Assignment 1: "The Internet, Part I"

due by section during the week of 9 February 1999

Write all of your answers on this sheet of paper.

True or False. (3 points each.)

The following six questions are intended to test your understanding of the material from the first lecture and the first required reading assignment. Please circle either T for true or F for false for each question.

1.   T   F   The Internet and the World Wide Web are the same thing.
2.   T   F   `http://www.courses.fas.harvard.edu/~cscie1` is an example of a URL.
3.   T   F   `malan@fas.harvard.edu` is an example of a URL.
4.   T   F   Web pages often contain hyperlinks (a.k.a. links) which are spots you can click on in order to move to another Web page.
5.   T   F   The Internet is the largest computer network in the world.
6.   T   F   A Web browser allows you to view pages on the World Wide Web.

The following fourteen questions are designed to give us an idea of your computing background. Obviously, there is no "right" answer for any of these questions, so please answer each honestly by circling either T for true or F for false.

7.   T   F   "I am intimidated by computers."
8.   T   F   "I have watched others use computers but have never used one myself."
9.   T   F   "I have played with computers but am generally too afraid to do anything without help."
10.   T   F   "I use a computer regularly, and I can basically do what I need to do as long as no one changes anything."
11.   T   F   "I have a Macintosh computer at home."
12.   T   F   "I have a PC at home—*i.e.*, a computer running DOS or Windows."
13.   T   F   "I have access to the Internet at home."
14.   T   F   "I have used e-mail before."
15.   T   F   "I have surfed the Web before."
16.   T   F   "I know how to download software from the Web."
17.   T   F   "I feel comfortable installing software on a computer."
18.   T   F   "I have seen the inside of a computer."
19.   T   F   "I have opened up a computer and replaced parts inside."
20.   T   F   "I have made a Web page before."

Assignment continues on opposite site...

Short Answers. (10 points each.)

Please answer each of the following four questions with one or more sentences in the space provided.

21.   Why are you taking this course? What do you hope to get out of this course?

22.   If you could only ask one question about computers and/or the Internet, what would your question be?

23.   What is the so-called Y2K problem? (Do not ask anyone for the answer to this question and do not look up the answer. If you have absolutely no idea, "I'm not sure" is a perfectly acceptable answer for this question.)

24.   Are there any topics that you would like this course to cover that are not listed on the syllabus? If so, what are they? If not, what topic(s) already on the syllabus are you most interested in learning about?

Extra Credit. (5 points.)

Please answer the question below in one or more words.

25.   As an undergraduate at the University of Illinois in Champaign, a young man by the name of Marc Andreessen created the first Web browser with a team of students and staff at the university's National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA). With a friendly, point-and-click interface, this browser, called NCSA Mosaic, was distributed freely over the Internet. NCSA Mosaic gained an estimated 2 million users worldwide in just over one year. After graduating with a degree in computer science in 1993, Andreessen founded a company.

        What name did he choose for his company?