

Peter Packet's Concise & Easy to Understand Networking Dictionary: Our Techy Terms

Antivirus Software

A software package that is installed to keep computers and servers from being infected by virus programs. Effective antivirus programs protect computers from unwanted data and illegal access.

Computer Network

A group of computers connected by cables and/or wireless connections to other computers.

Encryption Protection

Protects packets from attacks by hackers by making them difficult for hackers to identify.

Hackers

People who try to steal information such as credit card numbers and passwords and/or try to get into other people's computers to get information.

Hacker Packets

Hacker Packets are packets sent by hackers that cause congestion and other problems on the Internet. Hacker packets can cause Denial of Service attacks, which means that a hacker has flooded a site with so many packets that nobody can get in.

Interference

Causes problems with wireless communication. Cordless telephones, radios and microwave ovens can distort wireless communication.

Internet

Computer networks that are connected throughout the world. It is often called a network of networks, and it's rather like a giant spider web, which is why sometimes you hear one part of it referred to as the World Wide Web.

Packets

Small pieces of information (email, movies, pictures, music, text, etc.) that travel through the Internet. We receive packets on our computers when we look at a web site or get our email. A packet doesn't include all the information in your email or what is on a web site. Instead your email or web site data is divided into tiny pieces and sent through the Internet as packets. When the packets arrive at your computer, they are put back together.

Quality of Service (QOS)

Gives preferential treatment to packets assuring that they will be delivered fast and safely.

Routers

Sends packets through the best routes to their destination. They provide fast and secure paths for the packets, know how to avoid congestion on the Internet, and can find the shortest routes.

Security Key

Protects information sent through wireless communication. Wireless receivers turn away packets without security keys.

Security Officer

Software that protects computers from receiving information that is not accompanied by a security key.

Server

A computer with software that enables it to work with other computers on a network. Server can handle filing, printing, communication, and applications. The servers on your school network serve you by allowing you access to the information stored on them and managed by them.

Viruses

Software that can erase computer files, cause computers not to work as they should, send out emails from your computer that give other computers viruses, and cause other nasty problems.

Wireless Communication

Transmits packets through the Internet using wireless access points. The information travels through the air without wires until a wireless receiver retrieves it at the destination computer or server.