The Internet and useful web pages

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Sir Tim Berners-Lee did not invent the Internet

But his team did develop the World Wide Web

The URL

- The Universal Resource Locator (URL) is the address you type in at the top of your Browser (Chrome, Edge etc) for example
  - https://www.google.com/
  - https://godartbrowncom.ipage.com/MCC/docs/Internet and maps.pdf
  - URLs that start 'http' or 'https' send a request to a web server which replies with a web page.
- It is also what is called when you click on a link in a web page.

What is a web server?

- A web server listens for http or https requests, builds web pages and sends them back to the requesting client.

- The requests are normally created and sent by a Browser which formats the page to display to the user.

- The response is always in a language called Hypertext Markup Language (or HTML)
  - HTML consists of the text of the page plus tags in pairs which tell it how to format it for example
    - This will be in bold
  - You can always see the source of a web page by right click on it and 'view page source'
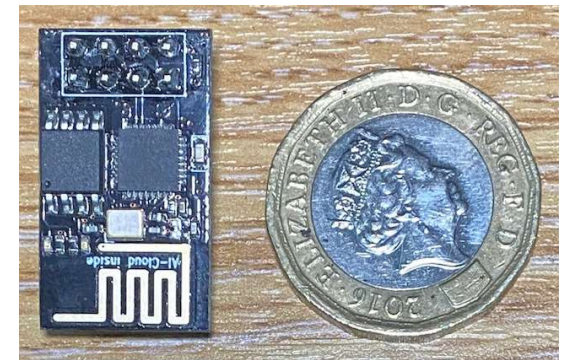
What is a browser?

- A Browser is an application that allows you to enter a URL, which is sends to the web server and displays the response it gets back.

- The most common browsers are Chrome, Edge, Internet Explorer and Safari.

- The browser can only do very limited logic, like check if you entered a number or a character

The Internet of Things (IoT)

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The Internet of Things (IoT)

- As processors have become smaller and more powerful it is now possible to have web servers on very small devices, notably the ESP8266 chip which has a processor and Wi-Fi on one chip. This one has 4 pins for inputs (sensors) or outputs (switches)

- These devices form the Internet of Things

Search Engines

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What is a search engine?

- Search engines allow you to enter some keywords an they find pages that match these criteria. Most common are Google, Yahoo and Bing.

- They work by having 'bots' that automatically connect to web sites, index their content and search for links, they then use these links to search of other web sites.

- The order that sites appear in results is dictated by the number of times thy are searched for and accessed, or money paid to the search engine.

- Sophisticated web sites use "Search Engine Optimisation" (SEO) to fool the search engines into bringing them higher in the results list.

How to get the best results from a search engine

- Be specific with what you want.
  - Start with a lot of words then work back.
- Use + and -.
  - If you put - in front of a word the engine will exclude sites that contain that word for example pest –cats wont return cat sites pets +cats will only return sites that refer to cats (does not work well in Google)
- Put key phrases in quotes.
  - If you are looking for say the King Kong movie, enter "King Kong" and it will only return sites that contain that phrase.

Useful web sites

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Some useful web sites

I've created a menu of some useful web sites at

<u>https://godartbrowncom.ipage.com/MCC/index.pl?items=useful_urls</u>