

# Learn to talk tech with our IT Jargon Buster

---

Our A-Z of some of the terms you might hear when talking with an IT expert



Zinq IT

# A few words of a foreign language can get you a long way in a strange land.

---

We know that IT jargon is an alien language to a lot of people, and we do our best to keep the tech talk to a minimum when we're working with our clients.

In any case, you probably have enough of your own office jargon to start worrying about ours.

But in a tech-led world, a lot of IT terms are cropping up more and more in everyday conversation and if you do have a problem you need help with – or just a question you'd like to ask us about your business IT

– it'll save a lot of time if you have a few words of lingo in your locker.

Our new guide is a great place to start. It won't tell you everything, but if you need an easy A-Z of some of the most common terms you'll hear when you're talking with an IT expert, then you've come to the right place.

Let's start at the beginning...





### **Adware**

**Software** that automatically downloads adverts when you're online, such as banner ads and pop-ups

---

### **AI (Artificial Intelligence)**

Systems and devices that simulate human behaviours and decisions. This can include creating systems, language processing, speech recognition, writing text and machine vision

---

### **Antivirus**

**Software** that identifies and removes **viruses** from your device. Also known as anti-**malware**

---

### **API (Application Programming Interface)**

**Software** that allows two or more applications or programs to communicate with each other and share information



### **Backdoor**

A vulnerability in a security system that allows unwanted access to files and data

---

### **Bandwidth**

The maximum amount of data you can send and receive in a given amount of time, over an internet connection. Imagine a big pipe compared with a small pipe

### **Botnet**

A network of private computers infected with **malware** and controlled as a group to spread the **virus** further



### **Cache**

A temporary file that stores information on your device to speed things up. For instance a web cache might remember the last thing you were doing so it can reload a page where you left off

---

### **(The) Cloud**

Data storage and computing power that lives on remote **servers**, which are accessed via the internet

---

### **Corrupted**

An unstable data file

---

### **Cybersecurity**

Any and all security measures put in place to protect your devices, systems and network from cyber attack



### **Darkweb**

A hidden part of the internet, accessed using special **software**. It's rife with criminal activity. This is where stolen data, such as credit card details, is often sold

Trusted. Reliable. Professional.

### **Data breach**

A security incident where private data is viewed or stolen by unauthorised persons

---

### **DDoS (Distributed Denial of Service)**

A type of cyber attack that harms or stops a network by flooding it with data from numerous other devices

---

### **Downtime**

The period of time a network or systems are offline (or 'down'), preventing the normal running of a business

E

### **Encryption**

The process of encoding data to make it unreadable without the right access information - usually a password, passkey or authentication app

F

### **Firewall**

A security measure that controls what data can come in and out of your network

---

### **FTP (File Transfer Protocol)**

Protocol used for transferring files from a server to a computer across a network. This is usually authenticated with usernames and passwords

G

### **GIF (Graphic Interchange Format)**

A type of image file that can be either animated or static

---

### **Gigabyte (GB)**

Unit of data equal to one thousand million bytes. A typical movie download might be between 1 and 4 GB

H

### **Hardware**

The physical devices in your IT world – computers, printers, phones, tablets

---

### **Hotspot (Wi-Fi)**

A physical location where you can gain internet access via Wi-Fi

---

### **HTML (Hypertext Markup Language)**

The universal language of the internet, used to structure web pages, tell your web browser how to display them and create links between them

I

### **Infrastructure**

Your entire system – your network, servers, and all your devices

Trusted. Reliable. Professional.

## iOS

Operating system manufactured by Apple and used exclusively on its hardware

---

IP (Internet [Protocol](#)) address  
A unique number that identifies a device connected to the internet



## Java

A widely used programming language used in millions of applications and devices around the world

---

## Javascript

Unrelated to Java, Javascript is used everywhere on the internet. It's a programming language used within all web browsers to perform a whole range of functions



## Keylogger

[Software](#) used by cybercriminals to record the keys pressed on a keyboard. This information can be used to access login credentials and other sensitive information



## LAN (Local Area Network)

A network of connected devices that spans a small area, such as your office or home



## Malware

Malicious [software](#), a type of [virus](#), designed to infect your system and disrupt, damage, or gain access to your device, [server](#) or network. This can lead to the unauthorised access or theft of data and private information

---

## Megabyte

Unit of data equal to one million forty-eight thousand, five hundred and seventy bytes



## NOS (Network Operating System)

A specialised [operating system](#) for a network device, like a [router](#) or [firewall](#)

---

## NTFS (Network Transfer File System)

A file system used by Windows for storing and retrieving files on a hard disk

Trusted. Reliable. Professional.



### **OS (Operating System)**

Software that manages a computer's basic functions, and provides common services for computer programs



### **Phishing**

Scam emails that pretend to be from a credible source and aim to steal personal information and/or login credentials

---

### **Protocol**

The set of rules that allows different devices to communicate with each other

---

### **Proxy Server**

A server that sits between a device requesting information, and the server providing that information. For example, it could be a gateway between your laptop and the internet, that stops hackers from reaching your network



### **RAM (Random Access Memory)**

A form of temporary computer memory that's usually used to store working data

### **Ransomware**

Malware that encrypts sensitive data and demands a ransom for its release (ransoms should never be paid – data is often never properly released, or is only partially returned)

---

### **Router**

A device that directs data to the right places in a network



### **Server**

A computer or program that manages access to a network and holds data in one location for multiple users to access

---

### **Software**

Programs and apps that make devices work

---

### **Spyware**

Malware that spies on the actions you take on your device. This can be used to steal data or passwords, or listen in to conversations



### **Trojan**

A form of malware that looks harmless but conceals a virus

Trusted. Reliable. Professional.



## Troubleshoot

To analyse a problem with a view to solving it (something we do a lot of!)

U

### UAC (User Account Control)

A feature that only allows authorised users to make changes to a system or device

---

### USB

A type of widely used cable that connects or charges devices. This could be a keyboard connecting to a computer, or a flash drive transferring data

V

### Virus

A malicious computer program or code that can copy itself and spread throughout a network, corrupting or damaging data and systems

---

### VPN (Virtual Private Network)

A more secure way of connecting to a company's network remotely, or using the internet over a public Wi-Fi connection

W

### WAN (Wide Area Network)

A network of devices that are connected across a wider area than a LAN, and allows you to connect to smaller networks

---

### WLAN (Wireless Local Area Network)

A wireless network that connects two or more devices, creating a LAN

---

### Worm

A type of malware that replicates itself to spread to other devices across a network without human activation

Z

### Zip File

A file that compresses its contents to create a smaller file that's easier to share or store



# We hope this has helped.

Yes, we operate in a technical world with some jargon that can be off-putting if it's not something you're used to talking about.

Your business IT is there to make your life easier and more efficient. We take a lot of pride in our ability to work with our clients, helping them to understand their systems without sending their heads into a spin.

So if your current IT support provider can't do that – or you don't have support you can call on for help and advice whenever you need them – we'd love to have a chat to find out how we can help you.

Get in touch anytime to arrange a no obligation conversation. You're guaranteed it will be jargon-free.



**CALL:** 0345 659 0109  
**EMAIL:** [info@zinqit.co.uk](mailto:info@zinqit.co.uk)  
**WEBSITE:** [zinqit.co.uk](http://zinqit.co.uk)



**Zinq IT**