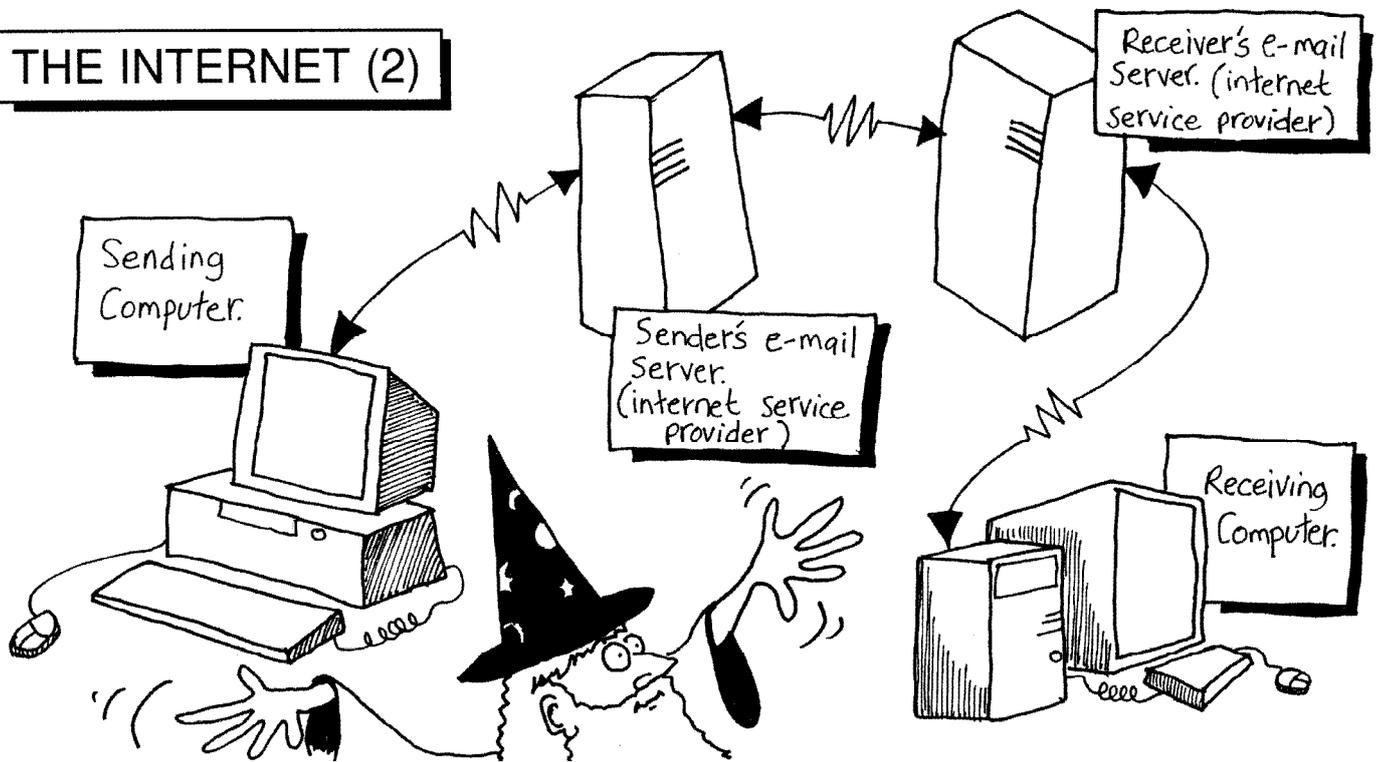


THE INTERNET (2)



The Internet can be used to communicate with other users. The most common way of doing this is by electronic mail (e-mail). Your Internet Service Provider (ISP) will give you an e-mail address. Then you will be able to send messages to anywhere in the world and only be charged for your call at the local rate. Imagine you want to wish your cousin in Australia a happy birthday. You type your message into your computer. The message goes through your modem, down the telephone cable to your provider's computer. It then goes to your cousin's ISP where it sits in a mail box. Once your cousin "logs on" to the Internet he can download your message.

E-mail is usually much quicker, easier and cheaper than sending letters through the post. You can send long, complicated documents full of graphics to the other side of the world in a matter of minutes. Messages can be sent 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

For example, imagine that you are reporting on the tennis final at Wimbledon for an American newspaper. You can write your story on your notebook (portable) computer as it happens. When you have finished the story you can connect your computer to the telephone lines with a modem. Then you can send the story back to your head office in the United States using e-mail. This will take just a few minutes.

You can also send messages to other Internet users by means of newsgroups. These are groups of people who have a common interest or hobby and swap information with each other about it. They cover every subject under the sun - family history, playing the bagpipes, motorbikes, fan clubs, UFOs and so on. Their web pages are like notice boards. You can ask a question or post a message and people in the group can answer.

You can also "chat" on the Internet. This means that you can have a live conversation with people anywhere in the world. You type and read messages instead of talking.

Why not give us your comments about this worksheet by sending a message to the e-mail address at the bottom of the page?

Exercises

1. Give the full name for e-mail.
2. Write a list of the advantages of e-mail as opposed to sending letters.
3. Describe what newsgroups are.
4. Suggest other subjects which might have newsgroups on the internet.
5. What does "chat" mean on the internet?
6. Can you think of any disadvantages of e-mail?
7. Copy the diagram.
8. Write to a friend describing how useful e-mail has been in your job as a news reporter.
9. Imagine you are running a small business which designs CD covers. Describe the ways in which you might find e-mail useful.



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