**LESSON NOTE ON INTERNET AND EMAILS FOR MPOAC**

**What is the Internet?**

The Internet is the largest computer network in the world, connecting millions of computers. A network is a group of two or more computer systems linked together.

**The World Wide Web (WWW)**

As you now know, the Internet is the physical computer network (computer, monitor, modem, cables, phone lines, etc). So, what is the World Wide Web?

Tim Berners-Lee, a software engineer, invented the World Wide Web in 1991. The Web is a system of Internet servers that support specially-formatted documents. These specially formatted documents are text documents created in HTML, a formatting language. In conjunction with the World Wide Web, your web browser interprets these text documents so they become web pages.

The World Wide Web—usually called the Web for short—is a collection of different websites you can access through the Internet. A website is made up of related text, images, and other resources. Websites can resemble other forms of media—like newspaper articles or television programs—or they can be interactive in a way that's unique to computers.

The purpose of a website can be almost anything: a news platform, an advertisement, an online library, a forum for sharing images, or an educational site.

Once you are connected to the Internet, you can access and view websites using a type of application called a web browser. Just keep in mind that the web browser itself is not the Internet; it only displays websites that are stored on the Internet.

**How does the Internet work?**

At this point you may be wondering, how does the Internet work? The exact answer is pretty complicated and would take a while to explain. Instead, let's look at some of the most important things you should know. It's important to realize that the Internet is a global network of physical cables, which can include copper telephone wires, TV cables, and fiber optic cables. Even wireless connections like Wi-Fi and 3G/4G rely on these physical cables to access the Internet. When you visit a website, your computer sends a request over these wires to a server. A server is where websites are stored, and it works a lot like your computer's hard drive. Once the request arrives, the server retrieves the website and sends the correct data back to your computer. What's amazing is that this all happens in just a few seconds.

**Servers**

All computers on the Internet (a wide area network, or WAN) can be lumped into two groups: servers and clients. In a network, clients and servers communicate with one another. A server is the common source that provides shared services (for example, network security measures) with other machines and Manages resources (for example, one printer many people use) in a network. The term server is often used to describe the hardware (computer), but the term also refers to the software (application) running on the computer. Many servers are dedicated, meaning they only perform specific tasks. For example, an email server is a computer that has software running on it allowing it to "serve" email-related services. A web server has software running on it that allows it to "serve" web-related services.

**Connecting to the Internet**

Once you have your computer, you really don't need much additional hardware to connect to the Internet. The primary piece of hardware you need is a modem. The type of Internet access you choose will determine the type of modem you need. Dial-up access uses a telephone modem, DSL service uses a DSL modem, cable access uses a cable modem, and satellite service uses a satellite adapter. Your ISP may give you a modem—often for a fee—when you sign a contract, which helps ensure that you have the right type of modem. However, if you would prefer to shop for a better or less expensive modem, you can choose to buy one separately.

**What is a web browser?**

Remember, along with a computer equipped with a modem, you need a piece of software called a web browser to navigate the Web. Internet Explorer, Google chrome, opera and Netscape are examples of web browsers.

**Internet Service Providers**

To access the Internet, you need a computer equipped with a modem and web browser, but you'll also need an ISP.

Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are companies that provide access to the Internet.

**USES OF THE INTERNET**

1. Scholarly research. Sites such as research gate, Google scholar.

2. Electronic mail. Sites such as Gmail, yahoo mail etc

3. Online booking and orders.

4. Job searches.

5. Social networking. Sites such as facebook, twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram etc

6. Entertainment. Sites such as fzmovies, netnaija, Spotify.

7. Online banking

8. Gaming.

**Email**

Short for electronic mail, email is a way to send and receive messages across the Internet. Almost everyone who uses the Internet has their own email account, usually called an email address. This is because you'll need an email address to do just about anything online, from online banking to creating a Facebook account.

**Advantages**

1. Emails are delivered extremely fast when compared to traditional post.
2. Emails can be sent 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
3. Webmail means emails can be sent and received from any computer, anywhere in the world, that has an internet connection.
4. Cheap - when using broadband, each email sent is effectively free. Dial-up users are charged at local call rates but it only takes a few seconds (for conventional email, eg text only) to send an email.
5. Emails can be sent to one person or several people.

**Disadvantages**

1. The recipient needs access to the internet to receive email.
2. Viruses are easily spread via email attachments (most email providers scan emails for viruses on your behalf).
3. Phishing - sending an email to a user falsely claiming to be a legitimate company to scam the user into providing information, such as personal information and bank account numbers on a bogus website. The details will then be used for identity theft.
4. No guarantee the mail will be read until the user logs on and checks their email.
5. Spam - unsolicited email, ie junk mail.