



## Cyberspace Glossary

**Avatar** – A graphic/photo icon to represent a participant in chat and games.

**Blog (weB LOG)** – A journal that is available online. The activity of “posting” to a blog is “blogging” and someone who keeps a blog is a “blogger.” Blogs are typically updated frequently, with posts appearing in chronological order with the most recent at the top. Thanks to the availability of blogging software that requires little or no technical background, creating and maintaining a blog is very easy to do. For further explanation of what blogging is all about, check out the video clip at <http://www.commoncraft.com/blogs>.

**Bookmark (Favorite)** – A website address saved in your browser so you can access it easily later.

**Browser – Software** (Ex: Internet Explorer, Firefox and Safari) used to look at various kinds of Internet resources.

**Buddy List** – In instant messaging (IM), or on cell phones with text display, a list of people a user wants to communicate with. The list can be used to see who is offline or online.

**Bulletin Board** – A computerized meeting and announcement system that allows people to carry on discussions, upload and download files, and make announcements without the people being connected to the computer at the same time.

**Cache** - Browsers hold copies of recently visited websites and web files in disk memory. This disk memory space is called the cache.

**Chat rooms** – An Internet service provided area where users can talk instantly with one another online by sending short messages. Different rooms may be “entered” to discuss specific topics.

**Cookies** – A small file placed on your computer by a website you visit that stores information about you. Cookies can be useful because they can allow you to skip entering information on reputable sites every time you visit. While cookies will not act maliciously on your computer system, they can compromise your privacy.

**Cyberbullying** – A growing problem, “cyberbullying” is when a child, preteen or teen is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another child, preteen or teen using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones. It has to have a minor on both sides, or at least have been instigated by a minor against another minor. Once adults become involved, it is plain and simple cyber-harassment or cyberstalking. Adult cyber-harassment or cyberstalking is NEVER called cyberbullying. (Definition from [http://www.stopcyberbullying.org/what\\_is\\_cyberbullying\\_exactly.html](http://www.stopcyberbullying.org/what_is_cyberbullying_exactly.html)) For more information on cyberbullying, check out the links posted to [http://www.egusd.net/students\\_parents/isafety.cfm](http://www.egusd.net/students_parents/isafety.cfm).

**Cyberspace** – Used to describe the entire range of Internet resources available through service providers.

**Domain Name** - The unique name that identifies an Internet site. Domain Names have 2 parts, separated by a dot. The part on the left is the most specific, and the part on the right is the most general.

**Download** – to copy a file from a website or e-mail attachment onto the computer you are using.

**E-mail** - messages sent from one person to another via computer. Generally text, but can include attached files of documents, graphics, sounds, or videos.

**Favorite (Bookmark)** - A website address saved in your browser so you can access it easily later.

**File Sharing** - see "Peer to Peer"

**Filtering** - Software that examines incoming data to ensure that only information within certain parameters is allowed.

**Fishing** - see "Phishing"

**Flaming** – Insulting or nasty remarks directed at someone through e-mail or chat rooms. A "flame war" is when an online discussion degenerates into a series of personal attacks.

**FTP (File Transfer Protocol)** - Software that will transfer entire files from one computer to another, for viewing or other purposes.

**Hacker** - A technically sophisticated computer user who enjoys exploring computer systems and programs. Activities can be benign or malicious.

**Homepage** – Usually the first page of a website.

**Internet** – The worldwide, interconnected system of computer networks.

**Intranet** – A private network inside a company or organization that is used to access internal documents and information.

**IM (Instant Messaging)** - Technology that notifies a user when a friend is online, allowing them to "converse" by exchanging text messages. IM or text messaging has become a term associated with messaging by cell phone as well.

**ISP (Internet Service Provider)** - A company that provides customers with a connection to the Internet and may provide e-mail services. (See also OSP.)

**Message Board** - A section on some Web sites that displays messages posted by users.

**Netiquette** - The informal rules of online courtesy.

**OSP (Online Service Provider)** - A company that provides Internet access and other services such as shopping, news, chat rooms, and special events. AOL and MSN are OSPs.

**Peer-to-Peer (or P2P)** - Networks used for sharing content such as music, video, data or anything in digital format.

**Phishing** - An identity theft scam in which criminals send out spam that imitates legitimate correspondence. The fake messages often link to websites which are faked to look like the sites of respected companies. You are asked to enter personal information for authentication or confirmation purposes but in reality, you are giving personal information to criminals. Be aware that phishers also use the phone to hunt for information.

**Piracy** - The unauthorized copying of software, movies, recorded music, CDs, DVDs, etc.

**Podcasting** - Posting or transmitting an audio file to be downloaded and viewed/heard by other internet users either on a computer or MP3 player. **Note:** You do not need an iPod to do podcasting!

**Pop-up** - A browser window that opens in addition to the main window. Frequently contain bothersome advertising and may be difficult to get rid of. Pop-ups may open automatically without input from the user and closing one may open several more unwanted windows.

**Read/Write Web (Web 2.0)** – Websites that allow users to produce as well as consume information (i.e., blogs and wikis).

**Remix** - Remix culture can be defined as the creative and efficient exchange of information made possible by digital technologies that are supported by the practice of cut/copy and paste. Remixing can lead to copyright infringement.

**RSS** - RSS stands for **Really Simple Syndication**, which is an internet based technology that allows the distribution of Web content through an RSS reader. Using RSS, news articles, press releases, and other content can be gathered together and distributed via news feeds on an RSS server connected to the internet.

**Search Engine** - A system, such as Google, for searching for information on the Internet.

**Skype** – Software that allows users to make telephone calls over the internet to other Skype users free of charge, or to landlines and cell phones for a fee. Due to its ability to circumvent firewalls, most districts block Skype.

**Social Bookmarking** - A web-based service to share Internet bookmarks. One of the best known social booking marking sites is **del.icio.us** - <http://del.icio.us/>. For more background on the concept of social bookmarking, check out the video at <http://www.commoncraft.com/bookmarking-plain-english>.

**Social Networking** - A web of interconnected people who directly or indirectly interact with or influence the student and family. May include but is not limited to family, teachers and other school staff, friends, neighbors, community contacts, and professional support. For a great explanation of the concept behind social networking, check out the video clip at <http://www.commoncraft.com/video-social-networking>.

Some examples of social networking sites include:

- MySpace – <http://myspace.com>
- Facebook – <http://www.facebook.com>
- Twitter – <http://twitter.com>

**Spam, Spamming** - Unsolicited and/or inappropriate email.

**Spoofing** - Pretending to be someone else.

**Spyware** - Software that is secretly installed on a computer and monitors use of the computer in some way without the users' consent. Most spyware tries to get the user to view advertising and/or particular web pages. Some spyware also sends information about the user to another machine over the Internet. Spyware is usually installed without a user's knowledge as part of the installation of other software, especially software such as music sharing software obtained via download.

**Text messaging** - see "IM"

**Twitter** – A free social networking and micro-blogging service that allows users to send "updates" (or "tweets"; text-based posts, up to 140 characters long) to the Twitter website, via short message service, or instant messaging.

**URL (Uniform Resource Locator)** - The unique address of an Internet page.

**Virus** - A software program or script designed to destroy, modify, or cause other problems with a computer or software program. Viruses can arrive as e-mail attachments, with software installations or on discs. Installing and keeping current an anti-virus program can greatly reduce the risks to your computer. (see Worm)

**Walled Garden** - An environment that controls the user's access to Web content and services. In effect, the walled garden directs the user's navigation within a website (blog), to allow access to a selection of material, or prevent access to other material. David Warlick's Blogmeister site - <http://classblogmeister.com/> - offers teachers a "walled garden" blog setup.

**Web 1.0** – Websites that allow users to consume information. The information flow is one way in that users cannot produce information on a Web 1.0 site.

**Web 2.0 (Read/Write Web)** - Websites that allow users to produce as well as consume information i.e., blogs and wikis.

**Webcam** - A simple video camera that sits near your computer and sends live or recorded video as well as still photos.

**Wikis** - Software that allows users to create, edit, and link web pages easily. Wikis are often used to create collaborative websites and to power community websites and knowledge base. One of the best known wikis is Wikipedia. For more information on the concept behind wikis, check out the video clip at <http://www.commoncraft.com/video-wikis-plain-english>.

**Worm** - A type of virus that can make copies of itself and infect additional computers (typically by making use of network connections). Although a worm does not attach itself to additional programs, it might alter, install, or destroy files and programs. (see Virus)

**Note:** This handout was adapted with permission from <http://www.boiseschools.org/cybersafe/glossary.html>.