



Connect your way

A Guide to the Internet



What is the Internet?

The internet is a global network made of millions of computers all around the world linked together via phone lines, fiber optic lines, satellites and wireless connections. When you log onto the Internet, you are given access to many of the other computers that are connected around the world and therefore, you are able to exchange information.

You can even get a wireless connection to the Internet with a handheld PC, notebook computer or a mobile phone. An ISP serves to link you to the Internet when you need access.

You can use the Internet to:

- send and receive email, chat, webcam, conduct video conferencing.
- remote access of information via Virtual Private Networks
- file sharing
- Browse the world wide web
- Streaming media, audio and video
- Internet telephony (VoIP)



learn about
the internet!!



Benefits of Internet Usage

Emails:

Email provides a means of correspondence in the fastest way possible, short of normal conversation to anyone regardless of their location on the planet. It is cheaper, compared to traditional sending of letters and has no postage fees. Email can be sent to a number of recipients simultaneously.

Emails are easy to compose and send, it allows people to write back and forth without having to spend much time worrying about how the message actually gets delivered. Using e-mail, you can quite often get hold of people who might otherwise take hours or days to get in touch with. You can contact people at your time-no more waiting on hold or wondering whether you've been disconnected. Just send some e-mail, go about your other business, and wait for a response to pop in your mailbox. Which, by the way, points to e-mail's biggest advantage: It's fast!

Other forms of instant communication made possible by using the Internet are Video conferencing, chat and webcams. It is also possible to make phone calls over the internet with applications like skype.

Social networking applications available on the internet include facebook, myspace, flickr where people meet old friends and make new ones all over the world.

News & Information:

Just as there is a book or magazine on nearly every subject in local libraries, bookshops or newsagents, so is there information on virtually every subject on the internet.

For Home Use:

Working from home, ability to access data remotely through VPN.

Watch TV, Access to breaking news and up to the minute weather reports.

Download music and videos.

Play games online.

Read books free online, you'll be able to find anything from science fiction to archival works to classical literature.

Email, chatting and Internet telephony to stay in touch with friends and family.

Online shopping all over the world and tracking your order from the comfort of your home.

Wealth of information concerning health is found on social networks created to help its members with various physical and mental ailments.

For people suffering from life altering diseases, PatientsLikeMe offers its members the chance to connect with others dealing with similar issues and research patient data related to their condition.

For alcoholics and addicts, SoberCircle gives people in recovery the ability to communicate with one another and strengthen their recovery through the encouragement of others who can relate to their situation.

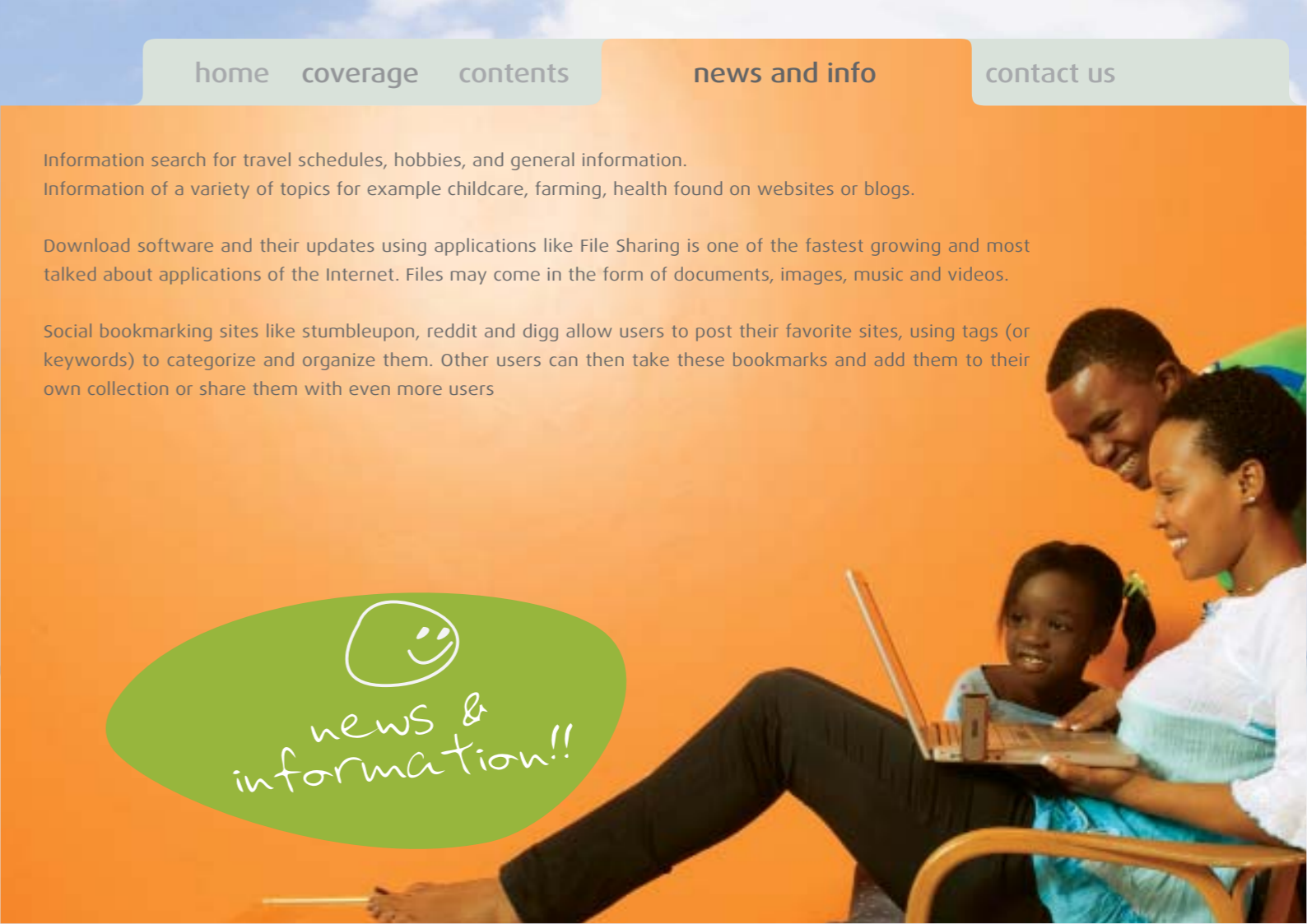
Daily strength is also a website that offers support groups for a wide array of topics and conditions, including the support topics offered by PatientsLikeMe and SoberCircle. SparkPeople offers community and social networking tools for peer support during weight loss.

Information search for travel schedules, hobbies, and general information.

Information of a variety of topics for example childcare, farming, health found on websites or blogs.

Download software and their updates using applications like File Sharing is one of the fastest growing and most talked about applications of the Internet. Files may come in the form of documents, images, music and videos.

Social bookmarking sites like stumbleupon, reddit and digg allow users to post their favorite sites, using tags (or keywords) to categorize and organize them. Other users can then take these bookmarks and add them to their own collection or share them with even more users



School or University Use:

Educational Benefits of the Internet:

Many educational institutes maintain a site on the World Wide Web which provides a lot of information ranging from courses available to credit prices, degree program details and career planning services.

The internet provides a powerful resource for learning, as well as an efficient means of communication. Its use in education can provide a number of specific learning benefits, including the development of independent learning and research skills, communication and collaboration skills.

The internet is a huge repository of learning material. As a result, it significantly expands the resources available to students beyond the standard print materials found in school libraries. It gives students access to the latest reports on government and non-government websites, including research results, scientific and artistic resources in museums and art galleries, and other organizations with information applicable to student learning. At secondary school levels, the internet can be used for undertaking reasonably sophisticated research projects.

The internet is also a time-efficient tool for teachers in that it expands the possibilities for curriculum development.

Learning depends on the ability to find relevant and reliable information quickly and easily, and to select, interpret and evaluate that information. Searching for information on the internet can help to develop these skills. Classroom exercises and take-home assessment tasks, where students are required to compare and contrast website content, are ideal for alerting students about the requirements of writing for different audiences, the purpose of particular content, identifying bias and judging accuracy and reliability. Since many sites adopt particular views about issues, the internet is a useful mechanism for developing the skills of distinguishing fact from opinion and exploring subjectivity and objectivity.

The internet is a powerful tool for developing students' communication and collaboration skills. Above all, the internet is an effective means of building language skills. Through email, chat rooms and discussion groups, students learn the basic principles of communication in the written form. This gives teachers the opportunity to incorporate internet-based activities into mainstream literacy programs and bring diversity to their repertoires of teaching strategies. For example, website publishing can be a powerful means of generating enthusiasm for literacy units, since most students are motivated by the prospect of having their work posted on a website for public access.



internet
benefits!!



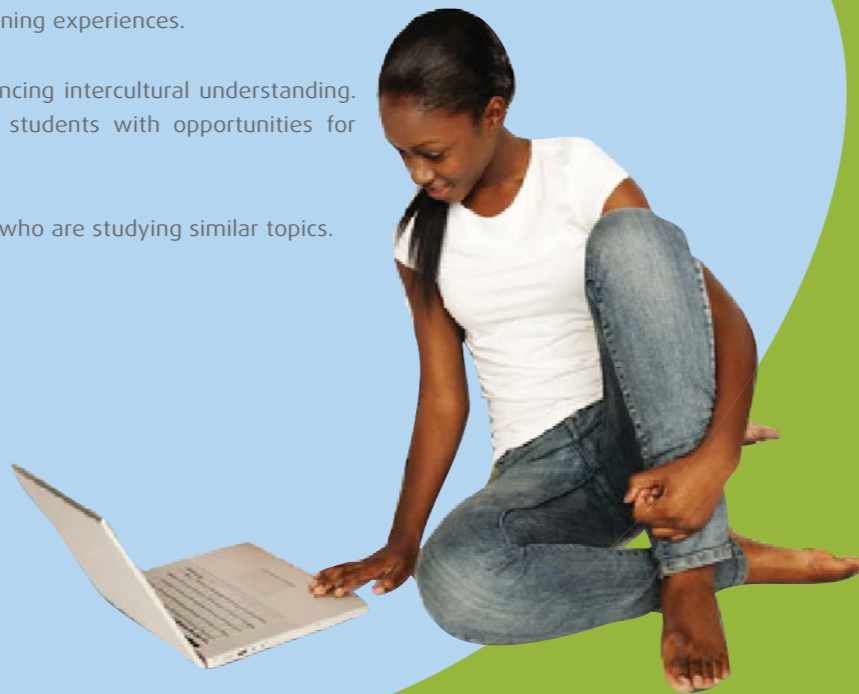
social
websites!!



Collaborative projects can be designed to enhance students' literacy skills, mainly through email messaging with their peers from other schools or even other countries. Collaborative projects are also useful for engaging students and providing meaningful learning experiences.

In this way, the internet becomes an effective means of advancing intercultural understanding. Moderated chat rooms and group projects can also provide students with opportunities for collaborative learning.

Distance education will enable students to connect with others who are studying similar topics.



Business Use

Businesses benefit from Ecommerce which mainly comprises of the buying, selling, distributing, servicing and marketing of products on the Internet and other computer networks.

The Internet provides businesses with an opportunity to tap into the potential power and reach of the internet to prospective customers you would otherwise not have access by publishing a website at a specified www address. Anyone, located anywhere around the globe armed with this address can then access your website at anytime day or night.

Websites allow for flexibility of content and the ability to add /update it instantly therefore attract visitors by keeping your site up-to-date with fresh content.

Websites enable businesses to reach new customers and markets, process transactions online. Websites are interactive, providing an opportunity to build up a mailing list of prospects and customers who want regular contact from you like sending them a regular newsletter with useful information, special offers, product announcements without extra printing and postage costs.

Online Banking and Transactions

Using social network services, is beneficial for entrepreneurs and small businesses looking to expand their contact base since businesses operate globally. Social networks can make it easier to keep in touch with contacts around the world. One example of social networking being used for business purposes is LinkedIn.com, which aims to interconnect professionals.

Entertainment

Watch TV

Using the Internet, you can listening to streaming audio view streaming video, play games like RealPlayer, Shockwave Player, Rhapsody, CNET Catch Up

Movie guides

Celebrity news and events



How to Surf the Internet

How to Search

Searches are performed on Search Engines. These are huge databases of indexed information which upon conducting a search give results in the form of website addresses where you'll find the information that you are searching for.

Most web browsers have a search engine input field built in (usually found on the top right-hand side) so you don't even have to go to the search engine home page in order to do your search. Just type in the term you are looking for in your browser's input field and you'll be taken to a search results page where you can pick the most relevant result.

Popular search engines include:

www.google.com

www.mamma.com

Many people save a lot of time in their Web searches by using a search toolbar, which is a software application which gives search engines the ability to perform searches and other functions quickly for example the Google Toolbar, Msn Search Toolbar, Dogpile toolbar and Ask toolbar to mention a few.

Specialised toolbars for specialized searches e.g eBay toolbar for online shoppers, MapQuest Toolbar for instant access to maps and driving directions, Yahoo toolbar with WorldCat searching of Library materials, Dictionary.com, a free online dictionary meta search engine toolbar to get instant definitions, Scirus toolbar for finding scientific, technical and medical information, Answers.com is a research and reference search engine, Onelook.com, a search engine for words and phrases, wikipedia.com is an online encyclopedia, download.com is the largest download directory website.

Search Tips for Successful Searching

If you can't find exactly what it is you're searching for at one engine, just try another. Get to know a few more search engines apart from your favorite one and your searches will not only be more interesting, but more effective as you learn which searches work best in which search engines. Remember to use your time wisely because the longer you spend time searching for something, the more frustrated you can get.

Be specific. Use keywords to narrow your searches and the more success you're likely to have right off from the beginning.

Useful Search Syntaxes, and easy to learn and use too!

A good practice when looking for a exact phrase is to use quotation marks " "

The inurl: search syntax allows you to search for words within the URL, or Uniform Resource Locator.

If you'd like to limit your searches to a specific domain, such as .edu, .org, .gov, and more, you can use the site: command to accomplish this.

To search for definitions, use defines: word. This works with Google, Msn Search and Ask. Definition word: works with yahoo.

Downloading Unnecessarily

It is important to save on network bandwidth especially for those users who are subscribed to a data plan that gives them a certain amount of Gigabytes per month that they can transfer freely or where the user has to pay for every data transfer right from the beginning.

If they reach the limit they either have to pay for additional data transfers or live with reduced connection speeds which are both unpleasant side effects. To save as much as possible, you might want to consider turning image browsing off in their application and only downloading what is necessary.

Peer to peer programs for sharing music, programs and videos take a lot of bandwidth and infringe copyright law and is the highest form of unnecessary downloading.

Opt to get music from specialized sites for buying legal music e.g Itunes, rhapsody or better still, on CD. Same applies to movies and computer programs.

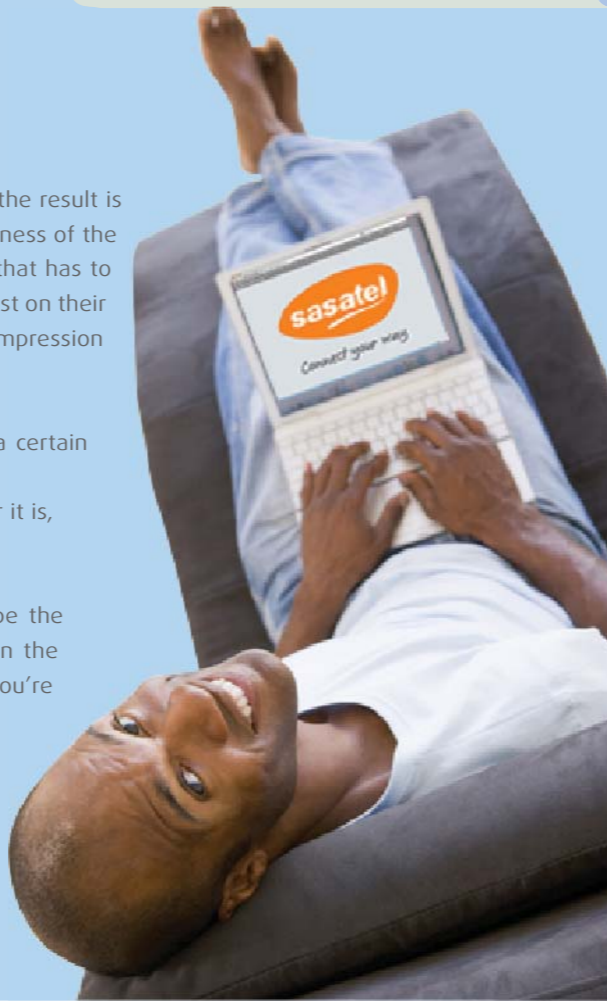


Bandwidth and Speed Explained

Usually, speed is seen as the quickness of the complete process from the request until the result is displayed. This does not only depend on the network speed, but also the load and quickness of the computer, from which data is requested, as well as the speed of your own computer, that has to process and display the arriving data, are important. It is possible, too, that packets get lost on their way and have to be sent again. All this needs time which in turn lowers the subjective impression of the network speed.

bandwidth describes how much data can be transported through a data channel at a certain period of time. You can imagine the bandwidth as the width of a navigation channel: the wider it is, the more ships can pass through it in a certain period of time.

A simple way to understand bandwidth is to think of a highway. Bandwidth would be the number of lanes on the road and internet traffic would be the amount of vehicles on the highway. If your car is the only one on the road, you can speed to your destination, but if you're caught in the middle of rush hour, you'll have a hard time getting there.



How to set up your own email account

Email accounts are used to send and receive email. For Web e-mail programs, you do not need a software program on your computer for e-mail. And you can read or send e-mail from any computer that has an Internet connection and a Web browser. Messages are stored on the Web. There are free Web e-mail accounts provided by some companies such as Yahoo! Mail, Microsoft HotMail, Google Gmail.

You can also get web mail service from your Internet Service Provider where you already have a paid e-mail account from your school or employer.

For example, setting up yahoo mail:

Visit the Yahoo Mail home page to take the first step to creating your own email account at Yahoo (see Resources below).

Step 2

Click on the 'Sign Up' link that appears somewhere near the top of the Yahoo home page.

Step 3

Enter your name and other requested information in the fields provided.

Choose Your Username and Password

Step 1

Create a username that you will be comfortable using for a long time and will identify you to your email recipients. Remember that you can use numbers and letters and even a single dot.

Step 2

Type the username you choose in the field provided. Check the availability of your username by clicking the box below that reads 'Check Availability of This ID.' You may have to think of an alternative username if your top choice is already taken by another Yahoo user.

Step 3

Choose a password when you have successfully entered a unique username. Passwords must be at least 6 characters long and keep in mind that passwords are case-sensitive. You will be asked to type your password twice to ensure accuracy.

Enter Security Information and Verify Your Registration

Step 1

Select a question from the following drop-down menu as your security question. Yahoo will ask you this question if you should forget your password in the future, in order to verify that you are the correct user.

Step 2

Type in your answer to the question in the field below.

Step 3

Enter your birth date, zip code and any other requested information in the fields provided. Entering an alternate email address is not required but it's good to give Yahoo personnel a place where you can be reached if for any reason you do not have access to your Yahoo account.

Step 4

Verify your registration by typing the characters you see shown in the last section of the registration page into the field provided.

Step 5

Read the Terms of Service thoroughly and print a copy for your records.

Step 6

Select 'I Agree.' You have successfully set up your Yahoo email account.

If you are using an e-mail software program that resides on your computer such as Mozilla Thunderbird, Apple Mail or Outlook Express to send and receive messages, you must configure it so that the program can find the computer where your e-mail account is located. Your Internet Service Provider, computer department, or whoever helped connect you to the Internet will typically provide you with an email program and can help you get it set up so that you can begin sending and receiving email. Messages are downloaded and stored on your computer.

An example of How to Setup an Outlook Express Email Account**Step 1**

Create an online email account. If you already have an email account, move on to step 2.

Step 2

Choose "Start" on your task bar. Select "All Programs" and choose "Outlook Express."

Step 3

Click on "Tools" in the top left-hand side of the window.

Step 4

Select "Accounts" from the drop-down menu.

Step 5

Choose the "Mail" tab in the Internet Accounts window.

Step 6

Click "Add" and from the side menu, click "Mail."

Step 7

Enter your name in the Internet Connection Wizard and click "Next."

Step 8

Enter the email address you wish to use in Outlook and again, click "Next."

Step 9

Enter the server information into the next window. If you are unsure what to add in this area, contact your ISP and ask them for the information.

Step 10

Enter your email account name and password into the next window. You can get this information from your ISP or by entering the information through the control panel.

Step 11

Click "Next" and then click "Finish."





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 connect your
 whole office today
 Get up to **3GB free***



Connect your way

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 0614 100 101

* terms and conditions apply



instant **connection**
 for the **whole family**
 get home internet today
 up to **3GB free***



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