

Buzzword Table

Compiled by Marty Troum

www.troumconsulting.com

mtroum@comcast.net

Buzzword	Definition
Analog	Generally, an adjective describing a signal which is continuous in time and amplitude, as opposed to a discrete (digital) signal.
Bandwidth	For computers, it's the rate of data transfer in bits-per-second. For signal processing, it's the range of frequencies in Hertz (cycles-per-second).
Bit	Binary Digit, the basic element of computer communication
Blackberry	A handheld device that combines telephone with video and computer capabilities (Internet, GPS, PDA, etc.). It's a brand name of Smartphone.
Blog	A type of website for commentary, graphics, video, and can be interactive. It's a contraction of WEBLOG.
Bluetooth	A low power, short distance, wireless protocol (radio frequency) that allows fixed and mobile devices to communicate.
Blu-ray	Uses blue laser (BD) rather than red laser (DVD) for reading and writing of disc. Has greater capacity, therefore higher definition of audio and video.
Browsing	The reading of web pages with a browser such as Netscape Navigator, Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox. The browser translates the code into visual pages using hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP).
Burning	The act of transferring data from the computer to external media, usually a CD or DVD.
Byte	One "character" in binary form (made up of 8 bits) that can be valued at 0 (zero) to 255.
Chat Room	A virtual location (on the internet) where many participants can read and write messages to one another in a real-time environment.
Cloud Computing	The use of multiple servers and databases in an internet environment allowing users to access applications that capitalize on the available data.
Coaxial Cable	Center strand of copper wire surrounded by insulation and then an outer layer of

	conducting material, all covered with protective outer jacket. TV cable (RG-6) is an example.
Comcast Cable	Infrastructure of underground coaxial cable and satellite signals which provide TV, Internet, and telephone capabilities to subscribers.
Convergence	The merging of multiple technologies in the digital world.
CSS	Cascading Style Sheets are used along with HTML in formatting web pages on the internet. A form of programming language.
Dial-up	Telephone line used to dial an Internet Service Provider (ISP) through an older modem at a speed of 56kbps.
Digital	Generally, an adjective describing discrete signals using bits and Bytes. See also "Analog"
Download	To transfer data (usually software applications, pictures, music, etc.) from commercial locations (servers) to your computer, using the internet.
DSL/High Speed	A Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) is an internet access line utilizing telephone company infrastructure for purposes of providing subscribers (customers) with high speed access to the internet (1500kbps). Bandwidth is not as great as cable providers (>3000kbps).
DVD	A storage medium that is capable of holding 4.7 gigabytes of information. Generally related to storing movies.
FaceBook	A social networking website with over 200 million members. Part of the "Wild West" of the internet. See also "MySpace."
Favorites	Addresses (URLs) of an individual's "favorite" websites to visit. These are also known as "bookmarks"
Fiber-Optic Cable	Glass or plastic fiber which carries light and is unaffected by electrical interference and crosstalk and has greater bandwidth than copper cable. Used in communication systems.
Firewall	A firewall is a part of a computer system or network that is designed to block unauthorized access while permitting outward communication.
Flash Card/Memory	Electrically Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory (EEPROM) that is used in camera cards, audio players, thumb drives, and even modern computers.
Flash/Thumb Drive	Miniature EEPROM for easy transporting of data.
GIF	Graphics Interchange Format developed by Compuserve as an image format. It

	supports up to 8 bits per pixel, limiting colors to 256 for each frame.
Googling	The act of using the search engine, Google, for finding information about particular subjects.
Hacking	The act of breaking into a computer (using computer code) to usually achieve mischievous ends.
Hexadecimal	Number system with base 16 (also part of computer “talk”)
HTML	Hypertext Markup Language is the set of commands that allow the creation of web pages and other items viewable by a web browser using HTTP.
HTTP	Hypertext Transfer Protocol is the request/response standard that allows the transfer of information from a server to a client and vice versa.
iPhone	An internet connected multimedia “smartphone” combining voice, text messaging, media player, and Internet capabilities (email, etc.)
iPod (iPod Touch)	A portable media player from Apple Inc.
JavaScript	A programming language that facilitates the development of dynamic websites. It was developed by Sun Microsystems.
JPG, JPEG	Joint Photographic Experts Group developed this lossy compression method for photographic images.
Malware	From the words Malicious Software, this software is designed to infiltrate or damage a computer system without the owner’s knowledge or consent.
Modem	A Modulator/De-Modulator which codes and decodes digital signals on an analog carrier signal. Turns bits into sounds for transmission over telephone lines and then re-converts the sound to bits.
MP3	“MPEG-1 Audio Layer 3” is a digital audio encoding standard (lossy data compression) designed by MPEG and used for the transfer and playback of music on digital audio players.
MPG, MPEG	Moving Pictures Experts Group standards for video compression.
MySpace	A social networking website with an interactive, user-submitted network of friends, personal profiles, blogs, groups, photos, music, and videos for teenagers and adults internationally. Has more than 100 million accounts.
Network	The linking of multiple computers and/or peripheral devices (printer, scanner, etc.) in varying environments (home, business, etc.).
Palm Treo	Brand name of Smartphone from Palm, Inc. which competes with other

	Smartphones.
PCM	Pulse Code Modulation is the process by which analog signals are converted to digital signals.
Phishing	The fraudulent process of attempting to acquire sensitive data from a computer owner by devious means (emails, web sites, etc.)
Pixel	From the words Picture Element, it represents the smallest item of information and a sample of an original image and can be dots, squares, or rectangles.
Pop Ups	A form of online advertising on the World Wide Web intended to attract web traffic or capture email addresses. The pop-up window containing an advertisement is usually generated by JavaScript
Ripping	Transferring media (music, movies, etc.) from the carrier (CD, Tape, LP, DVD, etc.) to the hard disk of the computer.
Router	A networking device that is a combination of hardware and software that routes and forwards information/signals.
Server	A combination of computer hardware and software that provides a “service” to clients such as web servers, email servers, database servers, etc.
Sexting	Sending sexually explicit messages and photos over cellular phones.
Sidekick II	Palo Alto-based Danger, Inc. (now owned by Microsoft) developed the software and backend services behind the Sidekick II (formerly the Hiptop) a personal organizer/smartphone available in the U.S. from T-Mobile.
Skype	A software application that allows users to make free telephone calls over the Internet. It also includes video of the participants, if they have a camera attached to the computer.
Snipe	The act of bidding at the very last moment in an online auction. Usually requires software.
Spam	Unsolicited and undesired electronic messages.
Streaming Video	Continuous delivery of multimedia (TV, movies) over a network.
Texting	The sending of short text messages using mobile phones.
3G Network	3 rd generation of mobile networking system standards (initially cellular telephone networks) for wireless voice, video, and data transmission. Services include wide-area wireless voice telephone, video calls, and broadband wireless data, all in a mobile environment

Trojan Horse	A form of malware that resides in the victim's computer and sends data to a host computer.
Twitter	A free social networking service that allows users to upload messages ("tweets") of 140 characters or less so that subscribers may read them.
Upload	The moving of data from your computer to a server in a remote location.
URL	Uniform Resource Locator is the "address" of an identified resource available for retrieval. e.g. http://www.yahoo.com is the URL for the Yahoo web site.
Virus	Mischievous computer code that acts as an infection in a target computer and spreads to other areas and computers.
Wikipedia	A free online encyclopedia.
Wireless	The connection of electronic devices without using electrical conductors (cell phones, remote controls, computer mice, etc.) using some form of energy (radio frequency, infrared light, laser light, etc.).
Worm	A computer worm is a self-replicating computer program. It uses a network to send copies of itself to other nodes (computers on the network) and it may do so without any user intervention.

Note: Some definitions are excerpted from www.wikipedia.org