

# The Internet As An Information Resource



## Lesson 1: How the Internet Works

# RATIONALE

In conjunction with the shift from print to digital information, the Internet is fast becoming the primary source of information, requiring librarians and information personnel to gain new skills and knowledge in using the Internet as an information resource.



# Learning outcomes

By the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- Define what is the Internet
- Identify the major Internet tools and services
- Discuss briefly the Internet's history
- Understand basic Internet concepts, terms and technology
- Describe how the Internet works



# Scope

- What is the Internet?
- What are the major Internet tools and services?
- What is the Internet's history?
- What are the basic Internet concepts, terms and technologies?
- How does the Internet work?



# What is the Internet?

The Internet is a global network of computer networks utilizing a suite of protocols called TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol) that supports interconnection of a number of different computer networks



# What is the Internet?

The Internet covers large, international Wide Area Networks (WAN's) as well as smaller Local Area Networks (LAN's) and individual computers connected to the Internet worldwide



# What is the Internet?

The Internet supports communication and sharing of data, and offers vast amount of information through a variety of services and tools



# What are the major Internet tools and services?

- Electronic mail (email)
- Newsgroups
- Internet Relay Chat (IRC)
- Telnet
- File Transfer Protocol (FTP)
- World Wide Web (www)





# What are the major Internet tools and services?

## E-mail

- The most popular use of the Internet
- Available for free on the Web
  - Yahoo Mail, Hotmail, Eudoramail
- Valid e-mail address consists of a username and a domain name separated by the @ sign
  - ex. [juandelacruz@mail.com](mailto:juandelacruz@mail.com)



# What are the major Internet tools and services?

## Newsgroups

- Service dedicated to discussions on a particular topic through posted articles
- Accessible through newsreaders
- Names signify to users the topic of discussion
  - **ex. alt.library.automation**



# What are the major Internet tools and services?

## IRC (Internet Relay Chat)

- Allows real-time text based communication through the Internet
- Organized by topic of interest into “channels”
- Discussion occurs in “chatrooms”
- Some Websites have built-in chatrooms



# What are the major Internet tools and services?

## Telnet

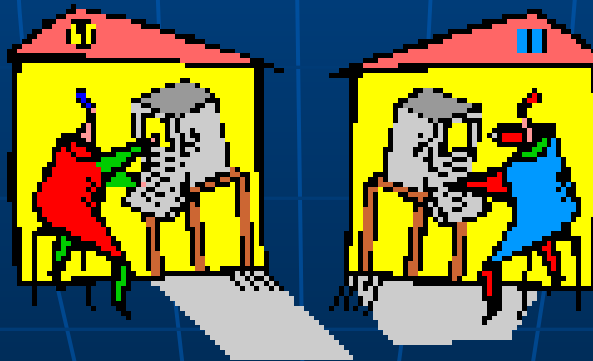
- Service that allows one computer to access another computer
- Enables the user to exchange data and issue commands on the other computer, the Telnet host
- Mainly used by libraries to allow access to information stored in their computers



# What are the major Internet tools and services?

## FTP (File Transfer Protocol)

- Allows the transfer or copying of files from one computer to another
- Ideal for procuring or sending files to a remote computer
- FTP Programs available freely
- Modern browsers have built in FTP capabilities



# What are the major Internet tools and services?

## World Wide Web (www)

- Invented in 1991 by Tim Berners-Lee, the web is the fastest-growing Internet service.
- Based on HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) allowing users to access data in multimedia format
- Simplest unit is the Webpage, primarily a document encoded in HTML format that can be accessed by using a browser
- HTML links contents of a Webpage to each other as well as to other Web pages through a hyperlink
- Each page has an address, a Uniform Resource Locator (URL)



# What is the Internet's history?

- The Internet grew from ARPANET the first computer network designed for the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) of the U.S Department of Defense
- ARPA sponsored research on interconnecting geographically remote computers to allow communication and sharing of data and resources
- The goal was to create a communications network that could exist even if parts of it was incapacitated





# What is the Internet's history?

- One of the early developments that proved significant to the success of ARPANET (which later on becomes the Internet) were “packet switching” and “TCP/IP”
- Packet switching involves digital systems that transmit data in small packets that use the best current path to their destination
- TCP/IP is the core Internet protocol that allows computers to communicate with each other





# What is the Internet's history?

- Realizing the value of interconnected computers the academic community started with its own research network
- The NSFNet, created and named for the National Science Foundation, linked academic networks that connected universities and research organizations around North America.
- Networks from Europe and other countries were connected to NSFNet making it the backbone of the Internet.



# What is the Internet's history?

- ARPANET was decommissioned and the management of the Internet was passed on to the NSFNET
- Restriction on commercial use was lifted
- The emergence of World Wide Web, and Mosaic brought an unprecedented growth to the Internet
- NSFNET reverts back to a research project, leaving the Internet in commercial hands and its management to independent organizations



# What is the Internet's history?

## Summary

- The Internet started as a military network called ARPANET, which was involved in networking research
- The Internet later expanded to include universities, businesses and individuals
- Today, the Internet is also referred to as the Net, Information Superhighway, and Cyberspace



# How does the Internet work?

- Protocols – standardized rules that define how computers communicate and exchange data
- IP address – unique number used to identify computers on the Internet
- Domain name – structured naming system to locate computers on the Internet
- URL – uniform naming scheme that specifies unique addresses of Internet resources
- Client and server – computing architecture used by most Internet services



# How does the Internet work?

## TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol / Internet Protocol)

- The Internet is a packet-switching network that uses TCP/IP as its core protocol
- TCP/IP is a suite of protocols that govern network addresses and the organization and packaging of the information to be sent over the Internet
  - TCP – flow control and recovery of packets
  - IP – addressing and forwarding of individual packets



# How does the Internet work?

## Internet Protocols

- HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol Protocol) - for accessing and transmitting World Wide Web documents
- FTP (File Transfer Protocol Protocol) - for transferring files from one computer to another
- Gopher Protocol - for accessing documents via Gopher menus (no longer widely used)
- Telnet Protocol - allows users to logon to a remote computer
- SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) for sending and managing electronic mails (e-mail)



# How does the Internet work?

## IP address

- IP address is a unique address assigned to each computer connected to the Internet
- It is used by TCP/IP to route packets of information from a sender to a location on the Internet
- IP address consist of four sets of numbers ranging from 0 to 255 Ex. 249.7.13.53





# How does the Internet work?

## IP address

- 249.7.13.53
- The first two number sets designate the network
- The third number set identifies the local network
- The fourth number set identifies the particular machine





# How does the Internet work?

## Domain names

- Domain names are the alias or English language equivalent of a computer's IP addresses
- Domain Name System (DNS) allows the use of easier to remember domain names instead of IP addresses to locate computers on the Internet
- Domain Name Resolvers scattered across the Internet translate domain names into IP addresses



# How does the Internet work?

## Domain names

- Domain names have two parts:
  - First part names the host computer
  - Second part identifies the top level domain
- Top level domains (TLD) – identifies the type of host
  - Generic Top Level Domains
  - Country Code Top Level Domains
- Domain names are used in URLs and e-mail addresses



# How does the Internet work?

## Top Level Domains

- **.com** – commercial/company site
- **.edu/ac** - educational/academic
- **.gov** – government site
- **.org** – non-profit organization
- **.mil** – military sites
- **.int** – international organizations
- **.net** – network providers



# How does the Internet work?

## Additional Top Level Domains

- **.aero** - restricted use by the air transportation industry
- **.biz** - general use by businesses
- **.coop** - restricted use by cooperatives
- **.info** - general use by both commercial and non-commercial sites
- **.museum** - restricted use by museums
- **.name** - general use by individuals
- **.pro** - restricted use by certified professionals and professional entities



# How does the Internet work?

## Country Code Top Level Domains

- **.au** – Australia      **.ph** – Philippines
- **.cn** – China      **.sg** – Singapore
- **.fj** – Fiji      **.uk** – United Kingdom
- **.id** – Indonesia      **.us** – United States
- **.jp** – Japan      **.tw** – Taiwan
- **.mn** – Mongolia      **.vn** – Vietnam
- **.ng** – Nigeria
- The complete list can be accessed at  
<http://www.iana.org/cctld/cctld-whois.htm>



# How does the Internet work?

## Uniform Resource Locator (URL)

- Each Internet document or file has a unique address called a URL
- The URL comprises of three parts:
  - Protocol – lets the computer know how to process the information it receives
  - Domain name – Internet address of the computer hosting the site and storing the documents
  - Path – lets the computer which directory and file to access



# What is URL?

## UNIFORM RESOURCE LOCATOR

Address of Internet server that uses the hypertext transfer protocol

The secondary domain name

The top level domain signifying a commercial site

File type

**http://www.amazon.com/books/children.html**

Signifies that the site is part of the World Wide Web

Actual page

Signifies folder where webpage is located



# How does the Internet work?

**<http://www.amazon.com/books/children.html>**

- **"http"**
  - transfer protocol
- **"www"**
  - server name
- **"amazon"**
  - second-level domain name
- **"com"**
  - top-level domain name
- **"books"**
  - directory name
- **"children"**
  - file name
- **"html"**
  - file type





# How does the Internet work?

## Client Server

- The client server model is the distributed computing architecture used by most Internet services, generally classifying hosts on the Internet as clients and servers
- Client programs are used to access Internet services provided by host computers running server programs that provide the information or service needed
- For example web browsers are client programs used to access information hosted by web servers

