

Defining Internet Services

The Internet is just a standardized method of exchanging information between computers connected to a common network. But as the Internet has evolved, users have designed a variety of services, each providing a different method of retrieving and exchanging information. Table 1-1 lists the most widely used services.

Service	Description
World Wide Web	Easy to use interface that uses hyperlinks to allow users to access information from around the world. Multimedia capability.
Electronic mail (e-mail)	Allows users to send and receive messages. One of the most popular uses of the Internet.
FTP (File Transfer Protocol)	Protocol used to transfer files between computers. Allows users to download text files, graphics, and programs.
Gopher	A system of text-based servers that use simple menu systems. Allows users to easily retrieve text files. Almost completely replaced by the World Wide Web.
Newsgroups	Topic-based discussion groups. Allows users to post articles and respond to the postings of others.
Telnet	The Internet's oldest tool. Allows users to connect to remote computers and then use the software on those computers.

Table 1-1: *The Most Widely Used Internet Services*