

Glossary of terms

Applet

Applets are little programs written in Java language. They are designed to run inside a web browser and to perform some tasks such as animated graphics and interactive tools.

Asynchronous

Describes Internet communications where there is a time delay between when information is sent, and when a response is received. Email and discussion forums are examples of asynchronous communication.

Browser Check

A facility provided by websites to ensure that all the resources that are available from that site can be viewed and/or interacted with on a particular personal computer (PC).

Chat

Real-time communication between two or more users via a computer. Once a chat has been initiated, any user can enter text by typing on the keyboard and the entered text will appear on all of the other user's screens. Most networks and online services offer a chat feature.

Discussion

This web application is also known as a threaded message board and provides for online discussions. A discussion forum invites users to start topics and discuss issues with one another.

Illuminate Virtual Classroom

Illuminate Live is a virtual classroom and web conferencing tool built specifically for live, multimedia collaboration. With Illuminate Live! meetings can be more productive, teaching can be more effective, and learning more enjoyable.

Event

For the E-learning Networks Online Event all presentations, regardless of format, will be called "Events". Online conferences offer a lot of scope for variety and the style and delivery method of your presentation is limited only by your imagination and available time.

Facilitator / Moderator

Synchronous live sessions are led by a facilitators or moderators. These people will guide the discussions and may not necessarily have all the answers. Their role is to promote discussion, reflect on postings, ask questions and summarise topic areas.

Firewall

Internet security is becoming more important as organisations connect their local networks to the Internet. One of the most popular methods to secure an

internal network from the Internet is a firewall. A firewall allows an administrator to permit access from the internal network to the Internet while rejecting access from the Internet to the internal network.

HTML

(Hypertext Mark-up Language) - The coded format language used for creating hypertext documents on the World Wide Web and controlling how web pages appear.

Interactive Whiteboard

A communications tool that allows multiple users to write or draw collaboratively. Interactive whiteboards are a useful tool as they enable an interactive visual form of communication.

Java

Java is a programming language developed at Sun Microsystems in 1990. It was known and became popular on the WWW because Netscape Navigator 2.0 adopted and supported Java applets in 1996.

Java Web Start

Java Web Start software provides a flexible and robust deployment solution for Java technology-based applications based on the Java Community Process program (JCP). Java Web Start technology works with any browser and any Web server. A main feature of the Java Network Launching Protocol and API technology is the ability to automatically download and install Java Runtime Environments onto the user's machine.

Link

An active connection to another web page, location in a web page, file, or other Internet resource. Selecting the link takes you to the new location or resource. Also known as a URL.

Network Access

Allows a delegate to have the required level of security and access at a network level in order to engage in online activities.

Online Profile

When the delegate logs in to the online platform for the first time you will be prompted to complete an online profile. This allows the delegate to at any time modify their own biographical, contact, details and configure technical options such as chat. This is available through the 'My profile' section of the E-learning Networks Online Event site on the top right hand corner.

Poll

A Poll allows presenters to pose a question and several alternative responses. Delegates can then take the poll, and a results summary is automatically generated for all to see.

Posting

Each time text is entered in a Discussion or Chat the term used is a posting.

Plug-in

Video and audio files require additional software known as plug-ins. All the plug-ins required for the files will be available on the CD in your registration show bag.

Presenter

This is the person responsible for the event. They may also be the facilitator.

Software

Sets of instructions or data that tell a computer what to do. Software is often divided into two categories: system software, which includes the operating system (e.g., Windows 2000, MacOS) and all utilities that enable the computer to function; and applications software, which includes programs that perform specific tasks (e.g., word processors, spreadsheets, and databases).

Synchronous

Communication occurs at the same time between individuals and information is accessed instantly. Examples of synchronous e-learning include real-time chat, and video/audio conferencing.

System Requirements

The minimum recommended software and equipment, based on general usability and reliability considerations. That is, they address a personal computer that would enable you to maximise your participation in the conference.

Text Discussion Board

A text only discussion tool. See Discussion.

Thread

Throughout a discussion, the presenter can create new topic areas. These are referred to as threads. A thread is a group of postings within a topic area.

URL

Universal Resource Locator. See Link.

Video and Audio Streaming

Video with synchronized sound sent in compressed form over the Internet to be viewed in a continuous stream. A special program called a "player" is needed to decompress and view streamed data.

Windows Media

Digital audio file format owned by Microsoft and built into the Windows operating system. Windows Media competes with MP3, Liquid Audio, and other formats.

Windows PC

Any personal computer running a Microsoft Windows operating system.