

TECH SPEAK

SO SIMPLE YOUR MOM COULD UNDERSTAND

Do you ever encounter problems with your computer? Where's the first place you go to for help? Many turn to online manuals and guides, the likes of which can be so confusing that you wish you hadn't bothered. Some use the office tech-guy - that go-to person who seems almost magical in their ability to fix all of your issues at the click of a button, and improve your download speed and clear up your desktop all at once.

That's all well and good, but sometimes you just want to understand the problem for yourself. If the information you're given by a manual or an office tech-guy is simply full of jargon, you're going to struggle.

For that reason, we've compiled this helpful guide to help you decipher some unnecessarily complicated computer jargon - there's even a section so simple, your mom could understand - so there's no excuses from now on!

TERM	TECH SPEAK	LAYMAN'S TERMS	SO SIMPLE YOUR MOM COULD UNDERSTAND
ARCHIVING	Data archiving involves moving important data that is not used regularly to a separate storage device to be used at a later date	Take your files and place them elsewhere on your PC for safer keeping, or plug in your stick and keep them on a shelf for a while until you get curious as to what's on it	Put something away in a safe place for future reminiscing and for pleasant afternoons of reflection
ASP	An Application Service Provider manages your organisations' requirements from a central data center	ASP provides your company with distance-based IT support and service	ASP lends you a helping hand when your computer won't do as it's told
BACKUP	Copying files to a secure zip drive or removable driver to avoid loss of data	Making another copy of an important file in case something goes wrong with the original one	Like choosing to receive paper bank statements in addition to your online bank account, so you always have a record if the site is down
BPS	Bits per second measures the speed of a network's performance	Bits per second measures how fast your computer network is operating	The higher the bits per second, the faster your computer will download your favorite TV show
BSOD	Blue Screen of Death	What you see when your Windows computer crashes	If it all goes blue and turns to gibberish, your computer has crashed
BIOS	Basic Input/Output System	The code that gets your computer to start up its Operating System	What you wait for while your computer is starting up
CACHING	Caching eliminates the need for browsing by providing you with the most recent file copy on your hard drive	Caching makes your browsing experience faster by storing the most recent files you were using	Your computer stores the most recent files you opened, so you don't have to remember where you saved them
CLOUD COMPUTING	Cloud computing allows employees to use web based applications - users connect to the cloud to access tools and information	Cloud computing describes online software borrowing, allowing users to access their apps and info remotely	Cloud computing allows you to write and edit your documents from any computer
CRAC UNITS	CRAC units (Computer Room Air Conditioning) prevent the overheating of network rooms and data centers by maintaining the air distribution, temperature and humidity levels	CRAC units maintain a network room's optimum temperature to make sure everything runs smoothly	CRAC units monitor the temperature of your computer to make sure it is cool enough to work properly
DATA CENTER	Data centers house a mixture of networked computer servers which are used by large companies for data storing or processing needs	Data centers are used to store servers, backup power supplies and computer security devices	The main hub where computer systems are stored
DEDICATED SERVER HOSTING	Where an organization leases a server, based in a data center. Unlike with shared hosting, this server is not shared with any other firm.	Your company's server is leased solely to you from a data center	A remote computer rented out to an individual organization by a data center
DNS	Domain Name System translates browser searches and domain names into an IP address	Each phrase you type into a browser will be translated into an IP address by the Domain Name System, taking you to the correct website	The clever bit of magic that happens when you type in what you're looking for and the Internet takes you to the right page
FTTC	Fiber To The Cabinet allows for a high speed Internet connection thanks to the many twisted coaxial cables connected to your nearest street cabinet	Fiber To The Cabinet refers to the cables which run outside of your home or business, allowing you to enjoy high speed Internet	FTTC is how your Internet manages to work so fast
ISP	ISPs provide businesses and households with Internet access	Your Internet Service Provider is the company you choose to provide your Internet	Your ISP is the company who gives you access to the Internet
LAMP STACK / MAMP / WAMP	The first four letters of the solution stack components, Linux (Mac for MAMP and Windows for WAMP), Apache, MySQL and PHP/Perl/Python, allowing for heavy-duty and high-availability websites	The first four letters of components needed to run a website using Linux (LAMP), Apple Macs (MAMP) and Windows (WAMP)	The four main parts that a website needs - LAMP uses Linux, MAMP if you have an Apple Mac and WAMP if you have Windows
MANAGED CLOUD HOSTING	Managed Cloud Hosting allows companies to both share and gain access to resources on a remote network	Allows your company to share and access data externally	Lets you access your work documents when working from home
PRIVATE CLOUD	The cloud provider's data center reserves your company private space for data storage and sharing	Your company is given its own private space where you can store data for internal use only	Like keeping your diary under lock and key - your secrets are kept safe
PUBLIC CLOUD	Your cloud provider gives other Internet users access to applications and storage on the cloud	Your company's resources are made available to other Internet users	Like leaving your diary open for passers-by to read - everyone with internet access can see what you've written
REDUNDANCY	A physical backup to aid the recovery of a failed system or component	Having another network device which can be used if the existing one fails	Like calling the IT department when you're having problems with your work computer
SINGLE INSTANCE	The system stores one single copy of content for multiple users to share, avoiding duplication of data and increasing company efficiency	All users share the same document to avoid duplication of data and maximise efficiency	Like having one calendar for the whole family to share - everyone knows what's going on
SSL	Secure Sockets Layer manages the security of messages which are transmitted over the Internet	Secure Sockets Layer makes sure that your data is secure when you're using the Internet	Taking the safe route home at night - the SSL makes sure your information is passed over the Internet with no outside interference
TCP/IP	Transmission Control Protocol/ Internet Protocol is the two-fold language process by which the Internet works. TCP puts the message together while IP ensures the address is correct	Gives the specification for data formatting, its address, how it is transmitted and routed and how the destination receives it	A set of rules which make the Internet run smoothly
TLD	A Top Level Domain is at the top of the hierarchy in the Internet's Domain Name System	A Top Level Domain is the last part of the domain name, e.g. the .com of a web address	A Top Level Domain is like the city of an address - without knowing it, you won't be able to reach your destination
UPS	UPS ensures computers are backed-up with a battery in the event of a power failure or too-low voltage level	Uninterruptible Power Supply - your computer contains a battery so it can still run even if there's a power failure	Allows your computer to turn off safely in the event of a power cut
VPN	Virtual Private Network, allowing private networks to be extended across a public network, while maintaining the private network's security policy	Virtual Private Network, allowing access to a private network via the Internet	Lets you check your work emails from home, securely
WI-FI	Local area wireless technology	A wireless networking technology that allows computers and other devices to communicate over a wireless signal	Lets you surf the Internet from anywhere in the house without the need for a long wire to your phone line