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Introduction

You have been hearing about the Net, e-mail, newsgroups, graphics, multimedia, and teleconferencing. Now that you have access to the Internet and this software package, where do you start? Welcome to *Netscape Communicator*, one of the leading access suites for the Internet. With this software package, you will be able to do all of those things and more.

This book will lead you through all of the components of the *Netscape* software suite and explain how you can use the components within your classroom. There will be step-by-step instructions for setting up your *Netscape* utilities and for accessing resources on the Internet to use with your curriculum.

The *Netscape Communicator* suite has four components that are integrated, or work together, to provide you with access to the Internet's resources.

Navigator—This component is one you will probably use most often. It is your Web browser or the software you will use to access Web pages on the World Wide Web.

Messenger—This is your e-mail (or electronic mail) and newsgroup software component. You will use it to exchange messages with other Internet users. By setting up newsgroups, you will be able to access messages from groups of other Internet users about a variety of subjects. There are hundreds of newsgroups about special topics and software packages.

Conference—With this utility, you can conference with other teachers and classes around the world. If you have a camera and microphone attached to your computer, you can see and talk with them as well.

Composer—You can use this component to help you design and publish your own Web pages. It is a HyperText Markup Language, or HTML, editor. You can create your pages 'from scratch' or use the Wizards.

Using This Book

This book will be divided according to *Netscape Communicator's* components. Within each section, you will read directions for setting up and using the component, and there will be suggestions for integrating its use into your curriculum.

To help you or provide you with reminders as you work through this book, these graphics will mark items of interest.



Note:—There will be notes throughout the book which will be reminders or will direct you to instructions in other parts of the book.



Web page—You will be advised to key in different URLs or Uniform Resource Locators (Web page addresses).



Help—This icon will direct you to more information about a topic or help with instructions all through the book.

The following font styles will be used as guides throughout the book.

Bold Italic Words in bold italic will show you which menu items you should click as you follow directions.

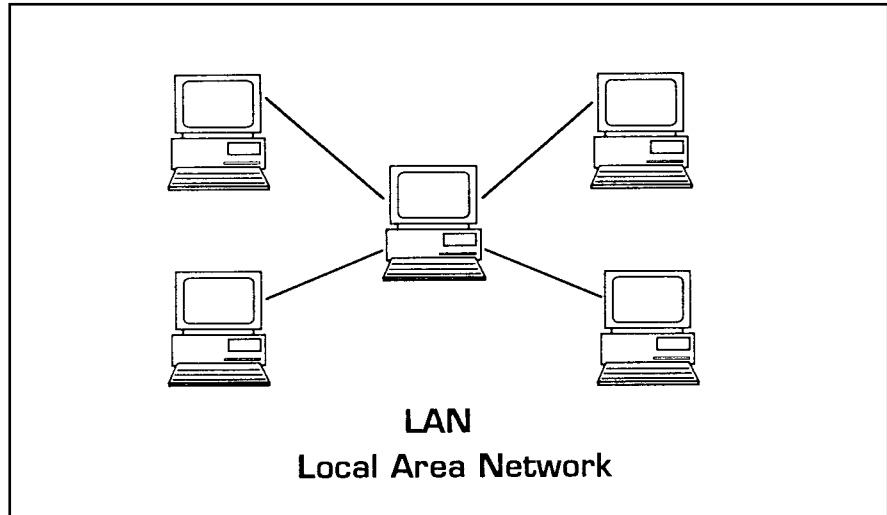
Italic Items in italic are words you will be asked to key in.



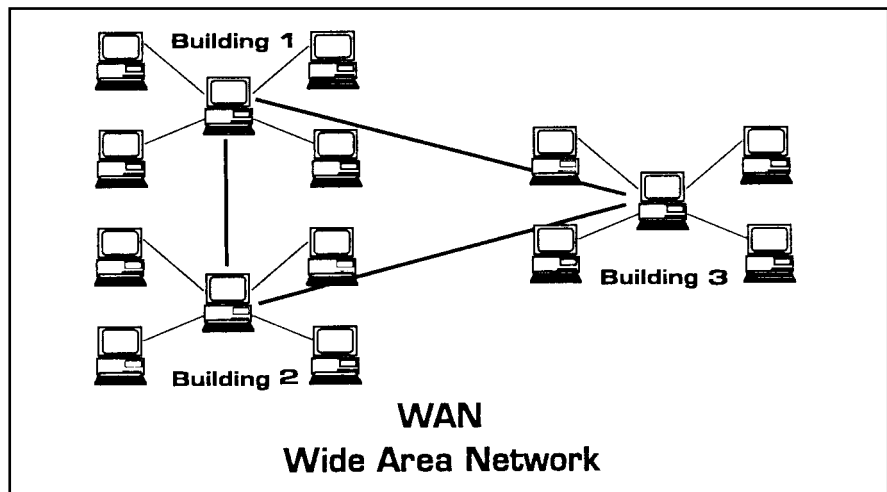
Note: The instructions and graphics in this book will apply to *Netscape Communicator for Windows '95*. The instructions should be the same or similar for Macintosh users.

Using the Internet

What is the Internet? If your school has a network, then you have already experienced something similar to the Internet. A network is simply a group of computers connected to each other by cables. This is done so that they can all access one main computer (called a file server) and share files. This type of network is called a LAN or local area network.



If your building's network is also connected to other buildings in your school district, then you have a WAN or wide area network.



Using the Internet *(cont.)*

This is exactly what the Internet is. It is a large network of computers and file servers in different buildings, cities, states, and countries. The cables that connect these computers range from fibre optic cables to twisted copper cables to telephone lines.

There are two basic ways for you to be connected to the Internet. The first way is by dialling an Internet service provider or ISP. To do this, you must have a modem in your computer and an account with a provider. The second way is to be wired to the Internet through your school's network. In either instance, your access to the Internet through *Netscape's* software will be the same.

