

# Appendix One

## Glossary of terms

The following list contains terms that are used within this work in relation to the bittorrent protocol, its community and the material that is commonly distributed by it.

- Client:** The program that utilises the bittorrent protocol to exchange information with other users. As bittorrent is an open-source project, people are free to develop new clients which incorporate different features. Users with different clients can still share material using bittorrent.
- Codec:** 'Compressor/Decompression algorithm' – affects the compatibility, size, quality and available features of the video file.
- FAQ:** A document containing frequently asked questions.
- File-sharing:** Users making files available online to other users. Usually this term refers to peer-to-peer networks.
- Forum:** A system that allows users to leave messages for each other. The messages are usually organized by topics, then threads (discussions initiated by users) and posts (individual messages assigned to a thread).
- IRC** Internet Relay Chat – a commonly used form of real-time internet chat.
- Leech** A user sharing bittorrent material who has yet to download all of the material; typically a leech will download at a greater speed than they upload.
- Peer-to-peer:** A computer network that relies on the processing power and bandwidth of its participants in the network as opposed to concentrating it in a relatively low number of servers. In the case of file-sharing communities they are used to create ad-hoc networks of computer systems that facilitate the efficient distribution of material, avoiding the bottleneck caused by moving large volumes of traffic through a central point or system.

- RSS:** Really Simple Syndication is a type of web feed. In conjunction with appropriate software this allows users to view regularly updated information from a website.
- Ratio:** Also referred to as share ratio or upload ratio, this is the amount of material a user has uploaded compared to the amount of material that they have downloaded. A ratio of less than one means a user has 'leeches more than they have seeded'.
- Seed:** A user sharing bittorrent material who is in possession of all of the material and is uploading it to other users – leeches.
- Spyware:** Malicious software that interferes with a users' computer system without their knowledge or consent, usually for commercial purposes.
- Swarm:** The term given to the entirety of the users (seeds and leeches) sharing material through a given torrent.
- Torrent:** Also referred to as a torrent file this is the small file that allows users to share a given set of material. The file contains metadata to ensure that data passed between users is correct.
- Tracker:** A server used to coordinate users client software to enable the exchange of data. This is the centralised part of the bittorrent system; without a working tracker users will not be able to share any material.
- Warez:** Pronounced 'wares' this is a term originally used to describe pirated software but now is often used in reference to any form of material illegally distributed online.