

# Welcome to the internet: let's get connected!

The internet is like a vast library that spans the globe, allowing you to access a wealth of information, communicate, pay bills, study, work, shop and stream entertainment at the click of a button. This guide teaches you the basics of getting online, searching for the information you need and creating a personal email address so you can make the most of this powerful resource.

## GETTING STARTED

### How to connect to the internet

The following steps apply when ordering home internet service. If connecting to the internet on your smart phone, your cellular provider will generally configure your phone to connect to the internet at time of purchase.



#### **STEP 1:** Select an internet service provider

An ISP (Internet Service Provider) is your gateway to the internet. Your choice of ISP will depend on where you live. In general, you can purchase internet services from a variety of sources, including phone, cable, fiber internet and cellular providers who use a variety of wired and wireless technologies.



#### **STEP 2:** Set up your connection

Once you contact an ISP; they will schedule a time to install the necessary equipment (a modem and possibly a router) at your home. The modem connects to the internet, and the router allows multiple devices to share that modem through Wi-Fi. You can set up a unique name for your router and choose a password.



#### **STEP 3:** Connect your device

Devices connect in one of two ways: wirelessly or wired. To connect wirelessly, use your devices to look for the router's Wi-Fi signal. Then enter your password. For a wired connection, plug an ethernet cable from your modem or router directly into your device via an Ethernet port.

***Now you're ready to take advantage of everything the internet offers.***

#### **INTERNET TIP:**

Many coffee shops and other public spaces offer you the ability to connect to the Internet for free. Public libraries often have free public computers for you to use as well.

## Speaking the language of the web

Navigating the internet is much easier when you're familiar with a few key terms. We've compiled a list of essential terms that will enhance your understanding and experience.

### Internet Glossary

**Bandwidth:** The measure of "speed" – the amount of data that can flow through an internet connection at one time. This impacts how fast you can download files and how seamless your communications and streaming experiences are.

**Browser:** Software used to access and view websites. Popular browsers include Chrome, Safari, Edge, and Firefox.

**Cookies:** Small files stored on your device that help websites remember information about your visit and track your preferences as you go from page to page.

**Domain Name:** A word or name used to easily identify a page "address" on the internet. Domain names are easily recognized because they end in a period followed by a 2 to 3 letter suffix such as .com and .net. (e.g., google.com).

**Firewall:** A network security system that monitors and controls incoming and outgoing network traffic based on predetermined security rules.

**5G:** An internet connection that uses cellular networks to provide high-speed access for mobile and home devices.

**IP Address (Internet Protocol Address):** A string of numbers separated by periods that identifies each device connected to a network, such as a computer or router. These are the "native" addresses used by devices to talk to each other. These are automatically translated to domain names to make it easier for users to enter and remember these addresses.

**Malware:** Software designed to disrupt, damage or gain unauthorized access to a computer system.

**Phishing:** A method of trying to gather personal information using deceptive emails and websites.

**Router:** A device that sends internet data to the correct devices in your home or business, like computers and phones.

**Spam:** Unwanted, unsolicited digital communications with advertising sent in bulk, often as emails.

**VPN (Virtual Private Network):** A service that protects your internet connection and privacy by scrambling your data (encrypting it) to create a secure connection over the internet.

**Wi-Fi:** Technology that allows electronic devices to connect to the internet using a wireless LAN (Local Area Network).

### Internet vs. World Wide Web: What's the difference?

The terms **Internet** and **World Wide Web (the web)** are frequently used interchangeably in everyday language, but they have distinct meanings. The internet is the broader network that allows computers to communicate, while the web is a collection of information accessed via the internet using a web browser.

# How to navigate and search the internet

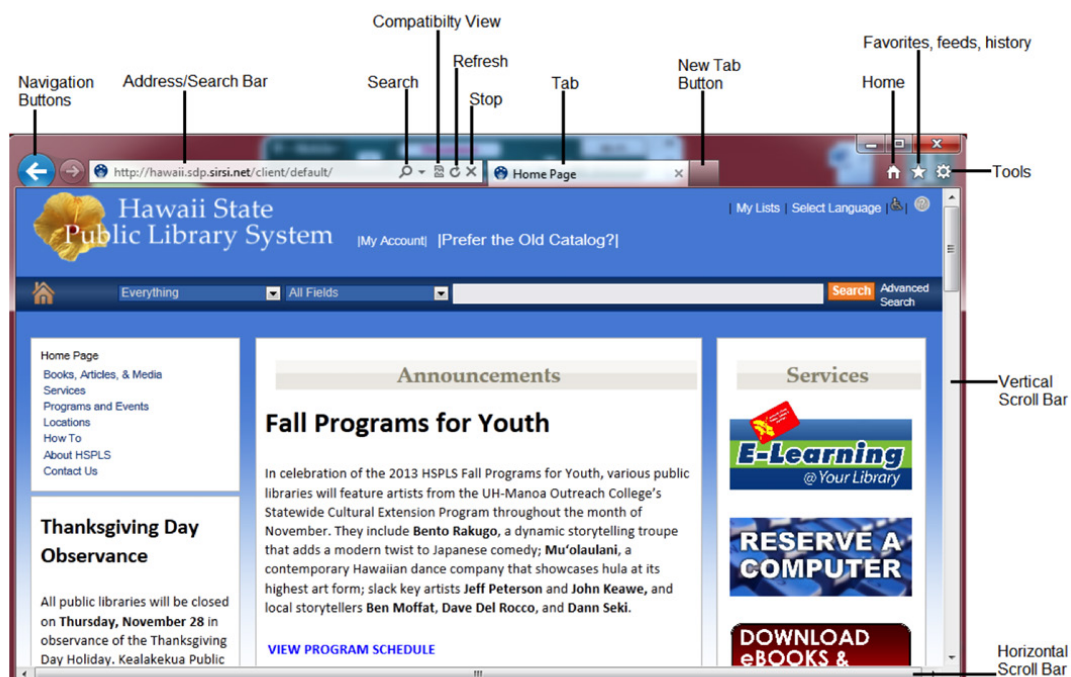
There is a lot of information on the Internet. There are two main ways to find what you're looking for: browsers and search engines.

- **Using a web browser:** A browser is your window to the world; it allows you to connect with web pages and interact with information. To see a web page, type its address into the browser. Chrome, Firefox, Edge and Safari are the most popular browsers.
- **Using search engines:** It's hard to know the address of every website. Using your browser, you can go to web sites like Google, Bing or Yahoo! Search which are designed to make it easy to find other websites, images, videos and answers to your questions by typing in a few keywords.

## HELPFUL HINT:

The address bar on most browsers doubles as a search tool, connecting to the search engine of your choice.

### Anatomy of a Browser



- **Address bar:** Shows the website address (also called a URL), usually starting with the format: https://
- **Search bar:** Access a search engine from your browser.
- **Forward/back buttons:** Navigate through visited pages.
- **Homepage button:** Returns to your browser's starting page.
- **Bookmarks:** Saves and organizes favorite pages for easy access in the future.
- **Menu:** Accesses settings, tools and features.

## How to create a personal email address

Creating a personal email address is the first step in managing your digital life. Whether for personal or professional use – or separate accounts for each – your email account connects you with the world. Here's how to sign up.



### STEP 1: Choose an email provider

Popular providers include Gmail, Yahoo! Mail, and Outlook.com. Visit their websites and look for the option to create a new account. Many internet service providers also offer free basic email accounts.



### STEP 2: Sign up

Fill out the registration form with your details, choose your unique email address and create a secure password.

*TIP: It may take a few attempts to find a unique name that another user hasn't claimed.*



### STEP 3: Verification

Some providers may ask you to verify your identity with a phone number or another email address to keep your new email secure. Follow the instructions provided by your provider.

**HELPFUL HINT:** Using a popular provider lets you keep your address for as long as you like. If you choose to use your ISP's email address, you may not be able to keep that address if you decide to switch, which could cause disruptions for you in the future.

### SECURITY TIP:

#### Enable two-factor authentication (2FA).

Enabling two-factor authentication strengthens your email account's security. This requires your password plus a second verification method, such as a code texted to your phone. You can activate 2FA through your account's security settings or when you sign up.

## About Brightspeed

Launched in 2022, Brightspeed is building a future where more communities can benefit from a more connected life. We believe where you choose to call home shouldn't limit your options — and we're building the infrastructure to provide millions of homes with fast, reliable internet. So wherever you're streaming, gaming or working, you'll enjoy an uninterrupted experience. **Learn more at [www.brightspeed.com](http://www.brightspeed.com).**

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