Glossary of Terms

Web server:

What it is:

A web server is a system which stores, process and delivers web pages to the user.

How it's used on the MCAST website:

The mcast website relies on a web server to store and provide its web pages. When a user visits the mcast website, the web server handles the request by using the HTTP or HTTPS protocol and sends back the correct page to the browser.

Web hosting

What it is:

It is a service that allows for a website to be posted onto the internet. Web hosts provide everything needed for a website to be seen online.

How it's used on the MCAST website:

MCAST's website is hosted on a web hosting platform meaning the sites content is all stored on a server by a hosting provider. This hosting ensures the website can be accessed from anywhere at any time.

IP address:

What it is:

The internet protocol address is a numerical number assigned to any device and website which is connected to the internet. Each of these devices and websites has their own unique IP address.

How it's used on the MCAST website:

The MCAST web server has its own IP address, which is used to locate and connect to it over the internet. Users don't see or use this number directly, but it's important for the

communication between their browser and the MCAST server.

Domain name:

<u>What it is:</u>

It is a more memorable name a website uses, and it is used to access websites. Domain names are what remove the need to remember complex IP addresses.

<u>How it's used on the MCAST website:</u>

Users access MCAST's website by typing the websites domain name in the browser.

DNS:

<u>What it is:</u>

The Domain Name system is what translates the domain names into an IP address.

<u>How it's used on the MCAST website:</u>

When the user types mcast.edu.mt into their browser, the DNS finds the corresponding IP address of the MCAST web server which allows the user to reach the site.
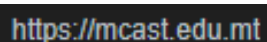
HTTP/HTTPS protocol :

<u>What it is:</u>

HyperText Transfer Protocol and HyperText Transfer Protocol Secure transfer data between the web server and the browser. HTTPS is more secure as it adds encryption for secure data transfers.

<u>How it's used on the MCAST website:</u>

MCAST uses HTTPS (as shown in the image) since it's secure which ensures the user data is protected during transfers. https://mcast.edu.mt
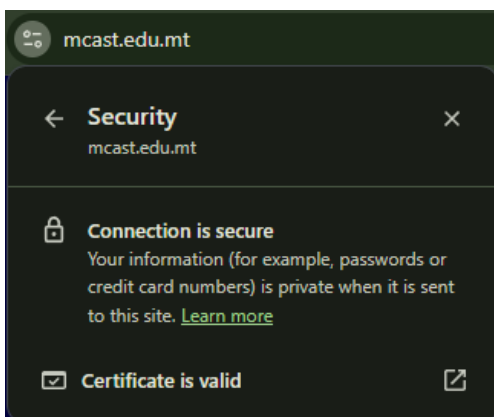
SSL/TLS certificate:

<u>What it is:</u>

These two certificates are a clarification that encrypts data sent between a user's browser and the website. It helps keep information such as log in details secure.

<u>How it's used on the MCAST website:</u>

The MCAST website does make use of this certificate which is indicated in the picture below.

Internet Services

<u>Microsoft 365</u>

- Function
  It provides communication and collaborative tools such as teams, outlook and word. It's a clou service that MCAST uses/used it for online classes, file sharing and communication between the students and staff. Cloud storage can also be used through OneDrive

- Value
  It's valuable cause it allows staff and/or students to join meetings, access files and submit assignments across different devices.

- One Improvement
  Introducing a student dashboard withing Microsoft Teams, linking course materials, support services and library resources. This would decreases confusion amongst students having all the resource they need in just one place and boost the daily engagement teams gets.

<u>Ex Libris Primo</u>

- Function
  It is the search engine used in the MCAST libraries portal. It allows students and staff to easily search for any library resources such as physical books, eBooks and academic journals.

- Value
  It saves time and simplifies research by providing fast access to educational resources and it also offers filters to get a better result.

- One Improvement
  The mobile responsive and design could be improved, this would make it easier for students to find what there looking for if they only have access to a smartphone or tablet in the moment.