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Home	Lab Home	Intro	News	Glossary
Standards	RFCS	TC-100	Areas	Articles
Navigation Aids				

IA Glossary

These terms have the following meanings as used in the Information Architecture.

add value

to make a product or service worth more to customers through improving processes or enhancing core competencies in a cost-effective manner.

ATM

asynchronous transfer mode.

bandwidth

the data-transfer capacity of a communications channel; the word derives from the range of frequencies available for analog transmissions and has evolved to refer to volume of digital throughput.

build

to assemble an application by creating and integrating hardware and software components.

buy

to procure applications, hardware components, or software components from an outside vendor.

common suite

a group of supported, interoperable information tools provided and supported by the Laboratory and in general use throughout the Laboratory.

consistent

similar among differing platforms, but not identical; a term applied to user interfaces.

customer

anyone who has a need for an application, service, product, or their by-products.

desktop

the working area on the computer at a user's office.

direct access

in terms of the infrastructure, "direct access" has two components: physical and logical. The physical aspect addresses the need for a connection to the infrastructure in every work area. The logical aspect addresses the need for a unique identifier and password for every user of the infrastructure.

distributed computing

the use of multiple computers, linked by a communications network, to perform a common set of tasks; under distributed computing, workload is shared among many computers.

FDDI

fiber distributed data interface.

GET

General Employee Training.

IETF

Internet Engineering Task Force.

Information Architecture

a framework for making effective, consistent decisions regarding information resources throughout the Laboratory; this involves a process for overall planning and coordination of Laboratory information infrastructure, applications, and information services.

information infrastructure

the cabling, equipment, software, services, desktop tools, and support that provide and maintain the connections among users' desktops, central computers, and other information resources.

information solution

a combination of hardware and software to perform a specific task.

information tool

the implementation of an information solution.

internet

with a lowercase i, an internet is any interconnected network of computing and communications devices

Internet

with an uppercase I, the Internet refers specifically to the internet that grew out of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA, superseded by ARPA) in the 1970s and that currently interconnects computing and communications devices throughout the world

interoperability

the capability for a product to communicate with and operate in conjunction with other systems and applications; interoperable tools comply with industry standards, enabling them to work as a unit with other tools.

intuitive

easily understood; an intuitive application builds upon a user's previous experience and produces predictable, consistent results.

Laboratory Corporate Information Directory

(LCID) a central, digital, easily accessible listing of Laboratory data, information, and products (software and hardware); for data and information, LCID describes what the information is, how to access it, who is its steward, etc.; for products, LCID includes the same information plus product evaluations.

LAICS

Los Alamos Integrated Communications System.

LCID

Laboratory Corporate Information Directory.

Laboratory information

information that is of ongoing, Laboratory-wide value, as opposed to data generated for a single, limited purpose.

National Information Infrastructure

(NII) a high-bandwidth communications network that will connect homes, businesses, universities, and other institutions throughout the country; the goal of a project spearheaded by Vice-President Gore and including many public- and private-sector institutions.

network infrastructure

the cabling and communications component of the information infrastructure.

open partition

the portion of the information infrastructure that is not used for classified information.

OCR

optical character recognition.

provider

a person or organization that provides a service or product to a customer.

reuse

the use of all or part of one hardware or software system in a different system; this includes the use of public domain software.

secure

protected from unauthorized access, misuse, damage, or loss; when discussing computer systems, security applies to all elements of the systems, including the machines, software, infrastructure, and data.

secure partition

the portion of the information infrastructure that is used to process and store classified information; unclassified information also exists in this partition.

standard Laboratory internet

the standard Laboratory implementation of the Internet

stewardship

responsibility for managing data, software, hardware, or other elements of the Information Architecture; for the assigned resource(s), the steward ensures accuracy, performs updates and corrections as needed, protects the resources from accidental loss or security violations, and is the primary point of contact for anyone accessing the resources.

support levels

clear definitions of the degree of support offered for various products; levels of support can range from very low support (e.g., an online manual with no additional help) to very high support (e.g., personnel assigned to install, maintain, enhance, document, train users for, and answer questions about the product).

telecommuting

working on a computer in one location, frequently home, while connected to an office at a different location via communications tools.

tele-experimentation

the sophisticated performing, controlling, coordinating, and/or analyzing of experiments from remote locations via high-performance communications and information tools.

usability

the ease with which a product can be used for the work for which it is designed; a high degree of usability implies ease of learning, flexibility, simplicity of use, and freedom from bugs.

user

anyone directly interacting with an application, service, or product.

videoconference

a form of meeting in which participants in remote locations can view each other and carry on discussions via television cameras, microphones, and other communications tools.

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<http://www.lanl.gov:8002/projects/ia/glossary.html>

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