

# The Internet

## What is The Internet?

The Internet is a system of computers throughout the world from which, computer users can talk to each other, and exchange information.

For example, a student writing a paper about a Chinese festival could get on the Internet and ask a person using a computer in China to tell him about the festival. In this way, the Internet can help you to do research.

The word Internet can be broken into two parts:

Inter - which is the latin word that means 'between'

Net - which stands for **network**.

# What is a Network?

A Network is a collection of interconnected computers. The Internet is the largest network of interconnected computers that exists. These computers talk to each other, i.e., exchange information by sending a stream of digital information to another computer.

To understand the route that the information takes when going from the source computer to the destination computer, we need to know about web servers and web clients.

A server is just a computer running server software that sends files to clients (your computer) over the Internet when the client software (ie. web browser) requests it.

The client is simply any computer that is connected to a server, like your computer at home.

The main difference between servers and clients is: servers are connected to other servers and clients.

Clients are connected only to one other server.

How, then, can your computer, which is a client, connect to any other computer in the world?

# World Wide Web

One of the uses of the Internet is the World Wide Web (often abbreviated "WWW" or called "the Web").

The Web is just a collection of documents stored on servers in the Internet from all over the world.

