

GLOSSARY OF COMMON DIGITAL TERMS YOU MAY HEAR

API is a broad term that describes any method that two pieces of software use to communicate.

Application software (**app** for short) is a program or group of programs designed for end-users. This could be a spreadsheet, a video player, an email software, a web browser, and many others. Apps designed for mobile platforms are called **mobile apps**.

Asynchronous Online Learning describes self-paced learning, or self-study. (See also **Synchronous Online Learning**.)

Bandwidth is a measure of how much data can be transmitted, often represented in bits-per-second (bps), kilobits per second (kbps), or some other metric measurement. It can refer to the rate at which data can be transferred, or the total amount of data allowed to be transferred during a given period.

(Web) Browser is an application a device uses to visit websites on the internet. Google Chrome is the most popular, followed by Safari. Firefox, Opera, and Internet Explorer are other common browsers.

Cache/Caching refers to web files that are saved (downloaded) by a web browser so the page loads faster the next time the user visits the same site. Remember to clear your cache!

CDN (Content Delivery System) is a system of servers geographically distributed to accelerate the delivery of content and files by routing requests systematically to optimize for performance.

Cloud Computing refers to when information and resources are retrieved through the internet using web-based tools and applications instead of being stored on local computers and devices.

Cookie refers to information stored on a local computer by a website so preferences are remembered when future requests are made.

CMS (Content Management System) is a backend system used to organize and deliver multi-media content (such as text, images and video).

CRM System (Customer Relationship Management) is a backend system used to manage and analyze customer information and interactions and reporting to view past, present, and potential future engagements.

CSV File (Comma-Separated Values) is a simple file format where each row of data is represented by a line of text and each column is delimited/separated by a comma. CSV is popular because the data in this format can be read by many different applications.

Domain Name refers to the location of an entity on the Internet.

eCommerce refers to the process of buying and selling product online through websites, and includes the transactions required to fulfill and deliver purchased products (including downloads and access codes).

FTP (File Transfer Protocol) is a standard network protocol used to transfer files between a client and server.

Flash is a multimedia technology that was designed to allow interactive content to be produced with an overall smaller file size. As of December 31, 2020, Adobe has ended support for Flash content and our programs will not use it anymore.

HTML stands for Hypertext Markup Language which is the main format used to publish text, images, and other elements to websites.

HTML5 is the more advanced version of HTML and includes capabilities to embed video on a web page and an alternative to Flash.

HTTPS is a set of rules for transferring requests between browsers and servers over a secure encrypted connection.

Interoperability is the ability for a software program, a platform, or some combination to communicate with one another and exchange information. Different standards and languages are used to achieve interoperability, such as LTI. (See also [LTI](#).)

JavaScript is a scripting language used to create interactive websites without requiring a browser plugin.

LMS (Learning Management System) is a platform designed for the administration, delivery, tracking, and reporting of online learning activities and courses. MyELT and Online Practice are both LMS platforms.

LMS Integration is the process of bringing two platforms together so the customer benefits from shared functionality across systems. Integrations can be 'basic', for example single sign on (SSO); or customized to involve more complex requirements such as the ability to return student scores into a single integrated gradebook.

LTI (Learning Tools Interoperability) is an industry standard developed with a common framework to integrate external applications with an LMS. Popular LMS platforms such as Canvas, Blackboard, and Google Classrooms are LTI compliant.

Metadata refers to data with descriptors to help organize content or other data.

Open Source refers to the source code of a computer program (can be web-based or a desktop application) made available to the general public. These programs are generally free or at a very low cost. Linux is a family of open-source operating systems.

Plug-in is a software component which adds new features or enhancements to the application. Some browsers suggest adding a plug-in to use additional functionality available.

Portal is a website providing access or links to other websites but organized in a way so the user can access commonly used materials from one place.

Resolution refers to the physical number of pixels displayed on a screen (such as 1280 x 1024) and can be adjusted on a device to optimize the user experience.

Search Engine is a program that indexes documents and returns matched results to the search request.

SSO (Single Sign On) is an authentication strategy that allows a user to login with a single ID and password to multiple websites or systems. SSO is a common feature desired with a system integration.

Synchronous Online Learning describes a real-time online learning environment in which immediate two-way communication between the instructor and students is possible. This has been happening over Zoom a lot in 2020. (See also [Asynchronous Online Learning](#).)

UI (User Interface) is the part of the website or application that users see and interact with.

URL (Uniform Resource Locator) is the address of a unique resource (website) on the internet.

Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) is a generic term used for synchronous and asynchronous online learning.