SSL

The SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) Protocol was developed by Netscape Communications, which provides secure communications between the server and client, preventing others from capturing or viewing the data being exchanged.

Encryption — Process of creating secret codes to protect stuff flying through cyberspace.

Extranet — Extension of corporate intranet that connects the internal network of one company with the intranets of its customers and suppliers. Makes it possible to create e-commerce applications that link all aspects of business relationship, from ordering to payment.

Hypertext — Text that contains links to other Internet sites and documents.

Interchange — The exchange of information, transaction data and money among banks. Interchange systems are managed by Visa and MasterCard associations and are standardized so banks and merchants worldwide can use them.

Micropayments — Transactions in amounts between 25 cents and $10.

Order confirmation — E-mail message notifying you that an order has been received and will be processed and immediately sent.

Portal — Aims to be the first place people see when entering Internet, especially within an industry category; has links galore, perhaps a search engine, to encourage its popularity as a "port of entry."

Shareware — Software that can be used on a trial basis for free. Payment is expected if used after trail period.

Real-time credit card processing — Credit card purchase is authorized while a shopper is still online. If credit is denied, the shopper has opportunity to fumble around for another credit card to try.

www.infoplease.com

If you've ever wondered what terms like ASCII, megahertz and URL mean, the computer glossary at *www.infoplease.com* will provide you with detailed definitions of those terms and more.

User ID — Unique identifier selected by a person opening an account an an e-commerce site.

Weight threshold/Price threshold — Method of charging for shipping. Merchant defines various price ranges and assigns a dollar amount for shipping charges to each range. ■

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