

TEN THINGS ABOUT THE NET

1. WHAT IS THE WEB?

The World Wide Web (www) is a collection of electronic documents that are linked together like a spider web.

These documents are stored on computers called servers which are located all around the world.

The Web has grown into a global electronic publishing medium and is now a place where there is information on almost everything.



The Web consists of:

- Your personal computer
- A modem or other method of connecting to the Internet
- Software, called browsers, to access the Web (Internet Explorer and Netscape Communicator being the most common programmes)
- A connection to an Internet Service Provider (ISP) which acts as a "gateway" to the Internet
- Servers to host the data



Web pages are stored on computers called web servers located all around the world.

Either entering the Address (or URL - Uniform Resource Locator) of a web page in your web browser or clicking on a link sends a request to the server which hosts the page you are referring to.

The server then sends the web page to your computer and your web browser displays it on your screen.

This is called browsing or surfing the net.



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2. WHAT ARE WEB PAGES?

A web page is an electronic document written in a computer language called HTML (Hypertext Markup Language).

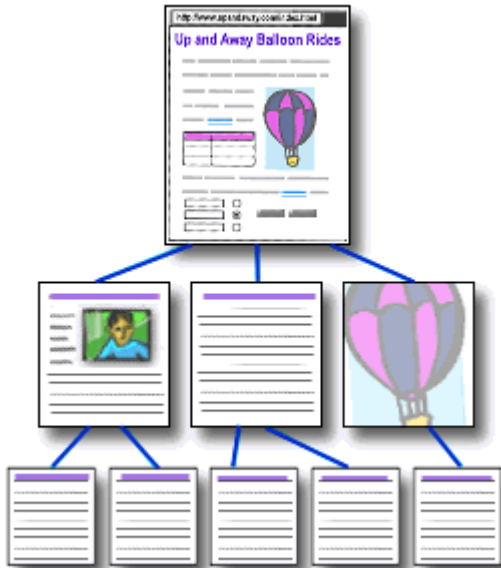
Web pages can contain:

- text
- graphics
- multi media (video, animation, sound)
- interactive features, such as data entry forms.

Web pages can also contain hyperlinks (commonly called Links) to other web pages.

Hyperlinks are text and images that reference the addresses of other web pages to enable you to move around the World Wide Web.

Each web page has a unique Address known as a URL (Uniform Resource Locator), which identifies its location on the server.



A website is one or more web pages that relate to a common theme, such as a person, business, organization, or a subject, such as sports.

The first page is called the home page. The home page acts like an index and indicates the content on the site.

From the home page, you can usually click hyperlinks to access other web pages.

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3. NAVIGATING THE WEB

There are three main ways to move between web pages or websites:

1. Clicking a text hyperlink.
2. Clicking an hyperlinked graphic image, such as a button, photograph, or drawing.

Typing the Address (URL) of a web page in the location box (also known as the address field) of your web browser and the pressing the Enter or Return key.

The type of website you are on can be determined by the domain extension. The following are generally in use

- .com - commercial enterprise
- .edu - educational institution
- .gov - government entity
- .mil - military entity
- .net - network access provider
- .org - usually a non-profit organization



New domain names were approved in November 2000 by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN):

.biz, .museum, .info, .pro (for professionals), .name (for individuals), .aero (for the aerospace industry), and .coop (for cooperatives).

These domain names are beginning to become available.

In addition each country has a two-letter Internet Country Code to identify it (except for the United States which has no identifier code).

Examples of these are:

- au - Australia
- ch - Switzerland
- de - Germany
- jp - Japan
- uk - United Kingdom

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4. HYPERLINKS

What Is A Hyperlink?

Hyperlinks are the basis of moving around the Web. By clicking on a hyperlink you can very quickly move from one page to another

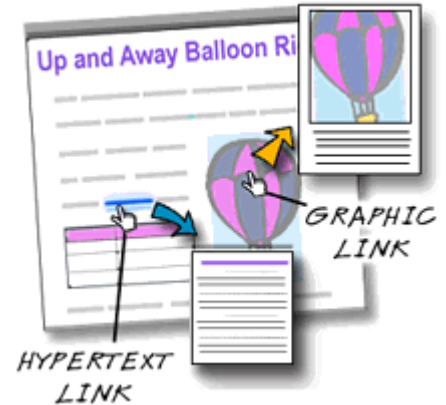
Identifying A Hyperlink

Text links are usually underlined and in a different color from the rest of the text.

To determine if a graphic is hyperlinked, move your cursor arrow over the image.

You know the item is hyperlinked if:

1. The arrow cursor turns into a hand.
2. A URL (universal resource Locator or Address) appears in the status bar at the lower left of your web browser.



How Hyperlinks Work

A text or graphic hyperlink "hides" an Address .

Clicking a hyperlink passes the URL (Address) information to the browser yo are using.

In addition to pointing to web pages, hyperlinks can access media files, such as sound or video clips.



Some images are called **IMAGE MAPS**.

Clicking different parts of a such a linked graphic, takes you to different web pages or different places on the same page.

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5. WEB ADDRESSES (or URL)

Using A URL (Universal Resource Locator)

1. A URL indicates where the web page is stored on the Internet.



2. You need to type a URL exactly for your browser to locate the required web page.

Note:

- URLs almost never use back slashes (\). All slashes are forward slashes (/).
- Although URLs may contain spaces between characters, they usually do not.
- Some large websites have multiple URLs that access the same site.

The location box or address field on your browser indicates the URL of the page you arrived at after clicking a link

Examples Of URL's

<http://www.vicnet.net.au> - The home page for Vicnet

<ftp://rtfm.mit.edu/pub/> - A directory of files at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) that you can download

<news:rec.gardens.roses> - A newsgroup about rose gardening

Interpreting A URL: Using www.vicnet.net.au/~itap/index.htm as an example

http:// - Short for Hypertext Transfer Protocol, this indicates a hypertext document or directory.

www - This indicates a page on the World Wide Web. (Sometimes "www" is missing.)

vicnet.net/ - Called the domain name, it often tells you the name of a company, university, or organization.

au - The country of origin. All countries except USA have a suffix e.g. au = Australia, uk = England, fr = France

www.vicnet.net.au - Together, these indicate the web server name.

~itap - This is directory or folder on the web server that contains a group of related web pages within the website.

index.htm - This is a web page inside the folder. (The same file can be named index.html) A URL doesn't always include the name of the web page.



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6. BROWSERS

What Is A Browser?

A web browser is a software program used to access the World Wide Web.



A browser (also known as client software) retrieves data from remote web servers and displays a web page.

The two most popular browsers are:

1. Internet Explorer
2. Netscape Navigator

Browsers basically work the same way. Once you know one, you can easily learn the other.

Parts Of A Browser

The most useful buttons on your browser toolbar include:

Back -- Returns you to the previous page.

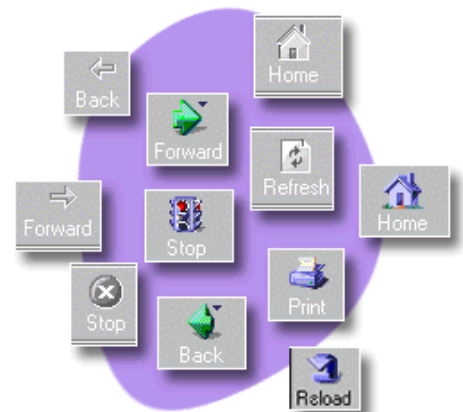
Forward -- Returns you to a page you have backed up from.

Home -- Takes you to a home page specified in the browser preferences.

Reload or Refresh -- Downloads the web page from the server again.

Stop -- Stops the browser from loading the current page.

Print -- Lets you make a hard copy of the current document or frame loaded in your browser.



Other Parts Of A Browser



Access indicator icon (upper right):

When animated, it tells you the browser is retrieving data.

Status bar (lower left):

Reports on the progress of the data download.

Go menu:

Lets you select a web page you have previously accessed.

Text-only mode (Images button):

Prevents graphics from loading, providing a faster way to access web pages.

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7. HOME PAGE

The Home Page is the first page which is opened when you start your Browser. You can set the Home Page to be any page which you wish. If you visit a particular location quite often, it may be useful to set this as your Home Page.

Home Page In Internet Explorer

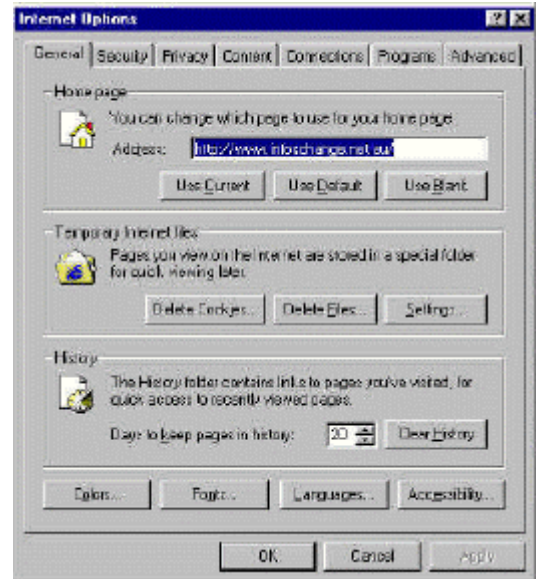
Go to the web page you want to use as your start-up page

On the Browser menu bar:

1. click Tools
2. select Internet Options
3. then select the General tab.

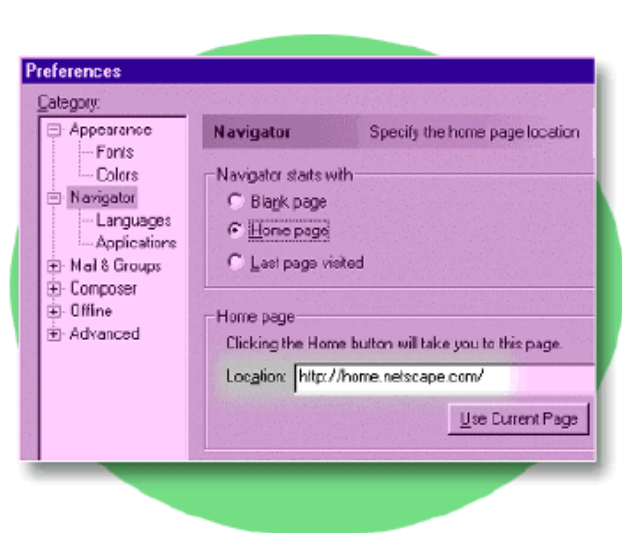
In the Home Page section either:

- In the address Text box type in the address of the web page you want as your start-up page or
- Click Use Current



Finally, click on the Apply button at the bottom right of the Internet Options box.

Home Page In Netscape Navigator



or

- select Last page visited

Click OK when you have completed your selection

Go to the web page you want to use as your start-up page

On the Browser Menu bar:

1. click Options
2. select General Preferences
3. then select the Appearance tab.

In the Browser Starts With text-box either:

- type the address of the web page you want as your start-up page or
- select Use Current Page

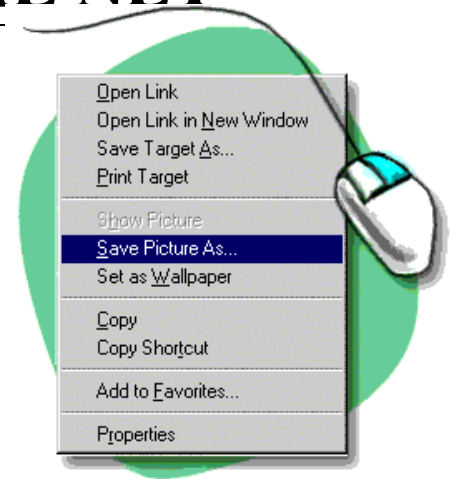
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8. SAVING FROM THE INTERNET

Saving A Picture

Move your cursor over the graphic.

- Windows users: Click the right mouse button. A pop-up box appears.
- Macintosh users: Click and hold the mouse button. A pop-up box appears.



Save the image to your hard drive by selecting Save Picture As option.

You can accept the current file name or rename the file. (Graphic files are usually in .gif or .jpg format.)

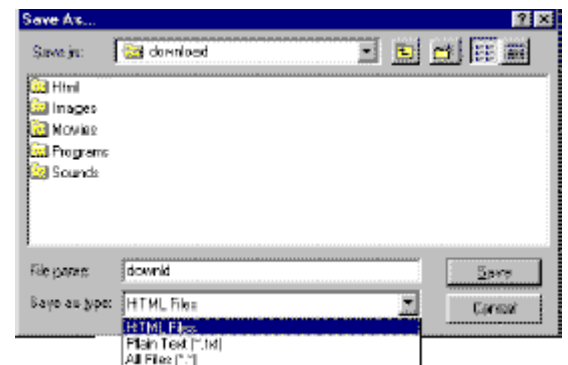
Saving Text

You can save a whole page just by:

1. clicking on File on the menu bar of your browser
2. then clicking on Save As.

In the Save As Type menu you will have two options, either:

- save it as HTML file or a text file.



If you only wish to ever read the file in a web browser save it as a html file.

If you want to read the file in any text based programs like Microsoft Word save it as text.

If there are pictures on the page, these will be saved in a special folder which will be created. Sometimes, moving this folder will cause difficulties

Saving Just Text

If all you want from a Web Page is just the text then another option is to use the Copy and Paste commands in the Menu bar under Edit.

To do this:

1. highlight the text you wish to copy
2. select from the Menu Bar - Edit > File > Copy
3. select the programme you wish to copy into (e.g. Microsoft Word, Notepad, Wordpad etc.)
4. select from the Menu Bar - Edit > File > Paste (or Paste Special)

Note:

Web Pages often have tables in them which you cannot see. These tables are used to keep information organized. Using Paste Special, and then selecting the appropriate option, allows you to copy the text without copying the tables

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9. MULTIMEDIA

What Is Multimedia?



Sound, video, animation, and 3D interactive video are referred to as multimedia.

Some multimedia, called streaming media, plays as soon as you access a web page.

Others require that you download the multimedia file to your computer first.

Multimedia files often requires that your browser use a plug-in program.

Plug-ins

Plug-ins are small software programs that extend the capabilities of your browser.

Plug-ins enable you to play sounds and video clips or do other functions, such as automatically decompressing files that you download.

Plug-ins may come with your browser software or can be downloaded from websites.

Some plug-ins enable streaming audio or video, which lets you hear or view a multimedia file before it has completely downloaded to your computer.



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10. OTHER PLACES TO LEARN ABOUT THE NET

<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~itap> : the home page for the Internet Training and Access Programme. Has the information presented in these pages as well as good links to other sites.

<http://www.actden.com/IE5/> : Microsoft Site - good introduction to Internet Explorer (also <http://www.actden.com> for tutorials for other Microsoft programmes)

<http://www.northernwebs.com/tutorials.html> : a bit wordy but not a bad place to get good basic information

<http://www.learnthenet.com> : an excellent resource which is easy to navigate and easy to read - click on the Start Learning Now icon to get a quick start

<http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/internet> : well laid out site which is simple to use

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/FindInfo.html> : very wordy but some useful information

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/4610/index.htm> : very wordy and aimed at the classroom teacher but has pertinent info - good for a glance

<http://www.internet101.org/> : well designed site with a good layout and well presented information
<http://www.netskills.ac.uk/TonicNG/cgi/sesame?tng> : an excellent and comprehensive site - lots of information