

Perfect Computer Solutions, Inc.

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General Netiquette

Here are certain conventions and jargon that have been developed. If you pick up any of the many monthly magazines on the Internet, it seems as though the "net" has a life of its own. The following is a list of suggestions that can hopefully make your transition to using the Internet a little less painful.

- Use FAQs: many mailing lists and newsgroups put together FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions). Always get the FAQs and read them first, if they are available. Once you start using services like mailing lists or UseNet News, you'll find references and instructions on how to get the FAQs.
- Avoid posting test messages: Don't waste people's time or Internet bandwidth with this kind of junk. You will find out if you can post when you try out your first real message. If you absolutely must know if you can post, you should use one of the test newsgroups.
- Reply to questions: If you know the answer, share your knowledge. This is how the Internet has grown. If someone has personally E-Mailed you, and you don't know the answer, you should still send a reply out of respect.
- Avoid flame wars! Flame wars occur on mailing lists and newsgroups when one person doesn't like what someone else said. The second person sends a nasty little note back to the first person and the flame war begins. All that flame wars do is waste time and resources. If you really have a need to respond to a person that flames you, the least you can do is take it away from the group or list and use private e-mail.
- If you change your E-Mail address make sure that you unsubscribe your old address to mailing lists and update the new address to lists and resources such as InterNIC.

- Abbreviations: Many messages on the internet will contain strange looking abbreviations. Here are some that you may run across:

BRB (Be Right back)	BTW (By The Way)
CU (See You)	L8R (Later)
FOAF (Friend Of A Friend)	FYI (For Your Information)
IMHO (In My Humble Opinion)	IMO (In My Opinion)
MOTAS (Member Of The Appropriate Sex)	PD (Public Domain)
MOTOS (Member Of The Opposite Sex)	OB (As a Prefix, Obligatory)
MOTSS (Member Of The same Sex)	SO (Significant Other)
OTOH (On The Other Hand)	ROTFL (Rolling On The Floor Laughing)
RTFM (Read The Freakin' Manual)	WRT (With Respect To)
<G> (Grin)	AKA (Also Known As)

- Shouting: ANYTIME YOU TYPE IN ALL CAPS, IT IS ASSUMED YOU ARE SHOUTING. If you want to make a *Point,* type a special character before and after the point you want to make. Finally, @#%^ looks a lot better than real profanity.
- Surfing and Lurking: Surfers are those Internet users who cover a lot of Internet territory and typically are helpful to other Internet users. Lurkers are those folks who use resources such as newsgroups but don't respond to questions. There is nothing wrong with being in either of the two extremes.

- Smiles (Or Emotions) show up in text messages and are used to convey feelings. Here are a few and their meanings:

:-) Smiling	:D Laughing
;-) Winking	:-(Frowning
:-} Grinning	:~] Smirking
:~ Indifferent	:~# Smiley With Braces
:~{ Smiley With Mustache	{:-) Smiley With Toupee
:~X My Lips Are Sealed	=:-) Punk Rocker Smiley
= :-) Abraham Lincoln	:~o Surprise
:~@ Screaming Or Yelling	8-) Eyeglasses
:~/ Perplexed	:~P Tongue Sticking Out