What's a "nym"?

The term "nym" mysteriously evades definition. Here are some people's opinions:

"Me. A Name. 'I call myself…'" --*@bobblakely*
"A name-shaped name." --*@octal*
"A name you choose to use online not from parents." --*@kevinmarks*
"In a free society, people name themselves." --*@sleepylemur*
"More than a name; an identity that you want to present as yourself at times." --*@rrmutt*

"Nym" is usually short for "pseudonym", but there are many kinds of nyms. Here is a short list of a few:

pseudonym - a name often used to hide a base name
polynym - a name consisting of multiple words or symbols
mononym - a name consisting of a single word or symbol
autonym - a name bestowed upon oneself
anonym - a name representing anonymity

Why would anyone use a nym?
It turns out there are all kinds of reasons people use nyms, from playing online games to protecting themselves from bad people. There is a long list of reasons at **http://tinyurl.com/geekfeminism-nyms.**

Why do I need a nym if I'm not doing anything wrong?
There's a common misconception that people only use nyms to commit crimes and do other bad things. While this does happen, plenty of people commit crimes and do bad things under their legal names too.

Isn't it confusing for people to have multiple names?
People can have many roles in life: for example, someone could be a spouse, a parent, a member of a community, and a professional worker all at the same time. We don't see any reason why names are different.

http://www.nymrights.org