What do you call the @ symbol used in e-mail addresses?

You know, that little "a" with a circle curling around it that is found in email addresses? It is most commonly referred to as the "at" symbol.

Surprisingly though, there is no official, universal name for this sign. There are dozens of strange terms to describe the @ symbol.   Several languages use words that associate the shape of the symbol with some type of animal.

For instance, some quirky names for the @ symbol include:

apenstaartje - Dutch for "monkey's tail"
snabel - Danish for "elephant's trunk"
kissanhnta - Finnish for "cat's tail"
klammeraffe - German for "hanging monkey"
papaki - Greek for "little duck"
kukac - Hungarian for "worm"
dalphaengi - Korean for "snail"
grisehale - Norwegian for "pig's tail"
sobachka - Russian for "little dog"

Before it became the standard symbol for electronic mail, the @ symbol was used to represent the cost or weight of something. For instance, if you purchased 6 apples, you might write it as 6 apples @ $.30 each.

With the introduction of e-mail came the popularity of the @ symbol. The @ symbol or the "at sign" separates a person's online user name from his mail server address. For instance, joe@uselessknowledge.com. Its widespread use on the Internet made it necessary to put this symbol on keyboards in other countries that have never seen or used the symbol before. As a result, there is really no official name for this symbol.

The actual origin of the @ symbol remains an enigma. Quite mysterious, huh?

Class Schedule for July—August 2005

NEW Registration Desk hours:
Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
For further information call Kaye Hammerman, 859-1301 or
email **chamme1009@aol.com**

Day/Time	Date	Class	Instructor
Mon. 1:15 p.m.	July11—Aug 8	BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS	BJ
Tues. 1:15 p.m.	July 12—Aug 9	INTERMEDIATE COMPUTER SKILLS	Mel
Wed 9:00a.m.	July 13—Aug 10	DIGITAL PHOTO	Ira & Bob
Wed. 1:15 p.m.	July 13—Aug 11	PRACTICAL COMPUTING	Russ
Thurs. 9:15 a.m.	July 14—Aug 12	EXCEL (pending sufficient enrollment)	Milt
Thurs. 1:15 p.m	July 14—Aug 12	BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS	Kaye
Fri. 9:00 a.m.	July 15—Aug 13	INTERMEDIATE COMPUTER SKILLS	Charles
Fri 1:15 p.m.	July 16—Aug 13	INTERNET/E-MAIL	Norm