**THE INTERNET**

The Internet is a global network connecting millions of computers. The largest number of Internet users is in China, followed by the United States and India. In the early days, most people just used the Internet to search for information. Today the Internet helps many people communicate, work, learn, and have fun. It enables computers to send one another small packets of digital data. For that to work, they use a common 'language' called TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol / Internet Protocol). If you are on the net, you have an IP address. This address is a way to identify a computer on the Internet.

The Internet consists of multiple data systems. The most popular and important system is WWW, the World Wide Web, a collection of files or pages containing links to other documents on the Internet. Most Internet services are now integrated on the Web.

E-mail, or electronic mail, for the exchange of messages and attached files. Mailing Lists are a combination of e-mail and discussion groups. Subscribe to a list and messages will be distributed to your e-mail box.

Instant messaging (IM) is a system for sending public and private messages to other users in real time over the Internet. You can chat privately with a friend, family member or business colleague. The latest IM programs also incorporate telephone, video and file-sharing facilities and are becoming an alternative to traditional video conferencing programs. The most popular instant messaging services include Skype, WhatsApp, Viber, Telegram, etc.

Net Generation students are infamous for their multitasking skills and short attention spans. Growing up online, they're trained to quickly and simultaneously consume and process information from multiple media sources --- and to ignore anything "boring" or otherwise uninspiring.

The Net Generation quickly shifts attention from one project to the next, always putting a high priority on speed. Educators and researchers have found that the Net Generation lacks depth in its research and critical skills. Research shows that Net Generation college students are strong visual learners and weaker textual learners. They're natural at networking and love to work in teams.

Social networking is a fancy word for a Net Generation way of life. The Net Generation Survey found that 69% of college students surveyed had a Facebook account. Net Generation students are open and emotionally honest in their online communications, optimistic, positive and driven to succeed. High achievers, they crave rewards and accolades for their hard work. They're aware of the many significant problems affecting the world, but they're confident that through youthful innovation and ever-improving technology, these problems will be solved. Moreover, Net Generation students are no stranger to community service.

Net Generation workers are used to the awards and accolades showered upon them as overachieving high school and college students, and the workplace should be no exception. They expect quick feedback from superiors and incentives for jobs well done, like extra vacation time or prizes.

Nowadays, the terms "Internet" and "World Wide Web" are often used interchangeably - but they're actually not the same thing. The Internet is the physical network of computers all over the world. The World Wide Web is a virtual network of websites connected by hyperlinks. Websites are stored on servers on the Internet, so the World Wide Web is a part of the Internet. A web browser is a kind of application you use to access the World Wide Web. Any Internet-connected device like a laptop, tablet or smartphone should come with a browser pre-installed. Web pages are written with a simple coding system, called HTML (Hypertext Markup Language). A browser takes the HTML and translates it into the content you see on the screen. Websites often have links to other sites, also called hyperlinks.

As websites are becoming more sophisticated, web developers are using many more versatile tools. These include CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) and scripting languages such as JavaScript and PHP (Hypertext Preprocessor).