Computer Terms

algorithm	a method for doing something, for instance: a recipe
bit/byte	bit: a space for one of two possible symbols byte: a storage space for 8 bits (256 possibilities)
Bandwidth	The maximum speed that one can communicate (usually in bits/sec)
Bluetooth	a short-distance communication mechanism between digital devices (e.g. between cell-phone and headphones)
Botnet	A group of computers infected with a program which allows them to be controlled by a central computer (usually for criminal purposes)
cache	temporary storage for frequently-used items, e.g. web pages you're likely to come back to, computer data that the processor is likely to use/need again
Compression (.ZIP, .RAR)	Reduce the size of a file by eliminating redundancy and other techniques
CPU/GPU	Central Processing Unit / Graphics Processing Unit
dual-core / quad-core	having two (or four) computers on the same chip and therefore really being able to do two (four) things at the same time
Encryption	Make information unreadable except to people with a password or other key
Ethernet	the most common technology for connecting computers by wire
Firewall	a device or program protecting your computer from unwanted communication connections
GIF / PNG / JPEG / TIFF	different graphics formats for still pictures
Hard drive vs. RAM (main memory)	computer memory storage devices: RAM is faster, more expensive, there's less of it and forgets when the power is turned off
HTML	Hyper-Text-Markup-Language: the language that web pages are written in
HTTP	Hyper-Text-Transport-Protocol: the communications language that web servers and web browsers use to talk to each other.
IP address	Numeric address of a computer, used by others to send information to it
Java / C++ / Netlogo /Scheme / Python	computer languages (all taught at Stuy)
nano / micro / milli / kilo / mega / giga / tera /	nano: billionth; micro: millionth; milli: thousandth; kilo: thousand; mega: million; giga: billion; tera: trillion
LAN / WAN	Local-area-network: a network with computers in the same vicinity (like the same building); Wide-area-network: a network of computers in a large geographical area
Linux / Ubuntu / Red Hat	a variants of the free LINUX operating system
malware / virus / spyware / adware / keylogger	programs you don't want on your computer: virus usually does harmful things (delete data, send spam without your knowledge); spyware watches what you do (surf) and sends reports about it to others; adware creates popup ads that you may not be able to turn off.
motherboard	the large green plastic electronics board to which the main components of the computer are attached
Protocol	The language of communications between computers or programs, e.g. HTTP, FTP, TCP/IP
Object/machine code	The instructions, written in binary code, that are executed by the processor and not normally readable/understandable by humans.
Open Source software	Software whose source code is freely available/modifiable, and not classified as proprietary intellectual property as is common for commercial software.
Operating System	The main program that controls all other programs on your computer. Examples: Windows (XP/Vista/7/8), Mac OS X, Linux (Ubuntu or Red Hat or Debian).
Phishing	A deceptive technique to trick users into revealing private information by email
router / hub / switch	an electronic box that routes computer communications
Source code	The humanly readable and understandable program instructions written by programmers
TCP/IP	the style of addressing of computer communications packets
upload vs. download	upload: sending data from your computer to another computer download: getting data from other computers into yours
USB	Universal Serial Bus: the connector (or port) used by most devices that connect to computers