

# Jargon Buster

**3D Sculpture:** a three-dimensional model made with software that lets you pinch, pull, smoothen and sculpt digital objects as though working with a physical material like clay.

**Algorithm:** a step-by-step set of rules or instructions that a computer follows to solve problems, process data and complete tasks.

**Antivirus software:** programs that protect your computer from damaging viruses. Making use of detect and destroy technology, this software keeps your computer and data safe. For this reason, it is essential to install.

**App:** short for application, apps are self-contained programs designed to serve a particular purpose. From navigating a city to keeping track of fitness, apps help simplify life and so are often downloaded onto mobile phones.

**Bluetooth:** technology that makes it possible to connect devices wirelessly. Bluetooth uses radio frequency to transmit data.

**Bookmarks:** like a bookmark used to keep track of where to return to in a book you're reading, digital bookmarks mark out the sites you want to come back to online.

**Browser:** programs like Google Chrome and Internet Explorer that allow you to view web pages and search online.

**CAD (Computer Aided Design):** special software used to create 2D drawings and 3D models. Often used by architects to design building plans.

**Cloud service:** a way to store and share information entirely online. Google Docs and Dropbox are examples of cloud-based services.

**Component:** one part of several parts that makes up a computer. A keyboard is an example of a computer component.

**Computer:** an electronic device that shares information with other devices, and follows instructions in specific sequences in order to complete tasks.

**Computer system:** a group of interconnected computers sharing a central storage system, as well as external devices like printers, scanners and routers.

**Cookies:** a piece of text stored on your computer that remembers certain information about you – websites you have visited for instance. This information is sent to your web browser from the web server.

**Data:** information that is stored by a computer, such as files, emails, videos, games and songs.

**Del.icio.us:** an online service that stores, shares and discovers web bookmarks. This helps you organise your online resources and web content, and access your bookmarks from any computer.

**Debugging:** the process of finding program bugs or errors on your computer and removing them. This is done with software that uses debugging tools.

**Design software:** programs built to design, create and plan online, in organised and innovative ways.

**Design tool:** materials, media or software programs that allow you to produce designs.

**Device:** a piece of equipment that gives and/or receives information.

**Digg:** a website featuring trending articles. These articles are promoted to the site's front page by users clicking the 'digg' icon beside each piece. This effectively shows which articles are generating most interest. Content often relates to science, technology, politics and other issues that are going viral.

**Digital media:** media made in a format that machines can process and share so we can consume content and information digitally. Examples include e-books, digital audio and digital videos.

**Diigo:** a website allowing users to bookmark, save, store and share online content in an organised fashion.

**DPA or Data Protection Act:** A law designed to protect people's personal data.

**Favourites:** a way to highlight your favourite sites so you can easily return to them. You can usually do this by marking the star in the toolbar.

**Game:** a playful structured activity. Although usually played for the sheer enjoyment, games can often be educational too.

**Games consoles:** a device, like Playstation or Xbox, which provides video signals and images to show a video game.

**Google Docs:** a free, web-based word processor offered through the Google Drive service.

**Home network:** a network that makes it possible for a private collection of devices in or around a home to communicate with each other. Computers, printers, mobile phones and gaming consoles often link to a single home network through Bluetooth or wireless services.

**HTML code:** an abbreviation of HyperText Markup Language, which refers to the language or code used to create web pages. This code sits behind websites to determine what should show on the website.

**Infographic:** a visual representation of information or data. A chart is an example of an infographic.

**Iteration:** when a process or sequence of code is repeated over and over, as in a loop, to determine a variable or generate a set of outcomes that will solve a problem or further a design.

**LAMP:** a collection of software programs, free to download, which when used together forms a powerful web development platform to build and manage websites and services. An acronym of Linux, Apache, MySQL and PHP, LAMP is an example of open source software. Linux is the operating system, Apache is the web server, MySQL is the relational database management system (RDBMS) and PHP is the scripting language.

**LED:** a semiconductor device that gives off light. LED display technology is used for screens, allowing things to display on everything from mobile phones to TVs and laptops.

**Linear:** following from one stage to another in a single series of steps.

**Live DVD:** A disc-based installation that runs in the memory of the computer instead of the hard disk drive. This means you can run an operating system on your computer without having to install it.

**Loop:** a sequence of instruction repeated over and over until a certain condition is reached.

**Media sharing tool:** tools you use to share articles, blogs, music, videos, GIFs or any other digital media via online channels like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and email.

**Microsoft SharePoint:** a browser-based platform set up to help you manage documents and collaborate with others in a password-protected, centralised space.

**MMS:** short for multimedia messaging service, an MMS lets you add videos and photographs to a text message.

**Multi-page website:** a website containing many pages.

**Open access data sources:** information that could take the form of files, software or databases that is free and open to the public to use.

**Operating systems:** system software that manages the hardware and software of your computer and provides common services for programs and applications so your computer can run.

**Operator:** a character that represents an action. For example, if you have ever entered AND, OR, NOT in a search engine to achieve a more defined search, you have made use of what is known as a Boolean operator.

**Peripheral:** a device that isn't part of the essential computer but attached to perform a specific function. A printer, scanner, or WiFi connection are some examples of peripherals.

**Phishing:** emails or texts that you did not request, sent in an attempt to get personal information like passwords or credit card details from you.

**Pinterest:** an online service that allows you to share images and create mood boards.

**Platform:** the base on which software or code runs. Software is designed to use the facilities and work within the limits of a specific platform.

**Podcast:** a digital audio file you can download from the Internet and listen to for enjoyment or educational purposes. Podcasts often come in a series and by subscribing you can automatically receive installments.

**Protocols:** a standard rule or way of doing something. In a technical context, protocols inform how something like data is formatted when sent and what to do with it once received.

**Prototype:** an early sample or model of a product. Prototypes are often designed to test a concept or process so it can be improved upon in further replications.

**Pseudo code:** an informal description of an operating principle that a computer programmer uses to summarise a program's steps without including the underlying details. When writing code, pseudo code is a starting point that provides the gist of the program.

**Raspberry Pi:** a small, affordable computer that you can use to learn programming through fun, practical projects.

**Reddit:** a play on the words "I read it". Reddit is a social news website where stories are promoted by site members.

**Robot:** a mechanical or virtual artificial agent guided by a computer program or electric circuitry.

**Search engine:** a program that looks through the web or a database to find a particular term.

**Semantic error:** writing invalid program logic that produces faulty results causes what is known as a semantic error.

**Sensor input:** a sensor that detects what is happening around it so it can give that information to a centralised system to process or display.

**Sequence:** a particular ordering of one thing following on from another.

**Social bookmarking tool:** an online service that allows you to share and comment on bookmarks.

**Social network profile:** a page on a social networking site featuring information about you.

**Social networking site:** a website that helps you connect with friends and family so you can share photos, thoughts and articles of interest with your loved ones.

**Software:** programs that are used to operate computers and related devices.

**Stop-motion animation:** a technique that manipulates an object to make it look as though it is moving. The object is moved in small increments to create the effect.

**StumbleUpon:** a search engine that recommends content such as web pages, photos and videos to you when you sign up. This content is customised to your interests and tastes using things like information from social networking sites.

**Tablet:** a portable PC that falls somewhere between a personal digital assistant and notebook computer. It usually has a touchscreen and an application allowing you to use a virtual keyboard.

**Turtle:** someone who takes advantage of 'turtling', a gaming strategy of building up your defences instead of risking attack. A turtle avoids the interactive element of a game until the time runs out.

**URLs:** the address of resources on the Internet.

**USB Stick:** short for Universal Serial Bus, a USB is a memory stick that saves information that can then be viewed through a USB port.

**Variable:** a name given to an unknown quantity, to stand in place of the information it represents. When computer programs are executed, variables change. They represent data ranging from storage locations, names, sounds and pictures to integers and other more technical objects.

**WAMP:** a set of web applications used alongside the Microsoft Windows operating system that provides developers with the four elements of a web server. These elements are the OS, web server, database and scripting language, which in WAMP's case take the form of Windows, Apache, MySQL and PHP/Python/PERL.

**Web server:** the system that brings you information, content and services over the Internet. A web server is made up of a physical server, a server operating system and software that facilitate HTTP communication.

**Wireless printer:** a printer that doesn't require physical connection to print but uses wireless technology to receive instructions instead. These devices usually communicate via infrared signals, ideally along an unobstructed path.