

Internet Services

The most widely used Internet service is the *World Wide Web* (WWW), also called the Web. The Web can be used to search and access information available on the Internet. A *Web browser application*, such as Microsoft Internet Explorer, provides a graphical interface to present information in the form of a Web site. Each Web site consists of a series of related Web pages.



A Web page that is part of the CNN Web site:

Digital Signature

A digital signature is a code that is attached to an electronic message to verify the authenticity of a website or e-mail message.

Blog

Blog is short for weblog and is a type of website where users can post entries in a journal format.

Another widely used Internet service is *e-mail* or *electronic mail*, which is the sending and receiving of messages and computer files over a communications network, such as a LAN (Local Area Network) or the Internet. E-mail can be received in a matter of seconds, even if the recipient is located half way around the world.

A popular service provided through the Internet and online information service providers is called *Internet Relay Chat* (IRC) or just *chat*. IRC was developed in 1988 by Jarkko Oikarinen to allow users to have discussions with other people that have similar interests. *Chatting* is communicating with others who are also online by sending messages to a chat room. Each person can see all the other messages from everyone else in the chat room.

Instant Messaging (IM) is a communication tool that allows for real-time messages that are more private than communicating through chat rooms. To send an instant message, the user logs into a network such as AIM or ICQ and can then send a message to another person, and only to that person.

A *bulletin board service*, sometimes referred to as a *BBS*, allows a user to participate in a discussion group. There are thousands of bulletin board services with topics ranging from accounting to zoology. Businesses often maintain a bulletin board service for their employees only. Other bulletin board services allow any network user to join.

Gopher

Gopher was one of the first widespread Internet browsing services. It is a text-based environment that is used to locate information on the Internet.

Protocols

HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol) handles the transmission of pages between a Web server and a Web browser.

FTP (File Transfer Protocol) is used to rapidly transfer (upload or download) files over the Internet.

Network news is a popular BBS available on the Internet. This system uses the term *newsgroup* to refer to an individual bulletin board, and *article* refers to the message posted to the newsgroup. Subscribers of a newsgroup can check for new articles and post (send) articles regarding the topic of discussion. USENET refers to the collection of all the servers that offer network news.

A *mailing list server* manages Internet mailing lists. Two mailing list servers are *LISTSERV* and *Majordomo*. Special interest groups often use a mailing list for discussion purposes. When a subscriber posts a message, every subscriber receives a copy. Mailing lists sometimes have a moderator who filters the messages before they are posted.

Telnet is a program that is used on networks such as the Internet to allow users to remotely log on to a server on the network. The server can then be controlled from the remote computer. Telnet is commonly used to control Web servers.

WAIS (Wide Area Information Server) is a Unix-Based system for searching the Internet using a natural language processor. However, a WAIS search often includes many false matches.