Techie terms - jargon buster

Sometimes you can get bogged down in all the jargon when learning about something new.

Check out this jargon buster for some simple explanations of techie terms. Get to know your browser from your bot or why spam doesn't always come from a tin.

Words which appear in bold **like this** are also terms explained in the glossary.

If you are using this within a group, you might want to talk through the terms and meanings. You could then have a go at the **jargon buster word search** for a bit of fun!

Term	Meaning
Android	Android is an operating system for mobile phones and tablets, a bit like PCs run Microsoft Windows as their operating system.
Antivirus	Security **software** that helps protect your computer from **viruses** spread online.
App / application	App is short for application. These are **programs** that you can **download** onto a **smartphone** or **tablet computer** to help you do things. For example, you could **download** your bank's app to help you bank **online**.
Bookmark	Bookmarking a **website** allows you to easily save it so that you can return to it later, just like using a bookmark in a book.
Bot	An internet bot, is a software programme that runs simple and repetitive tasks automatically over the internet. You might come across a chatbot on a customer service site, or there are malicious bots that spread **spam** content.
Broadband	This is usually used to describe a high-speed connection to the **internet**. If you are going to be doing lots of things **online**, like watching videos or gaming, you might want to consider fibre broadband.
Browser	Something that allows you to view websites on the **internet**. Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge are two examples of internet browsers.
Cloud	Allow us to save and access our files through the **internet** from around the world on mulitple devices.

Term	Meaning
Desktop computer	A computer that (unlike a **laptop** or **tablet computer**) is not a portable device. You would usually keep it in one location, like a desk. It might have a separate keyboard, **monitor** and **mouse**.
Document	If you use a **computer** to create a letter, instructions or a CV for example, that would be known as a document, just like the offline equivalent.
Download	To get a **file** onto your computer from a website. You can then edit or print it off.
Email	A way of sending messages and **files** to someone electronically.
Font	The way a piece of text looks. For example: Here's some text in one font. Here's some text in another font.
Hardware	The physical parts of a computer, such as a **monitor**.
History	A record in your **browser** of all the sites you have visited on the internet. For example, if you have completed a course on the Skills for Tomorrow site, this will be recorded in your history.
HTTP	These letters form part of a website **URL** and are added automatically by the computer when the website is displayed. Sometimes followed by the letter S, which would show that the website is safe and secure to use – for example, https://www.google.co.uk
Hyperlink / Link	A website address that you can click on, that takes you directly to a webpage or other online content. Often underlined and in a different colour.
Icon	An icon is a small image that, when selected, opens an **app, file** or piece of **software**. You can store and re-arrange them on your smart device for easy access.
Internet	The internet is a global communication network. It allows all computers and devices with an internet connection (for most household devices this is known as **wi-fi**) to connect with one another and to send and receive information.
Install	Setting up **software** on your device so it works as it should do.
Laptop	A small computer which is made up of a screen and a keyboard which folds in half so that it can be easily carried.
Log on / log in	To sign into a website with your own details.
Memory	Just like your memory, this is where the computer stores all its information.

Term	Meaning
Mobile data	Mobile data allows your phone (and other mobile devices) to access the **internet** when you're out and about, and not connected to **wi-fi**.
Monitor	The part of a computer that you look at. Similar to a TV, it shows the information on the screen.
Mouse	A small device, that you can move around a flat surface. It moves the on-screen cursor to different places on the screen. You can right or left click to perform certain on-screen actions.
Offline	Working on a device but without an **internet** connection.
Online	Working on a device with an **internet** connection.
Password	For many online accounts, you will need a username and password. For the best passwords, use a mix of letters, numbers and symbols. This will make it harder for scammers to guess, and you should never write it down.
PC	Personal Computer.
Podcast	A podcast is an audio version of a programme. With 1,000s of topics to choose from you can listen on the go from your smart device.
Popup	An extra window or screen that appears when you are on a website.
Processor	The brains of the computer. Processors are available at different speeds, the faster the processor, the more things it can do at once, which means the computer will be faster.
QR code	A machine-readable code consisting of a mixture of black and white squares. It stores full website information. The camera on your **smartphone** can recognise the image and take you to the full website.
Recycle bin	Where documents on your computer go when you delete them. Sending them to the recycle bin doesn't mean they're gone forever. If you made a mistake or changed your mind, you can un-delete them.
Refresh / reload	If you go to a **website** that doesn't load properly, refreshing / reloading can help the computer connect to the website again.
Scroll / Scrolling	To scroll or scrolling is the actions of moving text or graphics on the screen. Move (your mouse or finger, depending on your device) up, down or across to view different parts of it.
Search engine	A **website** used to find information on the **internet**. For example, www.google.co.uk
Shopping basket	When shopping online, the **website** will put all the items you want to buy together into a shopping basket ready for you to pay for later.

Term	Meaning
Social networks	Using **websites** to talk to people and share things, such as text, images and videos. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are examples of social networks.
Software	Similar to an **app/application**, software is something that you can **download** and **install** onto your computer. Software performs a specific task or function, for example a word processor or a computer game.
Smartphone	A mobile phone that can be used to access the **internet**. One of the most famous smartphones is the iPhone.
Spam	Unwanted **email**.
Streaming	Streaming means listening to music or watching video in 'real time'. You can watch live events or concerts through a continuous stream of data.
Tab	When searching and viewing pages **online**, each will have its own 'tab'. They are like pages, and you could have several 'pages' (or tabs) open at once.
Tablet computer	A small portable computer without a physical keyboard. One of the most famous tablet computers is the iPad.
Touchpad / trackpad	A small rectangle surface on a **laptop**. Touching the pad and moving your finger around can move the cursor in the same way that using a **mouse** would.
Upload	To post something on the internet, for example to post a photo onto Facebook.
URL	The text you type to get to a website, for example www.google.co.uk is a URL.
Virus	Just like a cold, computer viruses can spread and affect your computers functions. Scammers often use viruses to steal information from your computer. Be aware of **emails** with attachments or **links** that may trigger a virus.
Website	A page or collection of pages on the internet that contain specific information.
Wi-fi	Wi-fi connects you to the internet wirelessly. You need to be in range of a **broadband router** and often enter the wi-fi **password** to gain access.

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