

Did you know???...

The Internet, the Web & Computing

Tips & Tricks

Did you know???...

What is the Internet (the Net)?

The *Internet* is a massive network of networks, a networking infrastructure.

It connects millions of computers together globally, forming a network in which any computer can communicate with any other computer as long as they are both connected to the Internet. Information that travels over the Internet does so via a variety of languages known as protocols.

There are all kinds of networks in all kinds of sizes. You may have a computer network at your work, at your school or even one at your house. These networks are often connected to each other in different configurations, which is how you get groupings such as **local area networks** (LANs) and **regional networks**. Your cell phone is also on a network that is considered part of the Internet, as are many of your other electronic devices. And all these separate networks -- added together -- are what constitute the Internet. Even satellites are connected to the Internet.

What is the World Wide Web (the Web)?

The World Wide Web is the system we use to access the Internet. The Web isn't the only system out there, but it's the most popular and widely used. (Examples of ways to access the Internet without using the HTTP protocol (language) include e-mail and instant messaging). The World Wide Web makes use of hypertext to access the various forms of information available on the world's different networks. This allows people all over the world to share knowledge and opinions. We typically access the Web through **browsers**, like Internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox. By using browsers like these, you can visit various Web sites and view other online content.

So another way to think about it is to say the Internet is composed of the machines, hardware and data; and the World Wide Web is what brings this technology to life.

Who Owns the Internet?

No one actually owns the Internet, and no single person or organization controls the Internet in its entirety. There are many organizations, corporations, governments, schools, private citizens and service providers that all own pieces of the infrastructure, but there is no one body that owns it all.

There are organizations that oversee and standardize what happens on the Internet and assign IP addresses and domain names, such as the National Science Foundation, the Internet Engineering Task Force, ICANN, InterNIC and the Internet Architecture Board.

Did you know???...

The NJ State Police website: <http://www.state.nj.us/njsp/tech/safe.html> is a great source for information

THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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STATE POLICE NJ

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Colonel Rick Fuentes
Superintendent

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NJSP Quick Links 

Internet Safety Tips

The New Jersey State Police High Technology Crimes and Investigations Support Unit recommends the following internet safety tips.



[Children \(10 & Younger\)](#) | [Teenagers](#) | [Parents & Guardians](#)

Internet Guidelines for Children (10 years old and younger)

- Never give your name, address or phone number to anyone on the internet.
- Do not go into chat rooms without your parent's help.
- If you get a message that makes you feel uncomfortable, don't respond to it, and be sure to tell your parents.
- Don't join a mailing list without your parent's permission.
- Don't open e-mail from anyone you don't know. It might be a virus which could damage your computer.
- Don't believe everything people on the internet tell you. Since you can't see the other person, you don't know who they really are.
- Never agree to buy or trade anything on the internet without your parent's permission.
- Never agree to meet anyone you met on the internet, and never send pictures of yourself over the internet.



Did you know???...

NJSP Quick Links

Internet Safety Tips

The New Jersey State Police High Technology Crimes and Investigations Support Unit recommends the following internet safety tips.



[Children \(10 & Younger\)](#) | [Teenagers](#) | [Parents & Guardians](#)

Internet Guidelines for Teenagers

- Never give out your personal information, your real name, address, or phone number, or any personal information about your family or friends without their permission.
- Be careful in chat rooms. Don't get involved in fights or use obscene language. You could be reported and have your internet service suspended or cancelled.
- If you are in a chat room and someone makes you feel uncomfortable, attempts to start a fight with you, or uses offensive language, leave the room.
- Ignore obscene or offensive messages. Replying may cause the sender to continue to send such messages.
- Be careful in joining mailing lists, some may make your personal information public. Don't provide an address or phone number. The information for which you are signing up is sent to the e-mail address you provide, so they don't need your address or phone number.
- Beware of offers for free items, get rich quick, or weight loss offers. They may be a scam.
- Beware of e-mail from people you don't know or e-mail you weren't expecting. It may contain a virus designed to damage your computer or send your account name and password back to the sender.
- Never send your picture to someone you don't know or trust. Remember, the internet allows people to become anyone they want to be, and they may be someone you don't really want to know.



Did you know???...

NJSP Quick Links

Internet Safety Tips

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[Children \(10 & Younger\)](#) | [Teenagers](#) | [Parents & Guardians](#)

Internet Guidelines for Parents and Guardians

- Place the computer in a common area of the residence rather than a bedroom. This will encourage online time to be a family oriented activity.
- Become familiar with the people and web sites your children are interacting with on the internet, just as you would get to know all of their other friends.
- Choose a family oriented Internet Service Provider or Online Service and use Parental Controls or software to regulate the type of information and material your children can access on the Internet. Most of the Parental Controls and software allow adults to restrict access to age appropriate levels. In the event the children do receive objectionable material, teach them to avoid responding to messages that are suggestive, obscene, threatening or makes them feel uncomfortable. Make sure they are comfortable in making you aware of these types of messages. Immediately notify your Internet Service Provider of the receipt of such material.
- Try to select non-descriptive Account Names and Screen Names for your children. Their online names should not be too specific or identify or describe them in detail.
- Remind your children not to provide their real name, phone number, address, or other personal information to anyone to whom they meet online, and never to meet face to face with anyone they have met through the internet without your permission. If you do permit such a meeting, it should be in a public place and that you or another responsible adult should accompany your child.
- Set reasonable guidelines for your children's time online and remember that the computer should not be thought of as a "babysitter". The guidelines should be age appropriate. Remember, what is acceptable for a teenager may not be acceptable for a younger child.
- Remind your children that the rules are the same for any computer they use, whether at home, a friend's house, school, or the public library.
- Assure your children that they can talk with you about things that happen on the internet. If they fear that they will lose their internet access, they may be reluctant to talk about anything bad that happened on the internet.



Did you know???...

What is Email Spam?

Spam is the term used to describe junk mail messages sent to your email account. You may receive an e-mail and not recognize the address of the sender. Alternatively, spam mails can come from people you know, but who are not aware their account is being used by a malicious program to automatically send out junk mail to contacts in their address book.

Someone may forward a spam email to you thinking it is a genuine message - perhaps appearing to be from a charity asking for your help to spread their message to everyone you know.

Like junk mail that comes through your door, spam e-mails often try to encourage you to buy a product or sign up for a service. Often there will be an attached file or a link to a web site, but these may actually be trying to install malicious software on your PC or attempting to get your personal information.

How can I tell if a message is Spam?

Spam mails will usually try to entice you to open them by having titles that promise things like financial rewards, health products, the latest news or gossip, cheap deals or celebrity pictures. Often their titles will contain odd mis-spellings; these are attempts to fool anti-spam programs.

The safest course of action is not to open any e-mail you're not expecting, especially if it has an attached file, or if you do not recognise the name or address of the sender.

If you have opened an e-mail and are trying to determine if it is genuine, you could try copying the subject line or some of the message into a search engine. If other people have mentioned it on any web sites you should be able to find out if it is spam. You should always do a search on any company before you buy from them or send them any money.

What is Phishing?

Phishing is the process of sending out lots of fraudulent spam e-mails with the hope of tricking a few people into giving out their passwords or personal information.

Phishing messages may appear to be from a bank or other financial institution, asking you to confirm your account details by replying to their e-mail or by following a link to a web site.

When you arrive at the fake site, which can often look professional and genuine, you will be asked to type your details into a form and this is where your information will be captured by the criminals behind the phishing.

You may be able to tell if you are not actually on your bank's real web site by looking at the address of the site in your browser.

Did you know???...

Remember, your bank will never ask for your passwords or personal information in this way, and if you are in any doubt you should always contact your bank before giving out your details.

How did they get my email address?

It may be that the spammer has just made a lucky guess using software which automatically generates possible email addresses.

If your email address is fairly obvious it can be guessed easily. Try to use combinations of numbers and letters, and the longer or more obscure the address the harder it will be to guess. When you register on a web site or sign up for things like newsletters and membership accounts you may actually be opening the door to receive e-mail marketing spam from these sites and their partners. Most trustworthy sites should give you the option of not receiving advertising mails when you sign up.

What can I do to prevent Spam?

Because it takes so many different forms, it's virtually impossible to block all spam from appearing in your e-mail account, but there are ways to avoid receiving a lot of it and even help in the fight against the spammers.

Your email provider may have its own system which attempts to filter out a lot of the spam you might otherwise receive. They do this by automatically checking your emails for common spam messages, keywords or known spammers' addresses, then place any they find in a separate Spam/Junk/Bulk folder rather than your Inbox.

It is worth having a quick look through your Spam folder occasionally in case some legitimate e-mails have been falsely identified as spam by the system. There is usually an option to move the mail back to your Inbox, or even mark it as **Not Spam** to help the system identify e-mails that are safe to receive.

Some providers allow you to mark any junk mail you do receive in your Inbox as **Spam**, to help prevent you getting it again and to stop others receiving it too.

How to protect your email address

You may want to consider having more than one e-mail address: use one address whenever you sign up for anything on the Web, and give your other address only to people you know.

When you do get spam mail, never reply or click a link offering to remove you from their mailing list. This will only confirm your address is real and you will then get even more spam.

Never sign up for any spam e-mail opt-out lists, these are just another attempt to get your email address or money.

It is important that you have up-to-date anti-virus software. If a virus infects your PC it may try to use your address book to spread itself through e-mail spam to all your contacts.

Did you know???...

Don't Fall for Hoax Emails

Not every email petition, charity request, account update request or virus warning is real. Hoax emails, such as chain letters or bogus petitions can sometimes be used by spammers to collect email addresses or even worse.

Examples of hoax emails:

- Bogus virus warnings
- The promise of free gifts or cash for forwarding an email
- Charity email request
- Appeals to help someone who is ill or in trouble
- Chain letters ("forward to ten people for good luck")

More sinister examples include:

- Pyramid schemes that promise a massive payback if you forward the message to enough people
- Spammers use hoax emails to collect addresses
- Bogus email asking for a donation to a disaster that has occurred in the world
- Emails that maliciously target individuals and make trouble for them

Tell-tale hoax warning signs:

- Requests to forward an email to five, ten people or more
- No verifiable information but lots of plausible but unsupported claims ("Thousands of people have already won")
- Colorful or over-eager language ("this is the WORST virus yet!")
- Credibility by association or unsubstantiated name dropping ("Company X will give you \$5 to forward this email to your friends")
- A hook to get your attention ("Make money fast" or "A little girl is dying")
- A threat to create a sense of urgency ("Claim your prize before it is too late")

What to do if you receive a hoax email:

- If you suspect a hoax, check it out online at one of the following websites:
 - Snopes <http://www.snopes.com>
 - McAfee <http://www.mcafee.com>
 - Symantec <http://www.mcafee.com>

Did you know???

SAMPLE BOGUS EMAILS

Attn: Beneficiary

From: **FirstBank** (FirstBank@FirstBank.com)
 You may not know this sender. [Mark as safe](#) | [Mark as junk](#)
Sent: Thu 2/18/10 11:17 AM
To: youraddres@mail.com

Lagos Corporate Office
Plot 270 Ozumba Mbadiwe,
Victoria Island,
Lagos.

Attn: Beneficiary,

NOTIFICATION FOR RELEASE OF \$9.5M

This letter is written to you in order to change your life from today. I am Rev. John Aboh the new director, MD/CEO Oceanic Bank of Nigeria, my former boss Mrs. Cecilia Ibru, who has just been fired by the Apex bank director for gross misconduct. Furthermore due to allegations of corrupt practice against other Nigeria Banks, the Federal Government of Nigeria has appointed this bank to effect all foreign overdue payment.

Be informed that the Federal Government have Approved the release of \$9.5M which have been in this bank for many years UNCLAIMED. My predecessor in collaboration with the Governor of Ex-Central Bank of Nigeria have refuse to tell you the truth on how to claim your fund, this is because they has been using the interest accumulated from your fund every year to enrich themselves without your knowledge. I want to help you withdraw this fund to your Bank account today using the easiest and quickest methods which have not been known to you before.

By this method a Domiciliary Account will be opened for you. A domiciliary account is a secure account which we will open for you in our Bank and Credit your payment of \$9.5M for further credit into your account, the essence of this Domiciliary account is to secure and protect your payment from being diverted by fraudulent people or making payment to a foreign account which do not belong to you, the greatest advantage is that you can instruct us to credit your nominated account bit by bit with small amount thereby saving yourself from the embarrassment of Financial Authority in your country who monitor large transfer due to current trend of terrorist. Another beauty of the domiciliary account is that you can retain the balance left in your account in our Bank and can also instruct us to pay out money to any bank of your choice in the world, or issue you an ATM Card which you can use in any part of the world when in a business trip.

I hope you now understand the advantages of a Domiciliary account and why you need this account to receive your payment of \$9.5M now in our Bank. You are advice to forward as a matter of urgent your direct telephone and Fax number and your contact address as we have started the process of opening the account for you. All that is require of you is to Activate the newly opened Domiciliary Account with a minimum of \$220usd in line with Provisions of Section 2 Sub Section (iia) of Banks and Financial Act of 2001 which state that all Non Resident Account otherwise known as Domiciliary must be activated to make the account operational, while Sub Section (iib) do NOT permit any Bank official from making deduction from the payment to be deposited in the domiciliary account, which is \$9.5M in your own case.

I will issue you payment release code which must be given to you personally on telephone strictly for security reasons, should the need arise you can reach me on my mobile on: +44-7031-96-6636. This code is very important and it is what you will use to confirm your payment.

Yours faithfully,
Rev. John Aboh
MD/CEO Ocenic Bank Plc

Did you know???...

(No Subject)

From:

Liberman, Ellen (NIH/NEI) [E] (ellenliberman@nei.nih.gov)



You may not know this sender. [Mark as safe](#) | [Mark as junk](#)

Sent: Thu 2/18/10 11:47 AM

To: youraddress@mail.com

Greetings!

Your bank draft of 450,000.00 US Dollars and gift items has been sent to TNT Company. At the moment, our office is closed until further notice.

All you have to do to get your consignment delivered to you is contact the dispatch director of the company, Mr. Garry Moore, with your full name and delivery address in order for them to send your consignment to you in your country. Contact details is given as follow:

Dispatch Director(Officer in Charge): Mr. Garry Moore

E-mail: tnt-services@admin.in.th<<mailto:tnt-services@admin.in.th>>

Telephone: (+234) 802 378 8093

I have paid for the delivery charges and Insurance Premium of your consignment. The only fee you will need to pay is \$240.00 US Dollars for security keeping.

Please, make sure you confirm your full name and delivery address with the Security Company to ensure safe delivery and ask them to give you the tracking number to enable you track your package and know when it will get to you.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

Mr Ellen Hagopian Liberman

Did you know???

Online Access Suspended - Chase Customer Service Message

From: **Chase Security Alerts** (onlinebanking@careers.jpmorganchase.com)

 You may not know this sender. Mark as safe | Mark as junk

Sent: Tue 2/16/10 10:47 AM

To: youraddress@mail.com

Your access to our Internet Banking has been temporarily disabled due to online security login errors.

Protecting the security of your account is our primary concern. Therefore, as a preventive measure, we have temporarily limited access to sensitive Chase account features.

Please follow the link below to verify and restore your Internet banking access. click you accounts below to update your online access

<https://chaseonline.chase.com/update>

Chase Online Banking does apologize for any troubles caused, and is very appreciative for your help.

If you are not customer of Chase Online Banking Customers please disregard this notice!

=====This is an automated email, please do not reply =====

Did you know???...

I'm Not a Victim "I only saw a scam and want to report it"

If you received a scam email, contact the company involved. Here is the contact info for some of the most targeted companies:

Best Buy bestbuysecurityinfo@postfuture.com

Citi emailspoofo@citigroup.com

EarthLink fraud@corp.earthlink.net

eBay spoofo@ebay.com

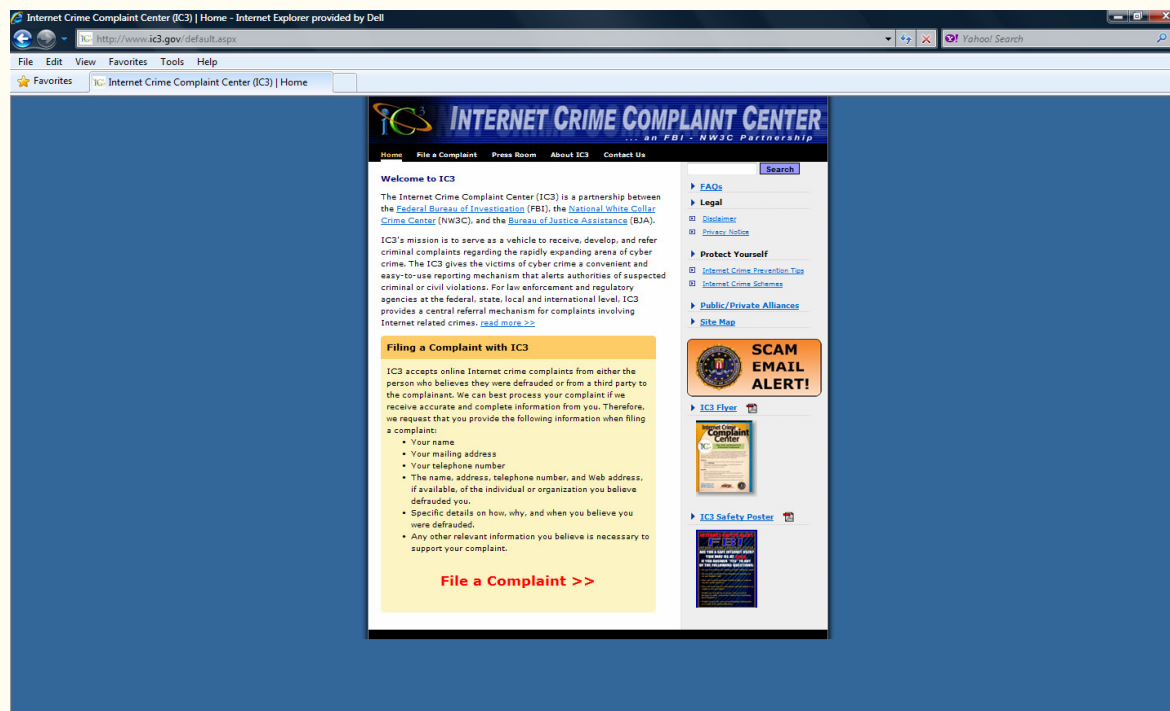
PayPal spoofo@paypal.com

Washington Mutual spoofo@wamu.com

Wells Fargo [Contact Us Page](#)

Also consider forwarding the email to **spam@uce.gov**. The U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) will place your email in a database and use the combined information to track down and prosecute the scammer/spammers.

You can also report the scam to the [Internet Fraud Complaint Center](http://www.ic3.gov/) <http://www.ic3.gov/>. This site is a partnership between the FBI and the National White Collar Crime Center.



Did you know???...

Already a Victim? Identity Theft Recovery Guidelines

If you suspect ANY improper or illegal activity is taking place, follow the steps below immediately.

1) Check Your Credit Report

Get a copy of your credit report to see if any new accounts or credit inquiries show up. Virtually all of your credit information is in your credit report. If someone is opening accounts in your name, it should show up there.

How do I order my free credit report?

It is suggested you order your credit report via phone (877-322-8228). It takes about 5 minutes while you talk to the automated phone lady.

You can also order your free annual credit report online at www.annualcreditreport.com



or by completing the Annual Credit Report Request Form <https://www.annualcreditreport.com/cra/requestformfinal.pdf> and mailing it to:

Annual Credit Report Request Service
P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281

The report will take about 15 days to arrive.

Did you know???

2) Place a Fraud Alert & Freeze on your credit file

As a resident of New Jersey, you have had the right as of January 1, 2006 to place a credit freeze on your credit report if you are a victim of identity theft who has filed a police, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft. A Credit Freeze will prevent access to your credit report, allowing you to control which companies may see your credit report. However, there are certain exemptions to the Credit Freeze allowed by state law that allows companies to view your report even though it is frozen.

To place a Fraud Alert & Freeze, you must write to each of the three credit bureaus including a payment of \$10, unless you are a victim of identity theft, in which case the fee is waived. To prove you are a victim, you must send to each credit reporting agency a copy of your police report, investigative report, or a complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft. Write to all three addresses below and include the information that follows:

Credit Bureau Fraud Departments

Equifax	Experian	TransUnion
Consumer Fraud Division Phone: 800-525-6285 or: 404-885-8000 Fax: 770-375-2821 P.O. Box 740241 Atlanta, GA 30374-0241	Experian's National Consumer Assistance Phone: 888-397-3742 P.O. Box 2104 Allen, TX 75013	Fraud Victim Assistance Department Phone: 800-680-7289 Fax: 714-447-6034 P.O. Box 6790 Fullerton, CA 92634-6790

- Send a letter by certified mail
- You must include a copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft
- Provide your full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc..) address, Social Security number, and date of birth
- If you have moved in the past 5 years, supply the addresses where you have lived prior
- Provide proof of current address such as a current utility bill or phone bill
- Send a photocopy of a government issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, military identification, etc.)
- If applicable, include payment by check, money order or credit card (Visa, Master Card, American Express or Discover cards only.)

Did you know???...

3) Notify Government Agencies

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The FTC is the federal clearinghouse for complaints by victims of identity theft. Although the FTC does not have the authority to bring criminal cases, the Commission assists victims of identity theft by providing them with information to help them resolve the financial and other problems that can result from identity theft. The FTC also may refer victim complaints to other appropriate government agencies and private organizations for further action.

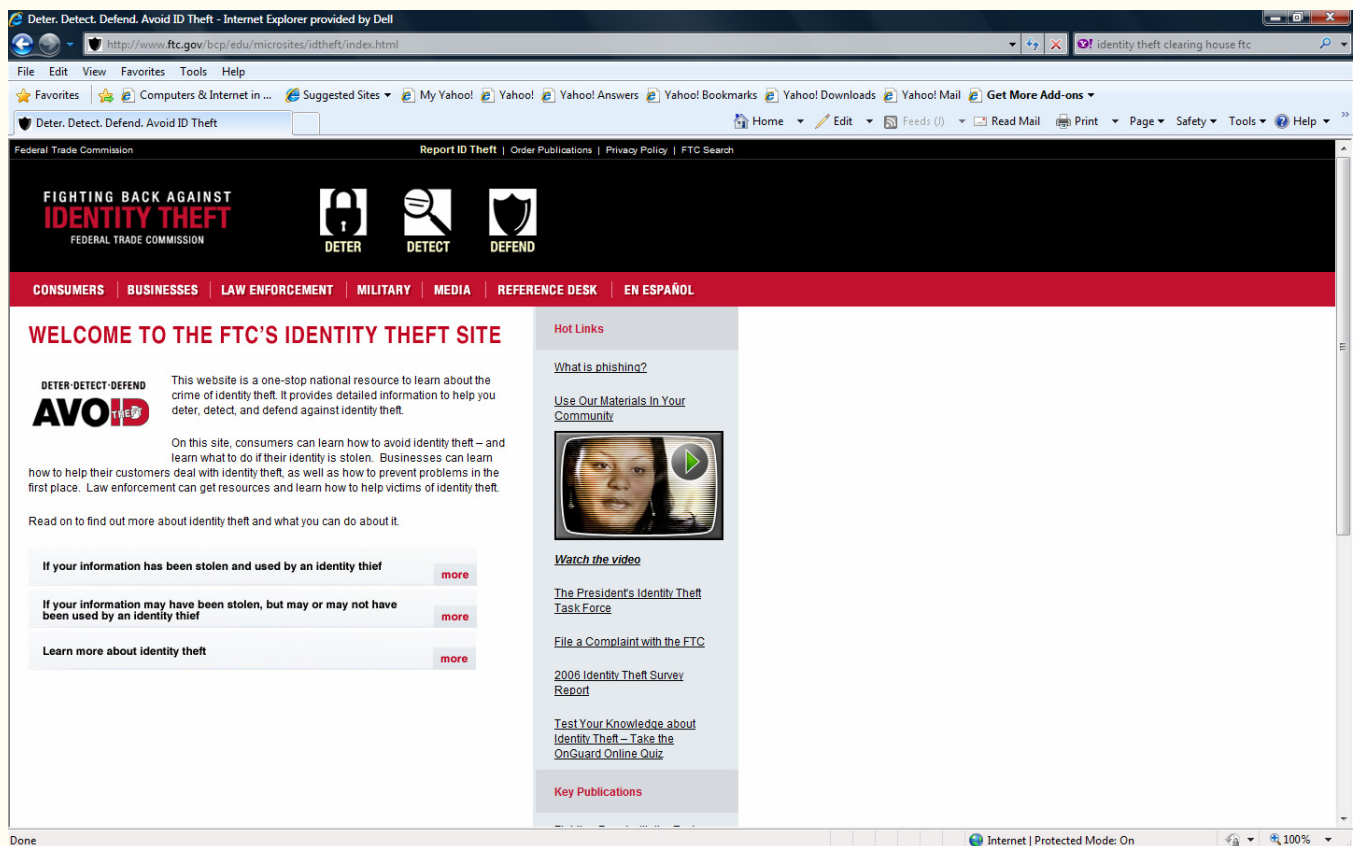
Phone:

Toll-free 1-877-ID-THEFT (438-4338); TDD: 202-326-2502

Mail:

Identity Theft Clearinghouse
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20580

Online: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/index.html>



Did you know???

U.S. Postal Inspection Service

Contact your local office of the Postal Inspection Service <https://postalinspectors.uspis.gov/> if you suspect that an identity thief has submitted a change-of-address form with the Post Office to redirect your mail, or has used the mail to commit frauds involving your identity.

The screenshot shows the United States Postal Inspection Service website in Internet Explorer. The browser window title is "United States Postal Inspection Service - Internet Explorer provided by Dell". The address bar shows "https://postalinspectors.uspis.gov/". The website has a blue header with the USPS logo and the text "UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE". Below the header is a navigation bar with links: HOME, ABOUT US, INVESTIGATIONS, PRESS ROOM, EMPLOYMENT, CONTACT US. The main content area features several articles and a sidebar. The first article is titled "How Ponzi, a master scammer, met his match. (text-only version)." and discusses charity fraud. The second article is titled "Charity Fraud: Disasters can bring out the best in people, but the reverse may also be true: Scammers often try to take advantage of a disaster by stealing charitable donations intended to help victims. Learn more about charity fraud." and includes a link to "Read about our latest e-mail scam alert: Chief Postal Inspector Targeted in Phony E-Mail (text-only)". The third article is titled "Have you been asked to receive packages at your home or business and mail them to someone else? Read more about Reshipping Scams" and includes a link to "Click here to view www.deliveringtrust.com, a fraud education and prevention website." The sidebar on the right features a poster for "NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK | APRIL 18-24, 2010" with the text "crime victims' rights: FAIRNESS. DIGNITY. RESPECT." and a link to "Are you a victim of crime? Discover your Victim Rights." Below the main content area are three sections: "Online Safety" with a link to "Report suspected mail theft, mailbox vandalism, identity theft, postage or other mail fraud, or a false change of address online.", "Consumer Awareness" with a link to "Learn how to protect yourself from fraudsters.", and "Wanted & Reward Posters" with a "REWARD up to \$100,000" for the "SHOOTING DEATH OF A CONTRACT TRUCK DRIVER".

UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

HOME ABOUT US INVESTIGATIONS PRESS ROOM EMPLOYMENT CONTACT US

How Ponzi, a master scammer, met his match. (text-only version).

Charity Fraud: Disasters can bring out the best in people, but the reverse may also be true: Scammers often try to take advantage of a disaster by stealing charitable donations intended to help victims. Learn more about charity fraud.

Read about our latest e-mail scam alert: Chief Postal Inspector Targeted in Phony E-Mail (text-only)

Have you been asked to receive packages at your home or business and mail them to someone else? Read more about Reshipping Scams

Click here to view www.deliveringtrust.com, a fraud education and prevention website.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK | APRIL 18-24, 2010

crime victims' rights: FAIRNESS. DIGNITY. RESPECT.

Are you a victim of crime? Discover your Victim Rights.

Online Safety

Today, the majority of child exploitation cases investigated by Postal Inspectors—about 95%—involve both the U.S. Mail and the Internet.

In fact, 1 in 7 youths are sexually solicited online, according to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. Read more about how Postal Inspectors protect children.

Consumer Awareness

Report suspected mail theft, mailbox vandalism, identity theft, postage or other mail fraud, or a false change of address online.

Learn how to protect yourself from fraudsters.

Wanted & Reward Posters

REWARD up to \$100,000

SHOOTING DEATH OF A CONTRACT TRUCK DRIVER

Help Postal Inspectors find fugitives and solve mail-related crimes. Rewards are offered in some cases. Click here to see our complete list of wanted and reward posters.

Did you know???...

Social Security Administration

Contact the Social Security Administration by phone 800-772-1213 or online

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/> if you suspect that your social security number has been used by anyone other than yourself.

Social Security Online - The Official Website of the U.S. Social Security Administration - Internet Explorer provided by Dell

http://www.socialsecurity.gov/

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Suggested Sites My Yahoo! Yahoo! Yahoo! Answers Yahoo! Bookmarks Yahoo! Downloads Yahoo! Mail Get More Add-ons

Social Security Online - The Official Website of th...

Home Edit Feeds (J) Read Mail Print Page Safety Tools Help

SOCIAL SECURITY ONLINE
THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Need Larger Text?
Español | Other Languages

Search: GO

Retirement Survivors Disability Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Medicare

What You Can Do Online

- Check the Status of Your Application
- Business Services Online
- Your Social Security Earnings Statement
- Estimate Your Retirement Benefits
- Already Receiving Benefits
- Forms and Publications
- Report Fraud, Waste or Abuse
- Find a Social Security Office
- Careers with Social Security
- Budget and Performance
- Contact Us
- Login

Economic Recovery Act

SELECT BELOW TO APPLY FOR:

- Retirement/Medicare
- Disability Benefits
- Social Security Card

Watch a brief video about our website (less than two minutes)

Retire Online
It's So Easy!

Apply Online for Medicare
It takes less than ten minutes

CHUBBY CHECKER
It's easier than ever to save on your prescription costs

Receive updates by email

QUESTIONS?

Social Security Number & Card GO

INFORMATION FOR...

-- Choose Group -- GO

OTHER USEFUL LINKS

-- Choose Site -- GO

Webinars

NEWS

- Social Security Releases Open Government Plan
- The Cast of *The Patty Duke Show* Reunites to Tell Americans About New Online Medicare Application
- Social Security Helps States with Mounting Disability Claims
- Class Notice in *American Council of the Blind* Court Case
- Settlement in the *Martinez* Court Case

Press Releases More news...

OPEN GOVERNMENT Benefits.gov

Privacy Policy | Accessibility Policy | About Us | Website Policies & Other Important Information | Site Map

Our Program Rules | No FEAR | Budget, Performance & Financial Reports | ExpectMore.gov | Regulations.gov | FOIA | This is a U.S. Government computer system subject to Federal law

Sunday Apr 11, 2010 12:11:28 Last updated April 9, 2010 10:17 PM

ELECTRONIC RECORDS EXPRESS mymoney

Done Internet | Protected Mode: On 100%

Did you know???...

4) Contact each company where you think you might have been a victim

Talk to their security or fraud department and explain what has happened. Review your account with them for any incorrect charges or a change of address. If you find something is wrong, you may need to close the account. If you open any new accounts, ask the company to put passwords (not your mother's maiden name) on the account.

Credit Cards

Keep the contact numbers for your credit cards in a safe place. If your credit card is lost or stolen, call the credit card company immediately.

If you report the loss before the credit card is used, the card issuer cannot hold you responsible for any unauthorized charges. If a thief uses your credit card before you report it missing, the most you will owe for unauthorized charges is \$50 per card. This is true even if the thief uses your credit card at an ATM machine to obtain a cash advance.

As your liability is limited to \$50, beware of calls from telemarketers selling "loss protection" insurance. Some telemarketers may falsely claim that you will be responsible for all unauthorized charges made against your account if your credit card is stolen. Don't buy the pitch and don't buy the unnecessary insurance.

ATM and Debit Cards

Be aware that ATM and debit cards do not allow the same protections as credit cards. If you fail to report unauthorized charges within a timely manner, you could be held liable for the charges.

- If you report an ATM or debit card missing before it is used without your permission, your financial institution cannot hold you responsible for any unauthorized withdrawals.
- If you report your ATM or debit card lost or stolen within two business days of discovering the loss or theft, your liability is limited to \$50.
- If you report your ATM or debit card lost or stolen after the two business days, but within 60 days after a statement showing an unauthorized withdrawal, you can be liable for up to \$500 of what a thief withdraws.
- If you wait more than 60 days, you could lose all the money that was taken from your account after the end of the 60 days and before you report the card missing.

Checks

Most states hold the bank responsible for the losses from a forged check. However, you may be held liable for the forgery if you do not notify the bank in a timely manner that a check was lost or stolen, or if you do not monitor your account statements and promptly report an unauthorized transaction.

Did you know???...

To report the fraudulent use of your checks:

Check Rite

Phone: 800-766-2748

Chex Systems

Phone: 800-328-5121

CrossCheck

Phone: 800 552-1900

Equifax-Telecredit

Phone: 800-437-5120

NPC

Phone: 800-526-5380

SCAN

Phone: 800-262-7771

Tele-Check

Phone: 800 366-2425

5) File a Police Report

File a report with your local police or the police where the identify theft took place. Get a copy of the report in case the bank, credit card company or others need proof of the crime. Make sure the crime is reported under identify theft.

6) Document Everything

Make notes of everyone you speak with, ask for names, department names, phone extensions, record the date you spoke to them. Don't throw anything away. Keep all notes and letters together in case they are needed in the future. Keep track of the time you spend documenting this information and lost hours at work. You will need this information if the perpetrator is ever caught. You may be reimbursed for the time spent and hours lost.

Did you know???...

How to Browse the Web Safely

One of the most common places to get a virus or spyware is from web browsing. There are many websites that are waiting for you to make a mistake so they can install some type of virus or malware on your system. Due to this, it is important to use some caution when surfing the web. The following guide has some tips to help you avoid getting malware from your web surfing.

Antivirus program

Windows Live OneCare is a very good antivirus from Microsoft. Good numbers of antivirus software lack what it takes to provide complete system protection. Windows Live OneCare eliminates viruses and spyware better than some popular brands. It also has tune up feature.

Anti-spyware

Although Windows Live OneCare is effective in removing spyware from systems, you still need to have an independent spyware removal tool. I'm talking about an anti-spyware that effectively removes worms, Trojans, Backdoors, password capture, hijackers and other potentially harmful software. Yahoo! Anti-spyware and Ad-Aware software is free. They are two of the best software packages for spyware removal.

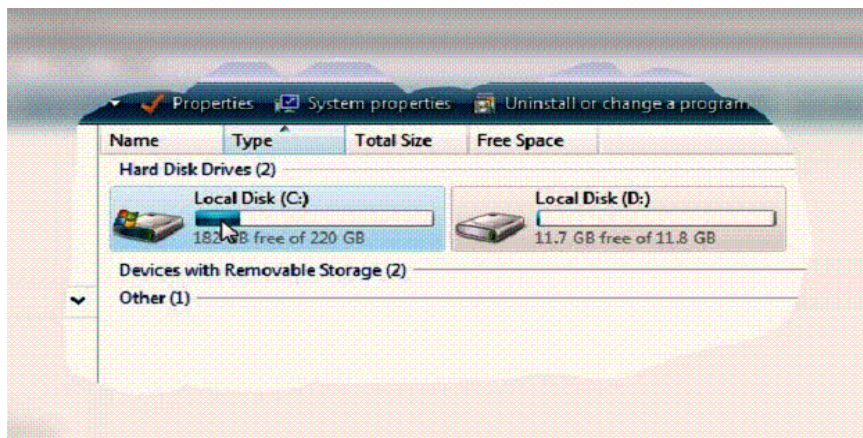
Registry cleaner

There are many registry cleaners in the market. Some are very effective while others are not. A good registry cleaner makes a PC anew. It fixes problems. Browsers tend to leave cache of sites you visited behind and with time, these slow down PC speed. CCleaner is completely free and pretty solid. TuneUp Utilities 2009 is more than a registry cleaner. It lets you free up disk space, clean up windows and solves a whole lot of system problems. You can customize your windows as well. TuneUp Utilities 2009 has amazing user interface.

Manual Check

Sometimes when you uninstalled software, from the control panel, not all of their entire components go with them. Though it's almost impossible to completely remove all traces of software you uninstalled from your system, there is something you can do to save some space. After uninstalling software, check to see that none of its files are remaining in the program files folder.

To view the program files click on the start menu->computer -> Local Disk (C :)-> Program files.



Did you know???...

Downloads

Beware of downloading except from a reliable website. Free goodies often come with a string attached: spyware and adware that send specification information from your PC to the author.

Spotting a Bad Website

Spotting a bad website can be tough to do. What you do after you get to the untrusted website can save you from getting a virus. If you find a website that is horribly designed, pop-ups tons of windows, and maybe even causes your anti-virus program to pop-up an alert it is best to get away from that website. Make sure you close any popups. You should also follow the recommended action of your virus to delete/quarantine any viruses, spyware.

Installing Windows Updates

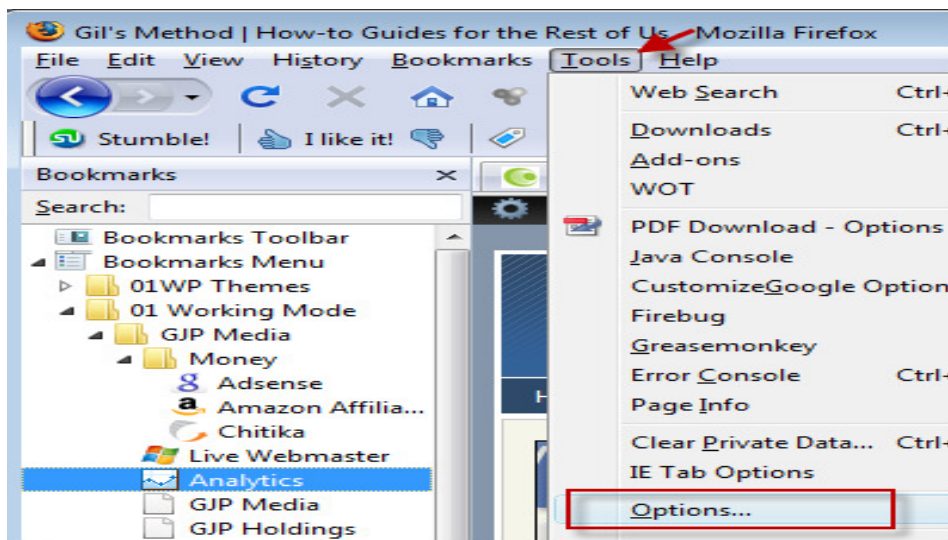
If you are a Windows user, make sure you download and install any Windows updates that are recommended for your computer. Sometimes these updates close security holes that were found in Windows.

Did you know???...

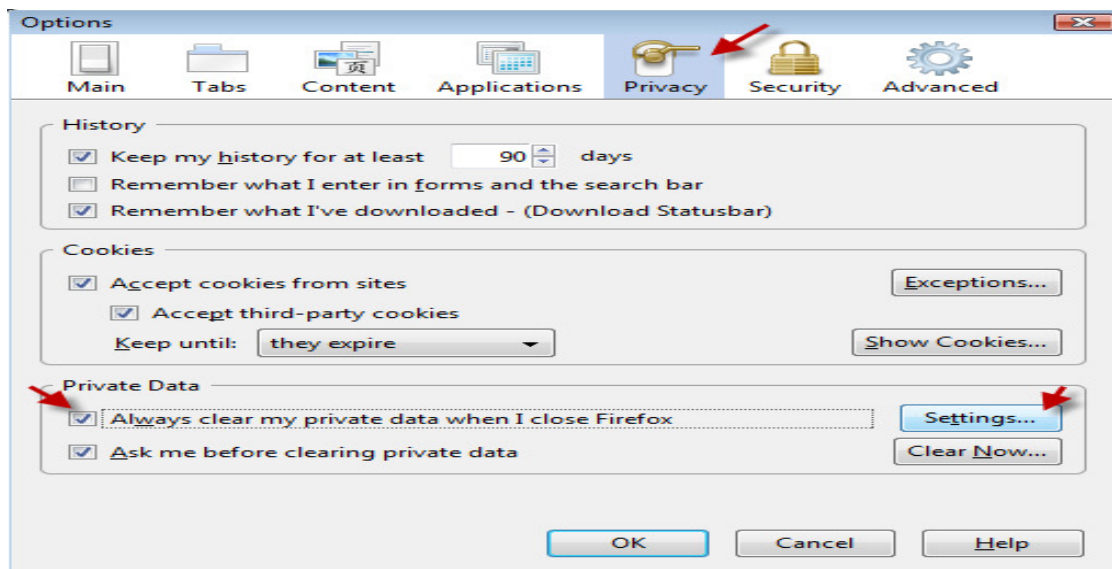
How to Automatically Clear Your Browsing History

If you are concerned with the files left behind whenever you browse the internet at home or at the office, then this is your solution. The how-to below will demonstrate how you can setup Internet Explorer and Firefox to automatically delete all files related to your browsing activities.

Firefox Instructions

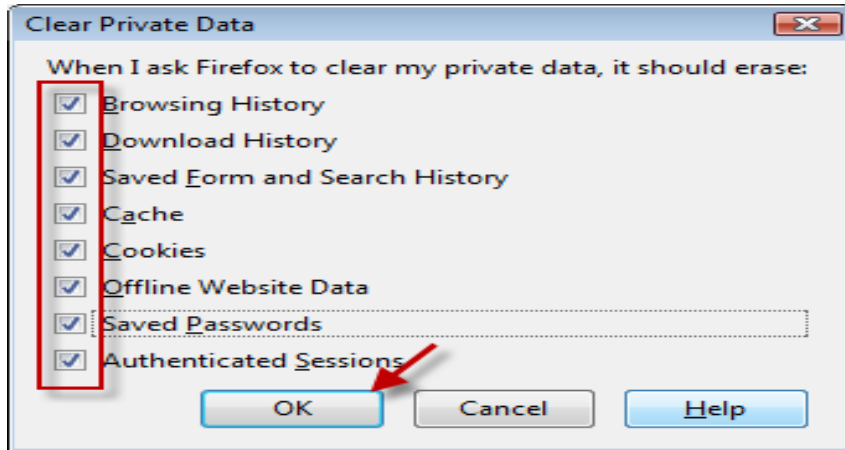


1. With Firefox open, click on **Tools > Options...**



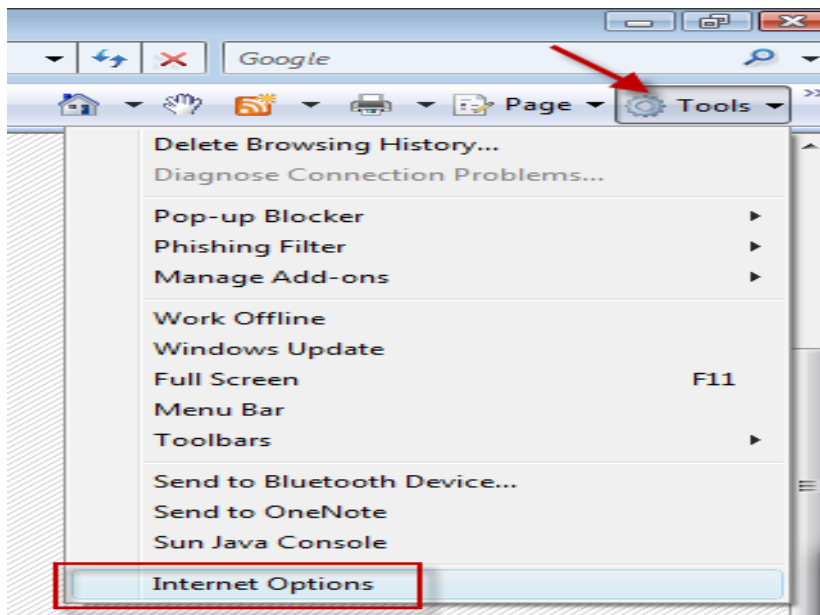
Did you know???...

2. Click on the **Privacy** icon (tab) and check the *Always clear my private data when I close Firefox* checkbox, click on the **Settings** button



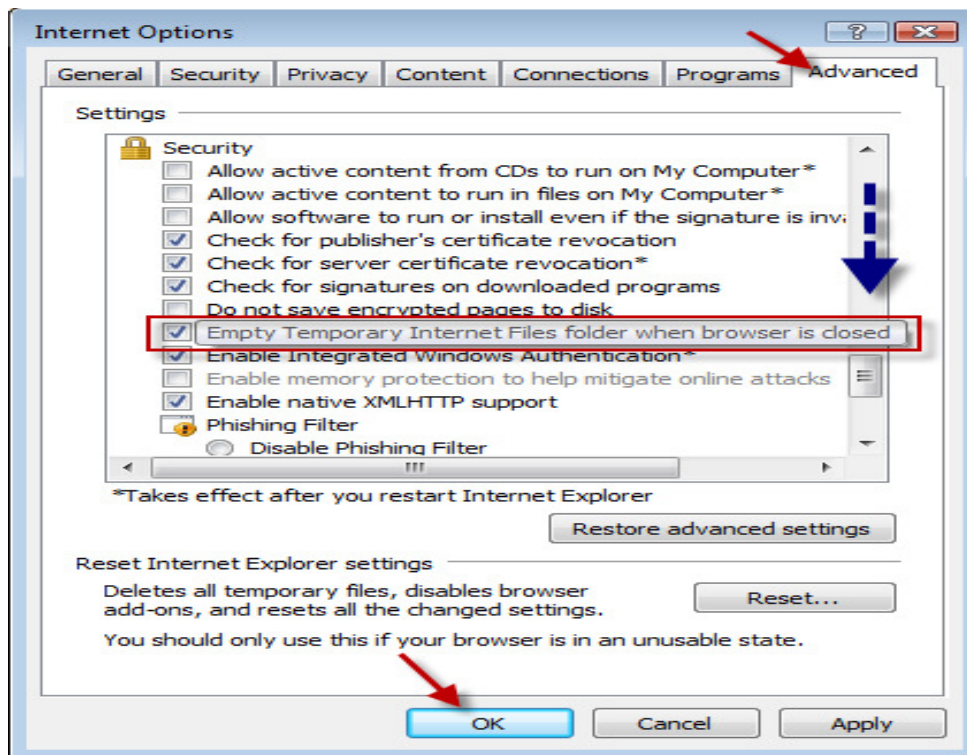
3. Specify the items that you would like to include when Firefox clears all of your data checking them, click **OK**.

Internet Explorer Instructions

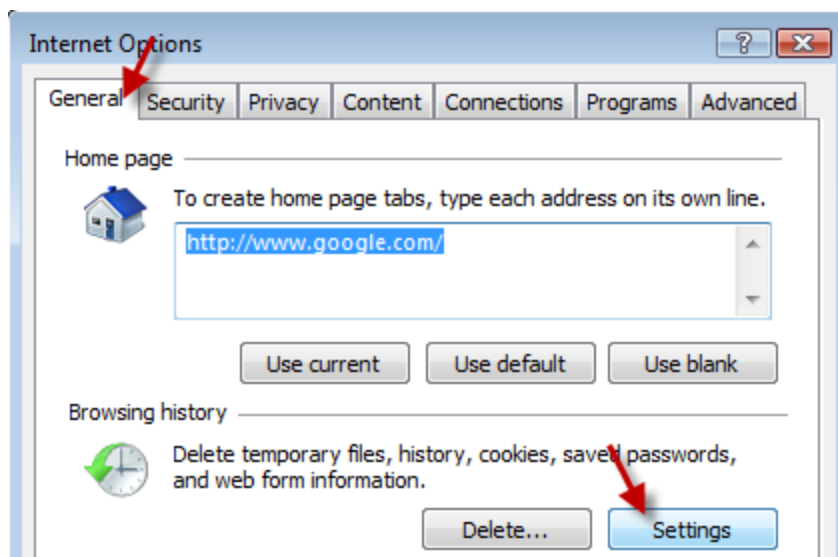


Did you know???...

4. With Internet Explorer open, click on the **Tools > Internet Options**.

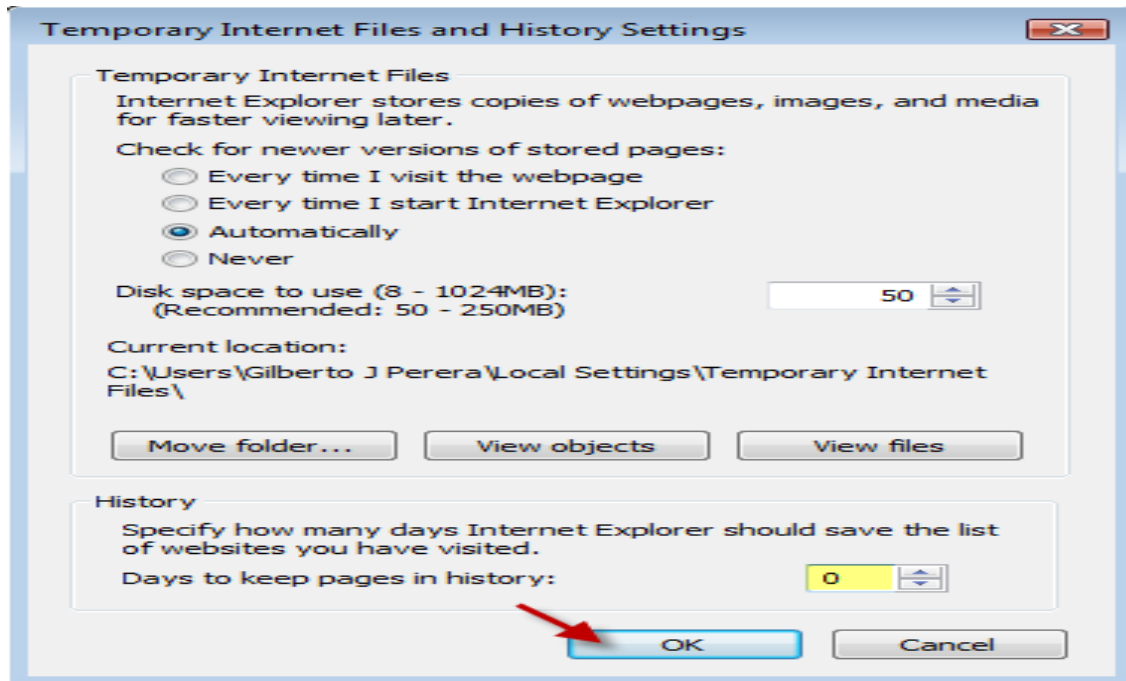


5. Click on the **Advanced** tab in the **Internet Options** dialog box and scroll down until you reach the **Security** section, make sure to check the *Empty Temporary Internet Files folder when...* Click **OK**



Did you know???...

6. Now return to the **General** tab and click on the **Settings** button below **Browsing history**.



7. Under **History**, set the number of *Days to keep pages in history:* to **0**, click **OK**

Did you know???...

How to create a username and password that will be easy for you to remember but impossible for anyone else to figure out?

Here's a website that specifically lists "bad" passwords:

<http://geodsoft.com/howto/password/common.htm>

If someone wanted to "crack" your password using computer software they would probably check all of these kinds of passwords first. For the dedicated "password cracker" there are actually huge lists of common passwords available online. Here's a link to more information about how passwords are cracked: http://geodsoft.com/howto/password/cracking_passwords.htm

So what makes for a good password? Here are some basic suggestions but in the end it will be up to you to come up with something that works for you:

Avoid common names, dates, phone numbers or things easily associated with you. Do not use passwords with a completely digital meaning (phone, identity card, birth date, patent car, etc.).

Avoid common words or phrases as they would be the first thing checked by password cracking software. Do not use passwords that are just easy words (albeit foreign), or names (the user's fictional characters, family members, pets, brands, cities, places, or other related).

Use a combination of numbers and letters. For example, substitute numbers for letters and letters for numbers in a word or phrase. Choose a password that mixes alphabetic characters (uppercase and lowercase if possible) and numbers.

Have different passwords on different machines or for different important websites. It is possible to use a password-based and logical variations of the same for different machines.

Make it something you can remember all by yourself. Don't write it down anywhere! Combining short words with a number or punctuation character: soy2_yo3. Use an acronym for a phrase easy to remember: A troubled waters Gain fishing = ArRGdP.

Don't use naturally occurring keyboard sequences (like "qwerty" for example) Another idea is to choose a word without meaning, but pronounceable: taChunda72, AtajulH, Wen2Mar.

Placing signs for letters or numbers is one last idea. For example, h3110 instead of hello.

Try to make it at least 8 - 16 characters long. Obviously the longer the better.

Plan on changing your password often. Experts suggest changing your passwords at least every 6 months.

Did you know???...

Email Etiquette

Here are some basic guidelines for good email communication.

The need to know basis for email: Avoid sending a message to a group unless every member of that group actually needs the information you are presenting. Also, when replying to a large group email only use the "Reply to All" button if everyone on the group list needs to know your reply (HINT: they usually don't).

No surprises please: Use the Subject line to let people know what your email is about. Using a good subject line also helps people organize and find your email later.

DON'T SHOUT AT ME: Using all capital letters in an email is understood to be the same as shouting.

Never email when angry or emotional: Once you send an email message you can't take it back. Before you send a fiery response to that parent who just insulted your mother, take a breath, relax and think it through. Here's a rule of thumb: *Never email anything to someone that you wouldn't be willing to tell them in person, in a public place, while being scrutinized by 50 newspaper reporters who routinely criticize people in your profession.*

Did you know???...

What are Email Attachments?

When you send an e-mail it is possible to send other files along with it, such as images or documents. You 'attach' the file by selecting the file on your PC and then using your e-mail program to upload the file into your e-mail account, so it can be sent along with your message.

Sending Attachments

This example shows how to send a file to a friend along with a message describing it. The instructions are for **Hotmail** but it should be a similar process with most other e-mail programs or web services.

Log in to your e-mail account and click on **New Message**. Fill out the **To:** and **Subject** boxes and write your message. Now click on **Attach** and select **File**.

You now need to tell the computer where to find the file you want to attach.

- Click on the **Browse** button.
- When you find the file you want, click to select it then **Open**.
- Now either click **OK** to confirm, or click **OK and Attach Another** if you want to add more than one file.

Your file will now be uploaded (transferred) to the Hotmail server and should appear listed between the Subject and Message boxes under the list of **Attachments**. It also tells you how large the file is in MB (megabytes). With a free Hotmail account you can send up to 10MB in one message, though the larger the file the longer it will take for the recipient to download your attachment at their end.

You can now send the message as normal and the attachment file will be sent with it.

Making Large Files Smaller

Large files will take longer to send and receive.

To check how large a file is before you send it:

- right-click the file on your computer
- click **Properties**

If the total of all the files you want to send is over 10 MB you will not be able to send them all at once in Hotmail.

There are several ways to reduce the size of pictures and other files.

Picture Files

Probably the most common type of file attachment is picture files. Normal image files are called **Bitmap** files with the filename extension **.bmp**. These can take up a lot of file space, so to reduce this they are often compressed into smaller-sized filetypes which may lose a little quality, but are usually still good enough for most purposes. Most picture files on the Web or sent by e-mail are **.jpeg** or **.gif** files.

Did you know???...

To convert an image to one of these compressed filetypes, right-click a picture file and choose to **Open With..** and select **Paint**. Alternatively right-click the file and choose **Edit** to use your default graphics editing program.

In Paint, click **File** and **Save As..** and in the **Save As Type** drop-down menu, select a filetype such as **JPEG**. Give the picture file a name then click **Save** and the picture will be converted to this filetype.

.jpeg file sizes can be many times smaller than typical .bmp files. If you right-click the new file you have saved and view **Properties** you should see a difference in file size compared to the original. With pictures that are very tall and very wide, even .jpeg file sizes can be very large. The solution in this case is to resize the picture down to a reasonable size.

Open your original picture in Paint again and click on **Image** then **Stretch/Skew**. Now you can type in a percentage to stretch the file by. If you input a figure less than 100% you are actually squeezing rather than stretching, for example if you type 50% for horizontal and 50% for vertical then click OK, the picture will be squeezed to half of its original size.

This is a simple way of reducing a picture's physical size and therefore file size. Once you have squeezed the picture to the size you want, save it as a .jpeg as before and when you view the file's Properties again the file size should be much smaller.

Opening Attachments Safely

You should be very careful when opening any file attached to an e-mail. This is one of the most common ways for viruses to travel on the Internet and if you are not careful your PC may become infected. There are some simple rules to follow to keep yourself safe:

- **don't open any e-mail attachments you're not expecting especially if you don't recognise the sender's address**
- **don't assume that because it's from a friend's address it will be safe**
- **always download the file to your computer first then virus check it before opening it**

Hotmail (and most email systems) automatically scans all attachments for viruses although it is still possible some infected files will come through. When you click on an e-mail with an attachment, if it is a picture file it may automatically open and appear along with the message. If you want to save any type of attached file on to your computer, click on the name of the attachment under the Subject heading at the top then click **Download File**.

Did you know???...

If it is a picture file it may be opened in a new window, if so right-click the image and select **Save Image As..** to save to your computer. For other types of files, after you click **Download File**, choose **Save To Disk** to save to your computer.

Once saved, you should scan the file with your virus checker before opening it.

Printing Image Attachments

If you want to print a picture file you have been sent, download it to your computer then right-click and open with Paint, adjust the height and width if necessary by using **Stretch/Skew** as described above and then click on **File** then **Print**. You can click **Print Preview** to get an idea of how it will look before you print it.

If you have been sent several images (such as a collection of holiday photos) you may want to put them all together to print on one page. One way of doing this is by opening Microsoft Word then clicking **Insert** then **Picture From File**. Do this for every picture you want to include and you should see them laid out on a page.

If you click on a picture in Word to select it, you can then click and drag the corner handles to stretch or squeeze the image, this way you will be able to adjust the pictures until they all fit on one page for printing.

Did you know???

You could do *THAT* ?

Did you know???...

How to Find Street Addresses Online



It's never been easier to find people. This is good news if you are looking for someone. It's bad news if you value your privacy.

Online search engine leader Google, Inc. <http://www.google.com> has a feature that will enable you to zoom in on homes and businesses <http://maps.google.com> using satellite images.

Yahoo People Search <http://people.yahoo.com> Offers white pages with email and phone number search options to help users find friends, colleagues, classmates, and more.

Lycos People Search <http://www.whowhere.com> Find addresses and numbers by name and location.

AnyWho Directory Services <http://www.anywho.com> Featuring residential, business, and government white and yellow pages listings.

WhitePages <http://www.whitepages.com> Directory email addresses, phone numbers, and area and zip codes.

PhoneSpell <http://phonespell.org> Enter a 6 to 10 digit phone number and they'll show you what words and phrases your phone number spells.

Ultimate White Pages <http://www.theultimates.com/white> Search white pages directories without having to load graphics-heavy search pages. Combine this information with an online map and you will not only know where someone lives, you will know how to get there.

MapQuest <http://www.mapquest.com> Interactive maps for cities and towns worldwide. Provides driving directions and a road trip planner.

Yahoo! Maps <http://www.maps.yahoo.com> Interactive city maps with point-to-point driving directions, city guides, and SmartView, which displays restaurants, parks, ATMs, and other local features.

Expedia Maps <http://maps.expedia.com> Find addresses, businesses, and places, and get driving directions. Features detailed maps of North America and Europe.

Did you know???...

How to Find Email Addresses Online



Email (Electronic Mail) is the most frequently used application of the Internet. Many people who have access to the Internet at school, home, and work, use the Internet for no other purpose than to send and receive email.

Of course email only works if you know the other persons email address. Here's a list of websites you can use to locate hard to get email addresses:

411 Locate <http://www.411locate.com/index1.htm>

Offers a free database to list your email and web site addresses.

Yahoo! People Search <http://people.yahoo.com/>

Offers white pages with email and phone number search options to help users find friends, colleagues, classmates, and more.

Did you know???...

Internet Goodies

There is so much more to the Internet than just sending [email](#), reading web pages and [online chatting](#). Some of the software we have listed below will allow you to view streaming video and listen to streaming audio.

Yahoo! Widget Engine <http://widgets.yahoo.com/> The Yahoo! Widget Engine (formerly known as Konfabulator) is a JavaScript runtime engine for Windows and Mac OS X that lets you run little files called Widgets that can do pretty much whatever you want them to. Widgets can be alarm clocks, calculators, can tell you your WiFi signal strength, will fetch the latest stock quotes for your preferred symbols, and even give your current local weather.

iTunes Music Store <http://www.apple.com/itunes/> In its first year, iTunes sold more than 70 million songs, providing music fans with the best digital experience on Mac or PC. Now iTunes 4.6 offers even more ways to discover and enjoy music. iTunes features the largest legal download catalog. Select from over 1 million tracks from all five major and more than 600 leading independent labels. Enjoy free 30-second previews of all songs. Find hundreds of exclusive and pre-release tracks and many rare, out-of-print albums.

RealPlayer <http://www.realnetworks.com/> This allows you to enjoy streaming audio and video on networks and the Internet. Features include destination buttons for one-click access to news and entertainment; near CD-quality audio (28.8-kbps and faster connections only); and full-screen video capability (high-bandwidth connections only). RealPlayer 8.0 now includes over 2,500 radio stations, the Take 5 entertainment programming showcase, and more.

Shockwave Player <http://sdc.shockwave.com/shockwave/download/> With Macromedia Shockwave Player, you can enjoy multimedia games, learning applications, and product demonstrations on the Web,

CNET Catch Up

http://www.freedownloadcenter.com/Utilities/System_Analysis_Uutilities/CNET_CatchUp.html

From software upgrades and driver updates to security patches and adware detection, CNET CatchUp is designed to help you quickly and easily find what you need to keep your PC healthy and up-to-date. Download and install the CatchUp software, and with the click of a button, CatchUp will generate your custom results.

Did you know???...

Windows XP tips

Stretching the taskbar

Sometimes your taskbar gets a little tight and cramped for room. When this happens, give it a stretch.

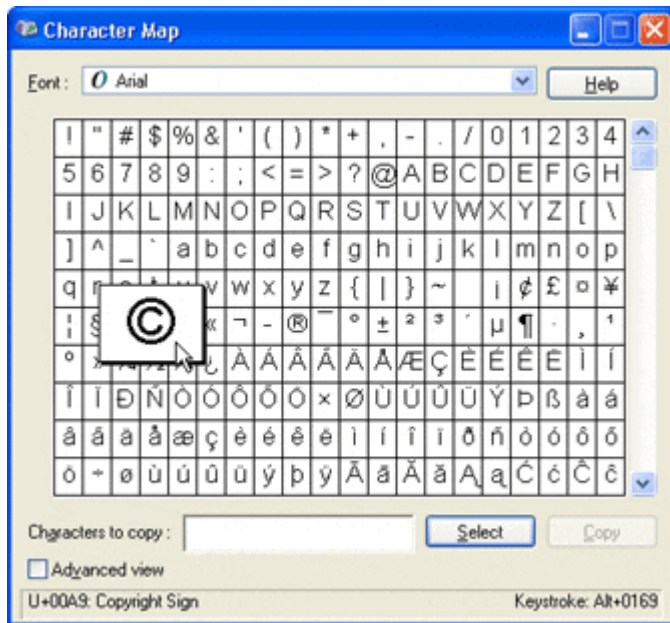
First, unlock your taskbar by right-clicking the taskbar, and then clicking **Lock the Taskbar** if it is selected (this will un-select it). Scroll your mouse over the top edge of the taskbar until you see the vertical resize cursor (arrow pointing up and down). Click, hold and drag the top of the taskbar up. Isn't that better? Once you find a place where you like it, you should re-select **Lock the Taskbar**.



Adding a special character

There are probably one or two special characters that you use regularly (for example, ® and ©). It can be a real time-waster to open your Character Map every time you want to insert one of these symbols. So don't! Open the Character Map by clicking Start, clicking **All Programs**, and then clicking **Accessories**. Click **System Tools**, and then click **Character Map**. Click the © symbol. Notice that the bottom-right corner of the Character Map shows the keyboard shortcut used to insert the special character. Write it down for later use. When you want to insert that character, here's the trick: Position the cursor where you want to insert the special character, then with NUM LOCK key on, hold down the ALT key and use the number pad keys to type the character value.

Did you know???...

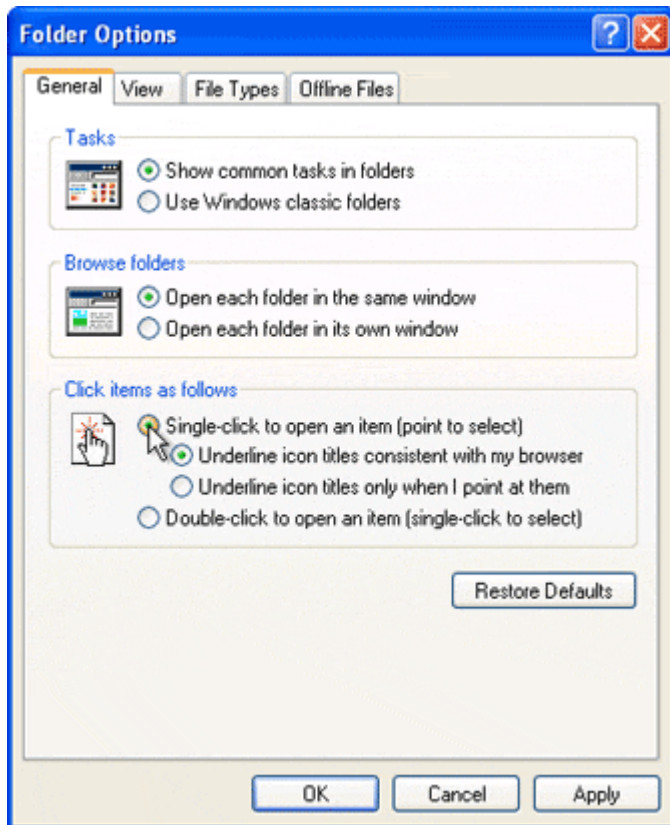


Open files with one click

It just makes sense that if you can do the same thing in Windows with a single click of the mouse that you can do with two clicks, you'd take the shorter route, right?

If you want to change your two clicks to one, click **Start**, click **My Computer**. Under the **Tools** menu, click **Folder Options**. Now click the **General** tab in the dialog box, click **Single-click to open an item** (point to select), and then click **OK**. This makes everything in Windows exactly one click faster.

Did you know???...

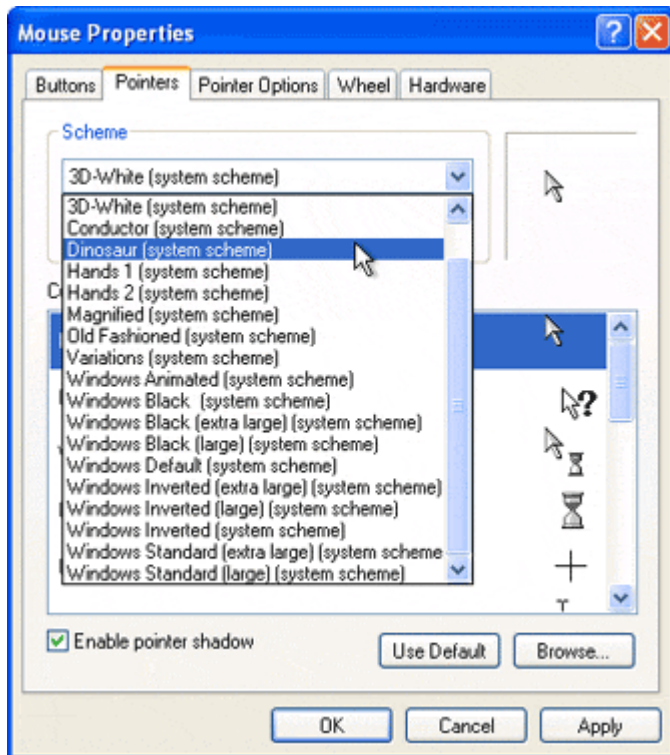


Change your pointer scheme

If you want to change your pointer scheme:

click **Start**, and then click **Control Panel**. In Category View (vs. Classic View) click on **Printers and Other Hardware**, and then click on **Mouse**. Click the **Pointers** tab and browse the available themes. Select the one that suits you best, and then click **OK**.

Did you know???...

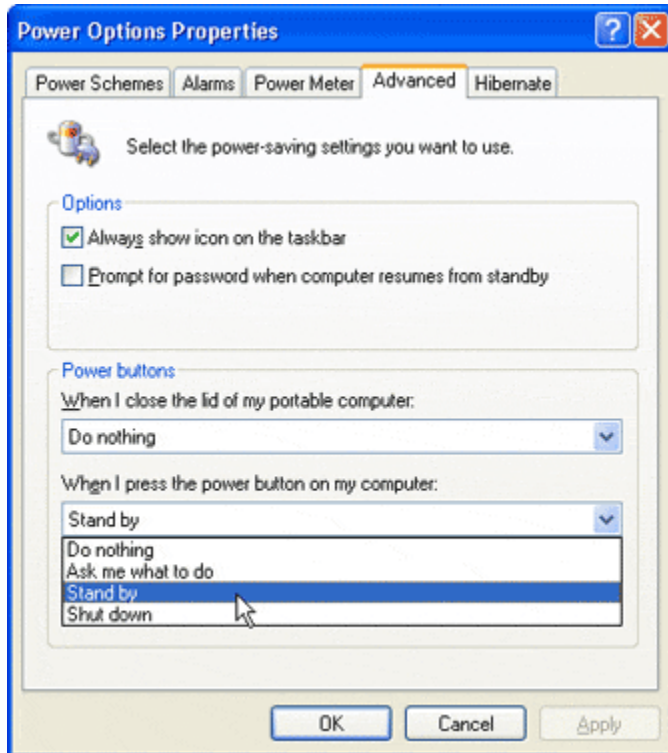


Change the power button

If you want to make your computer's power button put your computer into stand by:

Click **Start** and open the **Control Panel**. In Category View, click **Performance and Maintenance**, and then click **Power Options**. In the Power Options Properties dialog box, click the **Advanced** tab. Under **Power Buttons**, select **Stand by in the When I press the power button on my computer** area, and then click **OK**. Now, when you push your computer's power button, your system will immediately go to stand by.

Did you know???...



Turn Caps Lock Text back to Normal in MS Word

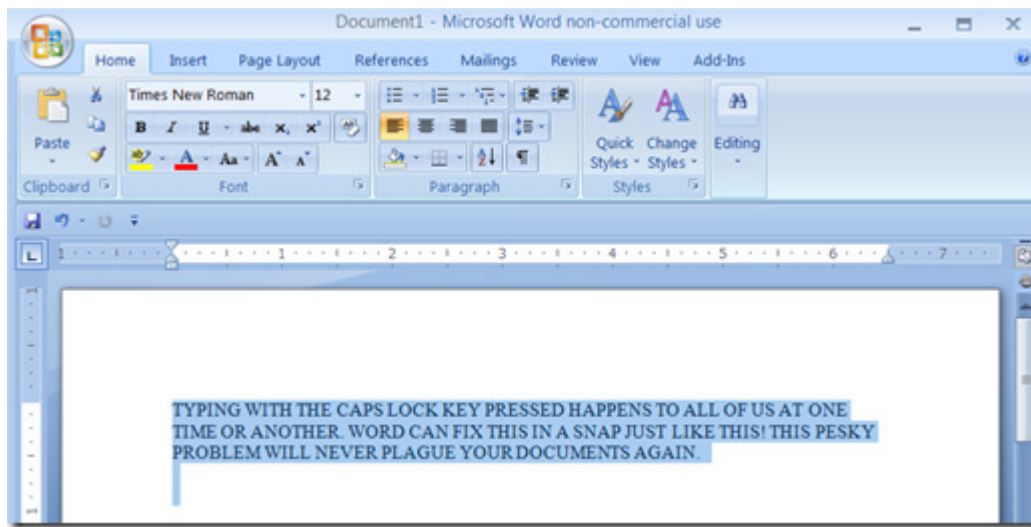
At one time or another, we all accidentally click the **Caps Lock** button while typing. If we are multi-tasking and watching television or Hulu while typing, it is completely possible we will type long strings of text before we realize our mistake.

Rather than retyping the all-caps text, Word has a built-in option to fix the problem. This is so simple you will wonder why you have never used it before now!

Here is what you do:

First, highlight the text you typed in all caps.

Did you know???...



Now all you need to do is click **Shift + F3**. Seriously, that is it! Your text will magically transform to lowercase.

typing with the caps lock key pressed happens to all of us at one time or another. word can fix this in a snap just like this! this pesky problem will never plague your documents again.

So now you have text that is all lowercase. Would it not be nice to change that lowercase text into nice, sentence case text? Click **Shift + F3** a second time and the sentence magically turns to sentence case.

Typing with the caps lock key pressed happens to all of us at one time or another. Word can fix this in a snap just like this! This pesky problem will never plague your documents again.

If you click **Shift + F3** a third time, the text reverts back to all uppercase. If you ever need to use text in all uppercase, this will work as well. Highlight the text, then click **Shift + F3** until the text appears in all uppercase.

Here is an added tip: If you click **Ctrl + Shift + K**, your text will revert to small caps. Small caps make great headings in [documents](#).

TYPING WITH THE CAPS LOCK KEY PRESSED HAPPENS TO ALL OF US AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER.
WORD CAN FIX THIS IN A SNAP JUST LIKE THIS! THIS PESKY PROBLEM WILL NEVER PLAGUE YOUR
DOCUMENTS AGAIN.

The amount of shortcuts built into Word can be overwhelming, but some of them are very useful. These can certainly save us all a few wasted hours spent re-typing documents.

Did you know???...

How to Restore Deleted Files

Everybody has come across one of the most dreaded situations when using your computer, accidentally deleting files. For many out there, the battle was lost, files can no longer be seen by Windows when deleted from the Recycle Bin, do not loose hope!

There are a slew of programs on the web that allow you to retrieve deleted files from your desktop. Below are a couple of the programs available :

>Restoration <http://www.snapfiles.com/get/restoration.html> great thing about Restoration is that it does not require to be installed, so it would make a great addition to your collection of programs on your memory key

>FreeUndelete 2.0 <http://www.officerecovery.com/freeundelete/>

>PC Inspector File Recovery http://www.pcinspector.de/Sites/file_recovery/info.htm?language=1

>VirtualLab Data Recovery Software v4.8.8 <http://www.binarybiz.com/vlab/windows.html>

For the sake of simplicity we will cover the steps necessary to restore your files using Restoration.

1. Download and install Restoration
2. Open the program, when loaded select the drive you'd like to restore from the drop-down menu on the top right.
- 3 Click on the **Search Deleted Files** button.
4. When the search is complete it will list all of the deleted files it could find, select the files you would like to restore and click on Restore by Copy, select a destination that is not the one you're currently restoring from.
5. Now go check that directory [where you stored the restored files] to see how much of file was recovered.
6. Cross your fingers and good luck!

Did you know???...

How to Adjust the Speed of Your Mouse Pointer

Follow the steps below, play with the speed setting and find the configuration that works for you.

- Click **Start**, click **Control Panel**, click **Printers and Other Hardware**, and then click **Mouse**
- When the **Mouse Properties** window opens, click on the **Pointer Options** tab.
- Under **Motion** you will see a speed slider that ranges from **Slow** to **Fast**, slide it back and forth, trying it out at each interval.
- Select the **Enhance pointer precision** check box to provide finer control of your pointer at short distances without losing the ability to move the pointer quickly across the screen. Clear the check box to turn off this feature.
- You can have the mouse snap to default buttons (such as **OK** or **Apply**) in dialog boxes by selecting **Automatically move pointer to the default button in a dialog box** under **Snap To**.
- When you're done, click **OK**.



How to Speed Up Internet Browsing using Google Web Accelerator

Google Web Accelerator is available from Google: <http://webaccelerator.google.com/>

1. What is Google Web Accelerator?

Google Web Accelerator is an application that uses the power of Google's global computer network to make web pages load faster. Google Web Accelerator is easy to use; all you have to do is download and install it, and from then on many web pages will automatically load faster than before.

2. How does Google Web Accelerator work?

Google Web Accelerator uses various strategies to make your web pages load faster, including:

- Sending your page requests through Google machines dedicated to handling Google Web Accelerator traffic.
- Storing copies of frequently looked at pages to make them quickly accessible.
- Downloading only the updates if a web page has changed slightly since you last viewed it.
- Prefetching certain pages onto your computer in advance.
- Managing your Internet connection to reduce delays.
- Compressing data before sending it to your computer.

Did you know???...

How to Rename Multiple Files Simultaneously

You can rename multiple files without having to go through the trouble of renaming one by one.

This is a great way of renaming pictures for a particular event. Instead of sticking to the names that the camera designates you can have your pictures renamed to something more familiar and search friendly.

An example would be; your camera takes pictures with names like DCS-0001, DCS-0002, DCS-0003, etc. These names have no value to you or your computers search. Now if you grabbed that same group of pictures and renamed them as group for an event, *Rome Trip*, then all the pictures that you selected would be renamed to Rome Trip (1), Rome Trip (2), Rome Trip (3).

This in turn would make it easier for you to find pictures when you're doing a search on your computer as well organizing your collection for future use.

1. Select all the files you wish to rename – if all the pictures you wish to rename are within the same folder then you can hit **Ctrl + A** (with out the + of course) that should select all the pictures within that folder.
2. Right click any of the pictures and select **Rename** from the menu – alternately you can hit **F2** and that will allow you to rename the pictures as well.
3. Go ahead and input the name you would like to apply to all of the pictures and hit **Enter**, you're done.

All of the pictures should have been named the name you assigned them followed by (number).

Did you know???...

GOOGLE

When Sergey Brin and Larry Page met in the summer of 1995 they had no idea they were on the verge of creating the beginnings of an Internet Big Brother not even George Orwell could have imagined.

Originally called 'Back Rub' they worked on a project based on the idea that the links pointing to a document on the World Wide Web could be relevant to how important the document was. They created an algorithm and called it PageRank after Larry Page. PageRank took into account the number of links pointing to a site and the number of links pointing to each of the linking sites. This is of course a basic view of how events occurred, but eventually they had a system where more popular sites would rise to the top of their lists, and the less popular sites would drop to the bottom.

They named their new tool Google, after googol, which is the number equal to number 1 followed by 100 zeros. The first version of Google was revealed on the Stanford University website in August 1996 – just a year after they had first met.

Google has since become a HUGE private technology company employing over 20,000 employees located in Mountain View, California. Larry Page and Sergey Brin still act as key executives on the board of directors.

These days Google is way more than an effective tool to help you find a relevant page on the internet. As 2009 draws to a close, surfers are able to use the world's biggest search engine in a bunch of different ways.

The company's products for users include, but are not limited to:

Google Web, Image, Book or Blog Search, iGoogle and Personalized Search, Google Product Search, Google Custom Search, Google Chrome, Google Base, Google Webmaster Tools, Google Toolbar, Google AdSense, Google AdWords, Google Scholar, Google Finance, Google News, Google Video, Google Docs, Google Calendar, Gmail, Google Talk, Google Groups, Google Reader, Orkut, Blogger, YouTube, Google Pack, Picasa, Google Desktop for users, Google Display Advertising Program, Google GEO product line comprising Google Earth, Google Maps, and Google Sketchup, Google Checkout, Google Mobile Product Line, Google index, Google Maps and Satellite imagery; and Google Labs, a test-bed for engineers and Google users.

http://www.google.com/language_tools Want to translate a word, phrase or entire document? Google translator will do it for you.

<http://news.google.com/> Need a current event? Forget about the newspaper, use the internet like teenagers do to find stories that are only minutes old.

Did you know???...

<http://images.google.com/> Arguably the best image search engine in the world. Try finding a picture of something today.

<http://www.google.com/products> Looking to make a purchase. Shop and compare prices online first using Google's Product Search.

<http://www.google.com/finance> What to check the stock market, try this website for a quick overview.

<http://maps.google.com/> Looking for an up to date map or satellite photo, check out these amazingly easy to manipulate maps and photos.

<http://video.google.com/> Google has their own video search engine. Find an educational video on the internet that you can play for your class

<http://scholar.google.com/> Another project that Google is working on is to create a more efficient way to search scholarly papers.

<http://books.google.com/> This is a great way to jump into some literature. Check out a book online, read some passages and find out where you can buy a copy.

Did you know???

10 Things Google Knows About You

1. Have you ever had an embarrassing health problem that you preferred was not recorded on your medical history? Instead of going to visit your doctor you decided to google your symptoms and maybe even buy some medication online?

Perhaps this happened years ago and you had forgotten all about it?

Google hasn't.

2. Google Docs allows users to create and save documents in a variety of formats, to share or save to your computer. If you create a document that you later delete because it might contain sensitive information – beware.

Google has a back up.

3. Did you ever use Gmail to write a drunken email to your ex? Something you have tried to forget?

Google remembers – that one and all the other private emails you have sent are safely stored in Google's databases.

Maybe you don't have a Gmail account? Well that's OK; Google still has copies of your private messages because your friends and business partners use Gmail.

4. Google knows what you family and friends look like, where you went on your holidays and if you have skinny legs and look like a dork on the beach. If you use Picasa, Google probably even knows how many pets you have.

5. If you have a thing for watching teenagers messing around playing air guitars in their bedrooms, don't think it is your little secret.

Google knows and records your searches and preferences and which videos you have watched on YouTube and Google Video.

6. If you have ever used Google Earth, one of the first places you would have looked at will naturally be your own home.

Now Google has a picture of where you live, not that they didn't know anyway – if you use Google AdSense, Adwords, or Google Checkout they have all your financial details which include your address.

7. Have you or somebody living in your house, ever done a search on how to grow your own marijuana? Have you ever been worried about an alcohol or other addiction within your family? Do you search online for solutions to your rising debt or marriage problems?

It's all there – just between you and Google.

8. Do you use Google Desktop?

A very handy application that will organize all the files on your PC, also gives Google access to them.

9. Google Reader is an aggregator, capable of reading Atom and RSS feeds online or offline, which is a very practical tool for keeping up to date with your favorite bloggers.

It also lets Google know which blogs you follow regularly, therefore revealing even more of your personal interests and passions, not that they didn't have enough information on you already!

10. Did you have a terrible time a few months ago when you found out your partner was having an affair and decide to chuck all of their belongings out on the street in a mindless rage?

Oh there they are! A nice constant reminder on Google Street Maps. Hopefully that Google Street Car will be along soon and update the picture of your house.

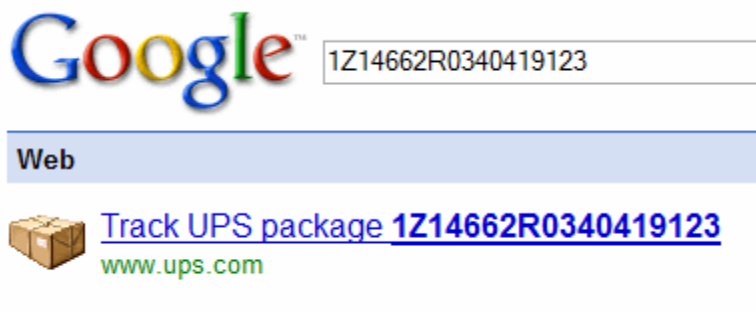
Did you know???...

Should You Really Care?

Most of us probably don't have much too much to hide... and luckily for those who do, there are enough privacy laws in place for the most part to keep it stored safely on Google's servers. What do you think? Does Google know too much about you

Things You Can Do With Google

Track your UPS packages without having to log on, etc, just input the tracking number in the search box

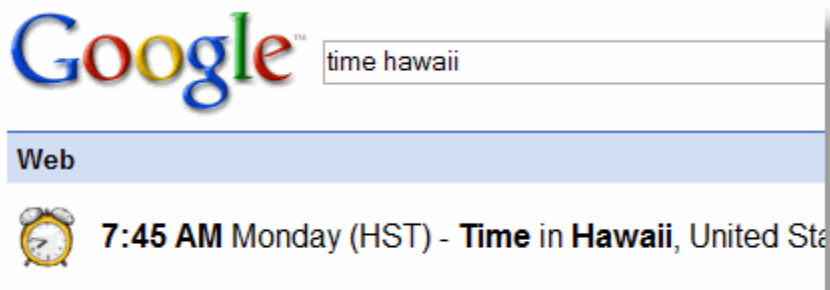


Check the weather by inputting *weather "zip code"* in the search box



Did you know???...

Want to know **the time in another country/city** anywhere in the world? Type *time "city"* and it should display the current time in that part of the world.



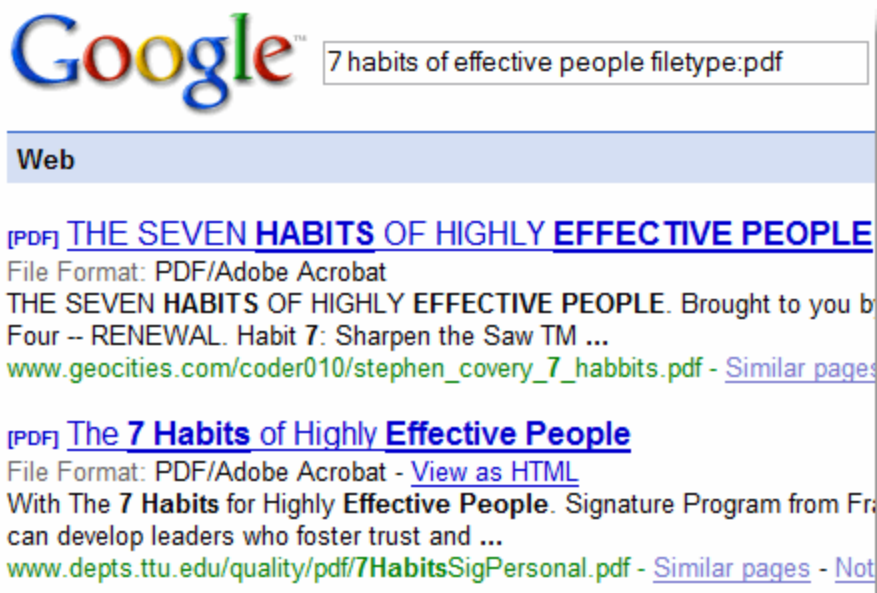
Things you can do with Google continued...

Want to **check the movie times** at your local theater? Type *"movie title" "your zip code"*



Did you know???...

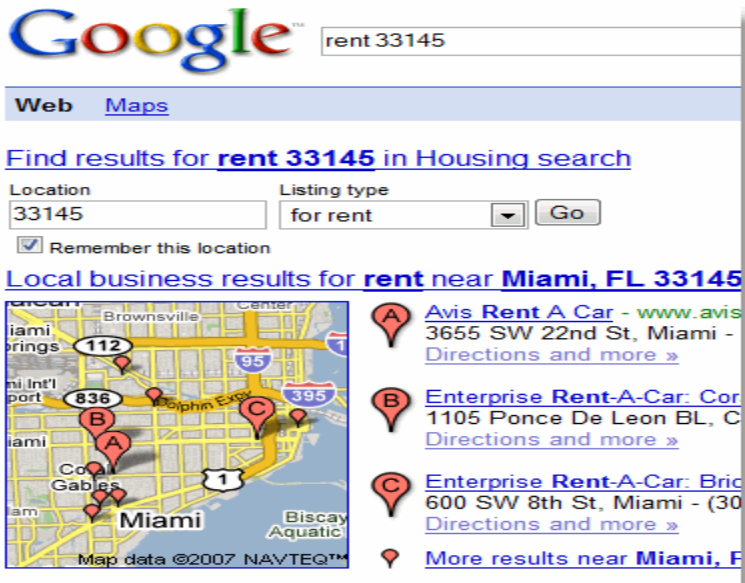
Want to get a copy of a book electronically? Well, type "title of book" filetype:pdf



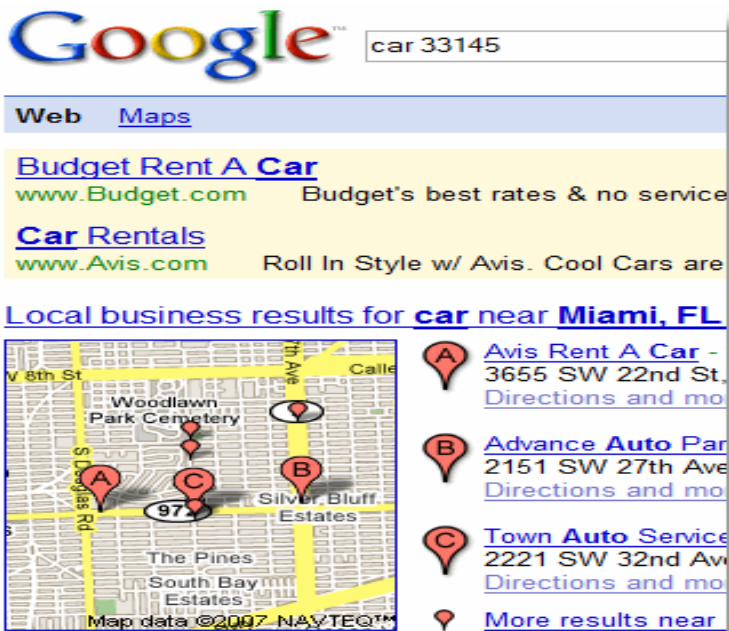
Things you can do with Google continued...

If you're in the market for **rental property**, before your hit Craig List type in *rent "zip code"* and view the listings on Google Maps

Did you know???...



New in town? Looking to **rent a car**? Type *car "zip code"*



Things you can do with Google continued...

Did you know???

What's the mass of planet earth? Type *mass of the earth*



Web

 **mass of Earth = 5.9742×10^{24} kilograms**
[More about calculator.](#)

What's the mass of our moon? Type *mass of the moon*



Web

 **mass of the Moon = 7.36×10^{22} kilograms**
[More about calculator.](#)

Did you know???...

Things you can do with Google continued...

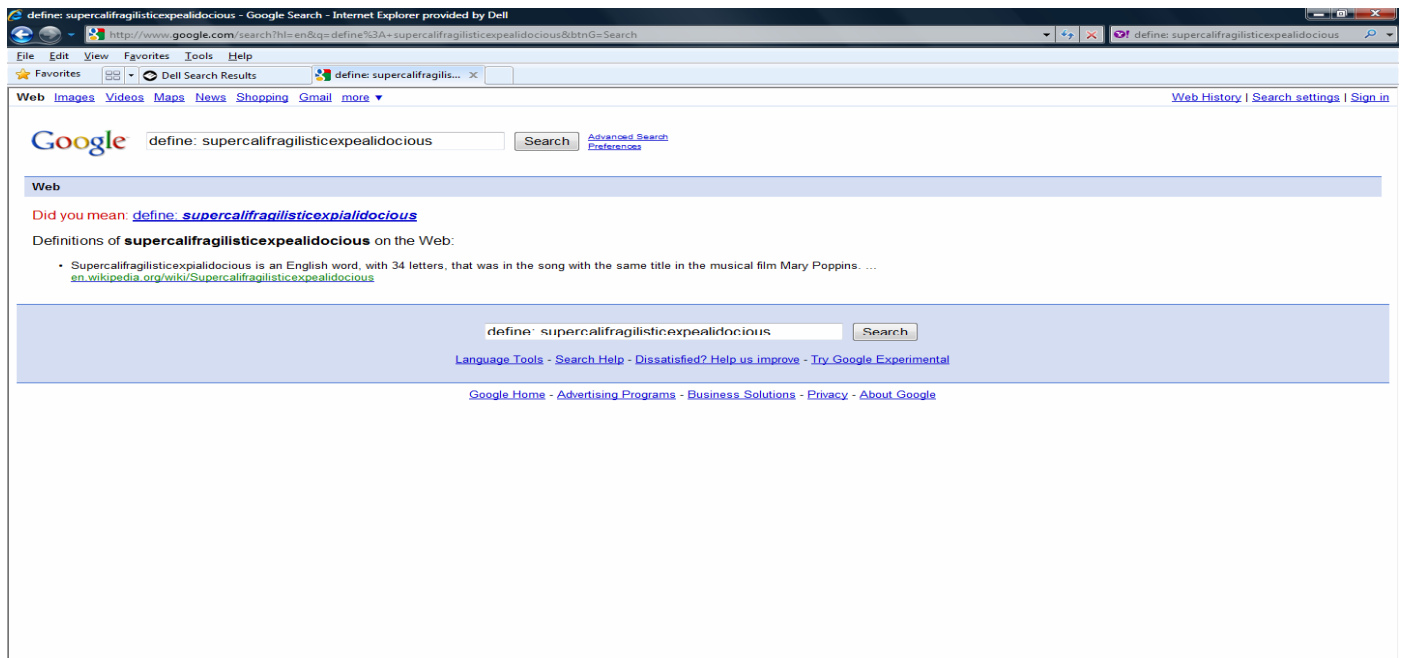
Look up the definition of a word or phrase

define: supercalifragilisticexpialidocious

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

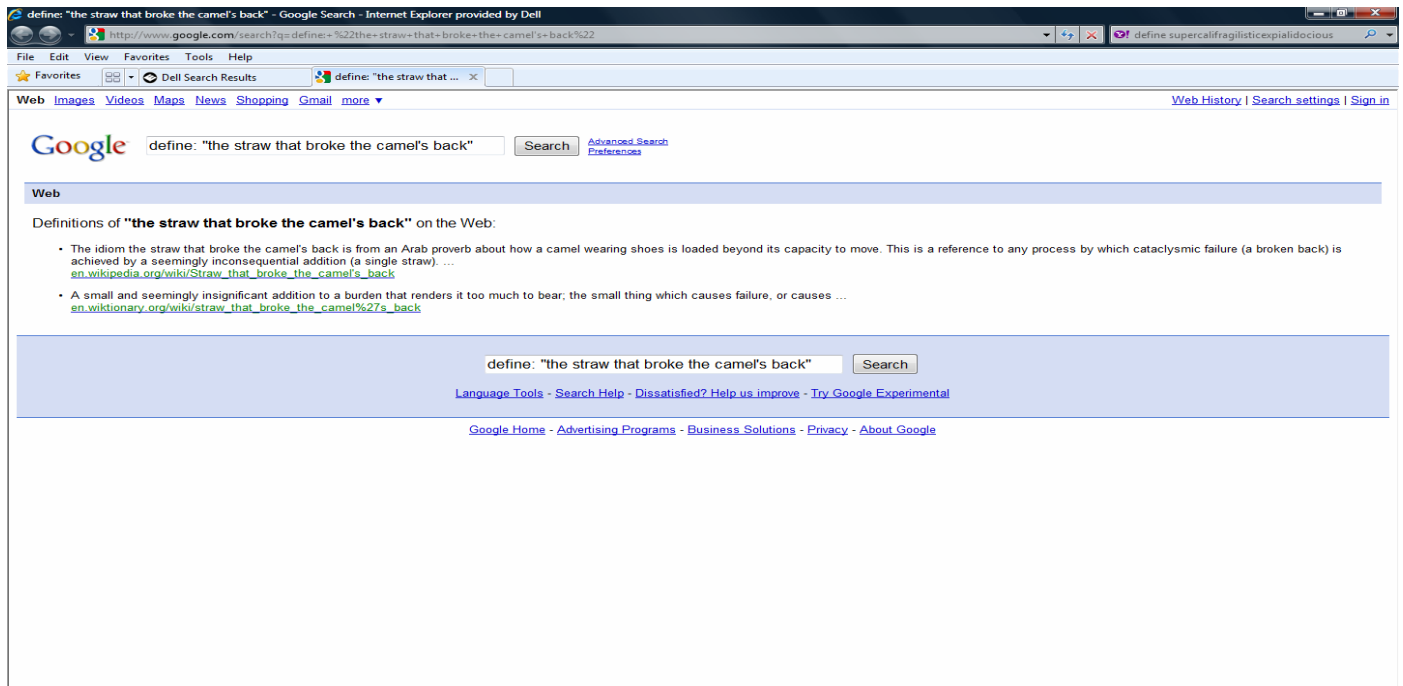
If you're not 100% on the spelling, just like with regular searches, Google will do it's best to figure out what you really mean.



Did you know???...

Things you can do with Google continued...

It can also find definitions for many slang terms and idioms as well such as “the straw that broke the camel’s back”

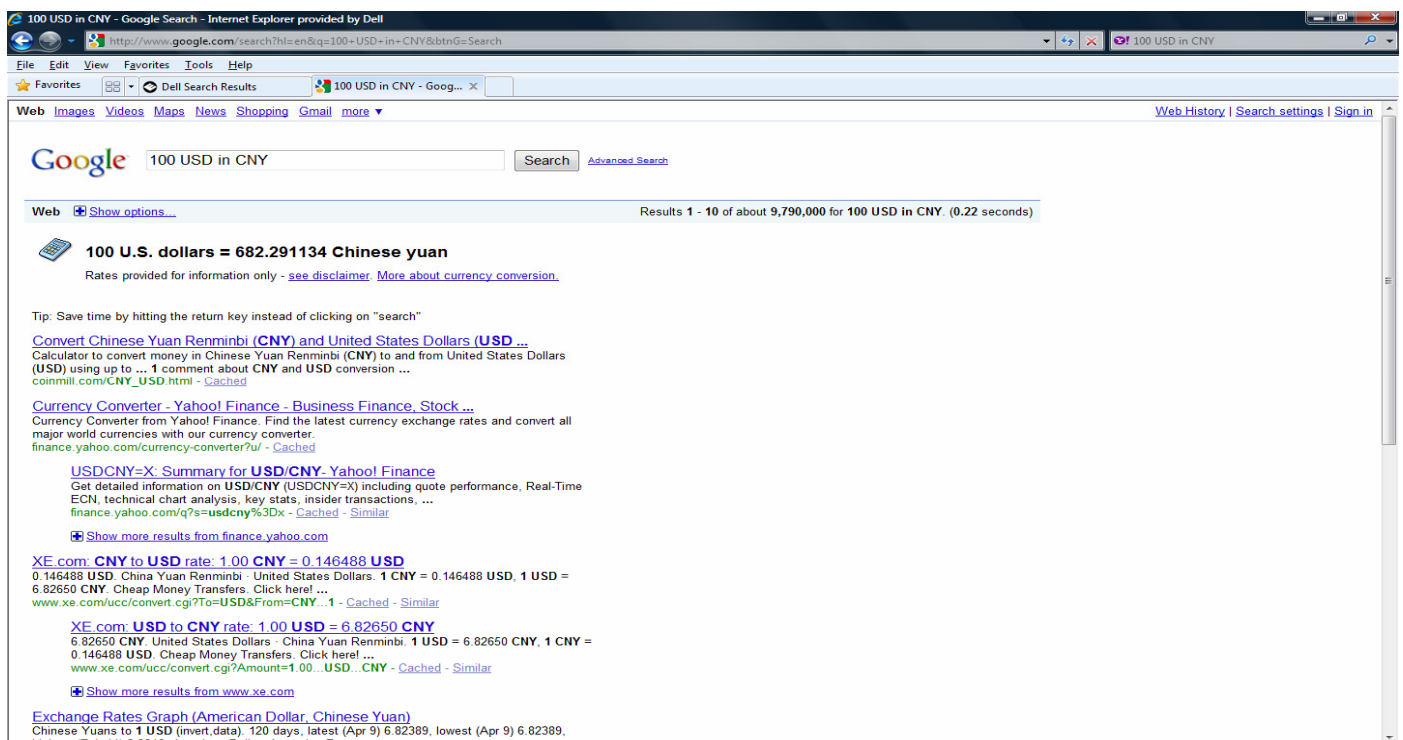


Did you know???...

Things you can do with Google continued...

Convert Currency

Example: convert 100 US dollars into Chinese Yen



Convert Weights and measures

Did you know???...

Things you can do with Google continued...

Calculate

Find the Time



4:05am Wednesday (BST) - **Time in London**, United Kingdom

London, Ontario 11:05pm -1 day EDT

London, Arkansas 10:05pm -1 day CDT

Find Stock Quotes

Enter the company's stock ticker symbol

GOOG - Google Inc. (NASDAQ)

[Google Finance](#) [Yahoo Finance](#) [MSN Money](#) [AOL Finance](#) [CNN Money](#) [Reuters](#)



416.14 -0.63 (-0.15%) Jun 16 4:00pm ET

Open: 419.15

Volume: 3,050,261

High: 421.09

Avg Vol: 3,538,000

Low: 415.42

Mkt Cap: 131.47B

[Disclaimer](#)

After Hours: **415.69** -0.45 (-0.11%) Jun 16 7:46pm ET

Find Flight Information

[Track status of AC 87 from Toronto \(YYZ\) to Shanghai \(PVG\)](#)



16 Jun 2009 - On schedule

Departed: 1:02 PM, Estimated arrival: 3:03 PM

www.flightstats.com

Did you know???...

Things you can do with Google continued...

Movie Showtimes

Enter “movies [movie title] [city]”

movies x-men seattle

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

Similarly, you can simply google “movie: [movie title]” (ie. “movie: x-men”) to get a listing of movies with that title along with a star rating and links to reviews. Likewise, this works with “music:” as well.

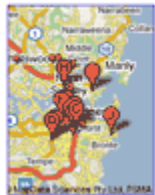
Yellow Pages

thai restaurants sydney

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

Local business results for **thai restaurants near Sydney NSW, Australia**



- A. **L Thai Restaurant & Bar** - www.lthai.com.au - +61 2 9299 8999 - 2 reviews
 - B. **Thai Princess** - www.thaiprincess.com.au - +61 2 9332 3284 - 5 reviews
 - C. **Thai Nisia Restaurant** - www.thainisia.com.au - +61 2 9361 4817 - 5 reviews
 - D. **Thai Potthong Restaurant** - www.thaiptothong.com.au - +61 2 9550 6277 - 5 reviews
 - E. **Chedi Thai Restaurant** - www.chedi.com.au - +61 2 9516 1127 - 18 reviews
 - F. **Star City** - www.starcity.com.au - +61 1800 700 700 - 27 reviews
 - G. **Longrain Restaurant & Bar** - www.longrain.com.au - +61 2 9280 2888 - 21 reviews
 - H. **Bai Yok Thai Restaurant** - www.baiyok.com.au - +61 2 9438 3941 - 5 reviews
 - I. **Colours of Thai Restaurant** - www.eatings.com.au - +61 2 9960 4247 - 2 reviews
 - J. **Thai Tonic Restaurant** - www.thaitonic.com.au - +61 2 9365 7798 - 8 reviews
- [More results near Sydney NSW, Australia](#)

Google local business listings

Type in a business type (ie. “plumbers”, “Thai food restaurant”, “computer repair”) followed by your city to get a listing of businesses fitting your criteria.

The results give the name of the business, the phone number and Google Maps directions to the location. Incidentally, if you happen to run your own local business, be sure to add it to Google’s listings <http://www.google.com/local/add/> and increase the likelihood of Google-savvy customers finding you.

For more on what you can do with Google go to: <http://www.google.com/help/features.html>

Did you know???...

JUST FOR FUN

Wish you were at the beach? Why not visit the beach at Daytona, Florida? Try this link for a quick break: <http://volusia.org/beach/daytona.htm>. This is live streaming video from the beach.

Times Square: <http://www.earthcam.com/usa/newyork/timesquare/index.php?cam=1> (don't forget to check "Cam1" which is live streaming video)

Monterey Bay Aquarium Otter-Cam: http://www.mbayaq.org/efc/efc_otter/otter_cam.asp (right click on the otters to zoom to full screen. It's better than a fish tank)

Here's a website that has lots of links to cameras all over the world (including that one in Times Square): <http://www.earthcam.com/>

This site also has links to all kinds of webcams all over the world:
<http://www.webcamplaza.net/> Just in case you haven't had enough yet here's a resource for plenty more webcams.

How Stuff Works?

<http://www.howstuffworks.com>

Wikipedia

<http://www.wikipedia.org/>

The biggest, free-content, encyclopedia on the internet and one of the top 100 websites in the world. This unique online encyclopedia allows users to log on and become contributors. As a result many articles are written by the foremost experts in a field with lots of current information. Unfortunately, some articles are also poorly written and may contain incorrect information. This has led to several controversies.

A few years ago there was a research study that compared Wikipedia to [Britannica](#) for accuracy. The study, which was published in December of 2005, showed Wikipedia to be more accurate than Britannica. You can read about the results here:

cnet.com: http://news.com.com/2100-1038_3-5997332.html

wired.com: <http://www.wired.com/culture/lifestyle/news/2005/12/69844>

Did you know???...

Computer Keyboard Shortcuts using the Control & Windows Key



The WINDOWS Key

Holding down the WINDOWS key: **opens the START menu**

Holding down the WINDOWS key + B key: **turns on/off Bold characters**

Holding down the WINDOWS key + D key: **brings you to your desktop (hides all open windows rather than having to minimize each one)** Press the keystroke again to return to what you were doing.

Holding down the WINDOWS key + E key: **will open Windows Explorer**

Holding down the WINDOWS key + F key: **opens the search feature, to search for files and folders**

Holding down the WINDOWS key + L key: **will LOCK your desktop**

Holding down the WINDOWS key + M key: **will also bring you to your desktop**

Did you know???...

Holding down the WINDOWS key + R key: **opens the RUN command box**

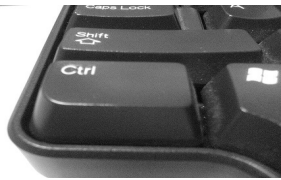
Holding down the WINDOWS key + U key: **opens Utility Manager**

Holding down the WINDOWS key + 1 key: **toggles from the current open windows to your desktop**

Holding down the WINDOWS key + 2 key: **shows all open windows at once**

Holding down the WINDOWS key + F1 key: **opens the Microsoft Windows Help and Support Center**

Holding down the WINDOWS key + F2 key: **shows all open windows at once**



The CONTROL key

Holding down the Ctrl key + A key: **will highlight the entire open document**

Holding down the Ctrl key + C key: **will COPY whatever you have highlighted**

Holding down the Ctrl key + F key: **will open the FIND box, to search data you have open**

Holding down the Ctrl key + G key: **opens a GO TO box, to replace information**

Holding down the Ctrl key + H key: **opens REPLACE box, to replace information**

Holding down the Ctrl key + I key: **INSERTs information**

Did you know???...

Holding down the Ctrl key + K key: **opens INSERT HYPERLINK box to add a web page link**

Holding down the Ctrl key + N key: **opens a new window**

Holding down the Ctrl key + O key: **opens the folder in Windows Explorer for the document you're currently working on**

Holding down the Ctrl key + P key: **PRINTS your open document**

Holding down the Ctrl key + S key: **SAVES your information/document**

Holding down the Ctrl key + V key: **PASTES any information you have copied**

Holding down the Ctrl key + Z key: **will UNDO your last action**

Holding down the Ctrl key + 7 key: **will remove or replace the icon toolbar**

Holding down the Ctrl key + Left/Right Arrow key: **moves the cursor one word at a time Left or Right**

Holding down the Ctrl key + Home: **moves the cursor to beginning of a document**

Holding down the Ctrl key + End key: **moves the cursor to the end of a document**

Holding down the Ctrl key + Print Screen key: **Creates a screen shot (picture) of the entire screen**

Holding down the Ctrl key + Shift + Esc key: **Brings up Windows Task Manager**

Holding down the Ctrl key + turning the wheel on the top of your mouse: **will ENLARGE A WEB PAGE or DOCUMENT like a magnifying glass**

Did you know???...

SHIFT Key shortcuts

Holding down the Shift key + Home key: **Highlights from the current position to the beginning of the line**

Holding down the Shift key + End key: **Highlights from the current position to the end of the line**

Holding down the Shift key + Delete key: **deletes programs/files without putting them in the recycle bin**

ALT Key shortcuts

Holding down the Alt key + Tab key: **Switches between open applications**

Holding down the Alt key + Print Screen key: **creates a screen shot (picture) only for the program you are currently in**

Misc shortcuts

Holding down the HOME key: **moves the cursor to the beginning of the current line**

Holding down the END key: **moves the cursor to the end of the current line**

Pressing the F1 key: **will bring up the HELP feature of the application you're in**

To highlight text: **Move the cursor to the beginning of the text you wish to highlight, hold down the Shift key, click the end of the text you wish to highlight**