Basic Technology Terminology

Central Processing Unit: carries out the instructions of a computer program. The CPU is responsible for transmitting the computer's functions.

Download: to transfer data from one computer to another, usually across a network.

Backup: a copy of a file or disk used to reinforce, or back up, the original file or disk. Can be in the form of a CD, external hard drive, etc.

Hard drive: a large capacity storage device made of multiple disks housed in a rigid case. The hard drive is the "guts" of the computer; it stores all the information.

Hardware: the physical components of a computer. Keyboard, monitor, mouse, CD-ROM, disk drive, etc.

Software: digitally stored data on a computer, such as word processors, email programs, games, and other programs in general.

Memory: the temporary holding area where data is stored while it is being used or changed; the amount of RAM a computer has installed. Memory determines how efficient your computer will run.

Operating system: the system software that controls the computer. The most common forms of operating systems are Windows and Mac.

Server: a central computer dedicated to sending and receiving data from other computers on a network. A server serves its clients with data, in the form of hardware or software.

Bit: the most basic piece of information used by the computer. A bit comes in either a 1 or a 0.

Byte: a piece of computer information made up of eight bits. A byte is used to encode a text character on a computer.

Megabyte: 1024 kilobytes. A computer's storage is in the form of megabytes or gigabytes.

Gigabyte: a gigabyte is 1024 megabytes. A computer's storing capacity is in the form of gigabytes or megabytes.

CD-ROM: Compact Disc Read-Only Memory. A CD-ROM is used to store data.

Disk drive: the machinery that writes the data from a disk onto the computer or writes from the data from the computer onto a disk.

Floppy disk: a 3.5 inch square rigid disk which holds data. A floppy disk is the older version of a CD.

RAM: Random-Access Memory. This is a form of computer data storage. It is called "random" because any data can be stored in RAM, no matter its physical location or relation to other data.

ROM: Read Only Memory. Data stored on the ROM can only be read, not modified.

Works Cited: *Technology vocabulary.* (n.d.). Retrieved from http://www.vanta.net/it/Vocabulary.pdf