Glossary

1G – Developed in the 70s and 80s, the first generation (1G) wireless communications technology refers to the analog cellular technology. Popular 1G technology includes AMPS.

2G – The second generation (2G) wireless communications technology refers to the digital cellular technology. Popular 2G technology includes CDMA and GSM.

2.5G – Extension of existing 2G cellular network protocols to provide additional features such as packet-switching and enhanced data rates. Popular 2.5G technology includes GPRS and EDGE.

3G – The next generation of wireless communications technology that supports high-speed, high-bandwidth wireless services for advanced applications. Popular 3G technology includes W-CDMA and CDMA 2000 3x.

ADO.NET – ActiveX Data Objects for .NET. A set of data access technologies included in the .NET Framework class libraries.
Advanced Mobile Phone Service (AMPS) – A 1G standard analog mobile phone service network which operates in the 800-900MHz frequency band. It is used mainly in the US, Latin America, Australia, New Zealand, parts of Russia, and Asia-Pacific.

ASP.NET – The latest version of Microsoft’s Active Server Pages technology that is designed to build server-based Web applications. It is different from its predecessor in two major ways: it supports code written in compiled language like C++, Visual Basic, and C#, and, it separates the code from the content allowing WYSIWYG editing of Web pages.

Bluetooth – A short-range radio technology aimed at simplifying wireless communications between devices and the Internet. Bluetooth’s founding members include Ericsson, IBM, Intel, Nokia, and Toshiba.

Card – Key component in a WML document. In WML, documents are composed of decks of cards.

Cascading Style Sheet (CSS) – Term used to reference a number of different means of applying a style sheet to a document. Style sheets can be used inline, embedded, or linked. XHMTL Basic only supports linked style sheets.

Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) – A technique of multiplexing, which allows multiple frequencies to be used simultaneously. It is the name of a 2G mobile phone service standard mainly used in the US.

ColdFusion Markup Language (CFML) – ColdFusion tags used to build dynamic or database-driven Web pages.

Cookie – A small file containing information stored on a client computer by a server that can be retrieved by the server later.

Deck – Body of a WML document composed of one or more cards.
Dialogs Library – WMLScript Standard Library that provides functions for communication with the user from within a WMLScript program.

Float Library – WMLScript Standard Library that contains functions for manipulation and conversion of floating-point numbers.

Form variable – A variable whose value is passed to the subsequent Web page via a form.

General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) – A 2.5G packet-switching technology for GSM networks that supports flexible data transmission rate typically up to 20 or 30 Kbps as well as continuous connection to the wireless network.

Global Positioning Systems (GPS) – A satellite-based navigation system that allows users to determine their exact geographic position.

Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) – A 2G standard for digital cellular communications. It has become the most widely used mobile system in the world.

Hyperlink – Reference used to links cards or decks in WML. Links can also address an external function or location in another file.

Location Based Service (LBS) – New and improved services enabled by a range of positioning techniques.

Mobile application – An application designed for mobile devices. Unlike a wireless application, a mobile application can function without a network connection.

Mobile business (m-business) – Content delivery (notification and reporting) and transactions (purchasing and data entry) on mobile devices.
Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) – A Microsoft standard for accessing different database systems in a Windows environment.

Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) – A small handheld computer for managing personal information. Most PDAs require the use of a stylus.

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) – A type of electronic identification that transmits radio frequency signals to an RFID receiver. It is an alternative to bar coding.

SDK – software development kit – Programming package that contains tools that aid the programmer in developing applications in a particular language.

Session variable – A variable whose value exists for the duration of a session.

Shopping cart application – A program that allows customers to order from an online catalog or virtual store.

Style Sheet – A method by which a text file can be used as a template for formatting of a Web page. Elements such as background color, hyperlink color, margin control, typeface, text, and placement of objects on a page can be included in a style sheet.

Splash Screen – A common initial screen that provides a welcome or graphic when the program is first executed. Splash screens can often be turned off after early use of the program.

SQL Server CE – Microsoft’s relational database management system (RDBMS) for PDAs and small devices.

String Library – WMLScript Standard Library containing functions that provide support for manipulation and conversion of character strings.
Structured Query Language (SQL) – A language used by relational database to query, update, and manage data.

URL Library – WMLScript Standard Library that supports URL manipulation and verification.

URL variable – A variable whose value is passed to the subsequent Web page as part of the URL.

.wbmp – Extension of graphic files supported by WML.

WAP – Wireless Application Protocol – Stacked protocol designed for use with mobile wireless application development and for the deployment of data services.

Wideband Code Division Multiple Access (WCDMA) – A 3G technology for wideband digital radio communications of Internet, multimedia, video, and other capacity-demanding applications.

Wi-Fi – Short for wireless fidelity, Wi-Fi is a wireless network protocol that uses unregulated spectrum for establishing a network connection in a local area network environment. It refers to any type of IEEE802.11 network, including 802.11b, 802.11a, and 802.11g.

Windows CE – A version of Windows designed to run on PDAs or other small devices.

Wireless application – An application designed to function when the client device is connected to networks (e.g., the Internet) or other devices wirelessly.

Wireless Application Layer (WAE) – Highest layer in WAP where the applications are executed. Major area of interest to application developers.
Wireless Datagram Protocol (WDP) – Similar to UDP in the Internet Protocol (IP). Used for interfacing wireless networks among a variety of different carrier technologies.

Wireless Session Protocol (WSP) – Supports interchange of content between a wireless device and application server in a client/server model.

Wireless Transaction Protocol (WTP) – Provides methods for transactions. Certain methods provide more reliability than others.


Wireless Transport Layer Security (WTLS) – Optional layers used to support authentication, privacy, and secure connections.

WMLBrowser Library – WMLScript Standard Library containing functions that aid in the controlling of the WML browser. Used to acquire and assign values to variables in a WML document and for returning control to a WML document.

WMLScript – Scripting language that can be used in conjunction with document written in WML.

WMLScript Standard Libraries – A set of six collections of functions that are supported by WMLScript. These libraries of routines are: Lang, Float, String, URL, WMLBrowser, and Dialogs.