This tutorial will present you with an overview of Internet and Web concepts and terminology.

As you work through this tutorial, please notice that you have buttons and controls at the bottom of your screen that will allow you pause the tutorial or to move back and forward through the slides at any point in the presentation.
The Internet provides a vast array of services to individuals, businesses, and organizations around the world. People in today’s society rely on the Internet for news and information, communication, education, entertainment, shopping, job hunting, travel arrangements, and many other important activities. As such, the Internet is being used extensively in schools, colleges, and universities to mine Internet accessible resources, perform online library searches, and to communicate electronically with students and educators across the world. In order for you to not only succeed in your studies but also to compete in the 21st century, it is critically important that you have a basic understanding of the Internet and that you know how to use it in an efficient manner as a communication, research, and business medium.

In this tutorial we will look at what the Internet is and what the World Wide Web is. We will also go over some basic and necessary terminology including what a Web browser is, what hyperlinks are, what URLs are, what search engines are, and how they are used to navigate the Internet and the World Wide Web. This tutorial will provide you with a foundation in Internet and Web terminology that will help you as you complete some of the hands-on tutorials in our General Technology-Related Skills and Basic & Necessary Research Skills learning units.
The Internet is a global “network of networks.” In the simplest terms, a network consists of two or more computers that are connected together to share information. So, the Internet is actually a very large network, and in fact it is the largest computer network in the world as it connects computers all around the world. Through this network, user’s can communicate and share resources and information.

The Internet’s main product is information in the form of electronic data. This data is stored on a variety of computers called servers and is available in many forms and through a variety of resources and services.

Popular resources and services available to you on the Internet include the Web (short for World Wide Web), e-mail, instant messaging, chat groups, social networking, downloads and uploads, Web conferencing, and E-Commerce (for example, online shopping, electronic auctions, online stock trading). There are other services and resources available through the Internet, but the ones we have listed are the ones you are probably most familiar with.

The Web is one of the Internet’s most popular services. Although some people use the terms Internet and Web interchangeably, the two are NOT the same. The Internet is the communication network that connects computers all around the world. The Web is one of the Internet’s most popular services. Another way to look at this is that the Internet makes the Web possible and available to you.
As previously stated, the **World Wide Web** is one of the many services available to you on the Internet. The abbreviation most people use for the World Wide Web is WWW or simply the Web.

So what is the Web? Simply put, the Web is an information source; it is a collection of electronic files that are linked together in a special way and available for public access via the Internet. This information is accessible from Web sites located on millions of computers. As a student, you will use the Web to access your course materials and for general research.

The files on the Web are linked together through hyperlinks. Hyperlinks make the information on the Web easy to navigate so that you can quickly access information and resources, regardless of location. (We will go over hyperlinks in more detail later in this tutorial.)
You use a **Web browser** application to retrieve and view files stored on various **Web servers**. A Web browser is a computer application that is designed to display Web pages. A Web browser displays Web pages in an easy-to-read format. Most people today use either **Internet Explorer** (IE) or **Firefox**. Mac users use a Web browser called **Safari**. Other popular Web browsers include **Chrome** and **Opera**.
As previously stated, information on the Web is linked together by *hyperlinks*. Hyperlinks make it easy to follow a path that makes sense to you through a large selection of text, graphical, audio, and video information.

A hyperlink is a “clickable object” on a Web page that links to another place on the same page or to an entirely different page. Underlined text on a Web page usually represents a hyperlink. Other objects (e.g. an image) can serve as links too. To determine if text or an object represents a hyperlink, you simply position your mouse pointer on the text or object. If your mouse pointer icon, which is typically represented as a block arrow, changes to a hand with a pointer finger, you have located a hyperlink.

You click (select) on a hyperlink to follow (or activate) the link. Once you activate a hyperlink, you will be presented with new information. Locating and clicking hyperlinks is the most popular ways of retrieving information on the Web.
Every Web page and all associated files (for example, audio file, video file) are actually electronic files that are stored on a Web server. Each of these files has its own unique address called a **Uniform Resource Locator (URL)**. So, in addition to clicking hyperlinks to jump from one Web page to another, a Web browser allows you to enter a URL into a text box to navigate directly to a specific Web page.
Most Web users are familiar with Google. Google is a special Web site referred to as a search engine. A search engine is used to locate information on the Web. If you are looking for specific information on the Web but do not know where to start, you should navigate to a search engine site and use the tools available on that site to begin your search.

Popular search engines include Google, Yahoo Search, Ask Jeeves, Alta Vista, All the Web, and MSN.
In our General Technology-Related Skills learning unit and in our Basic & Necessary Research Skills learning unit, you can access hands-on tutorials to practice your Web-browsing skills and Internet searching skills.
This concludes our overview of Internet and Web related concepts and terminology.

The works referred to in preparing this tutorial are listed here for your reference.

References

