

The Internet is a network of computer networks that communicate using a common protocol.

Intranets are private versions of the Internet, used within a single organization.

TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol) enables different types of computers running all types of operating systems—Windows, Macintosh, UNIX, and more—to communicate smoothly with one another.

You can use the Internet to:

- Send and receive messages.
- Participate in group discussions.
- Find and access information.
- Retrieve files.

You can access the Internet by:

- A network connection.
- A modem connection.

Each computer on the Internet has two unique addresses:

- **The Internet Protocol (IP) address:** a series of four numbers separated by periods.
- **The Domain Name System (DNS) address:** a hierarchical system starting with a user ID and ending with a top-level domain.

Five basic Internet services are:

- World Wide Web
- Electronic mail
- FTP (File Transfer Protocol)
- Newsgroups
- Telnet

To connect to the Internet with Netscape Navigator:

1. From the Start menu, choose Programs, and then choose Netscape Communicator.
2. From the Communicator submenu, choose Netscape Navigator.
3. If necessary, in your service provider's dialog box, enter your user ID and password.

Netscape Navigator window elements:

Status indicator: Becomes animated while Netscape is retrieving information.

Title bar: Displays the title of the current Web page

Menu bar: Contains Netscape menus.

Navigation toolbar: A group of buttons that access frequently used features.

Location toolbar: Contains controls for bookmarking and URL entry.

Location field: Shows the unique address of the information in the content area.

Personal toolbar: Access directories of Netscape and Internet resources.

Content area: Displays the current page.

Security indicator: Indicates whether a transaction, such as a credit card purchase, is secure.

Status bar: Provides information about the data retrieved or the area to which the mouse is pointing.

Progress bar: Shows how much of the requested information has been retrieved

Component toolbar: Used to select different Netscape components.