

2. Interactive exchanges invade the world

1 Different types of messages are available

a. Audio messages

- Telephone exchanges, streaming radio, VOIP computers.
- Podcasts, radio broadcasts and MP3 files, downloaded on websites.

b. Written messages

- SMS, MMS (called "instant messaging" or "IMing" in the USA).
- Web pages.
- E-mails messages and attachments to them (word processing, spreadsheet files, etc.).

c. Visual messages

- TV programs, videos, photos and films.
- GPS mapping instructions, and aerial maps.

2 The messages are broadcast through different networks

a. Through the World Wide Web, also called the Internet, a global network of computers which can communicate with one another

- About 60% of households in industrialised countries are connected, more and more often by Wi-Fi.
- To be connected, you need a computer, a telephone line, a modem or Ethernet connections, and an account with an ISP (Internet Service Provider).
- When you subscribe, you are given a secret password and an Internet address which enable you to log on the Net.
- Search engines give access to databases or to information on everything: books, job offers, leisure activities, finance, travel, etc.

b. Through national networks

- Traditional phone lines provide narrow band connections and faster broadband connections with ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line).
- Cellular phones offer UMTS (Universal Mobile Telecommunication System) connections.
- Fibre optic cables allow the transmission of information at the fastest speed of all.
- Satellites broadcast information to dishes.

c. Through local networks

- LANs (Local Area Networks), or Intranet servers, based either on Ethernet or on Wi-Fi technology, are used in local 'hot-zones', in companies, airports, stations, hospitals, universities and city-districts.

CAN YOU ANSWER?

1. Which types of messages are available?
2. How are the messages broadcast?

Words, words, words...

1

attachment: pièce jointe

device: dispositif

GPS (Global Positioning System):
système mondial de localisation

ISP: fournisseur d'accès

MMS (Multimedia Message Service):
service d'échanges multimédia

networked: en réseau

SMS (Short Message Service): texto

spreadsheet: tableau

streaming: en continu

VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol):
téléphone branché sur ordinateur

word processing: traitement de texte

2

to broadcast: transmettre

cellular phone: téléphone mobile/
portable

current events: actualité

dish: antenne parabolique

hot-zone: zone équipée avec WI-FI

to log on: se connecter

narrow band: bas débit

password: mot de passe

real estate: immobilier

search engine: moteur de recherche

to subscribe: s'abonner