

Technically SPEAKING

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What is a Cookie?

by Chris Grandfield

What is a cookie? Is a cookie a tasty treat? Or is it a word used in a web browser. Well believe it or not, a cookie is both. The basic definition of a computer cookie is a file with information about your preferences when you visit a website. A cookie is a lot like a preference file for a typical computer program. When you visit a website after being sent a cookie for that website, the site remembers that you have been there before. Common things the cookies store are things like your username and password so you do not have to re-enter them every time you visit the site. Cookies also allow you to have personalized websites

where you can customize what is displayed like on "My MSN" or "My Yahoo".

"A cookie is a file with information about your preferences when you visit a website"

Ok, so now you know what a cookie is and how they are used. Why the heck is it called a cookie? The origin of the word has its roots in computer science where the term is used to describe an opaque piece of data held by an intermediary. Lou Montulli, currently the protocols manager in Netscape's client product division, wrote the cookies specification for Navigator 1.0, the first browser to use the technology. The origin of the term cookie is not particularly amusing. No logical reason exists for why a cookie is called a cookie. Lou Montulli simply decided

to call it a cookie and then the other web browsers followed suit.

If you do not want to have cookies on your computer, you can certainly delete them. In fact, deleting cookies once in a while is a good idea. The number and size of cookies can build up over time depending on how much you surf the web. Most web browsers have a built-in option to delete the system's cookies. To delete your system's cookies in Internet Explorer, go to the Tools menu and select Internet Options. Click the button that says delete cookies. Warning, deleting cookies may cause you to not be able to access some websites.

Well now that you know what a cookie is and where it came from, you should go have a cookie.

Apple iPhone

Apple introduced the iPhone early in January and surprised everyone with their newest innovation. Whether you want to make calls, listen to music, watch videos, look at pictures, surf the web, check the weather, find your way on the road or take videos and pictures with a 2-megapixel camera, this sleek piece of technology does all that and more!

The iPhone has a touch screen with a 3.5-inch display and no keypad. The screen shifts automatically to landscape orientation



when you start to play a video. One giant touch screen controls the phone and no stylus is needed. Use your fingers to type messages and emails on an onscreen keyboard. Visual voicemail displays all the voice messages you have in a list, similar to an email inbox. Cingular (soon to be AT&T) will be the sole iPhone carrier and will start selling the phone in June 2007.

The 4GB model will cost \$499 and the 8GB version will be \$599 when you sign a contract for two years.

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Valentine's Day. Either you love it or you hate it. Possibly, you have been unlucky thus far in the dating game. Don't worry. Millions of people around the world are in the same position. Now, thanks to the

Internet, meeting singles has never been easier.

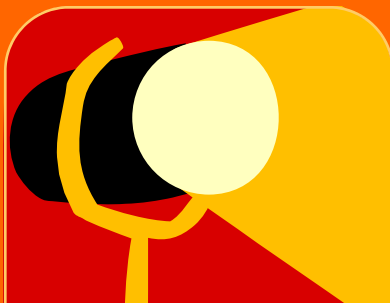
Since its creation in 2000, eHarmony boasts the slogan, "More marriages per match than any other dating service". Founder and dating expert Dr. Neil Clark Warren's motivation for creating the online dating service was to help

people build happy and long lasting relationships. By using the 29 Key Compatibility Dimensions, couples will be happier and in love longer due to increased similar interests. eHarmony enjoys one of the highest success rates in the business: While matching tens of thousands of members, they have also celebrated over ten thousand marriages. Such an incredible service, however, must come with a price. Before deciding this is for you, make sure you check out pricing and payment methods.

Also, know all that glitters is not necessarily gold. Online dating services more often than not fail to offer immediate satisfaction regarding relation-

ship status. Finding that special someone can take days, weeks or even months. Try not to have too high of expectations. Also, realize dating services are out to make money, just like any other company.

Online dating services are becoming increasingly more popular. According to the Online Publishers Association, U.S. residents spent \$469.5 million in the last year on online dating and personals. You will never know if online dating provides the services you need, if you refuse to try it. Have a little fun and you never know who you might meet in the future!



PERT SPOTLIGHT Meredith Manring

Meredith Manring is a junior from St. Joseph, MO. She has a double major in Chemistry and Biology. Meredith is the President of Sigma Society and the secretary of SAACS (Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society).

Meredith spends most of her life in Garret-Strong, but in her free time Meredith enjoys watching college sports, listening to all kinds of music, singing in the car, watching old movies, scrapbooking and hanging out with friends. Meredith's pet beta is named Tatupu.

Meredith comes from a long line of Mizzou fans and loves nothing more than watching Mizzou defeat Kansas. After graduating from Northwest, Meredith will attend graduate school and pursue a career in medical research, specifically in the area of neurological disorders.

Gettin' Rich

by Beyza Aydar

Information Technology (IT) is one of the most prevalent and expanding fields on the job market. IT careers are no longer confined to computer programming. Many different IT career opportunities are available that may interest you including computer programmer, web developer, software developer, systems analyst, consultant or trainer.

Most students are only familiar with the computer science major. However, the Computer Science/Information Systems Department offers several different majors and minors to students at Northwest. Majors include computer science, management information systems (MIS), business education, interactive digital media (IDM) and office information systems. Minors available are computer science, business education, computer networking, database management systems, computer applications, systems management, geographic information systems and interactive digital media. Each major gives you several career options. For instance, with a MIS degree you can work as a systems analyst, software developer, data communications manager or an information systems specialist. An IDM major can work in advertising, CD-ROM production, web development and web site design/production.

"If you like computers, but are not really interested in becoming a programmer or web developer, MIS is a good option for you"

If you like computers, but are not really interested in becoming a programmer or web developer, MIS is a good option for you. With a MIS degree, you can combine your business skills and computer skills. You will not only become familiar with various programming languages like Java, COBOL and Visual Basic, but also with databases like Microsoft Access and SQL. Plus, you will take a variety of business courses that will enhance your education.

IDM has several options to choose from. The major involves courses from mass communication, art and computer science. You will work with both PC and MAC platforms and can concentrate on computer programming, new media or visual imaging. You can find comprehensive information about each concentration at: <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/Dept/idm/IDMSitenew.swf>

Visit <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/Dept/csis/INDEX.HTM> for detailed information about each major in the Computer Science Department. If you are interested in applying for a scholarship offered by the department, call (660)562-1600.

Computer Shopping

by Meredith Manning



Computer Tips

4 Tips You Should Know

1 To minimize all your active windows with the keyboard, press the Windows key + M.

2 Print a document quickly by pressing Ctrl + P.

3 In Internet Explorer, go to View then Toolbars and uncheck the toolbars you do not want displayed.

4 When browsing in Internet Explorer, use the Alt key with your left and right arrow keys to go backward and forward.

Fun Links

Dafont.com

Select from over 7000 fonts to express yourself!

CNet.com

Get the latest buzz on cool gadgets. Find helpful tips for buying electronics and more!

WebMD.com

For the latest in health and fitness or to just make sure you are eating and living right. Includes a symptom checker tool to evaluate conditions.

Should I buy a laptop or desktop? With so many options to choose from, how do you know which computer is right for you? Here are some tips to help you decide.

Desktop Computers

The desktop computer has become just another appliance you use every day. Replacement sales, not first-time purchases, now drive the computer market. Various brands are offering fully-loaded desktops for less than \$600. Dell, eMachines, Gateway, Hewlett-Packard, IBM and Sony all make desktops that use Microsoft's dominant Windows operating system. Apple is the sole maker of Macintosh models. Small mail-order and store brands have become more appealing to the con-

sumers on a budget.

Pros: Desktops start at a lower price. For the money, they generally offer larger hard-drives, more memory and better sound quality. Desktops also have more options for expansion and are easier and cheaper to repair.

Cons: Desktops use a large amount of desk space even when a thin LCD monitor is utilized.

Price: \$400 to \$3,000 plus

Laptop Computers

Small screens and cramped keyboards have been replaced by bigger, sharper displays and more usable key configurations. Fast CD and DVD recording drives are common, as are ample hard drives. You can use the high-speed wireless Internet access in many

public places. The thinnest laptops are less than an inch thick and weigh just 2 to 5 pounds. To purchase these light, sleek models, however, you will have to pay extra and sacrifice speed and hard drive capacity.

Pros: Laptops can do just about anything that desktops can do and are compact. Research has also shown that laptops appear to be less repair-prone than desktops.

Cons: Laptops cost hundreds more than comparable desktop models. Internal components and add-on drives are costly to repair. Portability also means they are easy to steal and are at a greater risk of damage.

Price: \$600 to \$3,000 plus

You Bet!

by Becky Rainford

Televising the world poker championships has re-popularized poker for the entire nation. At least one or more, Poker Nights are held on campus every month. Additionally, many people plan impromptu games on their floors in the residence halls.

Subsequently, many students have turned to online poker websites that allow visitors to play with people from anywhere in the world. The websites are a great way to hone your skills and get in a lot of practice in a short period of time. Playing poker over the Northwest network is perfectly acceptable until you sign up to use real money at which point it becomes gambling. Campus policy states that gambling is prohibited on campus, which is widely understood to mean gambling with money. Playing a tournament where the winner receives a prize is acceptable. What some peo-

ple do not realize is that the no-gambling policy in the Student Handbook also extends to the Internet on campus, meaning that using an online gambling site for real money is against Northwest policy and disciplinary action can be taken.

Gambling can become a serious problem, especially online where the table moves fast and all a website needs to do is get your credit card number. If you plan to play online for money off campus, you should set yourself a limit on how much you can play with and how long you will play. Once you have set your limits, make sure you follow them to protect yourself. If you think that you or someone you know has a gambling problem or would like more information on problem gambling, please visit the National Council on Problem Gambling's website at www.ncpgambling.org.