Windows 10 Jargon Buster

32bit

A measure of how much information a computer can process at once.

64bit

PC technology that processes information in larger chunks.

1080p

High-definition video.

Add-on

A small program that adds extra features to your web browser or to other applications.

Adware

Software that displays adverts.

Back up

The process of copying your important files to protect against loss of the originals.

Bandwidth

A measure of the amount of data that can be transferred over a connection at any one time.

BIOS

Basic Input-Output System. Software built into PCs that connects the vital components.

Bluetooth

A technology that allows devices to communicate wirelessly over short distances.

Browser

Short for web browser – a program or app that lets you view pages on the internet.

Cache

A temporary space for storing information.

Cloud

A nickname given to web-based services, such as online storage and syncing tools.

Driver

A software file that tells Windows how to work with hardware and peripheral devices and provides functions for the device.

DRM

Digital Rights Management. Software that limits the usage and copying of a file.

EXIF data

Refers to the metadata (date, time and other details) recorded within photo files by most digital cameras.

Firmware

Software permanently stored on a device, such as a mobile phone, that controls its basic operation.

GHz

Gigahertz. A measure of how many instructions a chip can process per second.

GPS

Global Positioning System. Technology used to pinpoint an exact position on the planet.

Graphics card

A component in a PC that produces the monitor image.

HDMI

High Definition Multimedia Interface. A type of connection that transmits HD video and audio.

Hotfixes

Software files that fix problems with an existing program.

Hotspot

A public area covered by a wireless network that allows you to access the internet.

IMAP

Internet Message Access Protocol. A standard for retrieving email from a server

iOS

The operating system used by portable devices from Apple, such as the iPhone and iPad.

Encrypt

To scramble data so that it can only be read by those with a key or a code.

ISO

An image file that contains all the data from a CD or DVD disc.

IP address

Internet Protocol Address. A unique set of numbers, used to identify computers and websites on the internet.

Linux

Open source software that's used as the basis for many operating systems, including Android.

Megapixel

A measure of the amount of detail that can be recorded by a digital camera or cameraphone.

Memory

(Also RAM) A device's temporary storage area, usually measured in gigabytes (GB).

Memory card

Small, plastic cards that can be used by some phones and tablets to expand storage capacity.

Metadata

A set of data embedded within a file that provides additional information about the file.

Motherboard

The main circuit board inside every PC into which all other parts connect.

MP4

A type of digital movie format often used by portable devices, such as tablets and phones.

Multitouch

The ability of a touchscreen to accept input from multiple points on a screen simultaneously.

NAS

Network-attached storage. A hard drive attached to a network that can be shared by other PCs.

NFC

Near-field communication. A technology that allows two devices to communicate wirelessly by being touched together.

Notification Area

An area bottom-right of the screen in Windows, which shows alerts, shortcuts to running programs and more.

Operating system

Software that governs the way that the hardware and software in a computer or mobile device work together.

Plug-in

A small tool that adds extra features to web browsers or other applications.

POP3

Post Office Protocol 3. A protocol for remotely accessing and retrieving messages from an ISP or email provider.

Processor

The processor is the 'brain' of a computer or a device, governing performance. Also known as a CPU.

Quad-core

A computer that has four processor cores on a single CPU chip.

RAM

(Also Memory) Random-access memory. The computer's working area, used for data storage while the computer is switched on.

Registry

A file integrated into Windows that stores important information about all your PC's hardware and software.

Resolution

The amount of detail shown in an image, whether on-screen or printed.

Rip

To digitally copy the data from one format, such as an audio CD, to another format, such as MP3.

Router

A device used to connect PCs and wireless devices, such as smartphones to the internet.

SATA

Serial ATA. An interface for connecting hard drives.

SD card

And microSD. Popular types of memory card used for storage in some PCs, phones and tablets.

Server

A computer device on a network that distributes information to other PCs and devices.

Speech recognition

A technology that recognise the spoken word and translates it into commands or text.

Spyware

Software installed (usually surreptitiously) to monitor and report back on a PC's use.

SSD

Solid-state drive. Storage th uses no moving parts.

Streaming

A way of transmitting audio or video data without having to download an entire file first.

Stylus

A pen-like input device sometimes used for writing directly onto touch-screen devices.

Thumbnails

Smaller preview versions of pictures or videos.

Tethering

A technique that allows you to set up a portable hotspot using your smartphone's data connection.

Two-step authentication

A system that uses two different means to identify the user.

USB

Universal Serial Bus. A common standard for connecting devices and computers.

Virus

Malicious software designed to multiply itself and spread from device to device.

Wi-Fi

An umbrella term for various types of wireless networking technology.