

Adware-Programs that track your Internet activity to bring you targeted advertising.

Bulk Mail-The name that many email companies use for junk mail.

Cookies-Small packets of information left on your computer by many websites. These help the website remember your preferences and track how many people have visited. Most of the time, cookies are helpful rather than malicious. Occasionally though, cookies can be gathered by third party vendors and used to create user profiles. These are then used for very targeted marketing. They can also reveal some personal information if they are enabled on shared computers.

Encryption-Encryption scrambles information as it is sent over the Internet from your computer. When it arrives at its destination, it is reassembled. This protects the information as it is transmitted.

Firewall-A barrier that acts as a filter between a computer or network of computers and the Internet.

Malware-A group of programs, including viruses, meant to damage your computer, your network, or the Internet itself. These programs slow the computer and corrupt the information it contains.

Pharming-Occurs when the path to a popular website is changed to direct users to other websites, either to steal information or to draw web traffic for sponsors. These scams are called “pharming” because they net many victims at once. Avoid these scams by watching for misspellings and logos that do not look legitimate.

Phishing- Phishing, or **Brand Spoofing** is a type of identity theft that occurs when you click on a link in an email that appears to be from a legitimate company (usually a bank or online vendor like Ebay or Amazon). You are directed to a legitimate looking website where you enter personal information that is recorded. The emails are sent to millions of people, “fishing” in the hopes that a few will respond with personal information that will allow the criminals to steal identities.

Sypware-A group of programs that attach to your browser and collect data about you and your activities online, usually for the marketing purposes of a website. While these are generally not meant to harm your computer, they slow its processing speed significantly. They also generate targeted advertisements and steer you to their website.

Worms-Types of malware designed to spread easily from computer to computer.