



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST

College of Humanities and Legal Studies

Faculty of Arts

Information Literacy Skills Unit

ILT 101

INFORMATION LITERACY SKILLS

Session 7: INTRODUCTION TO THE INTERNET

Session Objectives

At the end of the session, students would be able to:

- Have basic appreciation of what constitute the Internet
- Understand the concept of the Computer Networks
- Known the modes of Accessing the Internet
- Appreciate the Uses and Misuses of the Internet

INTERNET

- Definition: Simply; A global network of Computer Networks
- The Internet is a large computer network that has connections to a vast number of computers all around the world.
- It is not centrally controlled that is; no regulatory body, individual, company, institution or government controls the entire internet.
- Owners of various parts of the networks maintain them.

COMPUTER NETWORKS

- Computer networks are group of computers connected to each other, so they can share information and electronic equipment.
- Resources shared on computer networks include hardware (printers, webcam, scanner, digital cameras, etc.), software and data/ information.
- A computer network usually has a server (host) which controls other devices (clients) on the network.

Types of Computer Networks

- Local Area Network (LAN)
- Wide Area Network (WAN)
- Campus Area Network (CAN)
- Metropolitan Area Network (MAN)

INTERNET PROTOCOLS

- A set of rules that help the different computer networks on the Internet to communicate without conflict.
- The standard Internet communication protocols are the Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) and the Internet Protocol (IP).

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE INTERNET

- The Internet is a modern phenomenon which became popular from the latter part of 1960s (1969 to be specific).
- The initial network; ARPANET involved four computer networks at four different locations designed by U.S. Defense Department's
- The ARPANET was only used to communicate and designed with the purpose of having sustainable system that could not be destroyed.
- Numerous modification to this network resulted in the development of the World Wide Web (www) in 1989 .
- The www made the Internet interactive and also gave it a multimedia nature (i.e. possible to host text, sound and graphics).
- In 1990, the Hypertext Transfer Protocol (http) was created to make possible to use international networks for web browsing.
- In 1995, Ghana was among the first countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to have Internet access through Network Computer Systems (NCS).

ACCESSING THE INTERNET

- Broadly, connection to the Internet could be grouped into two;
 - Dial up and Broadband Access

Dial-up

Refers to the Connection of a Personal Computer to the Internet using dial-up modem.

- ❖ With the dial up connection the digital signal from the computer sending the data is converted analog signals by the modem and made to go through the phone lines into the ISP network and later to the destination of the message.
- ❖ The dial up connection does not exceed a speed of 56 kbps.

DIAL-UP CONNECTION



BROADBAND CONNECTION

- Refers collectively to faster or high speed connections to the internet. The broadband is always on and doesn't require the client dialing into the service provider's network always.
- Though the most expensive option, it allows for faster Internet browsing and downloading of documents and files.

TYPES OF BROADBAND CONNECTION

- Digital Subscriber Line Connection (DSL)
- Satellite Modem Connection
- Cable Modem Connection
- Wireless Connection
- Mobile Broadband
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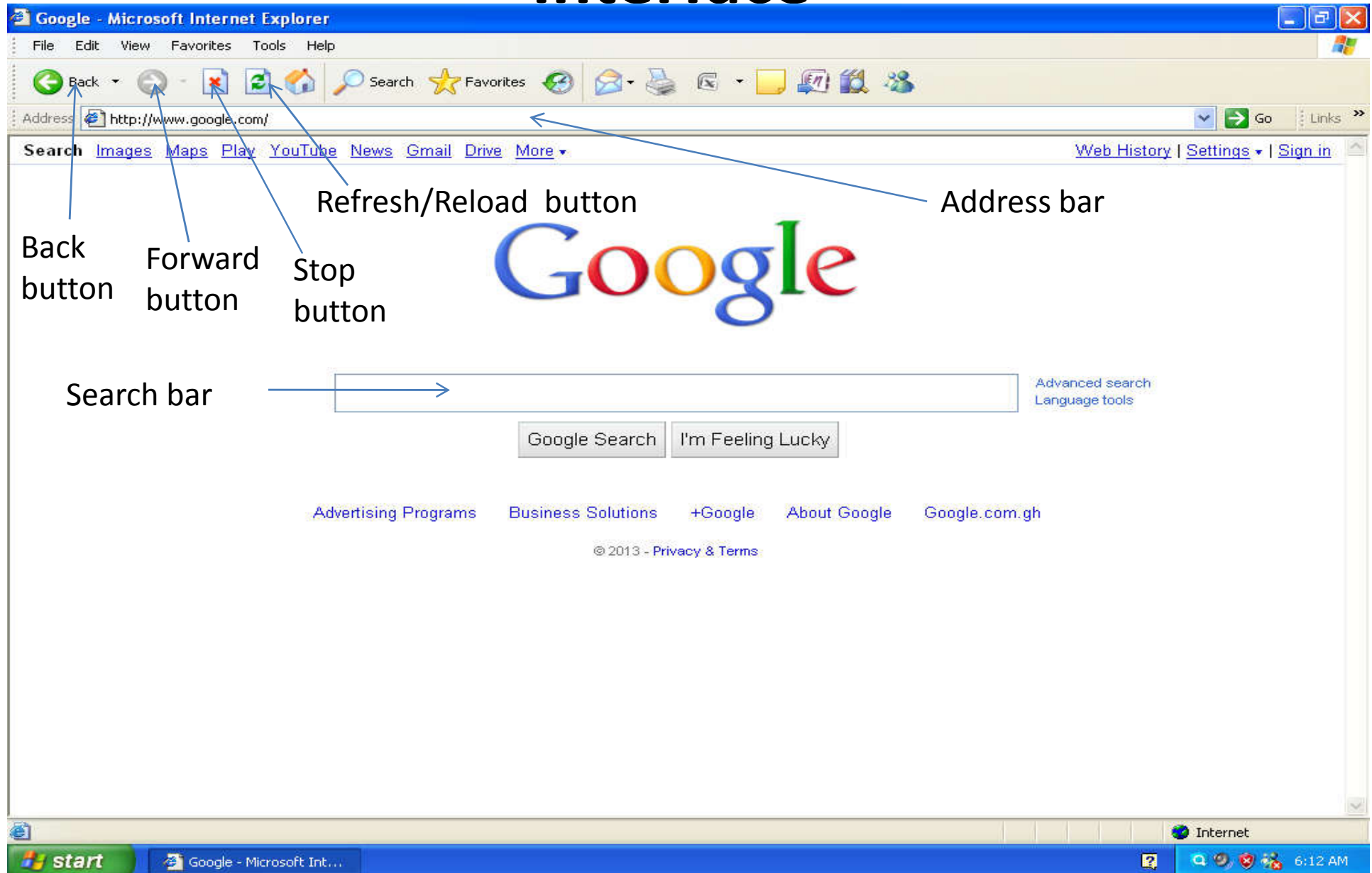
BANDWIDTH

- The speed and amount of data or information that is transferred from one place to the other on the Internet.
- It is measured in bits per second(bps).
- The bigger the bandwidth size, the greater the volume of information that could be transmitted at a time and so the faster it will be to move information from one place to the other on the Internet.

BROWSERS

- A browser is a software or a program that is used to navigate the Internet.
- Browsers could be grouped into two: graphic and text-based
- Eg. Graphic based: Mozilla Firefox, Microsoft Internet Explorer, Safari, Flock, Opera, Google Chrome, etc
Eg. text-based; Lynx, Mosaic
- Browsers could be used for communication and retrieval of information
- **Without a browser you would not be able to access Internet**

Basic User Features of a Web Browser Interface



Uses of the Internet

- Communication
- Education and Research
- E-commerce
- Information Dissemination
- Entertainment
- Online Services

Misuse of the Internet

- Pornography
- Identity Theft/Fraud
- Spamming
- Computer Virus

Reading List

- A. Entsua-Mensah, C (Ed.)(2015). *Information literacy skills: A course book* (Revised Edition). Cape Coast: Library Publication Committee.
- B. Apte, S.D. (2015). *Advanced digital signal processing*. New Delhi: Wiley India Private Limited.
- C. Eisenberg, M.B., Lowe, C.A. & Spitzer, K.L.(2008). *Information literacy: An essential skills for the information age*. Ohio: Linworth Books