

## Glossary of Terms

### **aggregator**

An aggregator, sometimes called a 'reader' or a 'feed reader', is software or a web application that collects web content (with rss feeds) such as news headlines, blogs, and podcasts of the user's choice in a single location for easy viewing. Web-based aggregators do not automatically download material onto your computer and are particularly useful if you use multiple or shared machines.

### **bandwidth**

Bandwidth is the amount of data that can be transferred over your Internet connection. Watching video over the Internet requires more bandwidth (uses more space) than a voice call or regular Internet surfing, so it can really slow your connection speed down.

### **blog**

A blog is a website where one or multiple authors post a series of entries, usually displayed in reverse chronological order. Blog can also be used as a verb, meaning to write or maintain a blog. Many blogs are text based and cover a specific domain such as politics or food; some are personal diaries. Other blogs integrate photos, audio, and video along with text. An important feature of most blogs is that readers can leave comments, making the format interactive. Blogs can be both public or private (restricted to registered/invited readers).

### **chat**

Chatting is simply communicating with text messages via the internet (like SMS or text messaging on a mobile phone) either through a downloaded program or directly on the web.

### **click & point**

Easy editing, similar to document editing in MS Word. Also called WYSIWYG "what you see is what you get" editing.

### **discussion board**

A discussion board is a place where people can ask questions and receive answers from others, within a virtual learning environment (or online classroom) or on the web. Discussion boards allow for online class discussion (organized by original question) and are also a good resource for answering questions about particular applications such as PBWiki or Nuuvo. Also called a forum.

### **extension**

An extension is an extra application for a program that "extends" your options for using the program. For example, in order to record voice in Skype, you can add an extension. If you use Firefox as your web browser, you can add an extension that lets you add bookmarks to your del.icio.us page. Also called an add-on.

### **HTML**

Hyper Text Markup Language is a web page writing language that is the easiest to learn, but is also easily copied into other sites if your site is open to the public.

### **Free with a big "F"**

A site that is free, but is hosted by a corporation or non-profit organization that gets money to run the site from advertisements.

### **free with little "f"**

A site that is free only in its basic versions. For more advanced tools you have to pay, usually on a yearly or monthly basis.

**mp3**

An mp3 is an audio format that compresses a digital audio file, removing certain parts of sound that are outside the hearing range of most people in order to make the file size smaller and more manageable. Similar principles are used by jpeg, an image compression format.

**open source**

A website or a program that is totally free and is being developed by a global community of users.

**podcast**

A podcast is a series of digital audio files distributed over the internet using rss for playback on mp3 players (not only on iPods) or computers. A podcast is different from a downloadable audio file or from streaming audio content because of the use of syndication, so that users can subscribe to the podcast and choose to download new content automatically. The host or author of a podcast is often called a podcaster. Audio and video 'pod'casts are sometimes called webcasts or vidcasts.

**podcatcher**

Podcatchers are similar to aggregators, in that they help you to manage your 'subscriptions' to web content. Most podcatchers are free of charge, but the software needs to be downloaded onto your computer from the web. Once the software is downloaded, podcatchers can automatically download new content onto your computer when it becomes available. You can take this content with you on an mp3 player, etc. into an offline environment.

**rss**

While there is some disagreement, most people agree that rss stands for really simple syndication. When a website has rss, it is possible to be notified whenever there are updates to the site. Sometimes rss is also referred to as a feed or a news feed. Atom is a similar format.

**sandbox**

A sandbox is a place to play with a program where you won't do any damage. Don't worry about what you are doing on this page, anything you do is reversible! Of course, if you see a comment, such as "You are about to delete the entire site. Are you sure you want to do this?," please ask someone if you should continue!

**streaming**

Streaming media is multimedia that is continuously received by the end-user (you) while it is being delivered by the provider (whoever runs the website). In order to receive streaming audio or video, you must be connected to the internet. Sometimes when you are using steaming media, you will see that the information is buffering. This means that the program uses a buffer to store an advance supply of audio or video data to compensate for momentary delays.

**voice**

This is just like having a telephone conversation over the Internet. It is usually free from computer-to-computer. You can often pay for additional services, such as calling from your computer to a landline, or having voicemail. Also called Voice over Internet Protocol, VoIP, IP Telephony, Internet telephony, and Voice over Broadband.

**video**

If you have a webcam (often integrated into laptops now), you communicate using live video over the internet. This option requires more bandwidth and can slow down the voice portion of the conversation, as well as other programs running on your computer. It is always possible to turn the video portion of a voice call off.

**virtual learning environment**

A virtual learning environment is a program that helps you manage a classroom online. You can create assignments, forums, discussion boards, chatrooms, quizzes, and keep track of students' marks (to name a few options). Also called a VLE or a course management system (CMS).

**webcam**

A webcam is simply a small video camera (usually connected to a USB port) that is either embedded in your laptop (especially newer versions) or that sits on top of your computer.

**widget**

A web application (program) that adds things to your pages. Because it is a program, only add widgets to your wiki or computer if they are from trusted sites, such as Google or Yahoo!.

**wiki**

From the Hawaiian meaning "quick" or "fast". Because making a web page is fast with a wiki, this name stuck. The most well-known wikipage is [Wikipedia](#) (fast becoming the most often used English language encyclopedia on the Web).