

Web Browser Tips & Tricks

Tabbed browsing

Internet Explorer 7, the latest version of IE, and all recent versions of FireFox support a feature called tabbed browsing, which allows you to open multiple web pages in one browser window.

Before tabbed browsing, if you wanted to open multiple pages, they were each opened in their own window – their own “copy” of the browser, so to speak. Each window used a sizable amount of RAM and system resources.

Tabbed browsing saves RAM and system resources by running only one copy of the software, with multiple “tabs” for multiple web pages.

- § Tabs are displayed along the top of your browser, just under the address bar.
- § To open a new tab, click File > New Tab, or Ctrl + T on your browser. This new tab opens a blank page, with a blank address bar. You can enter a web page URL, conduct a search, or go to your Home page (via the Home button) from here.
- § You can open any link in a new tab by right-clicking the link and selecting Open in New Tab.
- § To switch back and forth between tabs, simply click the title of the tab you want to view from the top of the browser screen.
- § To close a tab, press Ctrl + W or click the little red X at the top of that tab (not at the top right of the window, which closes the browser completely).

The Links/Bookmarks Toolbar

Both I.E. and Firefox have a utility that allows you to store shortcuts to your favorite sites right on your browser’s toolbar. On Firefox, it’s enabled by default. With I.E., right-click a blank area of the toolbar, then click Links.

To put a shortcut into the toolbar, navigate to the site you want to create a shortcut for, then simply click-and-drag the little webpage icon immediately to the left of the site’s address down into the toolbar and let go. Once it’s there, you can rename it by right-clicking the shortcut and clicking Properties (for FireFox) or Rename (for I.E.) to enter a new name.

Clearing History, Cookies & Private Data

Both browsers also give you an option to clear your tracks when you’re done browsing.

In FireFox, press Ctrl + Shift + Del on the keyboard (or Tools > Clear Private Data). Check all of the boxes EXCEPT “Saved Passwords” and then click Clear Private Data Now.

In Internet Explorer, click Tools > Delete Browsing History and click each button except for Delete Passwords to clear the data.

Add-Ons

Firefox and I.E. both support a library of “add-ons” for the programs.

For FireFox, I highly recommend the “AdBlockPlus”, “Filterset.G Updater”, “forecastfox” and “fasterfox” plugins. I’m not an Internet Explorer user so I can’t make recommendations there.