

## Assignment 2: “The Internet, Part II”

*due by section during the week of 16 February 1999*

Please write or type your answers on one or more separate pieces of paper.  
Do not write your answers on this sheet.

### Short answers. (5 points each.)

*The following seven questions are intended to test your understanding of the material from the first two lectures and required reading assignments. Please answer each question with one or more words or sentences.*

1. Consider the e-mail address `mickey@disney.com`. By definition, “mickey” is called the username of this address. What is “disney.com” called?
2. At least once a week, you probably receive one or more pieces of junk mail from your postal carrier. Nowadays, it’s not uncommon to receive similarly unwanted e-mails. What are unsolicited, mass e-mails typically called?
3. Joe User has a computer at work as well as a computer at home, both of which are connected to the Internet. If Joe wanted to copy an important file from his work computer to his home computer while sitting at home one night, what kind of program could Joe use?
4. Recall that Usenet newsgroups are divided into hierarchies of major topics so that finding groups on particular topics is easier. For instance, `comp.macs` could be the name of a newsgroup about Macintosh computers; since the topic of this newsgroup is computers, the newsgroup is, appropriately, in the computers (*i.e.*, `comp`) hierarchy. What might the name of a newsgroup about baseball be?
5. If you received an e-mail containing “PLEASE SEE ME NOW” from your boss, what could you infer about your boss’s mood at the time he wrote the e-mail? Why?
6. If you received an e-mail containing “Guess what I heard today. :-)” from a friend, did your friend likely hear good news or bad news? Why?
7. The URL of Harvard University’s Web site is `www.harvard.edu`; since the nature of this site is educational, this URL, appropriately, ends with `.edu`. The URL of the FBI’s Web site is `www.fbi.gov`; since the nature of this site is governmental, this URL, appropriately, ends with `.gov`. What URL might Pepsi, the cola company, have for its Web site?
8. Is `http:\\www.starwars.com\\index.html` a valid URL? If not, why not? (You do not need to get on the Web to answer this question.)
9. Is `http://www.netscape.com/new/index.html#download` a valid URL? If not, why not? (You do not need to get on the Web to answer this question.)
10. Is `http://cnn.com` a valid URL? If not, why not? (You do not need to get on the Web to answer this question.)

*Assignment continues on opposite side...*

### Getting on the 'Net. (15 points.)

*Please answer the question below in three or more words.*

11. Consider the following scenario. The date is Wednesday, 14 April 1999. The time is three o'clock in the afternoon. Taxes are due tomorrow. But Joe User cannot find his forms! Suddenly, Joe recalls an ad he saw on television. The IRS is now distributing tax forms via the World Wide Web at [http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/prod/forms\\_pubs/index.html](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/prod/forms_pubs/index.html)! Phew! But wait a minute. Joe doesn't have access to the Internet from home! Panicking, Joe jumps into his car and sets off in search of an onramp to the Information Superhighway.

Name three (3) places Joe might go for access to the Internet. *I.e.*, where might Joe go to browse the World Wide Web in search of his tax forms?

### Weaving your own Web. (35 points.)

*Please answer the question below in five or more sentences.*

12. The IRS's online distribution of tax forms is, without a doubt, a useful service to provide over the Web. For many people nowadays, printing such forms off of the Web is certainly faster than calling the IRS and waiting for the forms to arrive via snail mail (*i.e.*, the U.S. Postal Service). Similarly, printing course handouts off of our course Web site is, likely, more convenient for you than telephoning or e-mailing your TF that you would like copies brought to you at your next section meeting. (Certainly, your being able to print out the handouts yourself is more convenient for us!) The World Wide Web, then, can be seen as a sort of provider of information and services.

Consider, now, how this World Wide Web might serve you. Specifically, describe five (5) types of Web sites that you would find (or already find) useful and explain why you would find each helpful. (The sites you describe need not already exist on the Web.)

*To give you a sense of the specificity we expect in your answer, here is a sample description of one site:*

*"I would find a Web site that distributes tax forms very useful. If such a site existed, I could visit it and print out tax forms at home, rather than waiting for the forms to arrive via the U.S. Postal Service."*

### Extra Credit. (5 points.)

*Please answer the question below in one or more words.*

13. "Cyberspace" refers to the digital world constructed by the Internet. In this world, people communicate not with spoken words or body language, but through e-mails, bulletin boards, and chat rooms. It can be said that, in the recent film *You've Got Mail*, Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan fell in love in cyberspace as a result of their digital communications.

Who coined this word "cyberspace"? Where? When?