with a movie star theme, and is described by the site itself as 'a safe, creative, social online playground for children'.

Moshi Monsters: This is an online world of adoptable pet monsters, of course! It's aimed at children aged 6 to 14, and (bizarrely) there are more than 80 million registered users worldwide. Kids choose from six virtual pet monsters, then raise them, look after them, and take challenges with them. They can also interact with their friends online. Thanks to their online success, the Moshi Monsters have escaped offline; they can even be found in McDonald's Happy Meals.

Malware: A portmanteau of malicious (or malevolent) software, malware is simply software that is intended to damage or disable computers or computer systems. Malware is constantly under development and it changes as technology does. Viruses are the best-known category; there are also 'worms', 'Trojan horses' and others. Malware is the reason we have firewalls and antivirus security software (but they won't stop everything).

Megabyte: The megabyte (MB) is around a million bytes – but it has three different values depending on the context of its use. You can fit about six seconds of uncompressed CD audio, or a typical English book volume in plain text format, into one megabyte's worth of data.

N is for...Navigation Bar, Netiquette, Network and Nomophobia

Navigation bar: The navigation bar is the part of the website or online page that helps visitors to travel around the online document. Webpages generally have a primary navigation bar, then a secondary one on all the subpages. A well-designed website will have a clear, easy-to-use navigation system that makes it easy to find what you want. There are not as many of these as you may think.

Netiquette: A portmanteau of 'network etiquette' or 'internet etiquette', you can think of this as the online, unwritten version of Debrett's. Netiquette is the correct or acceptable way of communicating with others on the internet. Most forums and interactive sites have a page for newcomers that sets out its 'rules'. In a nutshell: respect others' views, be polite, and DON'T SHOUT.

Network: A computer network is a collection of computers and other hardware linked by communication channels. These channels allow sharing of resources and information via a variety of communication protocols. Simply put, a network is a group of devices connected to each other.

Nomophobia: The term being used to describe the addiction to mobile phones and the affects that suffers demonstrate - visit the [E-safety Support Knowledge Base](#) for more information.

O is for...Omegle, Online, ooVoo, Offline and Oracle

Omegle: Omegle is an online chat room, with the deliberate intention of allowing people to talk to strangers. Users do not need to register but are required (under the terms of use) to be over 18 or over 13 with parental supervision. Users are anonymous, but there is an option to reveal your identity, although the site doesn't recommend this. Users can use text, webcam and voice chat services to communicate with others. Some users visit the site for sexual chat, meaning young people could easily be exposed to innapropriate content.

Online/Offline: Online is the area of cyberspace beyond your computer. Any information or data that resides on the internet can be described as 'online'. If you're visiting a website or surfing the web, you're online. Offline, on the other hand, is the space not connected to the internet. You can only access data and information that is saved onto a device, as you're not connected to the network.

ooVoo: ooVoo is an instant messaging and videov chat app popular among the under 25's, particularly in the US. The app works on all platforms and allows users to chat to up to 12 people at the same time. The app also allows you to text, watch videos together and leave messages for other users.

Oracle: The Oracle Database is an object-relational database management system. Simple, right? A database is a set of data with a regular structure that is organised in such a way that a computer can easily find the desired information. The Oracle Database is just one type of system, created and owned by Oracle. So named because, in Greek mythology, oracles were the source of all wisdom.

P is for...Pinterest, Palm top, Parental control, PayPal and Phishing

Pinterest

One of the most recent social networking platforms, Pinterest is a pinboard-style photo-sharing website. It's a tool for collecting and organising things you love, such as vintage fashion, garden design, beetles or hats. Users can create and manage themed image collections, like digital mood boards for a range of subjects, by 'pinning' images from other users' boards or from external websites.

Palm

top

Now generally obsolete, palm tops have been replaced by tablet computers and smartphones. They were designed to be portable computers, but were extremely limited. They used to be known as PDAs (personal digital assistants) or handheld PCs. Retro!

Parental

control

Parental controls enable parents to keep an eye on what their children are up to online. They are features which may be included in computer and video games, mobile phones, digital TVs and other software. There are four categories: content filters (limit access to age-appropriate content), usage controls (can limit the time spent on computers), and monitoring (to track location and activity while devices are in use).

PayPal

PayPal is a global e-commerce business which allows payments and money transfers to be made securely through the internet. It performs payment processing for online vendors, auction sites and other users. There's sometimes a fee involved, but generally it's an inexpensive and safe way to conduct business online.

Phishing

So named because perpetrators 'go fishing' for sensitive information hoping for a 'bite'. Phishing is the act of attempting to acquire information (usernames, passwords, credit card details and sometimes money) by masquerading as a trustworthy figure. So, you may get an email purporting to be from your bank exhorting you to 'confirm your account details' or similar - and they'll ask for information your bank would never ask for. Links are often to websites infected with malware, which can extract information from your computer.

Q is for...Quantum Computers, QuickTime and Quora

Quantum Computers: Wikipedia defines quantum computers as follows: A quantum computer is a computation device that makes direct use of quantum-mechanical phenomena, such as superposition and entanglement, to perform operations on data. Quantum computers are different from digital computers based on transistors. Whereas digital computers require data to be encoded into binary digits (bits), quantum computation uses quantum properties to represent data and perform operations on these data.

QuickTime: Developed by Apple, QuickTime is a multimedia player which can handle various formats of digital video, imagery, sound and panoramic views. It's also interactive. The basic version simply plays media back, but the Pro version enables users to get their hands dirty in the cutting room.

Quora: Quora is a questions and answers blog site with over 250,000 topics. Users can also create blogs to share their knowledge of the topic. You have to be a user to post, so it isn't anonymous and is edited by the reader to encourage quality responses.

R is for...Raspberry Pi, Ratting, Rollover, Redirect and RAM

Raspberry Pi: The Raspberry Pi is one of the latest computing crazes. It's a credit card-sized computer board that was developed in the UK with the aim of promoting the teaching of basic computer science in schools. It's been adopted by cybergeeks all over the place because of its versatility and low cost. It's a nifty little thing; it can run an operating system which enables the user to do almost anything – from word processing to creating a remote control for a garage door to building a lightshow!

Ratting: The practice of infecting a computer with an application, allowing a third party to access your desktop, including your webcam, to view the contents of your computer and view you through your webcam.

Rollover: Rollover refers to an interactive button on a webpage. When the user 'rolls' the mouse cursor over the button, it changes in some way - usually visually. When the cursor is moved away from the button, it reverts to its previous state. It's a simple way to make the internet a little more exciting.

Redirect: URL redirection is a technique used to make a webpage available under more than one URL address. For example, you can arrange for www.example.com to take visitors to www.example.co.uk - or any other web address specified. It's a useful tool for those who own frequently misspelled web addresses, as they can register the misspellings and redirect them - so our fumbling fingers can still get us to where we want to go.

RAM: Random access memory (RAM) is a type of computer memory - the most common type you'll come across. It allows data to be accessed randomly, unlike other storage media such as CDs, DVDs and magnetic tape. Children of the 80s will remember the painfully slow loading up of

computer games on cassette tapes (only for them to crash at the last moment). They were slow because the data had to be read in the right order.

T is for...Tags, Texting, Toolbar, Trolls, Twitter and Tweets

Tags: A tag is method of categorising information or files. Music lovers can tag their music files with genres. A photographer might tag their snaps with categories such as 'family', 'architecture' or 'dogs in costumes'. This enables the user to quickly search files and find the ones they're after.

Texting: Also known as SMS (short message service), text messages are written communications via a mobile phone. They are often brief and to the point because there were limited characters available. This led to 'text speak', a new language which is creeping into other forms of communication.

Toolbar: This is extra functionality added to a web browser (usually for searching), which occupies the upper area of the screen. They are often included with software you want to download – so you can find yourself with a web browser address bar that takes up half the screen if you're not careful.

Trolls: Remember those ugly little dolls with crazy hair? Well, we're not referring to those. An internet troll is a person who posts inflammatory, irrelevant or abusive messages in an online community for the sole purpose of provoking a row.

Twitter: A social networking site that allows brief messages (but please, not on what you've had for lunch), images and links to web content to be announced by a user to anyone who is interested. It's also known as a 'microblogging' site. Users 'follow' people they are interested in, and topics may be tagged and grouped using a defined format called a hashtag (eg #esafety).

Tweet: A short message (must be 140 characters or fewer) sent by a user on Twitter. Perfect for the modern short attention span.

V is for...Virus, VLE and VoIP

Virus: A virus is a malicious piece of software designed to do something you don't want. You probably don't want your files deleted, your computer broken, your credit card details stolen or your email account used to send hundreds of emails to people without your permission. There are many free or paid for virus-checkers or security suites that will do their level best to protect you. You should have one installed.

VLE (Virtual Learning Environment): A web-based system that provides virtual access to classes, class content, homework, tests and other resources. Many schools are beginning to adopt VLEs as a flexible, safe and secure platform for teacher-pupil communication. Plus, it makes resources available to everyone, all the time, wherever they are. Which is neat!

VoIP: Short for Voice over Internet Protocol, VoIP is a telephone function on your computer. Calls might be cheaper than using your real phone line, or they might even be free to someone else using the same VoIP software (like Skype). If you spend a lot of time on international calls, this can be a big cash saver.

W is for...Windows, Webinar and Wizard

Windows: It's one of the most common operating systems used on personal computers. Windows provides a (debatably) pleasant and easy-to-use interface between the human and the microchip (although battles have begun over which is the best). Before Windows, everyone had

to type commands to make a PC do anything. Other operating systems include Debian, Ubuntu, Red Hat, and iOS, the operating system favoured by long-haired designer-types using Apple Macs.

Webinar: Made by mashing the words 'web' and 'seminar' together, a webinar is an online meeting that may include a virtual whiteboard, a presentation, teaching or discussion by the attendees. These online events are usually arranged to discuss a particular topic or to facilitate training.

Wizard: A simplified step-by-step process that assists with a complicated task. For example, a wizard might gently guide a user through installing complicated software.

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Y is for...YouTube and Yik Yak

Yik Yak: Originating in the states, Yik Yak is an anonymous gossip app which allows users to post messages that can only be seen to other users within a very small geographical radius. This app has been popular among young people in the USA despite their terms only allowing over 17 year olds to use it. It is now starting to become popular in the UK.

YouTube: A social networking website where users can join for free and upload a video for all the world to see. It's easy to procrastinate by falling into a YouTube wormhole and leaping from video to video. YouTube can be a useful source of instructional videos, information and of course amusing cats!

Taken from www.e-safetysupport.com