Lecture 9
Jargon
Security, Continued

activation key A "code" that one has to input in order to use a piece of software.

CD key A "code" that one has to input in order to install a piece of software.

cryptography The science of encrypting information. In encryption, data is "scrambled" using a code or cipher, means of transforming the data from "plaintext" into "ciphertext."

cryptology The study of both cryptography and cryptanalysis (breaking codes).

DES Data Encryption Standard. A 56-bit cipher developed in the 1970s used as the official encryption algorithm by the U.S. It has been superseded by 3DES and AES.

firewall A tool to enforce security by blocking network communication as specified by configuration. Can be either software or hardware.

obfuscation Concealing the meaning of something by making it harder to read.

product activation See activation key.

proxy server An intermediary through which clients access network services.

registration code See activation key.

rot13 "ROTate by 13." A simple cipher whereby letters are "rotated" 13 places. For instance, A becomes N, B becomes O, *etc.*

RSA A "public-key" cipher. The most common one in use today, it is utilized both to encrypt data and to sign messages.

virus scanner A piece of software that blocks, searches for, and removes viruses.

VPN Virtual Private Network. A means of securely connecting two networks, even if geographically remote.