

A Few "Cyber Basics" Before You Begin to Create Your Own Web Pages

The **web** is the **WWW** is the **Internet** is the **net** is the Internet is a handy term because it describes a bit of what is happening out there in **cyberspace**. The Internet is an **inter**connected **network** of many, many computers connected by "pipes and wires". Getting access to "the **server**" simply means being able to connect electronically to a particular computer that has additional functionality, is very powerful, and usually has a large amount of storage space.

Related to this idea, are the terms upload and download - I can put on (**upload**) and take off (**download**) files from a computer (**server**) such as when I **publish** my web pages for the world to see.

Html document equals **web page**. This is an example of a technical term versus an everyday term (e.g. Acetyl salicylate equals aspirin). Html is the computer language in which documents are written so that your **browser** (Netscape, Internet Explorer, AOL) can translate the code (written in HTML) into what you see on your computer screen when you are browsing (or "surfing") the Internet. FrontPage is an **editor** that writes the computer code for you so that you don't have to spend time bothering with **tags** and **java script**. Other **web authoring** tools (editors) you might have heard of are Pagemill, GoLive, and the industry standard, Dreamweaver. Most of these editors are designed to help users in that they look much like a word processing program's environment. FrontPage and other editors are like desktop publishing programs for the WWW.

FTP is the acronym for File Transfer Protocol and is a way of transferring files between computers. If you want to upload (electronically put) a file or collection of files on a server (powerful computer) then you need to use an **FTP client** (a piece of software that is specially developed to do file transfer or FTP). When you transfer a file using an FTP client (the software) it doesn't actually *move* the file or files off of your computer, it *copies* the files you select onto the computer with which you are connected. And the lovely thing about the FTP protocol is that it will cross platforms. So, if you want to copy files from your Macintosh to a PC or Unix machine, as long as you have the correct software aka FTP client, you can transfer files to your heart's content.