Definitions
More about the Internet
9 February 1999

downloading	Copying a file *from* a server somewhere *down to* your personal computer.
FTP	*File Transfer Protocol.* The language used by FTP programs to transfer files across a network. *E.g.*, Fetch is an FTP client for the Mac OS while WS_FTP is an FTP client for Windows.
HTTP	*HyperText Transfer Protocol.* The language that Web browsers and Web servers use to communicate with each other.
internet	A network of intranets. *I.e.*, a network made up of smaller networks. (Do not confuse this term with *Internet*, whose first letter is capitalized.)
intranet	A private network of computers inside an office building or home.
ListServ	An mailing list to which you can subscribe in order to receive daily, weekly, or monthly e-mails about a particular topic.
POP server	An server to which you can connect with an e-mail client (*e.g.*, Eudora, Netscape Mail, Microsoft Outlook) to download your e-mail to your personal computer. *POP* stands for *Post Office Protocol.*
SMTP server	A server to which you can connect with an e-mail client in order to send e-mails out over the Internet. *SMTP* stands for *Simple Mail Transfer Protocol.*
URL	*Uniform Resource Locator.* An Internet address usually of the form `http://www.domain.com` that uniquely identifies a page on the Web. By visiting a URL with a Web browser, you will see the page that it uniquely identifies. (See pages 10 and 11 of your textbook, *Information Technology: The Breaking Wave*, for additional examples of URLs.)
Unix	An operating system, reminiscent of DOS. Recall that `fas.harvard.edu` is a Unix server. Typically, the only way to run programs on a Unix machine is to type their name at a command prompt (recall fas.harvard.edu's fas% prompt). Most Unix systems do not boast a graphical user interface (GUI)—*i.e.*, buttons, scrollbars, windows, *etc.*
USENET	The world's biggest electronic discussion forum. In short, Internet newsgroups—a.k.a. bulletin boards—which allow you to read and post messages about particular topics. These newsgroups are divided into hierarchies of major topics, such as alternative, computers, and recreation. Newsgroups in the alternative hierarchy are named `alt.something`; newsgroups in the computers hierarchy are named `comp.something`; and newsgroups in the recreation hierarchy are named `rec.something`. (N.B. The bulletin boards on our course Web site are not USENET newsgroups, technically. But they are designed to act just like USENET newsgroups.)