**University of Bejaia**

**Faculty of exact sciences**

**Department of computer science**

**Module: technical English**

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**Level: L2**

**Lesson 01: Useful glossary of ICT terms:**

**Application software**. Computer programs that are used to accomplish specific tasks not related to the computer itself, examples are word processors, spreadsheets and accounting System.

**Asynchronous communication**: a time-delayed communication through some type of recording device, it is replayed at the convenience of the user.an example is e-mail. Communication in which interaction between sender and receiver does not take place simultaneously (e.g. e-mail or fax).

**Browser**: tool used to access, manipulate, locate, download and display information on the web (e.g. Netscape navigator, internet explorer).

**CD-ROM**: compact disk read only memory. A round, silver plastic disk that comes with massive amounts of information embedded and ready to be used. Unlike diskettes, any type of computer with a CD-ROM drive can read CD-ROM disks.

**Central processing unit (CPU**): the brain of the computer that processes instructions and manages the flow of information through a computer system.

**Chat**: exchanging information (a next dialogue) in real time; a conversation (on the internet).

**Disc drive**: a device that reads the information contained on a disk. The drive may be permanently installed inside the computer (hard disk drive) or contain a slot for entering the disk from outside the computer (floppy disk drive or compact disk drive).

**Disk**: a round plastic magnetic device on which computer programs and data are saved. There are three main types of disks (maintained inside the computer), diskettes (floppy disks), and compact disks.

**Fibre optic cable**: hair thin, flexible glass rods that use light signals to transmit information. Fibre optic cable has mush higher capacity than copper cable, and is not as subject to interference or noise, fibre optic cable has the capacity to accommodate high-speed, multimedia networking.

**File**: a block of information stored on a magnetic media such as a floppy or hard disk or a tape. A file may contain a computer program, a document, or a collection of data.

**Floppy disk**: a removable magnetic disk, usually called diskette, for storing relatively small amount of computer-processed data and information outside a computer’s body , and/or moving that amount from one computer to another.

**Hard disk**: a computer device directly accessible for storing and retrieving large volumes of programs and data.

**Hyperlinks**: active text image or button marked in colour on the web page, a click on which (a hyperlink activization) takes the user to another part of the current page.

**Icon**: a symbol displayed on the computer screen that represents a command or program. Icons help make computer operating systems and applications easier to use.

**Internet service provider**: a company that provides access to the internet, such as phone companies and other commercial service providers.

**Monitor**: a device similar to a television screen that receives video signals from the computer and displays the information for the user.

**Network**: a group of computers connected to each other share computer software, data, communications and peripherals.

**Notebook**: a class of portable of computers of notebook size weighing less than 4 kgs.

**PC**: personal computer. The tem originals from IBM PC, produced in 1981 by the IBM Corporation as a computer to be operated by an individual.

**Peripheral**: a device that is attached to a computer, such as a monitor, keyboard, mouse, modem, CD-ROM, printer, scanner, and speakers.

**Portfolio assessment**: a portfolio is defined as a purposeful collection of student work that exhibits to the student and others the student’s efforts, progress, or achievement in a given area.

**Projector**: an electronic-optical device, emitting a strong beam of light to cast the computer monitors images onto a large screen.

**RAM**: random access memory, the space in the computer on which information is temporarily stored while the computer is on.

**ROM**: read only memory, a permanently stored memory that is read and not altered in the operation.

**Search engine**: a tool used to search the internet for information, it searches a defined database. A word or phrase is entered on a search engine and a number of “hits” will appear.

**Synchronous**: communication in which interaction between sender and receiver takes place simultaneously (e.g. telephone or videoconferencing).

**URL**: Uniform Resource locator. An address on the World Wide Web.

Videoconferencing: the ability for groups at distant locations to participate in the same meeting at the same time using analog or digital video capabilities.

**WWW**: world Wide Web. A system that’s allows access to information sites all over the world using a standard, common interface to organize and search for information, the WWW simplifies the location and retrieval of various forms of information including text, audio and video files.