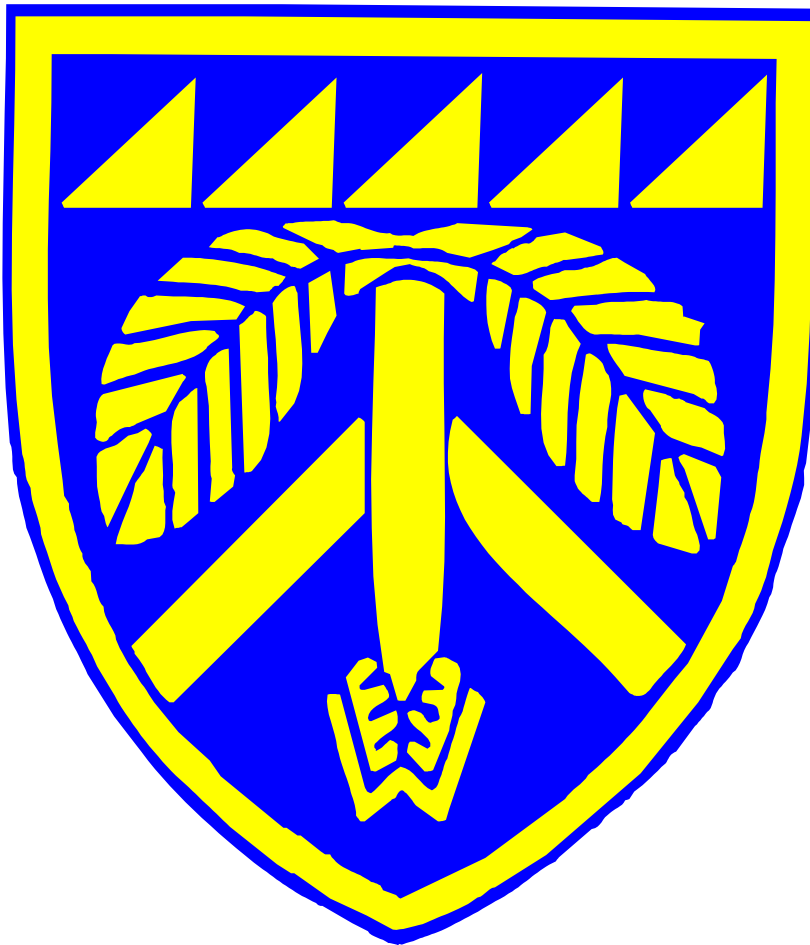


Internet training session

Organised by James Meehan



Teaching by James Meehan.

2001

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The History of the Internet

The Internet is a network connecting thousands of computers at businesses, universities and government agencies via a network of dedicated telecommunication lines. It forms a global network for the exchange of electronic mail and other information among its members.

There is no central computer or group of computers running the Internet. Its resources extend across thousands of individual Internet sites. The term "Internet" comes from "inter-networking" and applies to the process of connecting multiple regional and private

networks to create a larger network. The infrastructure of the Internet allows you to access systems from Russia, to the United States to the Pacific Rim within minutes. Furthermore, using the Internet only costs as much as a call to your local Internet Service Provider. Many times this cost is almost negligible.

In the 1960's, researchers at the US Department of Defence's Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) began experimenting with linking computers to each other through telephone lines. Their purpose was to make a network resistant to enemy attack. The result was a decentralised network system that would continue to function after one or more individual computer sites crashed.

ARPA was able to link computers in different locations using a technology known as packet switching. Data sent or received through the Internet travels in 256K packets, each containing the equivalent of a map and a time stamp. Packet switching routes the data, like letters in the mail, along the best route available at the moment, along with millions of other packets. These packets ultimately reassemble into objects the receiving computer can use, such as graphics, sounds or documents.

In the early days, only computer scientists at a handful of research facilities across the country had access to the Internet. As the network grew, its popularity broadened to include scientists from other disciplines. Eventually, universities recognised the power of file sharing and the Internet became the medium for the worldwide academic community.

Recently, businesses have begun to see opportunities in the Internet. Thousands have created Web pages describing themselves and their products. Others have taken to advertising on the World Wide Web and sending electronic mail to potential clients. Over the past few years, millions of ordinary individuals have gained access to the Internet. They have used it for shopping, banking, research, entertainment and communicating with other users. As the technology continues to evolve, the hardware and software will become faster, cheaper and more efficient. The Internet is on its way to becoming a staple of human communication just as telephones, radio and television did before it.

At Stanley Park High School we have had access to the Internet for a number of years, through a stand-alone machine. This involved using a normal phone line. We have now introduced a 2MBit connection for unlimited. This is accessible on all M6 computers and after upgrades all computers in the school.

Overview: All About Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.0

Internet Explorer 5.0 is a browser; it is an interface through which you can access data from the Internet. It provides the environment in which you view, manipulate and store downloaded data. It is also the tool you use to locate and access Internet sites. Do not confuse browsers with search engines such as Yahoo or Webcrawler. Search engines are Internet sites with utilities for locating and connecting to other Internet sites. You cannot access and use a search engine unless you have a browser.

Browsers are also different from Internet Service Providers (ISP's), such as Microsoft Network (MSN). Internet Explorer 5.0 is the software installed on your computer that dials, connects to and communicates with your ISP. You may have your browser configured to access any number of service providers.

Internet Explorer 5.0 also provides an interface between Internet applications and other applications installed on your computer, such as Word and Excel. You can access documents in these applications from Internet Explorer 5.0 and, if you have the newest version of the application or download the appropriate helper applications, vice versa. Thus, you can send or post your Word documents and Excel spreadsheets on the Internet with ease.

Internet Explorer 5.0 is full of major features and minor touches designed to enhance your Internet experience. Internet Mail and Internet News, utilities for working with electronic mail and newsgroups, are integrated with, and readily accessible from the Internet Explorer 5.0 environment. Internet Explorer 5.0 also comes with built-in links to various search engines. It includes an autosearch feature that allows you to search for sites containing a specific keyword. To perform the search type "find" and the keyword in the address field. This feature utilises the Yahoo search engine.

Internet Explorer 5.0 includes a built-in Content Advisor which parents can use to specify acceptable levels of nudity, sex, language and violence. The program blocks rated sites based on those levels. You can also similarly restrict unrated sites to password-only access.

Other user-friendly features include: options to enlarge the text on screen, the ability to create desktop shortcuts to favourite sites, and the ability to create, organise and maintain collections of links to favourite sites. You can also make numerous cosmetic changes to Internet Explorer 5.0, from hiding or enlarging the toolbars to changing the text colour.

Module 1: Introduction to Browsing

Module Preview

Module Objectives

Establishing a connection

Browse the Web

Access Documents by URLs

Use Favourites, Shortcuts & History

Module Review

Module 2 Customising Internet Explorer 5.0

Module Preview: Customising Internet Explorer 5.0

Module Objectives

Customising Quick Links & Toolbars

Customising Internet Ratings and preferences

Personalise Your Start Page

Downloading and Customising Files

Module Review

Module 3 Electronic Mail

Module Preview: Internet Mail

Module Objectives

Configure electronic Mail

Send Electronic Mail

Read Electronic Mail

Respond to Electronic Mail

Attach files to electronic Mail

Review

Module 4 Newsgroups

Module Preview: The Usenet and Newsgroups

Module Objectives

Configure Browser for Newsgroups

Read Newsgroups post

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The Toolbars

The Internet Explorer 5.0 Dialogs

The Menubar

Using the Mouse

The Keyboard

Some HTTP Addresses

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows98/usingwindows/internet/default.asp>

The computer will use http by default so you don't need to type this.
When you go onto a site just click on the back icon to go back to this page.

Other Sites to try:

www.ngfl.co.uk

www.ngfl.gov.uk

www.tpc.int the phone companies remote printing service. TPC Fax

www.bbc.co.uk

www.iii.co.uk

www.thisissouththames.co.uk

www.anglia.co.uk/education/mathsnets

www.cut-the-knot.com (May be restricted since has some games)

www.nrich.maths.org.uk

www.wotw.org.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/education/languages

www.bbc.co.uk

<http://news.bbc.co.uk>

www.beeb.com

www.bbcworldwide.com

www.bbcresources.co.uk

<http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/addserv/toolkit/index.html>

<http://bubl.ac.uk/link>

<http://lib-www.ucr.edu> Scholarly Internet Resource Collections Uni California

www.calvin.edu/library/as

www.anglia.co.uk/education

www.mrm.org.uk

SPHS Glossary of Terms

ActiveX

A set of technologies that lets software components, interact with one another in a networked environment, ' even if they are programmed in different languages.

Article

An individual message or post in a Usenet newsgroup.

Backbone

A high-speed connection with a network that connects short, usually slower, network circuits.

Bandwidth

The range of transmission frequencies that a network can use. Information can travel faster on a network with a large bandwidth.

Bits Per Second (BPS)

A measure of information transmission speed, also known as baud. A bit is the smallest measure of digital information, with a single character represented by eight bits (eight bits equals one byte).

Bounce

The return of an e-mail message due to an error in its delivery.

Browser

A program used to view World Wide Web pages. See *Web Browser* and *Search Engine*.

Cache

A document and image cache is the Temporary Internet Files folder on your hard disk where pages are stored as you view them. These pages will be loaded from the hard drive, rather than the Internet, on subsequent visits to the same site. This results in shorter retrieval time.

Character-Based

Using only text characters.

Client

The generic name for any program that can access a particular Internet service. For example, there are Gopher clients, FTP clients, and Telnet clients. Also, the user of a network service. See *Server*.

Commercial Service

Services such as America Online, CompuServe, MSN, or Prodigy provide fee-based services such as discussion groups, file libraries, informational database, and e-mail.

DNS

Domain Name System. A standard way of stating an Internet address.

Domain

A part of the Internet site-naming hierarchy. A domain name consists of a sequence of names or other words separated by periods.

Down

A term that describes an access site experiencing technical problems. It is not accessible for some reason.

Download

The process of transferring a copy of a file from a remote computer to the requesting computer by means of a modem.

E-mail

The popular abbreviation for electronic mail. Also Email or email.

Emoticon

Certain characters that some users enter to help express emotion in e-mail and Usenet newsgroups.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Question(s). A document available to everyone that tries to answer commonly asked questions. FAQs should be read before asking or posting questions to a newsgroup.

Favourite

An Internet Explorer feature that saves the location of a favourite Web document or URL address for future retrieval.

Flame

A harsh message from one person to another. Often seen in forums and Usenet newsgroups. Usage: *That newbie got flamed because he didn't bother to read the FAQ file.*

FQDN

Fully Qualified Domain Name. The standard method of stating an Internet address.

Freeware

Software that is free, but retains its copyright.

FTP

File Transfer Protocol. This is one standardised way of transmitting files on the Internet.

Gateway

A gateway allows the transmission and translation of information between similar or dissimilar networks.

Gopher

A menu-centred information searches tool on the Internet. Gopher stores various text-

based files in a menu-centred and hierarchical format.

Home Page

A space on the World Wide Web. A home page is usually the starting point for a Web-browser application. Also called *Start Page*.

HTML

Hypertext Markup Language. The standard by which most World Wide Web pages are written. It is interpreted by using browser applications such as Internet Explorer 5.0.

HTTP

Hypertext Transfer Protocol. A standard by which many World Wide Web pages are accessed.

Hyperlink

An object that contains a link to another resource. Activating a hyperlink causes the linked resource to become active.

Hypertext

Text with links or pointers, which can take the user to some other, related section of the document, or to a related document.

IE

Short for Internet Explorer. The current version is also known as IE30.

Image Map

A graphic containing one or more links embedded within the picture.

Inline Graphic

Graphics placed within World Wide Web pages. Inline graphics can be static images or have additional resource links.

Internet

A decentralised network of networks that establishes connections using packet switching protocols.

Internet Explorer

A Web browser that permits you to access hypermedia resources on the Internet.

IP

Internet Protocol routes packets of information to its destination as efficient as possible. It is used with TCP. See TCP/IP.

ISDN

An Interactive Digital Services Network using special copper phone lines which can handle high-speed transmissions.

ISP

Internet Service Provider. A business that provides a service to connect to the Internet.

Mail Path

A series of machine names used to direct electronic ~ mail from one user to another.

MIME

Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions. This is a; standard by which non-text files can be transferred. For example, audio files can be transmitted through e-mail by using this standard.

Modem

A device or component for transmitting digital information between computers via phone lines.

MSN

Microsoft Network. A commercial service offered by Microsoft.

Multimedia

This is the combination of sound, graphics, animation, and video.

Net

A common nickname for the Internet.

Netiquette

Netiquette describes proper behaviour on the Internet.

Netscape

A Web browser that permits the user access to hypermedia resources on the Internet.

Newbie

A person who is new or unfamiliar with the Internet or computers.

Newsgroups

A group of Usenet traffic that pertains to a particular topic or theme.

Node

A computer that is attached to a network.

Offline

When your computer is not connected to a host system or the Internet.

Online

When your computer is connected to a host system or the Internet.

Packet

The unit of data sent across a packet-switching network.

Packet Switching

A protocol that involves transferring small units of data (usually 256K) with destination and address mapping. This protocol permits a single communication line to allow data exchange from more than one user.

Pathname

This element of the URL identifies the location of the document on the server.

POP

Post Office Protocol. An Internet standard protocol for transferring e-mail messages on the Internet. Also stands for Point Of Presence.

PPP

Point-to-Point Protocol. This is a standard for connecting modems on the Internet.

Protocol

A formal description of message formats and rules two computers must follow to exchange messages

Provider

Short for Internet Service Provider. A business that provides a service to connect to the Internet.

Proxy Server

A special server that is operated by a site that restricts Internet information. Proxy servers provide only a specific connection for each network service.

Remote Computer

A computer that is directly connected to your computer through communication links, network wiring, or telephone lines.

Router

A dedicated computer that sends packets from one place to another.

Search Engine

A database program that performs ordered searches of Internet sites based on keywords supplied by the user. See *Web Browser*.

Server

A computer that shares its resources with other computers on a network. For example, there are FTP and Gopher servers. Servers are accessed by clients. See *Client*.

Shareware

Software that is freely available. If you like the product and decide to use it, you should send in the registration and the fee requested by the author.

Signature

The small, usually four-line, messages from the sender at the bottom of a piece of e-

mail or a Usenet article.

SLIP

Serial Line Internet Protocol. A protocol that allows your computer to connect to the Internet via your modem and a phone line.

SMTP

Simple Mail Transfer Protocol. A standard protocol for transferring e-mail messages on the Internet.

Start Page

See *Home Page*.

T1 and T3 Lines

Fibre optic cables able to carry large amounts of information over great distances. They transmit data faster than ISDN's or modems.

TCP

Transmission Control Protocol. Used with IP, it assures the packets of information do not lose their integrity.

TCP/IP

Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol. A suite of protocols that was designed by the Department of Defence during the 1970's.

Telnet

The Internet standard protocol for remote terminal connection service. Telnet allows a user at one site to interact with a remote timesharing system at another site as if the user's terminal were connected directly to the remote computer.

Terminal Emulation

A program or applications that makes a remote computer appear to a host across the network as a terminal connected to the network.

Thread

The subject of a Usenet newsgroup message. A thread may contain an initial message or article, responses to it, responses to the responses, etc.

Top-Level Domain

This is the last name within a URL address. For example, EDU is the top-level domain name for educational organisations.

Upload

The process of copying a file from your computer to another computer via modem.

URL

Uniform Resource Locator. A standard method of representing services or resources on the Internet. A URL usually consists of a scheme name (such as WWW) followed by a colon, two slashes, and the address of the resource to which you are connecting.

Usenet

People can discuss any topics within these newsgroup forums. There are over 10,000 newsgroups. See *Newsgroups*.

WAIS

Wide-Area Information Servers. A service that searches information among the world's databases.

Web Browser

A computer program used to browse files on the World Wide Web.

WHOIS

A UNIX-based service that searches its directories to locate an individual's e-mail address.

World Wide Web

WWW, Web, or W3. A part of the Internet that relies on hypertext, graphics, sound, and video.

Yahoo

A popular Internet search engine.

Zip

Files that are compressed in the zip format have this file name extension.

10 Practical Tips

1. Get to know your search engines

The metaphor of the -electronic library is an apt one, and much the way you needed to learn the tools to use your library effectively, so are the search engines essential to the efficient use of the Internet.

2. Cultivate a guru

The Internet is no longer -bleeding edge technology"; someone somewhere has already blazed a trail through the Internet maze that you can use to your advantage. It is likely the guru will not be at your school; your first lesson in using the Internet might be to locate and nurture your Internet guru.

3. Respect the Internet's practical limitations

There are a number of physical and technical factors which influence the Internet's performance; these are out of your control so respect them! Don't organise lessons on a Tuesday morning; this is the scheduled maintenance time for the JANET academic network. Avoid Friday afternoons at all costs! Have -screen dumps" of crucial Internet screens for teaching in case the network fails. Have alternative sites available in case your favourite site is unreachable. Prepare, prepare, and prepare!

4. Future-proof your capital investments

The old saying goes -computer hardware is obsolete once you take it out of the box." Purchase the highest specification your budget will allow, and then some. Unless you have skilled technician support, stick with well-known hardware and services.

5. Start small

The Internet can suck you down its vortex if you are not careful, so start with small manageable projects. Ensure the project has clearly identifiable and quantifiable outcomes, and then be sure to publicise your success when your goals have been attained.

6. Raise institutional awareness

The Internet is not a new phenomenon; it has been around for more than 25 years. Up until recently, however, it has been the jealously guarded secret of computer nerds. Raise the awareness of your colleagues, your managers your parents, your students. Share your knowledge and awareness, and promote its use in suitable areas. You might end up the **gurus** in tip 2...

7. Avoid technobabble

In our eagerness to raise colleagues' awareness, we have to be careful not to fall into the technobabble trap. There is enough *essential* Internet jargon to learn without inundating colleagues with unnecessary terminology. Remember the KISS principle: Keep it Simple, Stupid!

8. Know when to cut your losses

The Internet is not the answer to all your problems. Don't waste your time and valuable resources searching the Internet when it is quicker to walk down to the library or make a quick phone call. If you can't connect to a site, then hang up your connection. If you are searching for particular material and can't find it, it just might not be there at all so stop hunting.

9. Keep your perspective

You probably have a real job to do, so keep doing it. Enough said.

10. Create your own map of the Internet

When you are ready, you might want to learn how to create your own Web pages and publish your own material. In the meantime, you can create your own Map of the Internet via your bookmarks, which you can share easily with others. Your own experience and requirements are the perfect guide to creating your personal "Best of the Net."