

WHAT IS THE WEB? A HOMEPAGE?

The “web” is a part of this network that links documents haphazardly together (based on interest of the author). The web has an addressing system which is called a URL (Uniform Resource Locator). The URL is like an address to someone’s house, but in this case, it refers to a file or resource available on the web. Whenever you click on a highlighted term in a webpage (a document displayed by your browser), you are linking over to a new document using the URL.

A homepage is a document on the web that an author designed about him/herself. It can also be a summary of a company. Designing webpages have become dramatically easier over the past few months.

Some important defenision:-

Homepage: The first or primary “page” of an organization or person. This “page” simply is a specially formatted document that can be interpreted by your web browser.

URL: “Uniform Resource Locator” This is the addressing system of the Internet.

Web: An interconnection between data sources available on the Internet. If diagrammed, it would look like a very tangled spider’s web.

Web Browser: An application (or program) that can connect to sites (computers) and get files for you. If possible, it tries to interpret the file and display it. There are many, many document formats which it has to support. If it can’t interpret it, often the browser will ask you what format it is in or offer to save it to your harddisk.

Here are a few sample URLs

URL Class:	Examples	Data Available
Government (.gov)	www.whitehouse.gov	Pres & VP info.
	www.ohio.gov	Ohio Government's Homepage
	www.nasa.gov	NASA's Homepage
	www.fbi.gov	Federal Bureau of Investigation
Schools (.edu)	www.byu.edu	Brigham Young University
	www.cuny.edu	City University of New York
	www.osu.edu	Ohio State University
Nonprofit Orgs (.org)	www.lds.org	Church's Future Homepage
	www.oclc.org	Library Resources
	www.public-domain.org	Public domain organization
Commercial Comp. (.com)	www.microsoft.com	Microsoft's homepage
	www.ibm.com	IBM
	www.hp.com	Hewlett Packard
	www.intel.com	Intel
	www.download.com	A shareware repository
	www.gw2k.com	Gateway 2000
Network Providers (.net)	www.mci.net	MCI Internet Server
	www.att.net	AT&T Internet Server
	www.sprint.net	Sprint Internet Server
Search Servers	www.yahoo.com	Webpage Search Server
	www.excite.com	Webpage Search Server
	www.infoseek.com	Webpage Search Server
	www.lycos.com	Webpage Search Server

The SERVICES AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET?

Not only do you get access to information on the Internet, you get access to people. There are several services available: EMail, Chat, Usenet, EPhone, and Cyber Rooms.

Electronic Mail (EMail)

A lot of servers also give you access to "email" or electronic mail. Email is a letter that gets sent to you through the Internet instead of the post office. Unlike postal letter, email is a file instead of paper. The power of

email allows you to send and receive messages from people all over the world for literally pennies.

Chat

Other mail systems include “chat” or “talk” sessions. In which The window gets split in two: the top part is who you are talking to and the bottom is you. You simply type and they see what you type on their screen and vice versa. This is great if you just want to “chat” or have need for interactive help and questions.

Usenet

Another message system available is called “Usenet” or “News”.

This message gets copied all over the world so anyone could either post another message following up with your posting or email you a direct response. Because millions of people read and post these messages, the servers often clear out the old ones (delete them) after a certain number of days. Usenet has a certain culture to it, and you find many, many acronyms. The best way to enter the Usenet population is to read the messages for a few days before posting your own. If you ask the wrong thing in the wrong place, you may get a mild “hand slap” or you may get scathing replies (called “flames”). There are tremendous advantages to using Usenet, because you are connected to a wealth of resources—people who want to help.

Internet Phone (EPhone)

Furthermore, there are some systems that allow you to “telephone” someone over the Internet and talk with them using your computer: this is called “EPhone” or “Electronic Phone”. To use this, you will need a sound card (which is included in most new machines). Additionally, some tools extend this further by sending slow-scan video with small, cheap video camaras that rest on the top of the monitor. The primary problem with EPhones is that you and your caller would have to have Internet access and software to support it. Also, there may be delays up to a few seconds between replies. Nevertheless, we should see some major changes pretty soon due to this new technology.

Cyber-Rooms

Cyber-Rooms (or Cyber Domains) are, perhaps, the most bizarre of all the interactive tools. They’re also the most volatile: even as I write this,

it's being defined, redefined and changed radically. When you enter this domain, you will see a scenery along with objects that represent people in the same "room" as you. In these domains, you can talk with these people, you can join together to play Internetstyle role playing games, etc.