**Common Technology Words and Definitions:**

**802.11**

IEEE standard that specifies medium-access and physical-layer specifications for 1Mbps and 2Mbps wireless connectivity between fixed, portable, and moving stations within a local area.

**802.11a**

The IEEE standard that governs the deployment of 5GHz OFDM systems. It specifies the implementation of the physical layer for wireless UNII b.

**802.11b**

An international IEEE standard for WLAN networks, operating at 2.4GHz and providing a maximum data transfer rate of 11Mbps.

[**802.11g**](http://www.maximintegrated.com/glossary/definitions.mvp/term/802.11g/gpk/5)

A proposed standard that describes a wireless networking method for a WLAN that operates in the 2.4GHz radio band (ISM: Industrial Scientific Medical frequency band). It transfers data at up to 54Mbps.

**ANSI**

American National Standards Institute. The principle group in the U.S. for defining standards.

**ASCII**

American Standard Code for Information Interchange, a code that makes it possible to send information from one computer to another.

**ATA**

Advanced Technology Attachment is a disk drive implementation that integrates the controller on the disk drive itself

**Animation**

A special type of image that can store multiple images in a single file and produce the illusion of movement.

**Applet**

A small application that can enhance the look of or add functionality to a web page.

**Binary file**

A file the computer can read consisting of characters that describe an image, document, or application.

**BIOS**

Basic Input/Output System. Also known as System BIOS, [ROM](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Read-only_memory) BIOS or PC BIOS**.** The fundamental purposes of the BIOS are to initialize and test the system hardware components, and to load a [bootloader](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bootloader) or an [operating system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operating_system) from a mass memory device.

**Bit**

Is the smallest unit of information a computer can process. A byte is one number, letter or symbol. One byte = 8 bits.

[**Blade Server**](http://www.maximintegrated.com/glossary/definitions.mvp/term/Blade%20Server/gpk/34)

A blade server is a computer system on a motherboard, which includes processor(s), memory, a network connection, and sometimes storage. The blade idea is intended to address the needs of large-scale computing centers to reduce space requirements for application servers and lower costs.

**Bluetooth**

A technology that allows voice and data connections between a wide range of mobile and stationary devices through short-range digital two-way radio. For instance, it specifies how mobile phones, Wireless Information Devices (WIDs), computers and PDAs interconnect with each other, with computers, and with office or home phones.

[**Broadband**](http://www.maximintegrated.com/glossary/definitions.mvp/term/Broadband/gpk/38)

A transmission medium with enough bandwidth to carry multiple voice, video, or data channels simultaneously.

**BMP**

Bitmap [raster graphics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raster_graphics) [image file format](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image_file_format)

**Browser**

Is the program that lets you view pages on the Internet. Examples are Internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox.

**Cache**

A set of files saved on your hard disk that help your browser display pages you have already visited more quickly. It displays the files from your hard disk instead of the Web.

**Compression**

Reduces the size of a file by changing its format.

**Cookie**

A text file on your hard disk that Web sites use to store information about you (that you have entered into your computer and are willing to share).

**CD-ROM**

Stands for compact disk read only memory. CD ROM’s are a storage device.

**CD-R**

Compact Disc Recordable CD-R retains a high level of compatibility with standard CD readers - unlike [CD-RW](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CD-RW), which can be re-written but is not capable of playing on many readers.

**CD-RW**

Compact Disc Re-Writable. CD-RWs cannot be read in some CD-ROM drives built prior to 1997. CD-ROM drives will bear a "[MultiRead](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=MultiRead&action=edit&redlink=1" \o "MultiRead (page does not exist))" certification to show compatibility. CD-RW discs need to be blanked before reuse.

**CMYK**

Are the colors used in process printing made up of Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, and Black.

**CPU**

This is the central processing unit in your computer. It’s the brains of the machine.

**Decompression**

Restores a compressed file to its original format.

**Devices**

Input devices include things like microphones, keyboards, mouse, touchpads, wheels, joysticks, etc. Output devices include printers, monitors, projectors and speakers.

**DHCP**

Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol. is a [standardized](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standardized) networking protocol used on [Internet Protocol](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_Protocol) (IP) networks for dynamically distributing network configuration parameters, such as [IP addresses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IP_address) for interfaces and services

**DLL**

Dynamic Link Library is [Microsoft](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft)'s implementation of the [shared library](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shared_library) concept in the [Microsoft Windows](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Windows) and [OS/2](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OS/2) [operating systems](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operating_system). These libraries usually have the [file extension](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File_extension) DLL, OCX (for libraries containing [ActiveX](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ActiveX) controls), or DRV (for legacy [system drivers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Device_driver)).

**DNS**

Domain Name System

**Docking station**:

Docking station or port replicator or dock provides a simplified way of "plugging-in" an electronic device such as a laptop computer to common peripherals.

**Domain name**

The unique name of the server and a suffix (top level domain) that identifies the location of the server and/or the type of organization.

**Download**

To copy a file from the Internet to your computer.

**DVD**

Digital Versatile Disc

**DVD+R**

Digital Versatile Disc Recordable

**DVD+RW**

Digital Versatile Disk Rewritable

**DVD-R**

Digital Versatile Disc Recordable

**DVD-RAM**

Digital Versatile Disc Random Access Memory

**DVD-RW**

Digital Versatile Disk Rewritable

**DVI**

Digital Video Interface is a video display interface developed by the [Digital Display Working Group](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_Display_Working_Group) (DDWG). The [digital](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_data) interface is used to connect a video source to a [display device](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Display_device), such as a [computer monitor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_monitor). It was developed with the intention of creating an industry standard for the transfer of digital video content.

**E-mail**

Electronic mail.

**E-mail address**

The address of your electronic mailbox.

**Embed**

An object (picture, graph, or document) is inserted into a file (the destination file). Once embedded, the object becomes part of the destination file. If you double-click on an embedded object, it opens in the program (source program) it was created in.

**File name extension**

The suffix that follow a period in a file name and tells the computer the file’s format or type. For example .doc is a Word document, .gif is an image, .html is a web page file.

**Firewall**

A security system that stops computers on one network from accessing computers on another network

**Firewire**

Apple Computer trademarked name for the IEEE 1394 serial interface standard: A high-speed interface between computers and peripherals such as external disk drives, cameras, and camcorders. Also referred to by Sony trademarked name, "I-Link."

**FTP**

File Transfer Protocol, a protocol used for copying files to and from a computer to the Internet.

**GHz**

Gigahertz One GHz represents 1 billion cycles per second. The speed of [microprocessors](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/M/microprocessor.html), called the [clock speed](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/C/clock_speed.html), often is measured in gigahertz. For example, a microprocessor that [runs](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/R/run.html) at 200 GHz [executes](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/E/execute.html) 200 billion cycles per second.

**Gif**

Graphic Interchange Format, a file format commonly used for bitmap images on the Internet.

**Gigabyte(GB)**

= 1,024 megabytes

**GUI**

Graphical User Interface

**GUID**

Globally Unique Identifier is a unique reference number used as an identifier in [computer software](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_software)

**Hardware**

Refers to the “hard” parts of the computer i.e. the CPU, monitor, keyboard, mouse, etc.

**HDD**

Hard Disk Drive is a [data storage device](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_storage_device) used for storing and retrieving [digital](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_data) information using rapidly rotating disks ([platters](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hard_disk_platter)) coated with magnetic material.

**HDMI**

High-Definition Multimedia Interface is a compact audio/video interface for transferring [uncompressed video](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uncompressed_video) data and compressed or uncompressed [digital audio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_audio) data from a HDMI-compliant source device to a compatible [computer monitor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visual_display_unit), [video projector](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Video_projector), [digital television](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_television), or [digital audio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_audio) device.

**Home page**

The Web page that serves as a starting point for a web site and usually contains the table of contents for the site.

**HTML**

Hypertext Markup Language, a language used for creating documents for the World Wide Web.

**HTTP**

Hypertext Transfer Protocol, a protocol used for sharing HTML documents and other files on the World Wide Web.

**Icon**

Icon is a Greek word that means image and refers to the small pictures on your desktop that identify files, hard drive etc.

**Inkjet Printer**

Is a type of printer that transfers images and text onto paper using a combination of colors of sprayed ink.

**Internet**

The network of millions of connected computers around the world.

**iSCSI**

Internet Small Computer Systems Interface is an [Internet Protocol](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_Protocol) (IP)-based storage networking standard for linking data storage facilities

**ISO**

International Organization for Standardization

**ISP**

Internet Service Provider, is a company that provides connections to the Internet.

**Java**

A programming language, developed by Sun Microsystems, Inc. Applications written in Java are platform-independent, which means they can run on any type of computer. Developers often use Java to create applets.

**Jazz disk**

Is a large storage disk that holds up to 2 Gigabytes of Data and is used in a Jazz drive.

**Jpg or Jpeg**

Joint Photographic Experts Group, a file format commonly used for storing continuous-tone images, such as photographs, in a compressed format.

**Keyboard**

An input device that allows you to enter information into your computer.

**LAN**

Local Area Network and refers to computers connected to each other in an office, school or small area.

**Laser printer**

A laser printer uses a laser light to scan an image. It then attracts toner powder to it and the image is transferred to paper and fixed by heat.

**Link**

An image or special text that enables you to jump from one HTML document to another, to jump to another location in the same HTML document, or to download files from the Internet to your computer.

**MAC Address**

Media Access Control Address (maca, MAC): A hardware address that uniquely identifies each node of a network, as in IEEE-802 (Ethernet) networks. The MAC layer interfaces directly with the network medium.

**MacBinary**

A method of encoding and decoding Macintosh files so they can travel over networks without losing information.

**Megabyte**

= 1,024 kilobytes

**MIMO**

A Multiple Input, Multiple Output (MIMO) system has multiple antennas and multiple radios. It takes advantage of multipath effects, where a transmitted signal arrives at the receiver through a number of different paths. Each path can have a different time delay, and the result is that multiple instances of a single transmitted symbol arrive at the receiver at different times.

MIMO is used in the implementation of the 802.11n standard.

**Monitor**

the screen of your computer that lets you view your documents

**mp3**

Is a file format for audio files like digital music files.

**NetBIOS**

Network Basic Input/Output System. It provides services related to the [session layer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Session_layer) of the [OSI model](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OSI_model) allowing applications on separate computers to communicate over a [local area network](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Local_area_network)

**NIC**

Network Interface Card

**Offline**

Not connected to the Internet or to another network.

**Online**

Means you are connected to the Internet or to another LAN or WAN.

**Pixel**

A pixel (dot) is the smallest dot of a picture on your computer and is called resolution. Resolution is the number of dots per inch in a picture/image. Minimum resolution for the

Internet is 72dpi and for offset printing 240dpi.

**Platform**

Is used to identify if your computer is IBM compatible, Apple or another platform.

**Plug-in**

A small application that adds functionality to a larger application. For example Apple QuickTime.

**PC**

Is short for personal computer and often refers to IBM compatible computers.

**PCI**

Peripheral Component Interconnect. A standard interface used primarily on computer backplanes to connect interface cards and peripheral devices to the processor bus. PCI is often used for video display cards, network interfaces (e.g. Ethernet), and peripheral interfaces such as SCSI or USB.

PCI buses typically also support the older Industry Standard Architecture (ISA) standard.

**PNG**

Portable Network Graphics, a file format commonly used for transmitting bitmap images on the Internet because its file size is small.

**Protocol**

A set of rules and standards for sharing information between computers.

**Refresh/Reload**

To reload or update the contents of the current Web page in your Web browser.

**RAID**

Redundant Array of Independent Disks. A redundant array of inexpensive disks. RAID is a performance-enhancing method of storing the same data in different places on multiple hard disks to achieve speed and/or data redundancy.

**RAM**

Random Access Memory provides space for your computer to read and write data so that the CPU can find it quickly and easily. When people refer to memory upgrades they are usually talking about RAM

**ROM**

Random Operating Memory refers to computer memory chips where information is stored (disk storage)

**RTF**

Rich Text Format

**SATA**

Serial Advanced Technology Attachment. is a [computer bus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_bus) interface that connects [host bus adapters](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Host_adapter) to [mass storage devices](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mass_storage_device) such as [hard disk drives](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hard_disk_drive) and [optical drives](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Optical_drive).

**Scanner**

Is used to take an electronic picture of something that your computer can then use

**SCSI**

Small Computer System Interface (pronounced "scuzzy"), an interface standard for connecting peripheral devices to computers. Hardware components for implementing a SCSI interface include connector ports on computers and cables for connecting peripheral devices to the computer. SCSI is gradually being supplanted by the newer USB and IEEE 1341 standards.

**Site**

Means web site

**SSD**

Solid State Drive or circuit is one that relies on semiconductors rather than mechanical or vacuum tube circuits.

**SSH**

Secure Shell. is a cryptographic [network protocol](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Network_protocol) for secure [data communication](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_communication), remote [command-line](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Command-line_interface) [login](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Login), remote command execution, and other secure [network services](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Network_service) between two networked computers. It connects, via a [secure channel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secure_channel) over an insecure network, a server and a client running [SSH server](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SSH_server) and [SSH client](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SSH_client) programs, respectively.

**Style sheet**

A list of formatting commands, such as font/character, paragraph, and layout (document, margins) attributes, used by Web pages and in some other applications.

**Software**

Programs or applications your computer operates. Examples are AppleWorks, Word, PowerPoint, etc.

**Terabyte**

= to 1,000 [gigabytes](http://www.techterms.com/definition/gigabyte). Often used to measure the [storage capacity](http://www.techterms.com/definition/storagecapacity) of large [storage devices](http://www.techterms.com/definition/storagedevice)

[**TCP/IP**](http://www.maximintegrated.com/glossary/definitions.mvp/term/TCP%7CIP/gpk/302)

Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol: The protocols or conventions that computers use to communicate over the Internet.

**TIFF**

Tagged Image File Format. A [computer file format](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_file_format) for storing [raster graphics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raster_graphics) images, popular among graphic artists, the publishing industry,[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tagged_Image_File_Format" \l "cite_note-sgi-1) and both amateur and professional photographers in general.

**URL**

Uniform Resource Locator that identifies the location of a web page on the Internet

**USB**

Universal Serial Bus. A standard port that enables you to connect external devices (such as digital cameras, scanners, keyboards, and mice) to computers. The USB standard supports data transfer at three rates: low speed (1.5MBps), full speed (12Mbps) and high speed (480 MBps).

**Virus**

Is a file that can cause damage to or interrupt the use of your computer. These are usually sent as email attachments or downloaded from a web page.

**VGA**

Video Graphics Array. refers specifically to the display hardware first introduced with the [IBM PS/2](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IBM_Personal_System/2) line of computers in 1987,[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Video_Graphics_Array#cite_note-1) but through its widespread adoption has also come to mean either an [analog](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Analogue_electronics) [computer display standard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_display_standard), the 15-pin [D-subminiature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/D-subminiature) [VGA connector](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VGA_connector) or the [640x480](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/640x480) resolution itself.

**VPN**

Virtual Private Network is a network that uses a public telecommunication infrastructure, such as the Internet, to provide remote offices or individual users with secure access to their organization's network.

**VPro**

is an [umbrella marketing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umbrella_brand) term nowadays used by [Intel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intel) for a large collection of computer hardware technologies including [Hyperthreading](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyperthreading), [Turbo Boost](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turbo_Boost) 2.0, [VT-x](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VT-x), [Trusted Execution Technology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trusted_Execution_Technology), and [Intel Active Management Technology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intel_Active_Management_Technology) (AMT).[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intel_vPro#cite_note-1) When the vPro brand was launched however (circa 2007), it was mostly identified with AMT,[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intel_vPro#cite_note-Tom.27s_Hardware-2)[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intel_vPro#cite_note-ars_technica_gen_vPro-3) and some journalists today still consider AMT to be the essence of vPro.[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intel_vPro#cite_note-4)

**Web site**

A collection of Web pages.

**WAN**

Wide Area Network. Any Internet or network that covers an area larger than a single building.

**X86**

is a family of [backward compatible](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Backward_compatible) [instruction set architectures](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instruction_set_architecture)[[a]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X86#cite_note-2) based on the [Intel 8086](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intel_8086) [CPU](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_processing_unit). The 8086 was introduced in 1978 as a fully [16-bit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/16-bit) extension of Intel's [8-bit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/8-bit) based [8080](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intel_8080) microprocessor, with [memory segmentation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X86_memory_segmentation) as a solution for addressing more memory than can be covered by a plain 16-bit address. The term "x86" came to being because the names of several successors to the Intel's 8086 processor ended in "86", including [80186](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intel_80186), [80286](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intel_80286), [80386](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intel_80386) and [80486](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intel_80486) processors.

**X64**

is the [64-bit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/64-bit) version of the [x86](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X86) [instruction set](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instruction_set). It supports vastly larger amounts of [virtual memory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtual_memory) and [physical memory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physical_memory) than is possible on its predecessors, allowing programs to store larger amounts of data in memory.