GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- **Web Server**
  A web server is a computer that stores website files and sends them to people who visit the site. For the MCAST website, the web server holds all the pages and information you see when you go to mcast.edu.mt.

- **Web Hosting**
  Web hosting is a service that provides space on a server for websites. MCAST uses web hosting so their website can be online and available for students, staff, and visitors at any time.

- **IP Address**
  An IP address is a unique set of numbers that identifies a computer or server on the internet. The MCAST website has its own IP address, which helps your browser find the right place to load the site.

- **Domain Name**
  A domain name is the easy-to-remember web address you type into your browser, like mcast.edu.mt. It points to the MCAST website, so you don't have to remember its IP address.

- **DNS (Domain Name System)**
  DNS is like the internet's phonebook. It translates domain names (like mcast.edu.mt) into IP addresses so your computer knows where to find the website.

- **HTTP/HTTPS Protocol**
  HTTP is the basic system for transferring website data between a server and your browser. HTTPS is the secure version, which protects your information. MCAST uses HTTPS to keep your data safe when you use their site.

- **SSL/TLS Certificate**
  An SSL/TLS certificate is a security feature that proves a website is real and keeps data private. The MCAST website uses this certificate so that things like your login details are protected when you use the site.

INTERNET SERVICES

Content Delivery Network (CDN)

- **What it does:**
  A CDN is a group of servers placed in different locations around the world. These servers store copies of the website's files (like images and pages) closer to where users are. So, when you visit the MCAST website, the content loads from a nearby server instead of a far-away main server.
- **Why it's valuable:**
  This makes the website faster and smoother to use, especially for people who are far from the main server. It also helps the website handle many visitors at once and protects it from crashes or attacks by sharing the load across many servers.
- **One improvement:**
  MCAST could update their CDN to use the newest internet technology called HTTP/3, which makes websites load even faster and work better on phones and slow connections.

Web Analytics Service (like Google Analytics)

- **What it does:**
  This service collects information about how people use the website—such as which pages are popular, how long visitors stay, and where they come from.
- **Why it's valuable:**
  It helps MCAST understand what visitors want and what parts of the website need improvement. This means they can make the site easier to use and add helpful information for students and staff.
- **One improvement:**
  MCAST could track specific actions more closely, like how many students

complete an application form. This would help them find and fix any problems in important processes on the site.