**Avatar**: A virtual character that represents the person online using it. Avatars are commonly used in multiplayer gaming, online communities, and web forums. Depending on the program, you can choose an already designed avatar or create the avatar yourself.

**Blog (short for “web log”)**: A series of posts, similar to private entries in a journal or diary, written by a user and posted on a blogging web site like Wordpress or Blogger. Through blogs, people can share their personal thoughts, feelings, opinions, and experiences with thousands of people who are online.

**Cache**: A computer attribute that stores recently used information in a place where it can be quickly accessed.

**Chat room**: An online “room” (or designated space) where users can post messages and type to one another. Chat rooms can be organized by particular topics of interest or by a particular group of people, i.e. “music” or “teens”.

**CPU (Central Processing Unit)**: This is the brain of your computer. The CPU processes everything from basic to complex functions and instructions.

**Cookie**: Data sent to your computer by a web server like Internet Explorer. Cookies record your actions on a particular web site. For example, sites can remember information like user name and password so you don't have to re-enter it each time you visit the site.

**Cyberspace**: This term is used to describe the virtual world. Anything said to be in cyberspace refers to data floating around the internet.

**Cyber-bullying**: Any form of bullying behavior (harassing, threatening, embarrassing, or humiliating) which takes place in cyberspace, including internet and cell phones.

**Filtering and monitoring software**: Software programs that supervise and sift through the systems CPU performance as well as RAM and hard disk usage.

**Hard disk**: Hardware of the computer where data is saved or installed programs are written. Data remains recorded here even after you've turned off your computer.

**IM (Instant Message)**: A message sent instantly to another person who is using the same instant messaging program on the internet. These online conversations are like phone calls, but rather than listening to the other person speak, you are reading what they have to say. Another difference is that on IM programs you can have several different conversations happening at the same time. Many IM programs have the capability of storing or saving conversation transcripts.

**IP (Internet Protocol) Address**: This is a code made up of numbers separated by three dots. This code identifies a particular computer on the internet.

**MMORPG (Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game)**: A role-playing game that is played in cyberspace with a large number of players who interact with each other inside the game and sometimes outside the game via IM or microphone. Many of these games also require gamers to have an **avatar**.
**Online:** To be “online” typically means that a person or device is connected to the internet.

**Private profile:** Information that is entered into one’s **user profile** and is only seen by people that the user has given permission.

**Public profile:** Information that is entered into a public **user profile** and can be seen by anyone who also has an active profile with that particular program; sometimes private profiles can be seen by anyone with internet connection.

**RAM (Random Access Memory):** The RAM is a part of the hardware to your computer. It is made up of small memory modules that are installed on the motherboard (or the main circuit board) of your computer. Every time you open a program it is loaded from the hard drive into the RAM.

**Sexting:** Act of sending or receiving sexually explicit images, message, or videos (in some cases) via communication devices such as the internet or cell phones.

**SNS (Social Networking Site):** **Online** communities where users have **profiles**, can add friends to a contact list, send messages to other users, and leave comments directly on other people’s profile pages. Popular SNSs are Myspace and Facebook.

**Texting:** Sending short text messages between cell phones, pagers, or other communication devices. Users can also send text messages from a computer to a handheld device such as a cell phone or pager.

**Username:** A name that uniquely identifies someone on a particular computer or software program. Usernames are created by the user and can be the same or different for various accounts requiring username.

**User Profile:** An online record of user-specific data including privacy settings, network connections, social connections (i.e. people and/or groups they are connected to), and personal information the user has chosen to post. **SNSs** function via user profiles.

**URL (Uniform Resource Locator):** The address of a specific website or file on the internet.

**Webcam:** This is a combination of the word “web” and of “video camera.” Webcams broadcast video on the web. They are small cameras that are built into the computer, attached onto the monitor, or sit near the computer. They are often used during **IM** conversations or **chat room** sessions.

*Definitions cross-referenced with [www.techterms.com](http://www.techterms.com) and [www.techtarget.com](http://www.techtarget.com). Visit these sites for more tech-savvy terms.*