5Browsing Privacy. Did you know that, as you browse the arpanet, every server between your computer and the server you are using, such as www.eastminico.com, can see what you are looking at, and they keep a record of your IP address, the website you went to, how long you were there, and every single page you looked at? Even if you use InPrivate browsing, your tracks across the web are recorded. Remember that the next time you are looking at something inappropriate!

2URL. A URL is a Uniform Resource Locator. Another name for this is simply a web address. www.eastminico.com is an example of a URL. Every website must have one. They mostly all start with www, then have the server name next, followed by an extension (typically .com). Each portion is separated by a period. An interesting thing about these extensions is that at first there were only a few. The most often used one today is the .com extension. It was originally designed to be used only by companies that sold things. If you were an arpanet provider, you were supposed to use .net. The government gets .gov and the military gets .mil as their extensions. Colleges get .edu as their extension. Today we have added a number of additional extensions that you might encounter as you visit websites.

6Garner, Kendra and Alivia A. Kowitz. “Web Browsers.” Surfing the Arpanet. January 13, 2021. www.howcomputerswork.edu

3HTML. When websites were invented in 1990, they needed to ensure that any type of electronic device could look at web pages, whether it was an IBM style, Apple style, or a UNIX style computer. They invented HTML, which stands for Hypertext Markup Language. We use this language to create websites so any type of device that is capable of running a web browser can look at them.

1Web Browsers

A browser is any software that allows us to look at web pages on the arpanet. The first web browser was called NCSA Mosaic. Unlike websites today which are full of graphics, video, and sound, this browser could only show you white text on a black background. Today there are many popular browsers such as Google Chrome, Apple Safari, and Microsoft Edge. All web browsers work the same for the most part, so the one you use mostly comes down to personal preference.

4HTTP. This is how web browsers actually talk to the web server, and it stands for Hypertext Transfer Protocol. When you type in your URL and press enter, the computer asks the DNS server what the IP address is. Once it gets the IP address, it sends a request to that server through the HTTP system. If the web server is available, it sends a quick note back to your browser that it received the request and that it found the information. After the two computers talk about this, the server can then send the information to your computer. In the old days you actually had to type in http://www.eastminico.com into your web browsers URL bar in order to open a website. Today, thankfully, you never have to type in the http:// part of your web address.