

# Tech Trends: A User's Guide to Software, Hardware and Other Tools Revolutionizing Journalism

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For **basic information** about technology, try these Web sites:

- Webopedia – [www.webopedia.com](http://www.webopedia.com)
- Whatis.com – <http://whatis.techtarget.com>
- TechWeb – [www.techweb.com/encyclopedia](http://www.techweb.com/encyclopedia)
- Free On-Line Dictionary Of Computing – <http://foldoc.org>
- High-Tech Dictionary – [www.computeruser.com/resources/dictionary](http://www.computeruser.com/resources/dictionary)
- Jargon Buster – [www.helpwithpcs.com/jargon/jargonmenu.htm](http://www.helpwithpcs.com/jargon/jargonmenu.htm)



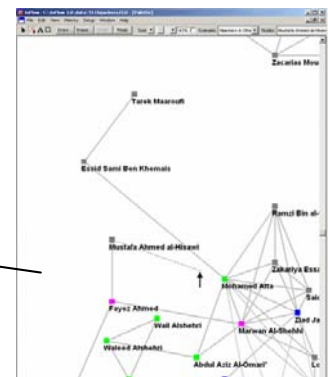
Welcome to the Tech Terms Dictionary  
Where computer and technology terms are defined and explained

Beyond the basics: This is an age of miniaturization and convergence for reporting tools. Increasingly, devices can do more than one task – and they're easier to carry. Some **hardware** examples:



"**Smart phones**" (BlackBerry devices, the Palm Treo and Motorola Q) can access e-mail and surf the Web. If you can't afford the monthly fees, get a **personal digital assistant with Wi-Fi** (like the Palm TX): Then you can get online wherever there's a wireless connection. When attached to a **collapsible keyboard**, your PDA becomes a fully functional computer for writing and submitting stories and doing research. **Cameras** have been integrated into devices such as **cell phones** and **audio recorders** (like Sony's ICD-CX50 Visual IC Recorder). More and more cameras can take not only high-resolution still photos but also **MP4 video** suitable for Webcasting. A mobile Global Positioning Satellite (**GPS**) receiver can give you the exact geographic coordinates of your location – so you can pull background info (like census data) and measure distances precisely. With a high-capacity "**flash drive**," you can carry gigabytes of data in your pocket. **Handheld scanners** like the **DocuPen** can digitize on the spot documents and photographs that sources might show you but won't let you keep.

**Software** also is revolutionizing reporters' work. Once you've scanned in a document, optical character recognition (**OCR**) can turn it into editable text. Free programs such as **PDF2Text** can do the same to Adobe Acrobat documents. Computer-assisted reporting has gone beyond spreadsheets and database managers to include geographic information systems (**GIS**), allowing you to map data and see patterns; and **social networking analysis** software, which can help you see relationships among individuals and organizations. Got a cheap boss? Skype, Gizmo and other **PC-to-PC phone services** let you make even international calls for free.



	A	B	C	D
1	Delegate	filed	Passed	Batting avg
2	Abbitt	12	6	0.500
3	Albo	44	25	0.568
4	Alexander	11	3	0.273
5	Amundson	17	3	0.176

For many tasks, you don't even need software, thanks to the growing number of **Web-based applications** (using a programming language called **AJAX**). They include online word processors like **Writely**; spreadsheets like **iRows**, **Num Sum** and **Google Spreadsheets**; and entire Microsoft Office-like suites such as **Zimbra**, **gOffice** and **ThinkFree**.