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You're Never Too Old to Learn Something New

Internet and Technology Terminology

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This list will be updated as our Senior Tech Connect community lets us know about which terms you have questions.

'Algorithm' – a proprietary collection of criteria that search engines and other websites will use to help them choose which of their content and ads they will show to you—based on what they know about you from your behaviors on their website(s). Most will look at what you click on, how much time you spend on those pages, which ads you tend to click on most. Their goal is to keep you on their site as long as they can—so they have set up their algorithms to try to show you the things that you want to see—without you're having to search for them.

'Blog' - (noun) a website, usually created/run by a person or small group, that contains information that interests them. Some are just to share information and others are created to try to make money online. It can contain video logs or vlogs. (verb) to add new material or update a blog.

'Bump' – you may see this posted as a comment—it is done mostly to 'bump' this post back to the top of the posts on that page—as many pages are arranged to show the posts with the most recent comments on the top of their list.

'Default' – this refers to a software or apps original settings before any personalization or changes were made to it.

'GIF' - (graphics interchange format) this is a type of image that you'll see posted - when you click on it, the image will usually show as quick video clip that will repeat over and over again until you click on the image again and that will freeze it.

'IP' or 'IP Address' - a unique 'internet protocol' address that identifies a device or a local network on the internet.

'Lurk' – this is the term for those who are in a group online who read the things posted but who never interact—they don't leave comments or post anything themselves in the group. You'll notice that in most large groups there are a lot of people who never say anything and there are a few who post a lot—so lurking isn't a bad thing—it's completely OK to be a part of a community and read what's there and only comment or add posts when you feel comfortable enough to do so.

'Meme' (pronounced meem) – these are usually images but can also be texts or videos that are copied from someone else and sometimes then altered to change the meaning of the image with new words. You'll notice the more popular ones coming up consistently on your feeds

(Title of Note Sheet)

'Noob' (also newb, n00b) – someone who is a 'newbie' or a beginner at something. It can also be used in a mean way to say someone is ignorant about something.

'Podcast' - a digital audio file (compares to a radio 'show') that you can listen to anytime or download onto your device (to listen to later). Some are originally broadcast over the radio/internet and recorded, others are created exclusively as podcasts. There are companies/services that provide access to podcasts (think of them like a library)—examples of these are Apple Podcast, Google Podcast, Spotify Podcast, etc. If someone you're interested in listening to has a podcast—they will usually tell you which 'podcast/audio' services/companies have their podcast. You can then go there online and search for the podcast you want to listen to—and most services will let you 'subscribe' to a podcast and you can set it up to automatically download episodes to your device.

'Photobomb' – this term is used when it appears that someone/something else snuck into a photo—it appears in the photo without the person taking the photo intending for them to be there

'Search Engine' – refers to a website that you'll use to search the internet for whatever information you are looking for. You enter what you are searching for into that field on their website and when you click Enter it will compile a list of where you can find more of that information online. Often the first several are 'Ads'—companies have paid the search engine so that they can appear on 'the first page' of results. The results will show the webpage for the result and usually list the first sentence or more of the webpage that contains the information you're searching for—so that you can quickly glance and see which search result you want to click on to find more. We suggest that you use caution when clicking on results and do your best to stick with reputable sources. The biggest and most used search engine is Google, 2nd most used is YouTube.

'Spam' – usually referring to emails that are mostly advertising—not personal communications. Some email providers have a specific folder created for emails they suspect are this—so it's good if you are using one of these that you periodically check your 'spam' folder to make sure that there isn't something there that IS personal communication that somehow got accidentally put there.

'Streaming' - most often refers to online entertainment (video or audio) that you access over the internet—allowing you to watch or listen to anything at anytime anywhere you have internet access. Originally this was done by going to a website and watching/listening to their content. As technology has improved—more options became available and this is now one of the most common ways to find entertainment. Some of these are free to you (because they are supported by advertising revenue—like TV always has been) and others are services that you pay for (usually with a monthly subscription). You can still use your computer to stream video/audio but also can stream material on a Smart TV, on an (non-smart) TV using a 'streaming device' (examples—Roku, AppleTV, etc.), or connect with a streaming service on any portable device (smartphone or tablet).

'Subscribe/Subscription' - just like you used to (or maybe still do) subscribe to a magazine or newspaper—you will hear these terms regarding online entertainment/news/education services. Many are available to you for free (most of these are given to you free because they are supported with advertising) and others you will pay for. For example, you'll see 'Subscribe' on YouTube content—most YouTube creators will ask you to subscribe to their channel—by clicking the subscribe button you are letting YouTube know that you like the content that their channel has created and you want to watch more of it or others like it. It helps YouTube better know what other content it will suggest to you when you choose to go to them for education or entertainment.

'Trending' – this is another way to say 'popular' – used most when referring to searches people are doing—Google, YouTube and Twitter will have 'Trending' areas where you can just go see what is popular right now with people around the world.

'Troll' – this refers to people who look to start disagreements and spread negativity wherever they can—so you may see 'Don't feed the trolls' or similar comments to remind you to not start arguments or get sucked into

their 'game'—since that only makes them want to do it more. Some folks who post online will remove posts from trolls – others just ignore them.