New Mexico Broadband Program

Introduction to the Internet

Module 1

Understanding the Internet
Key Features of Websites
Navigating within a website
Class Goals

- Develop comprehension of Internet terminology and concepts
- Develop understanding of Home Pages, menus, and links
- Become familiar with browsers and website navigation
How would you like to use the Internet?

• How do you use the Internet?
• What Internet tools would you most like to learn?
• In which area of your life do you think the Internet will be most useful?
The value of the Internet

Learning how to use the Internet and having access to it can change lives.
Let’s take a moment to understand what the Internet is.

The Internet consists of “interconnected networks” of computers linked together to form a larger network known as the Internet.
Understanding the Internet

The Internet is accessed through large computers known as servers.

These large servers provide the information to our computers.

These servers are all linked together in the Internet, also known as the World Wide Web.
When you are on the Internet, you are basically sharing files that have been produced as websites or web pages with a large network of other institutions, organizations, and other Internet users.
Sharing information on the Internet

It’s important to understand that the Internet allows you to see ONLY those files that have been created and stored as web pages and are intentionally shared.

This includes government documents,
files from your library catalogue,
your teacher’s web assignments

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as well as those photos, videos and music that have been posted for Internet display and sharing.
The limits of Internet sharing

What you won’t find on the Internet are personal documents from any computer, such as business records, personal papers, letters, or emails, unless someone has intentionally posted them.
Accessing the Internet

• In order to access the Internet, you need to be using a computer that is connected to the Internet, such as one in an office, a school, a library, or some coffee shops.

• You can learn how to get connected to the Internet at home by contacting your local Internet Service Provider.

• You can also gain more information about this by taking our module “Setting up a Computer and Connecting to the Internet.”
Accessing the Internet

• Once you are connected to the Internet, your computer will need a browser in order to access the Internet.

• Browsers are software applications designed to allow access and communication between the Internet and a computer.
You can think of a browser as a pathway to a particular place on the Internet

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Or a form of transportation that takes one to a location on the Internet.
There are a variety of browsers, each with slightly different features.

Data current as of May 2010
Some browsers may be slightly better at different tasks, but they are all very similar. Which one we use depends a bit on our needs and a bit on our personal tastes.
Internet Explorer is the most popular browser for accessing the Internet.

The Internet Explorer browser comes installed with the Windows Operating System.

Other systems, such as Mozilla Firefox, are available through the Internet for free.

Google Chrome, also free through the Internet, is a relatively new browser recently released by Google.
Opening a Internet Explorer

In these trainings, we will use the Internet Explorer browser to access the Internet.

To open Internet Explorer, find the icon on the desktop.

To open the browser, double click on the icon.
Internet Explorer will also be on the list of programs on your computer. Click on the Start button, open All Programs, and look for Internet Explorer on the list.
Open All Programs

1. Click on the **Start** button.
2. Click on **All Programs**.
3. Use the scroll bar in the **All Programs** menu to find Internet Explorer.

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Using your browser

When you first open your browser, you will be taken to a website. If you are working at a school or library, the website will probably be the website of that institution.
When you look at a website, you are really looking at two things. In the center of the screen, you will see the website itself.
and on the edges of the screen you will see a “frame” of browser tools. These tools are not part of the website, but are part of your browser, Internet Explorer. These tools help you move within and between websites.
First, let’s explore the website itself.

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Please follow along on your own computer in these activities.
The first page that you see when you come to a website is called the **Home Page**.

The **Home Page** is like the cover of that book.
All home pages should contain similar features. First, each one should clearly indicate what institution or organization the website represents.
Second, each should provide a set of subheadings, called a **menu**. A *menu* is like a book’s Table of Contents. It lists the main areas of the website. We can think of these menu areas as similar to chapters.
Each item in the menu will be a *link*.

A *link* is a shortcut that takes you to a new area of information in the website.

If you place your cursor over a *link*, the words change color and your cursor changes into a hand.
Once you have clicked on the link, you are in a new area of the website. This new area, or chapter, may have its own links to new sub-areas.
You can explore more links by clicking on new menu items, or go back to the Home Page.

To go back to the Home Page, look for “Home” on the menu, place your cursor over the link, and click.
Explore the NMSU Chile Pepper Institute website.

Practice opening and following links from the Home Page.

Look for areas and sections relevant to your interests.

Use the Home tab to go back to the Home Page.
Remember - moving between links on a website is like turning from one section or page of a book to another.

This movement from one area of a website to another is called navigation.

When we explore a website by opening links, we say we are navigating that website.
In order to fully explore any website, we need to use the browser tools that “frame” the view of the website. The top, side, and bottom portions of the browser all have different names and serve different functions.
The top section shows us Internet Explorer’s Navigate Tools

The **back arrow** in the upper left hand corner of the screen will help you navigate within a website. As you open links, you can go back to your previous location in the website by clicking on the back arrow.

The **back arrow** is active when it is a dark blue.
You can also explore with the **forward arrow**, directly next to the back arrow. It will move you “ahead,” once you have already opened another link.
• The central, long box at the top of your browser is called the *address bar*.  
• This is where you enter the “address” for any website you want to explore.
• Websites occupy space on the Internet and each website has a unique locator.

• Even though a website can be accessed by anyone connected to the Internet from anywhere, doing so requires knowing the precise website locator, or address.

• Website addresses provide a unique identifier for each website and an exact set of directions for reaching the site.
• A website address is called a **URL**, short for Uniform Resource Locator.
• The **URL** pinpoints the unique location, or address, on the Internet, of any Web page or document.
• To access a website, you simply type the Internet “address” into the address bar.
• The address consists of the letters and punctuation.

http://www.chilepepperinstitute.org/
Understand web addresses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Portion of URL</th>
<th>Stands for</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>http://</strong></td>
<td>These letters and symbols stand for <em>Hypertext transfer protocol</em>. They are the first letters for all addresses you will see in the address bar. When you type a URL into the address bar, do <strong>not</strong> use the <strong>http://</strong> part of the address.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong><a href="http://www">www</a>.</strong></td>
<td>Stands for “World Wide Web.” This part of web addresses is gradually disappearing and generally does not need to be typed into the address bar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>chilepepperinstitute</strong></td>
<td>This is the name of the website.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>.org</strong></td>
<td>This is the type of <em>domain</em> you are visiting. Domain refers generally to the source and the type of the website - a business, an educational, or a government agency, for example.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Using web addresses

• Web addresses must be very exactly entered, or the Internet will not take you to the correct place.
• The difference of a single letter or punctuation mark will result in an error message or take you to the wrong website.
• There are no spaces in web addresses.
• Web addresses are case sensitive.
Practice exploring websites by typing the urls on your handout into the address bar of your browser.

Double check your typing. Then hit the “Enter” key to go to the website.
Using URLs to explore websites

Explore websites from the list on your handout.

Carefully type the URL into the address bar and click “Enter.”
The Scrollbar

The *scrollbar* on the right side of the screen allows you to move all the way to the top and bottom of a web page. This is very important, since many web pages are longer than a computer screen, and you will miss the information and links at the bottom of the page if you do not scroll down.
To use the scroll bar, left click on the box inside the scroll channel, keep holding the button down, and slide your mouse down until you see the bottom part of the website.
The Chile Pepper Institute, Celebrating 20 Years!

The Chile Pepper Institute (CPI) is a research-based, international nonprofit organization devoted to education, research, and archiving information related to Capsicum. We are dedicated to educating the world about the wonders of chile peppers.

Research done by New Mexico State University’s Chile Pepper Institute has helped promote New Mexico’s iconic state vegetable. Now, the CPI (and its chile peppers) is on the map, literally, as a “must-see” destination in Rand McNally’s 2010 “Best of the Road” program.

Our research can be hot and cool at the same time. Paul Bosland, co-founder and director of the CPI, was responsible for finding the world’s hottest chile pepper, the Bhut Jolokia. In the fall of 2006, the Guinness Book of Records confirmed Bosland’s discovery. Discoveries like these are not rare for the Chile Pepper Institute. The record-holder for the world’s largest chile pepper is a specimen of the NuMex Big Jim’ variety that was developed at NMSU in 1976. And boasts five times the flavor of the standard green chile.

NEW CHILE FLAVOR WHEELS

The Chile Pepper Institute has images at the bottom of the Home Page. These images are also links that will take you to a new part of the website.

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Using arrows to navigate vertically

You can also use the small arrows at the top and bottom of the scroll channel to move up and down on a web page as well.

Remember to scroll back to the top in order to access the menu at the top of the website.
Please use the list of URLs in your handout to explore several of the websites listed.
If you practice navigating websites with these tools, you will become more skilled at finding the information you are looking for in any website, and will gain a good understanding of website structure.
Review

• Internet terminology and concepts
  • Home Pages
  • Menus and links
• Using a browser to navigate a website
• Understanding and using web addresses
We appreciate the time you spent with us. We hope to see you at the next training!

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Connecting you to a world of opportunities