

# GLOSSARY

**Actant:** A human or nonhuman actor capable of building relations.

**Admin:** The graphical user interface (GUI) used within a CMS to build and maintain a Wordpress site without directly accessing the back-end files and code.

**Allies:** The necessary actants that ensure the success or failure of a piece of science in the making. Once these allies are enrolled, meaning their interests are aligned in a way that is also aligned with the goals of the artifact and its allies, a black box can be created.

**Anthrodesign:** An online group interested in the combination of anthropology and design. “We are interested in the role of applied anthropology in the corporate, public sector, and medical contexts. Not all list members are anthropologists, but group members share the common interest of applying ethnographic techniques and social sciences theory to industrial, software, and other types of product design” (Anthrodesign Yahoo Group).

**Anthrodesigner:** A member of the Anthrodesign mailing list on Yahoo Groups.

**Applied Anthropology:** Subfield of anthropology that utilizes both theory and practice to analyze and/or solve societal issues.

**Automattic:** The web development corporation behind Wordpress.

**Autopoiesis:** Method of self-reproduction and recursivity which defines a systems existence as the product of its own processes, dependent on the production and use of its own elements.

**Back-end developer:** A back end developer may work with high level programming languages that organize the unseen functionality of a site, often times for the goal of data storage.

**Black box:** An actant encompassing all relations necessary for its creation; enclosed, making opaque to the outside viewer. Many black boxes may be within each other.

**Blog:** A combination of the terms “web + log”. A type of website that chronicles the events and thoughts of individuals or groups on any given subject.

**Blogging:** The act of maintaining a blog.

**Categories:** Overarching labels to contain a certain types of blog posts.

**Codex:** The Wordpress codex is the complete online documentation allowing one to learn to modify and use Wordpress.org. (see [http://codex.wordpress.org/Main\\_Page](http://codex.wordpress.org/Main_Page))

**Collective:** Used in place of society, and presupposes relationships defined by the socialization of nonhumans.

**Content Management System (CMS):** Allows for the individual(s) updating or building the site to do so through a *graphical user interface* (GUI) rather than within the code, which Wordpress calls the *admin* area.

**Contextual Inquiry:** Occurs within the user-centered (UCD) or user experience (UX) workflow requiring one to observe an end-user with a technology in their own context or expected environment for use.

**Copyleft:** A general method for making a program free software and requiring all modified and extended versions of the program to be free software as well.

**Creative Commons:** Licenses that provide a flexible range of protections and freedoms for authors, artists, and educators.

**Deletion:** Practice of deleting social relationships in one's (designer's) workflow due to lack of reflexivity and feeling of unimportance.

**Design Ethnography:** Utilization of ethnography in design/technology projects. Can be completed prior to a project to influence the successful adoption of a technology/design or to survey current use for further modifications.

**Digital Divide:** Difference in technology access by various populations across the globe. Access constituting not computer software or hardware, but capability for technological education and socialization.

**Enrolled:** Actants are enrolled when their interests are allied with another actant's goals.

**End-user:** The ultimate user that a technology is designed for. E.g. A website's audience would be the end-users.

**Facebook:** A social networking website that allows people to connect online and share a variety of media, messages and interests.

**Field notes:** Descriptions of daily events and happenings completed in anthropological research.

**Free and Open Source Software (FOSS):** A combination of *free software* and *open source software* used to avoid loss of meaning.

**Free Software:** To call one's software "free" is to describe both a social movement and practical method of sharing the *source code* of your work. In doing so you are giving others the permission to use, alter, innovate and redistribute your work in any way that suits their needs.

**Free/Libre Open Source Software (FLOSS):** In order to avoid the confusion between OSS and free software and the monetary meaning of "free" versus the idea of freedom; the acronym FLOSS was created. GNU does not promote the use of "libre" as there are still semantic problems associated with this option. For instance; many Indian languages do not understand the concept of "libre". However, for speakers of a variety of other languages, the French use of "libre" rather than "gratis" does make a clearer distinction

**Front-end developer:** Works predominately with HTML, CSS, Javascript and light Php that affects the client-side code of a websites. In other words what the website user can immediately see.

**Geeks:** Kelty's term for free software participants. "Geek is meant to signal a mode of thinking and working, not an identity; it is a mode or quality that allows people to find each other for reasons other than the fact that they share an office, a degree, a language or a nation" (2008: 35).

**GNU General Public License (GNU GPL):** A free software license written by Richard Stallman for the GNU project requiring all derivations of software initially distributed under this license to continue to carry the same allowances for freedom of use, modifiability, and distribution.

**GNU:** GNU standing for "GNU's not UNIX" and is the name of a free operating system developed by Richard Stallman.

**Graphic designer:** Responsible for creation of visual design, using a variety of creative techniques to achieve visual cohesion.

**Graphical User Interface (GUI):** Pronounced "gooey", allows users to interact with a software or technology through more than simply typing, but through a graphic oriented system.

**Information architect:** Creates the structure of website's pages and navigational features often through the use of icons and schematics.

**Interaction designer:** Creates graphic elements of the site that promote intuitive and engaging user interaction with the website. An example being the process of checking out on an e-commerce site. The visual cues that take you along in this process.

**MySQL:** A free software database management systems that allows access by multiple users at once.

**Open Source Software:** Software whose code one can freely study, modify and distribute.

**Participant observation:** An ethnographic research method involving the immersion of one into the society or culture of study, by participating in routine daily activities and events.

**PHP:** A computer programming language used to promote the building of dynamic sites licensed under free software.

**Plugins:** Small scale applications or programs that develop your Wordpress site to nearly any level, such as through the implementation of forums or custom photo galleries.

**Project Manager:** Oversees all elements of a project in the design or technology industry.

**Proprietary:** Relating to the commercial production and dissemination of software development. The antithesis of free software as proprietary software is "closed" meaning the source code is not openly available.

**Science and technology studies (STS):** An area of study that works to decipher the relations created between human and nonhuman actors in any given society, often directly involved in the science and technology industry.

**Source code:** Written code available in a number of files that make up an entire program.

**Scope creep:** In the web design industry, the increase of duties outside those defined in the website proposal without proper adjustment in resources or time.

**Tag cloud:** a listing of the keywords in different font sizes to show their popularity of use in the side bar of your home page

**Tagging:** allows the user in Wordpress to define their own keywords for the content of each post.

**Technologist:** Person participating the science and technology industry at any stage of a project's workflow.

**Technoscience:** Latour's forging of science and technology.

**Thick description:** A description that incorporates not only the actions of an actant or the proceedings of an event, but the affiliated social consequences and the social code that may have produced them.

**Third-party software:** An external program or application that provides content for one's own project (ex. Website) and extending functionality most often without requiring alteration by the website developer.

**Total social fact:** A single activity that one can deduce a greater number of societal structures from. Ex. The act of gift giving carries great number of social obligations that enable one to better understand relationships in a particular community. Who is giving and receiving what types of gifts?

**Twitter:** A social networking and "microblogging" platform that allows one to constantly update the thoughts and events of a particular individual or group through text under 140 characters.

**User-centered design (UCD):** Recognizes the importance of understanding the end-user and their use of technology prior and through the implementation of a technology or design.

**User-experience designer (UXD):** Takes on the task of utilizing multidisciplinary design tactics to create an entire and positive user-experience for the end-user.

**User-experience researcher (UX researcher, UXR):** Complete research for projects utilizing a user-experience workflow.

**Web Designer:** Overarching term for person working to complete the construction of a website.

**Web developer:** Also a blanket term for those who work on developing all aspects of a site, often excluding visual design.

**Widgets:** Smaller scale applications that work to develop the content on your sidebar of your website, more often connecting and publishing content from

third party software such as Facebook or Twitter rather than extending greater site functionality. All widgets are plugins but not all plugins are widgets.

**WordCamp:** A conference run by members of the Wordpress community all over the world to promote, extend and strengthen the use of Wordpress.

**Workflow:** A series of steps that organize people and processes to lead to the creation of an end-product (ex. Website).