

TIPS & TRICKS

DADE COUNTY TECHNOLOGY

Week of March 31, 2014

Anatomy of a Web Address

Okay... so we've all seen what you have to type in to get to a particular web site, a URL (Uniform Resource Locator)... but what does all that mean?

Here's a sample:

<http://www.schoolhousetech.com/Worksheets/Math/default.aspx>

Let's take a look at all the parts...

http:// - This stands for *Hyper Text Transfer Protocol* and basically tells the computer that you are looking to "transfer" "hyper text" (a web page) from the Internet to your computer.

NOTE: When typing in the URL, it is not necessary to type the *http://* because most browsers assume that part.

www - This stands for *World Wide Web* which is the body of software rules and protocols that make up what we know as the Internet.

NOTE: When typing in the URL, it is not always necessary to type the *www* because most browsers assume that part also. However, it is sometimes necessary to put in something different than the *www* if you are looking for a specific server at a location (ie. To get to the Dade Middle School web site, you change the *www* to *dms* - <http://dms.dadecountyschools.org>).

schoolhousetechnologies - In the example above, this is the domain for School House Technologies. For our district site, it would be *dadecountyschools*.

com - This is an example of a URL extension (or a top level domain). This helps define the server you are visiting. *.com* is usually a commercial server. *.org* is usually a non-profit server. *.edu* is usually an educational server. *.gov* is usually a government server. *.net* is usually a

network. .mil is usually military server. For a list of top level domains, visit http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Internet_top-level_domains.

Worksheets/Math/ - This is a folder (Worksheets) followed by a sub-folder (Math) on the School House Technologies folder.

default.aspx - This is the name of the actual web page you are visiting. Many time first pages will be titled, default.htm, default.php, default.html, index.htm, index.php, index.html etc...

NOTE: .html stands for *Hyper Text Markup Language*. .htm is the same thing. Back in the days before Windows 95/98 when computers ran on either DOS (disk operating system) or Windows 3.1, files on PC's could have a three character extension. Mac's could have longer extensions. Thus... .html vs. .htm...

So... having gone through all of that, the URL we mentioned at the top, <http://www.schoolhousetechnologies.com/Worksheets/Math/default.aspx> tells your computer to look for a page called *default.aspx* out in a sub-folder called *Math* which is located in a main folder called *Worksheets* which is on a commercial server called *schoolhousetechnologies.com*.

Please send any questions or comments about this installment of Tips & Tricks to technology@dadecs.org.