



Dictionary of Computer and Internet Terms

Twelfth Edition

More than 3,200 terms defined and explained,
many with helpful illustrations and tables

Practical guidance for business software users includes
terminology, computer security, law, and ethics

New material on the technology behind smartphones,
tablets, and smart home devices

Computer programming, algorithms, languages,
and operating systems

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In the United States, most of the pornography on the Internet is legal, but sexually explicit images of children are not, and images of sexual behavior may not be legal, depending on local laws. (See *COMPUTER LAW*; *CIPA*; *OBSCENITY*.) Law enforcement is hampered by the difficulty of determining the physical locations of web sites. Note, however, that because the laws prohibit *distribution* of obscene material, a link to an obscene site can itself be illegal.

There have been various efforts to keep pornography from reaching children and unwilling audiences. The Communications Decency Act of 1996 was struck down because it assumed, incorrectly, that Internet service providers can control the information sent through their computers; replacement legislation has been proposed. Schools and libraries sometimes use "filtering" software to block access to known pornographic web sites, but the filtering process is imperfect.

Pornography is associated with credit card fraud and other crimes. Several Internet pornography vendors have been caught making unauthorized charges to credit card numbers, presumably expecting the victims to be too embarrassed to complain. In some cases the numbers were stolen or made up and belonged to people who had never had any contact with the vendors.

It is naive to describe pornography as "victimless." The most obvious victims are the individuals who become addicted, and whose relationships and even marriages are damaged. The young people hired to pose for pornographic pictures are also victims of exploitation.

port

1. to adapt a program from one kind of computer to another. For example, some PC programs have been ported to the Mac.
2. a connection where a computer can be connected to an external device, such as a printer, flash drive, or digital camera. See *PARALLEL*; *SCSI*; *SERIAL*; *USB*.
3. a unique number used by a microprocessor to identify an input-output device.
4. a number identifying the type of connection requested by a remote computer on the Internet. See *URL*.

port replicator a DOCKING STATION for a portable computer that contains serial and parallel ports (and perhaps other ports, such as *USB*) which substitute for those in the computer itself.

portable

1. able to be carried around. A portable computer is larger than a laptop computer, but is still easily movable.
2. (said of programs) able to run on more than one type of computer or operating system. Compare *INTEROPERABILITY*.

Portable Document File see *PDF*.