

## Internet 101

The following is my understanding of the Internet. It may be new information or old information. However, it is always good to review.

A car consists of many systems. A car, for example, consists of an engine, drive train, cooling, braking, and electrical systems. We may say "car" but we mean many systems.

The same is true for the Internet. We may say the word "Internet" but we mean the components (systems) of the Internet. The Internet consists of three primary parts: Physical Connection, Email, and the Websites.

### Physical Connection

The Physical Connection is the Internet Provider (IP). The IP represents the company that is providing this service. The IP is priced upon speed and is generally a dedicated line to the computer. Some IPs are: Qwest, Cox, DIRECTV, EarthLink, Comcast, Net Zero and Verizon to name a few.

In the old days the phone line was switched to the computer. The phone lines are not as fast as the Internet lines. The Internet line or IP is used to access Email(s) and Websites. Each Website is becoming more robust everyday. It is very common to have a high speed IP to access websites.

It is common to "bundle" multiple services to reduce price. Multiple services are Phone, Internet, and TV.

Wi-Fi is a connection to the Internet that does not use any wires. Wi-Fi is free at many coffee shops and hotels. Remember information can travel through wires or the air.

### Email

Emails are messages sent to you by other people or websites. An email message consists of two components, a) the message *header*, b) and the message *body*, which is the email's content. The message header contains control information, including, minimally, an originator's email address and one or more recipient addresses. Usually additional information is added, such as a subject header field.

Originally a text-only communications medium, email was extended to carry multi-media content and attachments.

All emails have a common address consisting of: a) name, b) @, c) an email provider, d) an extension. Examples are: [mike@mikedorough.net](mailto:mike@mikedorough.net) and [mikedorough@cox.net](mailto:mikedorough@cox.net). Common extensions are: .com, .net, and .gov.

All emails require a Physical Line or Wi-Fi to work.

Emails are written and or accessed by software that resides on your computer. Common email software is: Thunderbird or Outlook. Common web access software is: IE, Firefox, Chrome, or Safari.

Common IPs have anti-virus protection, SPAM protection, and pop-up protection.

## Websites

The Internet is used to access websites. Websites are located on computers that are always connected to the Internet. Most website addresses start with [www.](#) and end with an extension. Common extensions are: [.com](#), [.net](#), and [.gov](#).

All websites provide information, while some require a Log In ID and Password. It is very common that a website sells goods or services and these websites usually require a Debit or Credit Card number and billing information.

There is so much information available on the Internet, people use search engines to find what they are looking for. "Google" or "Yahoo" are popular free search engines. I like "Google".

## Other

Products like Word (Word Processor) and Excel (Spreadsheet Processor) are not covered in this document. These files may be transferred over the Internet and have extensions of [.doc](#) and [.exe](#).

I have two email accounts, [mikedorough@cox.net](mailto:mikedorough@cox.net) from Cox (my IP provider) and [mike@mikedorough.net](mailto:mike@mikedorough.net) from Go-Daddy (my email domain provider). Many Internet businesses provide free email accounts. You can have as many email accounts as you choose to manage.

Domains providers are able to lease Domain names (websites). My Domain provider, Go-Daddy, leased me the Domain name [www.mikedorough.net](http://www.mikedorough.net). They also provided me with the email address [mike@mikedorough.net](mailto:mike@mikedorough.net). Most people do not use a Domain provider and do not have a website.

Your Domain name points to the location of your website, if you have a website. You can program your website or have someone else administer it. Until the website is programmed nothing is visible. I choose to have my website ([www.mikedorough.net](http://www.mikedorough.net)) administered by [www.weightmansweb.com](http://www.weightmansweb.com).

Websites may operate on the Internet or have some software that operates on your computer. Most websites operate on the Internet. Software that runs on your computer are products like Vonage and Skype.

Vonage lets you make calls phone calls using your high speed Internet connection and re-replaces your phone(s).

Skype lets you make free calls using your computer and Internet. It works well with a webcam. Skype does not re-place your phone(s).

Mike