Technology Glossary

Add-on: An accessory piece of software designed to increase the capability of the software to which it is appended.

Alexa: Amazon's virtual assistant.

Android: Googles mobile operating system, built on open source software.

Anti-Virus: A program that protects you from malicious software. Most anti-virus programs have options for purchasing additional security measures such as firewalls, email scanning, etc.

App: Short for Application.

Apple ID: This is the username and password that you create with Apple to link a specific device to your Apple account. If you have an iPad and an iPhone, you would use the same Apple ID with both of those devices.

Apple: Technology company that designs and develops hardware and software.

Application: An application is a piece of software that lets your device do something, like play music or give directions. An application is the same thing is a program.

Autocorrect: Auto correct is when your phone automatically changes what you were typing to what it thought you wanted to type.

Autoplay: When you visit a website and music or video starts playing without asking.

BCC: Blind carbon copy. Secretly send a copy of the message to someone else. The primary recipient cannot see that this person received the message.

Blockchain: Also Block Chain. A list of records (blocks) linked using cryptography. These records are a cryptographic hash of the previous block, a timestamp, and transaction data. Blockchains are generally used on a peer-to-peer network. Data in one block cannot be altered without changing all other blocks.

Bluetooth: A wireless technology that allows data to be shared over short distances using short-wave UHF radio signal.

Browser Add-on: See Browser Extension.

Browser Extension: A small software module that is used to customize a web browser.

Browser Hijack: Where a malicious piece of software modifies a web browser's settings without your permission.

Browser: Short for Web Browser.

Brute Force Attack: Where a hacker tries many passwords for passphrases in an attempt to break into your account. The longer your password (or passphrase) the harder it is for someone to use this kind of attack to break into your account.

Cache: Temporary storage space that allows your computer to quickly bring up information, such as previously viewed web pages.

CC: Carbon copy. Send a copy of the message to someone else. The primary recipient can see this person received the message.

Cellular Data: The connection your cell phone makes to a cell tower that allows you to do things like surf the internet, download emails, and send SMS messages.

Cloud: Storage that is physically somewhere other than where you are. Cloud storage is generally accessible from multiple devices, because those files are stored on a hard drive that belongs to a company that hosts the cloud service. Cloud storage is like a self-storage unit for your electronic files, except you can access your stuff from anywhere.

Codec: A device or program that encodes/decodes a data stream, such as an audio file, for storage.

Cookie: A piece of data that a website saves on your computer. Cookies were designed to save user information such as preferences or logins, but can sometimes be read by third parties. Cookies are also used to collect browsing data long-term.

Cortana: Microsoft's virtual assistant.

CPU: Central Processing Unit. The bit of a computer or electronic device that processes information.

Crypto Currency: A digital asset that uses strong cryptography and is designed to work as a form of money. They used decentralized control, or a public financial database to keep track of who owns what.

Cryptography: Greek for "hidden writing", it is the study of secure communication—creating protocols to keep third parties from reading private messages.

Data Breaches: The release of secure or private information. A data breach can be accidental or malicious, where an individual hacks into a system to steal information.

Database: An organized collection of information. An address book is a very basic database. Complicated databases link information between multiple tables allowing for analysis of the contained information.

Denial of Service Attack (DOS): A cyber-attack where the malefactor seeks to make a network resource (such as a website) unavailable by flooding the target with requests or visits.

DNS Hijacking: Where a malefactor redirects visitors from a valid website to a different destination—often one that exists to steal data.

Domain Name: The string of text that identifies a place on the Web. A basic domain name is a word or abbreviation followed by a period followed by the domain extension: wvu.edu

Domain: The sometimes arbitrary grouping that designates what a website does or where it is based. The most common domains are .com .net .edu and .org. The domain is what you should check first when you want to verify the authenticity of a website.

Download: To move data and files from the internet or a server to your computer or mobile device.

Email Header: The portion of an email message that contains the routing information. The header can be used to help determine if a message is fraudulent.

Email: Email is an electronic letter sent from one email address to another email address. Email addresses always have an **@** (at sign) in them. Sending an email on your phone requires the use of cellular data. Each email address is unique, and email addresses are often used as unique identifiers or login credentials by databases.

Emoji: Small images used to represent emotions, ideas, or expressions. 🙂

Emoticons: Representations of facial expressions using keyboard characters. These are used to portray moods or feelings. For example, a smiling face could be :) or ☺

Encryption: The encoding of data so that only authorized persons or devices can read/view the information. The stronger the encryption, the more unlikely it is that a malfeasant could decode the intercepted data through a brute force attack.

Facebook: An online media and networking company.

Firewall: A security system that monitors incoming and outgoing network traffic to prevent unauthorized access to a system.

Force Stop: A way to completely stop an app that is running in the background. An app that has been closed may still have bits active and collecting data.

Google: A technology company that specializes in services and products related to the internet.

GPS: Global Positioning System is a piece of hardware that allows a device to contact a satellite to determine the location of the device in latitude and longitude. On most devices, software makes these data points usable to the end user by placing them on a map.

Hardware: The electronic components of a device; the bits you can touch. A cell phone, a keyboard, and a CPU are all hardware.

HDR: High Dynamic Range. A photographic process where a camera takes multiple pictures at different exposures and combines them into a single image—this allows all areas of your image to be well-exposed, but can also look unreal if used too much.

Hotspot: A type of Wireless Access Point. A device that allows you access the internet from a public place. Hotspots are generally open and unsecured and you should assume any data you submit is visible to people with ill-intent.

Hover text: When you hold your cursor over a hyperlink, the document should display the URL for that link. This allows you to verify links.

http: Hypertext Transfer Protocol is how data is moved between a website and an end user.

https: Hypertext Transfer Protocol (Secure) is an encrypted form of http. This protects against interference or snooping by third parties.

iCloud: Apple's cloud service.

IMO: In My Opinion

Install: A process that writes the code used to run the program (application) onto the hard drive of your device. Installing a piece of software embeds it into the device and allows it to work.

Internet: A system of inter-connected computer networks.

iOS: Apple's mobile operating system.

iPad: Apple's tablet computer, running iOS.

iPhone: Apple's cellular phone, running iOS, that was built upon the iPod.

iPod: Apple's music player. The iPod is general similar to an iPhone, only without cellular service.

iTunes: Apple's music service.

Keylogger: Keystroke logger (also keyboard capture). A piece of hardware or a software program that can record every key struck on the keyboard.

Location Services: Information from GPS, wireless access points, cell towers, and Bluetooth devices that helps your phone know where you are.

Lossless Compression: A form of data encoding that maintains the original quality of the file but at the cost of having a large file size.

Lossy Compression: A form of data encoding used to reduce file size at the cost of data quality.

Metadata: A data set that give you information about other data. A card catalog contains metadata.

Micro-SD: Micro-Secure Digital Card. Smaller size SD card, used in phones and lightweight devices. Comes with an adapter that allows for the easy transfer for files from a device like a phone to a computer with an SD Card slot.

MMS: Multimedia Messaging Service is a kind of text messaging that allows you to send text messages that contain pictures or audio, as well as messages longer than 160 characters or to multiple people.

Network: A group of computers connected for the purpose of sharing resources. A network can be as small as two computers or as vast as the Internet.

NSFW: Not Safe for Work

OS: An Operating System is the base upon which software and apps are added. An Apple device generally uses iOS (iPhones) or macOS (laptop computers). PCs typically used the Windows OS, but there are other operating systems, such as Linux that can be installed. Non-Apple cell phones frequently use some form of the Android OS. How your device looks and works is dependent upon the operating system installed.

P2P: Peer-to-Peer

Passcode: This is the secret code to get into a specific device. If you have an iPhone and an iPad, they can have different passcodes. You can sometimes use a fingerprint instead of a passcode to get into a device.

Password Manager: A program that stores electronic passwords.

Password: The secret code to access a restricted resources. Passwords are usually required to use a minimum of eight characters, and contain special characters, such as numbers or upper case letters.

PayPal: A method of online money transfer and payments.

Peer-to-Peer: A distributed that shares tasks or work between peers.

Phishing: A fraudulent attempt to gain personal or sensitive information, by sending an email or creating a website that pretends to be from a real company or person, but is not.

Podcast: A digital audio file made available on the Internet for downloading to a computer or mobile device, typically available as a series, new installments of which can be received by subscribers automatically.

Predictive Text: An input technology that guesses what you want to type both from what you are currently typing and, if you have allowed the software to learn, from what you have typed in the past. Predictive text makes typing faster and easier if you have good software on the back end.

Privacy: The information that is shared between your device and the external resources to which it is connected, as well as how that information is used, and with whom that information is shared.

Program: A program is a piece of software that lets your device do something like send a text message or video chat. A program is the same thing as an application.

Public Network: An electronic connection where the traffic between devices is visible to anyone.

Reply All: A response to an electronic message that is returned to ALL recipients of the original message.

Reply: A response to an electronic message.

Ripping: Extracting digital content from a container, such as a CD or DVD. Ripping a CD means that the music is copied without loss from the CD to your computer.

ROT-13: One of the most basic forms of encryption; a substitution encryption where characters are rotated 13 places.

Router: A networking device that forwards data between networks.

Scraping: Web scraping, web harvesting, web data extraction is extracting data from websites—gathering up information available on a public website.

SD Card: Secure Digital card. Removable memory that is used in devices like cameras, because it can be easily switched out when full. Allows for easy transfer of files from device to computer without a cable.

Search Engine: A software system designed to find information on the web. The results from a search engine can be webpages, files, or images. Generally, behind the scenes a program runs an algorithm that crawls through the web cataloging everything it sees. This catalog is then organized by a different program where pages are associated with various terms.

Security: Protecting electronic systems from theft or damage. This can be protection from physical theft, but often refers to electronic damage, where systems can be disrupted or data stolen.

Server: A device (or program) that allows you to access something not on the device you are physically touching. A mail server stores your email and drops it to your device upon request. A web server allows you to connect to the internet.

Siri: Apple's personal assistant.

Smart Device: An electronic device that connects to other devices or the internet through a wireless protocol such as Bluetooth or Wi-Fi.

SMS: Short Messaging Service. A brief message that is sent from one phone number to another phone number. SMS does not use cellular data.

Snooping: Unauthorized listening in to data transmission.

Snopes: One of the first internet fact-checking resources, Snopes started as a site to debunk urban legends, but expanded into general fact-checking. (https://www.snopes.com/)

Social Media: Interactive computer technologies and websites that allow for the sharing of information. Facebook is the most famous social media site, and allows friends to connect automatically, but LinkedIn is another type of social networking site, that focuses on career and job networking.

Software: The programs that run on your computer or phone. Can also be called an application.

Spam: Unsolicited electronic messages (especially advertising).

Spoofing: When a person or program pretends to be someone else, by falsifying data, to gain access to your account or data.

Spyware: A piece of malicious software that secretly installs itself to gather information about the user or device.

Sync: Short for synchronize, when a file is synced, changes to that file are saved are pushed from one device to all other devices with access to that file, via a remote server.

Terms of Service: The rules you agree to abide by when you sign up use an online service.

Text Message: A brief message that is sent from one phone number to another phone number via a protocol called SMS. Text messages are generally limited to 160 characters, and messages with more characters than that will be broken down into multiple messages when sent. Text messages are asynchronous: a message sent to someone whose phone is off is delivered when their phone is turned back on. Text messages generally do not require cellular data but do require a cellular connection.

TL;DR: Too Long, Didn't Read

TOS: Terms of Service

Trojans: A type of malicious computer virus that presents itself as a useful item, such as a document.

Two-Factor Authentication: This is a way to make both your device and your account more secure. When you log into your Apple ID on a new iPad (or iPhone) for the first time OR you log into iCloud from a computer you have never used before, Apple wants you to verify that YOU are the person attempting to access your account.

TXT: Text message.

Uninstall: The removal or a software program or application from the operating system of a device. Although uninstall removes the visible aspects of a program, there are often bits and pieces of the program left behind.

Upload: To move files from your computer to a cloud service or network.

URL: Uniform Resource Locator is the address of a space on the web. Every website has a unique address, and that address can often tell you something about the web page you are visiting.

USB: Short for Universal Serial Bus, this is the industry standard for cables that connect devices and their peripherals through a wire. This connection can be used for both communication and power. There are several types of USB connections: USB, USB-mini, USB-micro, and the newest standard: USB-C.

User Data: Any type of data generated by people interacting with software programs. User data includes: Explicit Data, which is given by a user directly such as name, address, email, and phone number; Implicit Data, which is not provided by the user directly but gleaned through analysis of user interactions, such as pages visited, session duration, or type of device; and finally External Data which has been gathered from third parties with whom an organization has a relationship.

Username: Also called Account name, login ID, user ID. The credentials you use to access an electronic resources, such as your computer or a website. Every account on a website or device must be unique to that service, so as to keep account information separate.

Virtual Personal Assistant: A software program that preforms tasks or services based upon verbal commands. Some of the most well-known services are Siri and Alexa.

Viruses: A piece of malicious software that inserts itself into another software program that it uses to replicate itself. Ransomware is a software virus.

Web Browser: A software program that allows you to access sites on the Internet, or web.

Web: Also called the World Wide Web, this is an information space on the Internet that is accessible from devices such as computers, cell phones, and tablets, using a URL as the address.

Website: a location connected to the Internet that maintains one or more pages on the World Wide Web

Wi-Fi: Short for wireless (the “fi” is an arbitrary syllable added on)

Wireless Access Point: A device that allows your device to access the internet. If a wireless access point (or router) does not have a password, it is unsecure, and you should assume that anyone can see what you are doing on your device.

Wireless Router: A piece of hardware that allows devices to connect to the internet without being plugged into the wall. Your wireless at home should be password protected, so that strangers cannot access all devices in your home using that wireless network.

Wireless: A technology that allows computers to connect to a network and/or the internet without using a physical connection. Wireless is available in an area when a wireless access point (also called a hotspot) has been created and made accessible to devices. Public wireless is less secure and caution should be used (ie, don't make purchases or send private emails over a wireless network). Private wireless networks (such as in your home) should be secured with a password.

World Wide Web: an information system on the Internet which allows documents to be connected to other documents by hypertext links, enabling the user to search for information by moving from one document to another.

Texting Acronyms

AF: As (naughty word)
AFK: Away from Keyboard
BTW: By the Way
B/C: Because
BFF: Best Friends Forever
BRB: Be Right Back
CU: See You
CYT: See You Tomorrow
DGMW: Don't Get Me Wrong
EOD: End of Discussion
EOM: End of Message
F2F: Face to Face
FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions (pronounced fak to rhyme with pack)
FREX: For Example
FTW: For the Win
FWIW: For What It's Worth
FYI: For Your Information
GR8: Great
HTH: Hope This Helps
ICYMI: In Case You Missed It
IDC: I Don't Care
IDK: I Don't Know
IIRC: If I Remember/Recall Correctly
IMHO: In My Humble Opinion
IMO: In My Opinion
IOW: In Other Words
IRL: In Real Life
J/K: Just Kidding
L8R: Later
LOL: Laugh(ing) Out Loud
MYOB: Mind Your Own Business
noob / n00b: Newbie
NNTR: No Need to Reply
NOYB: None of Your Business
NP: No Problem
NRN: No Reply Needed
NSFW: Not Safe for Work
OMG: Oh My God
OMY: On My Way
OTOH: On the Other Hand
OT: Off Topic
OTP: On the Phone
ROTFL: Rolling on the Floor Laughing
RTFM: Read the Fantastic Manual
RU: Are You
SFLR: Sorry for Late Reply
SO: Significant Other
TBC: To Be Continued
THX: Thanks
TIA: Thanks in Advance
TL;DR: Too Long Didn't Read
TMI: Too Much Information
TTYL: Talk to You Later
TUVM: Thank You Very Much
TYT: Take Your Time
UR: You Are / Your
woot / WooT: Hooray! Yay! Yippee!
W8: Wait
WFM: Works for Me
WRT: With Regard To
WTH: What the H(eck)
WTF: What the (naughty word)
YMMV: Your Mileage May Vary

Emoticons

(.V.)	Alien
O:-)	Angel
X-(	Angry
~:o	Baby
:-D	Big Grin
(*v*)	Bird
:-#	Braces
</3	Broken Heart
=^.^=	Cat
*<:o)	Clown
O.o	Confused
B-)	Cool
:_(	Crying
:'(	Crying
\:D/	Dancing
-	Dazed
:o3	Dog
#-o	Doh!
:*)	Drunk
//_^	Emo
>:)	Evil Grin
<><	Fish
:-(	Frown
:(	Frown
:-(	Frowning
=P	Frustrated
:-P	Frustrated
8-)	Glasses
$_$	Greedy

:->	Grin
=)	Happy
:-)	Happy
:)	Happy
#	Hashtag
<3	Heart
{}	Hug
:-|	Indifferent
X-p	Joking
:-)*	Kiss
:-*	Kiss
:*	Kiss
(-}{-)	Kissing
XD	Laughing
=D	Laughing Out Loud
)-:	Left-handed Sad Face
(-:	Left-handed Smiley Face
<3	Love
=/	Mad
:-)(-:	Married
@	Mention
<:3)~	Mouse
~,~	Napping
:-B	Nerd
^_^	Overjoyed
<l:o	Partying

:-/	Perplexed
=8)	Pig
@~)~~~~	Rose
=(	Sad
:-(	Sad
:(	Sad
:S	Sarcastic
:-@	Screaming
=O	Shocked
:-o	Shocked
:-)	Smile
:)	Smile
:-Q	Smoking
:>	Smug
:P	Sticking Tongue Out
:o	Surprised
:-J	Tongue in Cheek
:-&	Tongue Tied
=-O	Uh-oh
:-\	Undecided
:-E	Vampire
=D	Very Happy
;-)	Winking
;)	Winking
|-O	Yawn
8-#	Zombie

Please Support OLLI@WVU!

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Mountaineer Mall Unit C-17
PO Box 9123
Morgantown, WV 26506-9123
Office: (304) 293-1793
Email Address: olli@hsc.wvu.edu
http://www.olliatwvu.org