The **Internet** is a collection of computers all over the world that exchange information. The Internet is, at its base, a computer **network**. A network is simply one or more computers connected together so they can exchange information.

The way that computers exchange information is a group of rules called **protocols**. All data is exchanged according to the same rules even though each computer or computer network uses different technologies.

There are a number of uses for the internet. Communication, research and disseminating information are just a few of most common. Most users today use the Internet by accessing information through the **World Wide Web**. Many users use the terms interchangeably, even though they are two different things.

The Internet or World Wide Web is accessed by the use of a graphical **browser**. This means a program that interprets the specific language used by the Web environment. When you see an address at a web site that starts with “http”, the initials stand for **“Hyper Text Transfer Protocol”**. A web address is also known as an **URL**, which stands for **Uniform Resource Locator**. Each URL represents a specific location on the Web.

**Hyperlinks** are interactive elements in an electronic document that connect to another place in the same document or to an entirely different document. Typically, you click on
the hyperlink to get to the other location (or link). Hyperlinks are the heart of all hypertext systems, including the World Wide Web.