



Internet

What is Cyberspace? It is the term used to describe the invisible realm of the Internet.

What is the Internet?...

The Internet is a network of networks that connects computers across the country and around the world. In fact, the Internet currently reaches millions of people in over 134 countries.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the Internet is its impact on society. Once restricted to a few scientists, it is quickly becoming universal. It reaches governments, businesses, schools, and homes worldwide.

What's so great about it?..

It's what you can do on the Internet, coupled with the ease of access, that makes the Internet so exciting. In essence, the Internet provides two basic capabilities, information retrieval and worldwide communications, functions that are already provided by libraries and print media, the postal system, the telephone, television, and other types of long distance media. The difference, however, is that **the Internet is interactive in nature**, and more important, **it is both global and immediate**.

The Internet enables you to request a document from virtually anywhere in the world, and to receive that document almost instantly. No other medium lets you do that.

The World Wide Web...

The **World Wide Web (WWW)**, or simply the **Web** can be thought of as a very large subset of the Internet, consisting of **hypertext** and/or **hypermedia** documents.

A **hypertext** document is a document that contains a link (reference) to another document, which may be on the same computer, or even on a different computer, with the latter located anywhere in the world.

Hypermedia is similar in concept, except that it provides links to graphic, sound, and video files in addition to text files.

Either type of document enables you to move effortlessly from one document (or computer) to another. And therein lies the fascination of the Web, in that you simply **click on link after link to go effortlessly from one document to the next**.

You can start your journey at your professor's home page in San Francisco, for example, which may suggest a reference in the Library of Congress, which in turn may take you to a different document, and so on. So, off you go to Washington, D.C., and from there to a reference across the country or perhaps around the world.

Any computer that stores a hypermedia document anywhere on the Web, and further, makes that document available to other computers is known as a **server** (or **Web server**). Any computer that is connected to the Web, and requests a document from a server, is known as a **client**.

Connecting to the Internet..

Internet access is provided free of charge to SFSU staff, faculty and students.

Take one of Computing Services SFSU Internet Kit short courses to learn how to download the files necessary to set yourself up with a SFSU Internet account.

Need additional help?

Visit the HelpDesk at ADM 110...

Call them at Extension 1420...

Or **E-mail** at helpdesk@sfsu.edu...

You will need a Macintosh or PC based computer running Mac OS, Windows 3.1, Windows 95 or Windows NT, and a **modem**. A **modem** is the interface between your computer and the telephone system.

Glossary...

Browser...Software that lets you roam and retrieve documents and files from the Web. Examples are Netscape Navigator and Internet Explorer.

Download...To retrieve a file from another computer or remote host.

E-mail...Electronic messages sent from one computer user to another over a network.

Graphical User Interface (GUI)... Software that allows the user to interact with the computer and execute commands by pointing at icons and pull-down menus with a mouse or other selection device.

Home Page...The top HTML document to which someone can link in a group of related HTML pages.

Hyperlink...An electronic link between one or more documents, such that when the user selects the link, the linked document is automatically loaded to the user's work station.

Hypertext Markup Language (HTML)...The specialized language used to insert formatting commands and links in a hypertext document.

Hypertext Transport Protocol (HTTP)...The protocol used to transport hypertext files across the Internet.

Information Superhighway...A term used to describe the Internet and other online information resources.

Link...A line of text or a graphic icon in a hypertext document that contains an embedded Internet address and that allows you to jump to that address by selecting the link.

Search Engine...A program written to allow users to search the Web for documents that match user-specified parameters.

Surfing...To cruise the Internet, in particular the Web, going from site to site looking for information.

Uniform Resource Locator (URL)...The primary means of navigating the Web. It consists of the means of access, the Web site, the path, and the document name of a Web resource, such as:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov>

Web server...An Internet host that runs software to allow clients on the server to surf the World Wide Web.

Computing Services can be reached...

On the Web: www.sfsu.edu Under "Information Technology"

E-mail: training@sfsu.edu Help Desk: x 81420