

**WEBSITE AUTHORIZING – Lesson #1: Getting started, terminology...**

**Objectives:**

When you have completed this lesson you will:

- understand what the world wide web (*WWW*) and *internet browsers* are
- be able to recognise the different parts of a *URL*
- understand what *HTML* and *tags* are
- understand what a *home page* is.

**Background:**

**① The World Wide Web**

Watching television, reading a magazine, even listening to the radio – there is no escape from WWW addresses. It is the latest 'must have' item. It seems that everyone needs to let other people know where to find information, whether it be a multinational business, a school, a club, a family or an individual. Why?

You might buy something from a shop in another part of the world from the comfort of your armchair at home. Your family may be scattered across the continents for any number of reasons, yet you have seen pictures of each other and know exactly what each other are getting up to. You can find information for a project you are writing which is up-to-date...

All these things are possible because of web pages being written and the information on them being accessed by someone else. I leave worksheets on a website and students download them. The students might be thousands of miles away from where I am but that doesn't matter.

The world wide web is a collection of millions and millions of web pages, inter-related in some fashion and all available for you to read. To be able to view a web page you need a piece of application software called an *internet browser*. These allow you to successfully view a web page. Two very popular browsers are Microsoft's Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator, but there are a number of other ones.

Open up a browser on your computer and connect to the internet.

Go to the Google web site: [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

At the bottom of the page it tells you how many web pages are available for searching. How many?

This gives you an idea of how huge the WWW is. Don't forget each web page may actually turn out to be many printed pages in size, not just one A4 piece of paper.

Use google to find the names of other internet browsers. Write their names here.

**② Uniform Resource Locators (URLs)**

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com) is an example of a URL. This is an identifier for a website. In order to view, or access, a website you enter its address (URL). You type this into the *browser* address bar

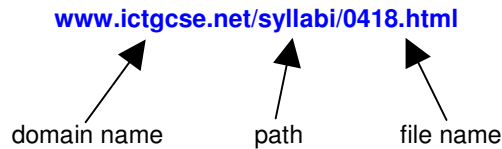


In this case [www.hsbc.co.uk](http://www.hsbc.co.uk) is the URL of the HSBC bank's UK web site. The **http://** at the start tells us that it is a website. Most browsers do not require us to type this in. In fact you will find that the www at the start of an address sometimes does not need typing in.

The URL of a site tells us quite a lot of information. It contains information about where a file is and what a browser should do with it. Each file on the internet must have a unique URL.

The first part: **http://** is called the *scheme* and tells the browser what to do with the file that it is going to open. There are a number of *schemes* but this module is only concerned with *http* (*HyperText Transfer Protocol*). This simply indicates to the browser the rules, or system, that are to be used when opening the page.

The second part: [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) or [www.hsbc.co.uk](http://www.hsbc.co.uk) is known as the *server name* (more commonly these are called **domain names**). This indicates the name of the server where the file is located. Sometimes a URL that you are going to type into the address bar might look like this: [www.ictgcse.net/syllabi/0418.html](http://www.ictgcse.net/syllabi/0418.html) Each part between the forward slashes indicates a separate part of the address leading to the file's precise location.



Quite simply you can think of this as saying that the file **0418.html** is in the folder **syllabi** within the website **www.ictgcse.net**

The *domain name* part of a URL can have many different post fix notations. **.com** is probably the one that springs to mind first.

Use a website such as [www.techdictionary.com](http://www.techdictionary.com) to find out what the following usually represent:

- .com**
- .org**
- .gov**
- .edu**
- .html** or **.htm**

### ③ **HyperText Markup Language (HTML)**

The WWW is based upon a programming language called HTML. A markup language uses *tags* that are inserted into text documents to explain how information should be displayed on the screen. For example:

`<b>ICTGCSE.NET</b>` is the one stop guide to exam `<b>success</b>`

would display this: **ICTGCSE.NET** is the one stop guide to exam **success**

`<b></b>` are *tags*. The opening tag `<b>` tells the browser to display what is coming up to be **bold**, the `</b>` stops **bold**.

There are many tags which are inserted into the text to determine many things including colour of both text and the background, images, image size, heading text, tables and cell formats.....

If the tags:

`<u>` and `</u>` means start and stop underline

`<i>` and `</i>` means start and stop italics

then fill in the tags in the sentence below to display this sentence in the web browser:

**La Cala** is a small fishing village. It means *the cove* in **Spanish**

`< >`La Cala`< >` is a `< >`small`< >` fishing village. It means the `< >`cove`< >` in `< >`Spanish`< >`

All HTML documents are purely text. Your web browser reads the HTML document and determines how to display the information on screen – the tags describe how this is to be done.

Because a web page is basically a text document you can write it in any text producing application such as Microsoft Word, Windows' Notepad or special applications software such as Microsoft's Frontpage, Dreamweaver... There are many ways of putting your HTML document together.

Go to the website: [www.ictgcse.net](http://www.ictgcse.net)

click on **Practical**, in the side menu bar and then click on **Example.html** which you will find below Web authoring, *Lesson #1*.

Click on View, Source (or if you use Navigator: View, Page Source) in the menu bar of your browser.

At this point we are not going to do anything with this 'programme'. Look at the tags. You should see bold, underline and italic tags quite easily. Tags are also used to place a thin horizontal line across the page (<hr>), change the font and size that is used <font face...>

What do you think the tags <center> and </center> do?

Notice also the tags <html>, </html> which are at the very beginning and end of the programme, <head>, </head>, <body>, </body> which break the programme into sections where different things are allowed or expected. Some things need to be declared or placed in the <head> section. The major part of the page however happens in the <body> of the HTML document. The flow of the page is from top to bottom. What you see first in the HTML document will happen first.

Before you close the source code for the web page you are viewing try and identify the parts of the web page and the lines of HTML that make them happen.

#### **4** Home pages

Home pages take various forms. A home page is the first page that you see when you visit a web site. This will mean different things to different people of course. The home pages of Coca Cola, British Petroleum, your local school or a neighbours web site will be completely different. They will be created with different purposes and a different audience in mind.

In *Lesson #11* we will be looking at creating a home page. You need to decide two things before *lesson #11*. Firstly, what information do you want to put on a home page, secondly what do you want it to look like. What you need to do now is start *surfing*. Start looking at a lot of different sites. Pick out what you like in terms of style and content. Get some ideas down on paper. An architect would not start building without a plan or blueprint, neither should you design a web page with out figuring out what belongs on there. Start organising your ideas and designs as you surf. Happy hunting.