

# **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

## **THE INTERNET**

The Internet simply refers to a network of the networks. All the networks are related and connected to each other and it is reachable by anyone in the globe. These interconnected networks or computers transmit information using a special internet protocol (IP). As thus, internet is a huge network of different interlinked networks, which can communicate each other with a fraction of a second. These interrelated links such as computer networks, single computer at home, telephone system, television system and hand phones are part of the internet and can be used to access many important information anywhere in the world without barriers. All these devices communicate with each other using a common language thus creating a virtual global marketplace.

Before internet was widely available in the year 1990', It was just an experimental research program used by the American military in the year 1960's. This project named *Arpanet* (*Advance Research Project*) and fully paid by the US government to conduct military research and connected with some universities and libraries only. In the year 1974, the first workable and independent communication hardware was created. In the year 1980's these experimental programs (*Arpanet*) changed shape and named Internet. As thus, the internet has advanced from the purposefully organized, special, secret, very much controlled and military usage to that of open access information highway available to all beyond expectation. Welcome to the world of WWW. Let us use the internet to educate ourselves and others and promote peace and tranquillity not war.

### **IMPORTANCE OF THE INTERNET (ADVANTAGES)**

Internet is considered to be one of the best innovations ever created in the history of human beings. It has brought many positive changes to people across the glob. Internet has introduced a huge wealth of knowledge to all without considering age, color or nationality. Internet has created a global e-village where everybody shares whatever they have. Internet has helped people to communicate with each other across the world without considering time, distance and space thus making life easy and comfortable. Internet also has changed the way people communicate, entertain each other and perform online transactions. Internet also reduces cost and time in conducting business as well as entry to the global market by creating smart and creative opportunities.

The promise of internet is loud and clear. It delivers better, cheaper, smarter and faster services when people do business. As thus internet has changed our life for the better by virtually opening a huge super information highways.

### **ADVANTAGES OF THE INTERNET:**

1. **Information on any topic:** It is a virtual treasure of knowledge. Search engines such as Yahoo and Google are the best source of knowledge to researchers, scholars, students and children. It is the leading information highway in obtaining important information about disease and even patients can directly talk to virtual doctors online.
2. **Communication Efficiency:** Internet users now can communicate with each other with a fraction of moment. Using email and chat facilities, users can communicate for hours with friends and families alike. With the help of services such as messenger, users can easily communicate to each other thus creating global friendship without any barriers. With the help of internet, users can share their creative thoughts as well as enjoy the beauty of different cultures.
3. **Entertainment and Relaxation:** Chat rooms and games entertain people all the time. In chat rooms people virtually meet new friends and exchange ideas and thoughts. Indeed internet has created a global society, meaningful economy and information sharing shift around the glob making life easy and comfortable.
4. **Meaningful Services:** Internet users now are able to use online services such as applying online learning, education application for their children, applying for government matters, online banking and purchasing all needed materials. Apart from that, users now comfortably conduct any kind of e-business and exchange information faster than ever thought before.

Users now also can easily fill out the online purchase form and purchase anything they want from online stores with just a click of a mouse. Users also can make immediate payment for their favorite products from any online store. Many without considering age, color, country and distance access these virtual supermarkets.

### **DISADVANTAGES OF THE INTERNET:**

Apart from the unimaginable benefits of the internet, one must be extra careful that internet can be a grave site for a relentless danger to the users and to their loved ones. Cyber criminals to use users' identity, passwords, credit card numbers and confidential information about the

users to make illegal gains can use internet. Crimes such as cheating and sending unwanted emails as well as bullying users are common in cyberspace. Children are the most effected users who often fall prey to these criminals who always looking for these unsuspecting children.

Another danger of internet is receiving unwanted emails and viruses that virtually disrupt users and their computers from performing productive outputs. Another very lethal danger of internet is the availability of pornographic sites, which always attack young and innocent children. As thus, the internet is the most innovative invention to humankind and the same time can be very much disturbing and unproductive experience.

#### SOME DISADVANTAGES OF THE INTERNET CONTINUED..

1. Enjoyment of retail shopping lost
2. Privacy and security issues
3. Access to the Internet and computer  
(expensive to buy a computer and a domain name)
4. Product category risk
5. Too many choices and confusing
6. Pornography risk for children and families
7. Privacy of individual and information
8. Bullying and cyber crime
9. Fraud and illegal transfer of money
10. Blind dating through internet resulting in a shameful situation.
11. Hacking, virus and spying

Even though the internet poses a major danger to all the users, needless to say that it is a blessing to mankind. It is the opening of a supper information highway. Having discussed the importance of the internet in our life, needless to say that we need some laws and regulations to govern the internet activities. As such the Malaysian government has authorized certain cyber laws to protect individuals, companies, families, children and all the internet users in Malaysia. These laws are passed to monitor the behavior of computer users online. The following are some laws approved by the government to control internet users:

Digital Signature Act 1997

Computer Crimes Act 1997

Telemedicine Act 1997

Communication and Multimedia Act 1998

## **WHAT IS INTRANET?**

It refers to a collection of individualized networks to suit only within an organization. In an organization, these private networks are used to communicate with all who works within that organization and thus making communication and data sharing easier. It all so helps employees to communicate with the organization. Intranet uses standard hardware and software such as Ethernet, WIFI (*Wireless Fidelity*), web browsers, servers and IP. Organization in order to communicate with the staff, still utilizes internet but it is protected with firewall so that those who are not related to the organization will not be reached to sensitive information.

## **WHAT IS ETHERNET?**

It is a physical transmission medium. It is a physical data link for local area networks. In the year 1980's Ethernet only supported up to 10 megabits per second and later, up to 100 and now it an support up to gigabit and terabits.

## **WHAT IS TCP AND IP?**

Transmission Control Protocol (TCP). Internet Protocol (IP). They are a standard medium of communication between computers and people and computers.