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proposed by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF).
Acronym: IESG.

Internet Engineering Task Force *n.* See IETF.

Internet Explorer *n.* Microsoft's Web browsing software. Introduced in October 1995, the latest versions of Internet Explorer include many features that allow you to customize your experience on the Web. Internet Explorer is also available for the Macintosh and UNIX platforms. *See also* ActiveX control, Java applet, Web browser.

Internet Foundation Classes *n.* A Java class library developed by Netscape to facilitate the creation of full-feature, mission-critical Java applications. Internet Foundation Classes (IFC) comprises user-interface objects and frameworks intended to extend Java's Abstract Window Toolkit (AWT) and includes a multifont text editor; essential application controls; and drag-and-drop, drawing/event, windowing, animation, object persistence, single-thread, and localization frameworks. *See also* Abstract Window Toolkit, Application Foundation Classes, Java Foundation Classes, Microsoft Foundation Classes.

Internet gateway *n.* A device that provides the connection between the Internet backbone and another network, such as a LAN (local area network). Usually the device is a computer dedicated to the task or a router. The gateway generally performs protocol conversion between the Internet backbone and the network, data translation or conversion, and message handling. A gateway is considered a node on the Internet. *See also* gateway, Internet backbone, node (definition 2), router.

Internet Group Membership Protocol *n.* A protocol used by IP hosts to report their host group memberships to any immediately neighboring multicast routers.
Acronym: IGMP.

Internet home *n.* See smart home.

Internet Information Services *n.* Software services that support Web site creation, configuration, and management, along with other Internet functions. Internet Information Services include Network News Transfer Protocol (NNTP), File Transfer Protocol (FTP), and Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP).

Internet Inter-ORB Protocol *n.* See IIOP.

Internet Mail Consortium *n.* An international membership organization of businesses and vendors involved in

activities related to e-mail transmission over the Internet. The goals of the Internet Mail Consortium are related to the promotion and expansion of Internet mail. The group's interests range from making Internet mail easier for new users to advancing new mail technologies and expanding the role played by Internet mail into areas such as electronic commerce and entertainment. For example, the Internet Mail Consortium supports two companion specifications, vCalendar and vCard, designed to facilitate electronic exchange of scheduling and personal information.
Acronym: IMC.

Internet Naming Service *n.* See WINS.

Internet Printing Protocol *n.* A specification for transmission of documents to printers through the Internet. Development of the Internet Printing Protocol (IPP) was proposed in 1997 by members of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). Intended to provide a standard protocol for Internet-based printing, IPP covers both printing and printer management (printer status, job cancellation, and so on). It is applicable to print servers and to network-capable printers.

Internet Protocol *n.* See IP.

Internet Protocol address *n.* See IP address.

Internet Protocol next generation *n.* See IPng.

Internet Protocol number *n.* See IP address.

Internet Protocol Security *n.* See IPsec.

Internet Protocol version 4 *n.* See IPv4.

Internet Protocol version 6 *n.* See IPv6.

Internet reference model *n.* See TCP/IP reference model.

Internet Relay Chat *n.* See IRC.

Internet Research Steering Group *n.* The governing body of the Internet Research Task Force (IRTF).
Acronym: IRSG.

Internet Research Task Force *n.* A volunteer organization that is an arm of the Internet Society (ISOC) focused on making long-term recommendations concerning the Internet to the Internet Architecture Board (IAB). *Acronym:* IRTF. *See also* Internet Society.

Internet robot *n.* See spider.

source, including the ability to execute commands within transactions. A .NET Framework data provider also contains classes to populate a DataSet with results from a data source and propagate changes in a DataSet back to the data source.

net.god *n.* A highly respected person within the Internet community.

nethead *n.* 1. A person who uses the Internet as if addicted to it. 2. A Grateful Dead fan who participates in the rec.music.gdead newsgroup or some other forum dedicated to that band.

netiquette *n.* Short for **network etiquette**. Principles of courtesy observed in sending electronic messages, such as e-mail and Usenet postings. The consequences of violating netiquette include being flamed and having one's name placed in the bozo filter of one's intended audience. Disapproved behavior includes gratuitous personal insults; posting of large amounts of irrelevant material; giving away the plot of a movie, television show, or novel without warning; posting offensive material without encrypting it; and excessive cross-posting of a message to multiple groups without regard to whether the group members are likely to find it interesting. *See also* bozo filter, flame².

netizen *n.* A person who participates in online communication through the Internet and other networks, especially conference and chat services, such as Internet news or Fidonet. *Compare* lurker.

NetMeeting *n.* A software application developed by Microsoft Corporation to allow video conferencing among parties using personal computers connected via the Internet. NetMeeting allows participants in different locations to view each other, engage in text chat conversations, send and receive videos, exchange information graphically via an electronic whiteboard, share Windows-based applications, and transfer files.

.NET Messenger Service *n.* A popular instant-messaging service provided by Microsoft as part of the .NET strategy. With .NET Messenger Service, formerly called MSN Messenger Service, users can communicate using the Windows Messenger, included in Windows XP, or MSN Messenger applications. *See also* instant messaging. *Compare* AIM, ICQ, Yahoo! Messenger.

.NET My Services *n.* A suite of XML Web services for managing and protecting personal information and interactions across applications, devices, and services. Formerly

code-named HailStorm, .NET My Services is based on the Microsoft .NET Passport user-authentication system. The suite of .NET My Services includes services such as .NET ApplicationSettings, .NET Calendar, .NET Contacts, .NET Devices, .NET Documents, .NET Inbox, .NET Locations, .NET Profile, and .NET Wallet. *See also* .NET, Passport.

NetPC *n.* Short for **Network PC**. An industry-defined, Windows-based PC system that is small and meant to act as simply an access point. These PCs generally have very small hard drives, no disk drives, and are built to have a very low cost. Some older NetPCs can boot through remote access to a server and user server-based resources for most computing actions.

net.personality *n.* A slang term for a person who has attained some degree of celebrity on the Internet.

net.police *n.* Persons (usually self-appointed) who try to enforce their understanding of the "rules" that apply to conduct on the Internet. Their activities may be directed toward users who violate the rules of netiquette, spammers who send unsolicited advertising as e-mail or to newsgroups, or even people who post "politically incorrect" comments to newsgroups or mailing lists. *See also* netiquette, spam.

Netscape Navigator *n.* The widely used family of Web browser programs, made by Netscape Corporation. Versions of Netscape Navigator are available for the Windows and Macintosh platforms, and for many varieties of UNIX. Netscape Navigator, which is based on NCSA's Mosaic Web browser, was one of the first commercially available Web browsers. In 1999, Netscape Corporation was purchased by America Online. *See also* Mosaic, Web browser.

Netscape Netcaster *n.* *See* netcasting (definition 2).

Netscape Server Application Programming Interface *n.* *See* NSAPI.

Netspeak *n.* The set of conventions for writing English in e-mail, IRCs, and newsgroups. Netspeak is characterized by acronyms (such as IMHO or ROFL) and clarifying devices such as emotags and emoticons. Use of Netspeak should be governed by netiquette. *See also* emotag, emoticon, IMHO, IRC, netiquette, ROFL.

netsplonage *n.* Corporate-sponsored hacking of a competitor's digital information for the theft of trade secrets.