

WORKSHOP

USING THE INTERNET - AN INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP

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OVERVIEW

The Internet is a large and complicated place. This introductory workshop will look at the major Internet tools for connecting, navigating, communicating, and using it effectively.

CONNECTING

The Internet provides connections between computers both near and far. We'll look at two connection tools: telnet and ftp.

telnet: Telnet lets you connect to other computers. Many Internet resources are available via telnet. We'll check out some library catalogs, weather information, and directories.

ftp: The file transfer protocol (ftp) copies files between computers. Anonymous ftp can be used to get more software, information, disinformation, and amusement than you'd ever want.

NAVIGATING

The Internet is a large and complicated place. We'll look at the major tools for navigating through the Internet and using it effectively.

World-Wide Web: Like a giant spiderweb, the World-Wide Web links sites and information all over the world. Special programs called browsers are used to travel through and "read" the Web. The Web is also a publishing tool. We'll cover the basics of authoring your own WWW documents and making them available via the Web.

Gopher: Gophers help you "tunnel" through the Internet, exploring its resources. Gophers present Internet tools and resources in the form of menus for easier access. Starting with one gopher, you can connect to gophers all over the world, exploring library catalogs, downloading software, searching databases, and myriads other useful tasks.

Wide-Area Information Servers (WAIS): WAIS is a system for searching distributed information on the Internet. A number of databases have been indexed for searching via WAIS, including National Science Foundation grants, cell line information, and directories of scientists.

COMMUNICATING

The Internet lets you communicate with people all over the world, both directly and within groups to discuss common interests. Two major mechanisms are electronic mail and news.

Electronic mail: Communicate with colleagues, friends, and strangers through the Internet. We'll also examine some sources that help track down electronic mail addresses.

News: Participate in discussion groups on everything from particle physics to choosing the best dog for a pet. You can ask the world a question, serious or trivial, and get answers.