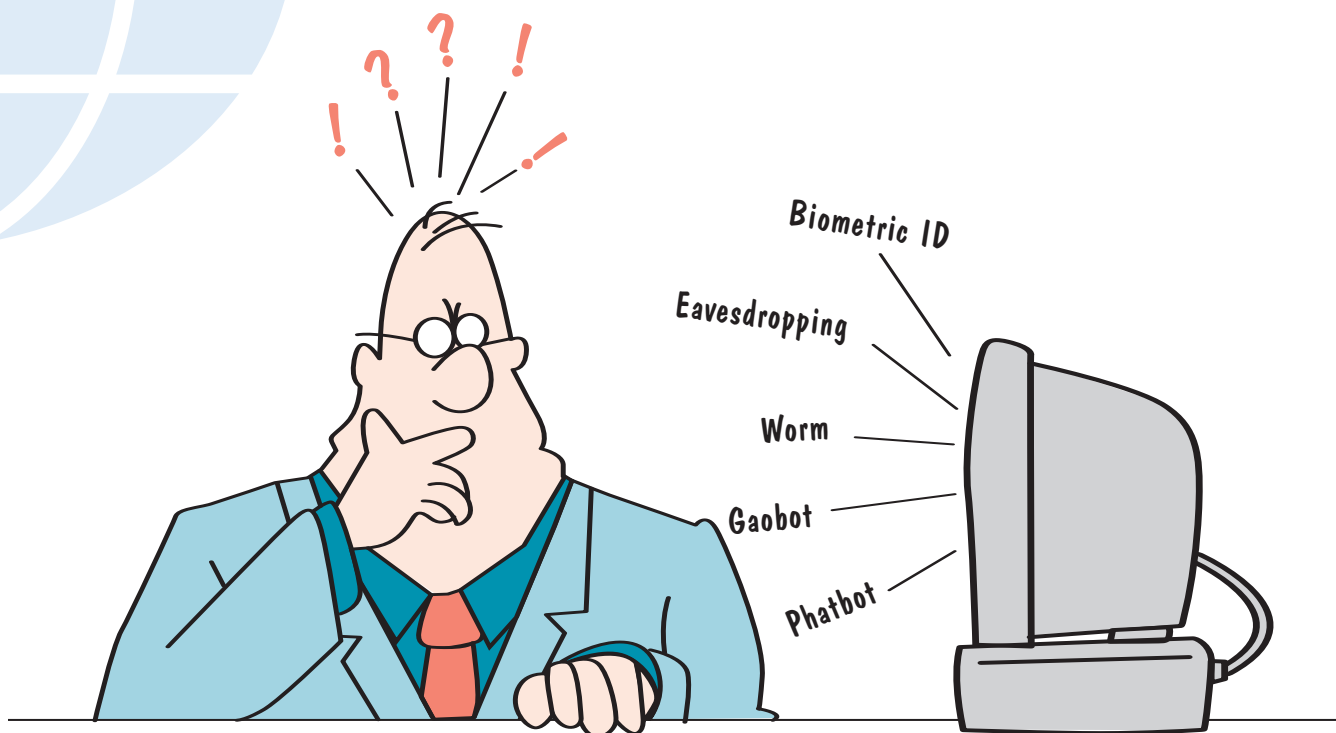




If you have you wondered what all the strange IT expressions actually mean but have been too afraid to show ignorance by asking, here are a few basics.

IT language laid bare

Biometric ID - an authentication technology

Cookie - message received from a website and saved in the computer to send back to the server as your identification every time you revisit the site

DLL - Dynamic Link Library

IAM - Identity and Access Management

Eavesdropping - technical way to steal passwords

Encryption - encoding data to prevent viewing by non authorised people

Firewall - software device that stops unauthorised users or hackers

Gaobot - scanner program designed to search the Internet for vulnerable computers that could be attacked by viruses or hackers

Hacker - one who attempts to gain access to computer systems via the Internet

HTML - Hyper Text Mark-up Language

ISP - Internet Service Provider

Keyloggers - record all the keystrokes typed, store in a hidden file for later retrieval or shipped raw to an Identity thief

Microsoft - biggest target for malevolent computer terrorists

MyDoom - worm introduced in 2004

Netsky - worm spread through e-mail that copies itself into shared folders and searches files for addresses to send itself to

Patch - repair item for software sold before it was really ready for consumer use

Phatbot - program linking together virus infected computers into a network that can make concerted attacks at a predetermined time

Phishing - use of spoof e-mails and fraudulent websites to fool recipients into giving personal financial data

POP3 - Post Office Protocol

Sasser - a worm that spreads on servers using Windows 2000 and XP

SMTP - simple mail transfer protocol

SPF - Sender Policy Framework system that requires positive identification of email senders

Spyware - small programs sent to your PC as a result of visiting a website which log things you do, passwords, sites you visit and sends this to market research companies and hackers

Tokens - an authentication technology

Virus - what terrifies every computer user, but requires action from the user such as double-clicking on an e-mail attachment to open before it can do any damage

Worm - can be received via email or by visiting an affected website or a spoof website set up deliberately to distribute them and similar to a virus but self-propagating via unprotected connections. 🌐