

Internet Basics

Modem

A modem is a piece of hardware that allows a computer to connect to the Internet. Most computers sold today come equipped with a modem.

Internet Service Provider (ISP)

A company that gives you access to the Internet for a fee is an Internet Service Provider. Different providers may offer different types of services and connections.

Connections

Several different types of connections are available for accessing the Internet. The type of connection available to you depends on your Internet Service Provider and your location.

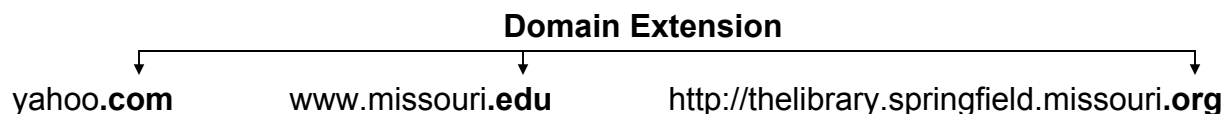
Telephone line	uses a regular phone line
Cable	uses the cable from a cable television system
DSL	uses a part of the phone line separate from the voice line
Satellite	uses a signal from a satellite orbiting the earth
Cellular	uses a cellular phone
Wireless	uses a device to connect without any wires

Web Browser Programs

Various programs are available for you to install on your computer in order to access the Internet. Examples of these programs are Internet Explorer, Netscape Navigator and Firefox. Your Internet Service Provider may supply a different one.

Domain Extensions

In an Internet address the domain extension is usually a three-letter abbreviation located at the end of the address. It signifies the type of group or organization to which the website belongs.



Common Domain Extensions

.org	organization	.edu	education
.com	commercial	.mil	military
.gov	government	.net	network

The Difference Between E-mail and Website Addresses

An e-mail address will always contain the @ symbol. A website address may or may not begin with the following: http:// or www. Some website addresses may begin with both http:// and www.

E-mail Addresses

edge1s@yahoo.com
 johnsmith@abcschool.edu
 mjones@maryjones.com