

Unit 13.1 Multimedia on the Web

We are going to discuss about Multimedia on the Web. I am sure that you have Facebook, Twitter or Instagram account. This is the in-thing in the year 2015.

But don't you know that the Internet technology was not allowed for commercial and public use, until the year 1992. And then, the rest is history.

Nowadays, according to internetlivestats.com the number of Internet users in the world has reached 3.2 billion. That means nearly half of the world populations are using the internet. Amazing right?!

Next, I am sure that you need your backbone to stand, and sit and walk. The internet also needs its backbone. The backbone is actually the cluster of neighboring computers and servers.

That cluster in a local area network (LAN) then connected with other LANs. As a result, we have wide area network (WAN). This is possible with help of gateways and routers. LANs and WANs are now interconnected with the rest of the world.

But how other servers and computer know and connect with your personal computer? As your house has its address, so the computer is.

Using Domain Name System (DNS), your computer now has its IP (Internet Protocol) address. IP addresses are used to access resources on the Internet.

Thanks to these technologies. In the early years of web browsers such as Netscape Navigator, you only had images as the only multimedia elements displayed on browsers.

But I am sure that you expect web site to be as active and dynamic as television or computer games. Unfortunately, the limitation on web browser technology does not permit that.

Using streaming technology, you could embed some multimedia content, in a web page. You may let the visitor to set whether to make it to begin playing automatically or not.

Currently, there are three main ways of adding animation to a web page: 1. Shockwave, 2. Java and 3. GIF animation. Web pages viewed using a Web browser such as Internet Explorer, Safari, Firefox and Opera translate HTML marked into nice text, graphics and

animations. For example, you may also play audio on a web page by embedding the sound within the site using HTML audio tag.

Another example on how you could embed rich media on the web is by creating your slide shows online. You may use free online application such as Slidely, PhotoSnack and Kizoa.

In summary, Multimedia on the internet has started booming after Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) marked the early steps in web-based multimedia.

