## Computer Science E-1: Understanding Computers and the Internet Harvard University Extension School Fall 2005

## Lecture 4 Jargon The Internet

blind carbon copy BCC. Used for sending messages to recipients such that the targeted recipients

(TO and CC) are unaware of the BCC'd party's receipt of the email.

blog Short for "web log," blogs are generally thought of as frequently updated online

journals.

**carbon copy** CC. A method of copying email messages to a third party.

**CC** See carbon copy.

**chat** Real-time-communication system for users on networked computers.

**client** A host or software running on a host that uses a remote service on another

computer (a "server").

ccTLD Country Code TLD. Two-character abbreviation for countries' names used as

TLDs.

domain A group of related computers that share some logical connection. Also the name

of such a group (e.g., harvard.edu).

**email** Electronic mail.

email address An address (often of the form username@domain.tld or

username@subdomain.domain.tld) that identifies a user's email inbox on the

Internet.

**emoticon** Short for "emotion icon" (aka a smiley :-).

**GET** HTTP command to retrieve webpages

**HTTP** Hyper Text Transfer Protocol. The language webservers and web browsers use to

communicate.

IM Instant Messaging. A means by which to conduct a real-time, text-based

conversation.

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**IMAP** Internet Message Access Protocol. A language clients and servers use to exchange

email from the latter to the former that allows subsequent changes on the client to

be mirrored on the server.

**instant message** See IM.

internet A large network made up of a number of smaller networks.

**Internet** The global network of networks.

intranet A (typically private) network meant for use within a specific organization or group.

**LAN** Local Area Network. A relatively small network usually comprising geographically

proximal computers.

listserv A type of mailing list program that allows users to self subscribe to communities of

interest.

**netiquette** Internet etiquette.

**network** An interconnected system of computers.

**P2P** See peer-to-peer.

peer-to-peer A means of sharing and delivering files among hosts on a network

**POP** Post Office Protocol. A language clients and servers use to exchange email from

the latter to the former that does not allow subsequent changes on the client to be

mirrored on the server.

**server** A host that runs a service, such as email.

**SFTP** Secure File Transfer Protocol. A language used by clients and servers to exchange

files via encryption.

SMTP Simple Mail Transfer Protocol. A language used by clients in servers to deliver

email from the former to the latter.

**snail mail** Regular mail delivered by the United States Postal Service.

**spam** Unsolicited junk email.

**SSH** Secure Shell. A language used by clients and servers to allow a user on the former

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to access and control an account on the latter.

subdomain A domain-within-a-domain typically representing some logical subdivision of a

larger entity. For example, fas.harvard.edu is a subdomain of harvard.edu.

surf A term used synonymously with "browse" to indicate a casual perusal of content

on the Internet.

**TLD** Top-Level Domain. The "top" of the domain structure, hierarchically speaking.

Semantically, the last portion of a domain name (e.g. .edu, .com, .net, .org, .uk).

URL Uniform Resource Locator. A unique address for electronic resources (e.g.,

webpages) available on the Internet, typically of the form

protocol://host.domain.tld/path.

**Usenet** A collection of newsgroups (*i.e.*, bulletin boards or message boards).

**WAN** Wide Area Network. A relatively large network usually comprising multiple LANs.

weblog See blog.

**WLAN** Wireless Local Area Network. A relatively small network usually comprising

geographically proximal computers connected wirelessly.

**World Wide Web** A network of hosts on the Internet that serve content via the HTTP protocol.