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**AOL** Short for America Online, a commercial online service that also provides access to the Internet.

**Applet** A small computer program, usually written in the Java programming language.

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**Backbone** Generally a large cable that supports connections between many computers.

**Bandwidth** The amount of "stuff" a wire or cable can carry at a time. The higher the Bandwidth, the faster the service.

**Bcc** Blind carbon copy. Prevents an e-mail recipient from seeing who else the message was addresses to.

**Bps** Bits per second, a measure of the speed of a modem or similar device. The higher the bps, the faster the device.

**BRB** Be right back.

**Browser** Short for "Web browser," a program like Microsoft Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator that lets you browse the World Wide Web.

**BTW** By the way.

**Byte** The amount of storage required for a single character, like the letter "a" or "j."

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**Cache** Pronounced like "cash," refers to a place in the computer used to store information. Your Internet cache stores recently-visited Web pages.

**Case-sensitive** Does not consider lowercase and uppercase letters to be the same. For example, "CAT" is not the same as "cat" when typing a case-sensitive password.

**Client** The computer on the receiving end of a client-server relationship. When you browse the Internet, your PC is an Internet client

**Close button** The button marked "X" in the upper right corner of most program windows.

**Connectoid** The phone number and other settings that define how Dial-Up

Networking connects to a particular network or ISP. Created automatically by the Internet Connection Wizard or manually using the Make New Connection icon within Dial-Up Networking.

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**Default** A pre-selected setting that you can change or leave as is. Not indicative of a problem or "fault."

**Desktop** The main screen that appears when you first start Windows.

**Dial-Up Networking** A Windows program that allows connections to networks via phone line. Open the Windows My Computer icon to locate its icon.

**Dialog box** A window that offers options for you to choose from.

**Directory** Another term for "folder," a place on a disk that holds its own collection of files.

**Domain Name** The main name of a resource that's available on the Internet. For example, my domain name is cool nerds. com.

**Download** To copy a file from the Internet (or some other computer) to your own PC.

**Drag** To rest the mouse pointer on some item or selection and then hold down the primary mouse button while moving the mouse.

**DUN** An abbreviation for Dial-Up Networking.

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**E-mail** Mail that's sent electronically across the Internet or a local area network.

**Emoticon** Characters typed to represent an emotion, such as the smiley :- ) used to represent "happy" or "only kidding."

**Extension** The ending part of a filename, such as .doc or .txt. Windows uses the extension to keep track of which documents go with which programs.

**Extranet** A network of computers used by two or more businesses that has the look and feel of the Internet

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**FAQ** Frequently Asked Question,

**File** A unit of storage on the disk. For example, any document you create and save will be stored hi a file.

**Folder** A place on the hard disk where you can store files that belong together,

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**g or <g> or <gr>** Grin—used in e-mail messages and such to indicate "only

kidding" or "no offense intended."

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**Hard disk** A disk inside the PC that stores Windows, all your programs, and documents you save. Named C: on all PCs.

**Hardware** The PC itself, and any gadget you attach to the PC.

**Home page** The first page one comes to when visiting a Web site.

**Host** Any computer or device capable of providing services to other computers. Like the host at a party where all the guests are PCs.

**HTML** Hypertext Markup Language, a set of codes used to define the appearance of Web pages. Learning to create Web pages requires learning about HTML.

**Hyperlink** A hot spot on a Web page that you can click to visit another Web page.

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**IMAP** Internet Message Access Protocol, an e-mail protocol that lets you manage messages without copying them from the server to your own PC.

**IMHO** In my humble opinion.

**Install** To add a program to your computer's hard disk, usually by running its Setup program.

**Internet** A huge network of interconnected computers from around the world. Provides popular services like e-mail and the World Wide Web.

**Internet Service Provider** A company that can give you access to the Internet from your home or office. Abbreviated ISP.

**Intranet** a small local area network within an office or building that has the same look and feel as the Internet

**IRC** Internet Relay Chat, the protocol used for chatting on the Internet.

**ISP** Short for Internet Service Provider, a business that can give you access to the Internet from your PC.

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**Java** A programming language used to create programs and small applets for Web pages.

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**K, Kb** An abbreviation for kilobyte.

**kilobyte** About 1,000 bytes (1,024 to be exact).

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**LAN** Local Area Network, a small collection of interconnected computers in an office or building.

**Link** Short for "hyperlink," a hot spot on a Web page that you can click to visit another Web page.

**Local** Your PC and anything that happens on your PC (as opposed to remote).

**LOL** Laughing out loud.

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**M, Mb, meg** Abbreviation for megabyte.

**Maximize** To expand to full-screen size, either by clicking the Maximize button or double-clicking the title bar.

**Megabyte** About a million bytes.

**Menu** A list of options to choose from.

**Modem** A gadget that connects your computer to a telephone line so you can use online services like the Internet.

**Monitor** The part of a computer that looks like a television.

**Mouse pointer** The little arrow or icon that moves on the screen as you roll the mouse around.

**MSN** Microsoft Network, a commercial online service that also offers Internet access.

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**NNTP** Network News Transfer Protocol, used by Usenet Newsgroups.

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**OIC** Oh, I see.

**OTOH** On the other hand.

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**Point** (mouse) To touch the mouse pointer to some item on the screen, (typography) A unit of measurement equal to approximately 1/72 inch.

**Pointer** Short for "mouse pointer," the thing that moves on the screen as you roll the mouse.

**POP** Post Office Protocol, the protocol that defines how incoming messages are stored on your e-mail server.

**POTS** Plain Old Telephone System.

**Primary Mouse Button** The button that's under your index finger when you

rest your hand comfortably on the mouse, usually the left mouse button.

**Protocol** The preferred or standard way of doing things. In computer terms, computers can only talk to each other if both follow the same protocols.

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**Remote** Any computer other than your own "local" PC. The Internet gives you access to remote computers.

**Right-drag** To drag an item using the secondary (right) mouse button rather than the primary (left) mouse button.

**ROTFL** Rolling on the floor laughing.

**RTFM** Read the manual. (I've left out the "F" because we can't print that word in a book like this!)

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**Server** A computer that sits on the Internet and "serves up" Web pages or other information to clients.

**SMTP** Simple Mail Transfer Protocol, the protocol used for sending e-mail over the Internet.

**Spam** Junk mail. "Spamming" is using the Internet to send out junk e-mail.

**Start button** The button labeled Start hi the Windows 98 taskbar.

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**T1 thru T3** High-speed lines used by ISPs and large businesses to maintain a fast, full-time connection to the Internet

**Taskbar** A bar that contains the Start button, indicators, and more. Generally appears along the bottom edge of the screen.

**TIA** Thanks in advance.

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**Upload** To copy a file from your PC to some other computer, perhaps a computer on the Internet.

**URL Uniform Resource Locator**, the "address" of a Web site. For example, www. cool nerds. coir is a URL.

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**WAN** A Wide Area Network, such as the Internet.

**Web browser** A program that lets you visit Web sites on the Internet. Microsoft Internet Explorer is the browser that comes with Windows 98.

**Web page** A page of information stored on the Internet that anyone on the

Internet can visit using their Web browser.

**Web site** A place on the Internet that you can visit using a Web browser. Each Web site has its own unique URL (address).

**Web view** A navigation option that lets you open icons by clicking them once.

**Windows 98 Desktop** The main screen you see after starting your PC and waiting for Windows to kick in.

**Wizard** Step-by-step instructions presented by Windows to make it easier to use more advanced features.

**World Wide Web** One of the most popular services of the Internet, home to all those www. whatever. com addresses.