

## What do the terms "upload" and "download" really mean?

You've probably heard the terms "upload" and "download" many times, but what do these terms actually mean? (from an article in "(about)tech". What does it mean to upload a file to another site, or download something from the Web? What is the difference between a download and an upload?

In this article, we'll go over what uploading and downloading means, as well as common peripheral terms and information.

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### 1. What does it mean to upload something?

In the context of the Web, to **upload** something means to send data from an individual user's computer to another computer, network, Web site, mobile device, or some other remotely connected networked location.

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### 2. What does it mean to download something?

To **download** something on the Web means to transfer data from a website or network, saving that information on your computer. All sorts of information can be downloaded on the Web: [books](#), [movies](#), [software](#), etc.

### 3. What does it mean to ping something?

A **ping** is a term used to refer to a tool that checks to see if a website is down or not. In the context of Web search, **pinging a Web site** basically means that you're endeavoring to determine whether a specific Web site is having issues; it could also help narrow down connectivity problems when you're attempting to upload or download something.

There are many sites that offer free ping utilities. One of the best is [Is that site down for everyone, or just me?](#),

a simple yet ingenious site that invites users to type in the name of the site they're having troubles with in order to ping it and see if there is actually a problem.

**Examples:** "I couldn't get to Google, so I sent out a **ping** to see if it was down."

## 4. How fast can I upload or download something on the Web?

If you've ever wondered how good your connection to the Internet was, whether if that was out of pure curiosity or to see if there was a problem, then now's your chance - give you computer a simple and quick Internet speed test. This is a great way to get an accurate representation of how fast your Internet connection is at any one time. Here are a few sites that can help you test your Internet speed and connection:

- [Speakeasy Speed Test](#): easy to use; just click on the nearest geographical mirror site and you'll see it begin to work.
- [SpeedTest](#): works on Linux or Windows servers; click on "start" and you'll soon see the results.
- [InternetFrog](#): you can get MUCH more detailed information from InternetFrog's test, including a graph that shows you your quality of service, round trip time, how long it would take you to download files, and much more.