

**news server** A mainframe computer that stores newsgroup information and distributes it on request.

**newsgroups** Public discussion groups on the Internet. Also known as UseNet newsgroups.

**newsreader** A program that reads and organizes discussion group postings and facilitates posting to such groups.

**off-line** Disconnected from the Internet. You can download mail and news messages to your system, and then read and process them off-line, when you are no longer connected.

**packets** Small units of data sent through a router to their destinations. Each packet contains data, the source address, and the destination address.

**parent** A directory or folder containing the child directory or folder. The parent is one level higher in the directory structure.

**plug-ins** Separate (helper application) programs invoked by Navigator when it encounters video, sound, or other specialized data.

**post** To submit an original article or follow-up message to existing articles in a newsgroup.

**protocol** An agreement between two or more computers or networks concerning the hardware and software standards to be used for communication between them.

**public domain files** Files with no copyright or restrictions.

**router** A device that selects the most efficient route over which to transmit information and through which data packets are sent to their destinations.

**search engine** Software available on the Web to search the Web for specific information.

**shareware** Software you are allowed to download and try before you buy it. If you decide to continue using it, you are expected to send the programmer a fee.

**subscribe** To sign up to receive news from a specific newsgroup.

**surf** Explore or browse from link to link, from page to page, or from site to site on the Internet and the Web. A surfer ( a person) uses a browser (a program) to explore the Net.

**TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol)** A protocol that enables different types of computers running different types of operating systems to communicate with one another.

**thread** In a newsgroup, an article with its associated responses.

**threaded message** In a newsgroup, an original message and one or more replies to that message, displayed as a group.

**top-level domain** The DNS designation for the site from which a sub-domain is accessing the Internet. Inside the U.S., the code usually identifies a type of organization. Outside the U.S., the code identifies the country to which the sub-domain network belongs.

**Uniform Resource Locator (URL)** The address used by computers to define a desired location in the Web.