

Technology Terms for the Home

Operating System:

Software that performs the basic functions needed for you to use the computer. It controls such items as display, keyboard, mouse and printer. The OS also allows you to run applications such as word processors or email.

Modem:

A device which connects your computer to your Internet Service Provider. Depending on your type of service (i.e. cable , DSL, dial-up, etc.) the modem may be connected to your telephone or cable jacks.

Internet/Web Browser:

An application that lets you request and send information on the Internet. The browser is how you will access your online course materials.

Website URL/Address:

Each website has a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) they specifies where the web pages are located on the Internet. The web browser's address field can be used to enter a specific web address.

Browser Plug-in:

A small application that works within your browser to display the certain types of content. If a plug-in is required your browser will usually prompt you to go to a specific website to download and install the application.

Browser Version:

At times your browser may be eligible for updates or upgrades . Typically you are given a choice on whether to permit this update. It is helpful to know which version of the browser you are using, particularly if you are experiencing problems accessing your course materials.

Pop-ups:

Pop-up windows are sometimes used for online advertisements. Most people prefer to prevent them by using a browser feature known as the Pop-Up Blocker. However, some content in your online course may use pop-up windows to share important information.

Cookies & Temporary Files:

Some websites temporarily download small files when you access the site. These files, called Cookies, can be used to open a secure session between your computer and another system such as ANGEL. They also can be used to recall certain information about your recent activity. In some cases it may be necessary to delete these temporary files.

Technology Terms for Internet Access

Internet Service Provider:

When you access the Internet from your home computer, data passes between your system and your modem. The modem also passes information through a cable or telephone line to your Internet Service Provider (ISP). The ISP is the company that you pay for your internet access. Your ISP acts as the connection between your home and the Internet.

Connection Speeds:

The connection speed will determine how fast you will be able to pass information between your home and the Internet. Connection speeds may vary for the same service. Many online courses have materials which can only be viewed easily when what are known as **broadband services** (such as DSL, Fiber or Cable). Slower connections are usually use a **dial-up service** through your telephone line.

Internet:

A global system of computers connected together to share information between systems. When you use a web browser to access a website, the request may travel through many different computers and paths before the response, for example the web page's content, returns to your home.

World- Wide Web (WWW):

While the Internet is the actual network, the WWW can be thought of as the most common use for the Internet. The WWW uses a specific data transfer method called **Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP)**. That is why most websites have a Uniform Resource Locator starting with the characters "http://".

Technology Terms for Your Online Course

Learning Management System:

Most online courses use a Learning Management System (LMS) to hold your course materials and other information. In order to access your online course you will use a unique username and password. These will be provided to you in a letter after you have registered for the course.

PDF:

Many online instructors share course materials using files that can be viewed online or transferred into your computer. One of the most common file types used is the **Portable Document Files (PDF)**. You can open these files with an application called Adobe Reader® which is free from Adobe.com.

Media Players:

Some courses include content such as video or other interactive exercises. This type of material usually requires web browser plug-ins or media players. These media materials are often in your course and are delivered to you using the LMS.

Streaming Video:

Some online courses deliver video content using a service that resides outside the LMS. To access these videos at home you will need to have a valid username and password.

Drop-Box:

A drop-box acts like a private mail slot between you and your instructor. You can type in assignment information directly in the Drop-box or optionally attached a file to your submission.

File Transfers:

When you move a file from the LMS onto your computer it is called Downloading the file.

You may also need to send files to your instructor as attachments to an email or a Drop-box. This is known as **Uploading the file** to the LMS.

Copy and Paste:

When you need to add text to a message in your online course , you may find it easier to first create the text using on your computer instead of typing the text directly in your course. This can be done easily by perform the sequence know as **Copy and Paste**.