

Lesson 7 – Surfing the Net



Internet: Sometimes called the "Information Superhighway", the internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible series of interconnected computer networks that transmit data. It is a "network of networks" that consists of millions of smaller domestic, academic, business, and government networks, which together carry various information and services, such as electronic mail, online chat, file transfer, and the interlinked web pages and other resources of the World Wide Web.

World Wide Web (www) (commonly shortened to **the Web**): A system of interlinked hypertext documents accessed via the Internet. With a **Web browser** (such as Internet Explorer), a user views Web pages that may contain text, images, videos, and other multimedia and navigates between them using hyperlinks.

Hypertext: most often refers to text on a computer that will lead the user to other, related information on demand. Rather than remaining static like traditional text, hypertext makes possible a dynamic organization of information through links and connections (called **hyperlinks**). Hypertext can be designed to perform various tasks; for instance when a user "clicks" on it or "hovers" over it, a bubble with a word definition may appear, a web page on a related subject may load, a video clip may run, or an application may open.

Surfing the Web: moving between different websites and pages with the click of a mouse.

Web Page: A resource of information that is suitable for the World Wide Web and can be accessed through a web browser. This information is usually in HTML or XHTML format, and may provide navigation to other web pages via hypertext links. Web pages may be static or dynamic. A **website** is a collection of related web pages.

Modem: A device which connects your computer to the telephone lines.

Web Address (or, more specifically, **URL** or **Uniform Resource Locator**): the address of a website on the World Wide Web.

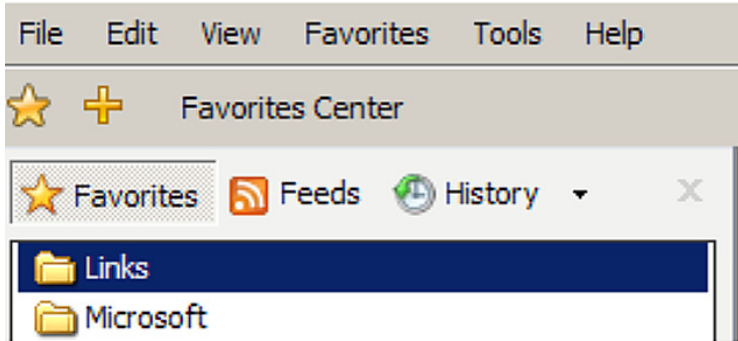
Domain Name or Hostname: A name that identifies a computer or computers on the internet. For example: **.com** refers to a commercial company; **.org** refers to a non-profit organization; **.ca** refers to Canada; **.edu** refers to an educational institution

Address Bar: URLs are typically entered into the address or **location bar** of a web browser. Address bars vary in appearance depending on which web browser it is displayed in.

Icons of Note



Refresh Icon



More icons on the Internet Explorer toolbar

Key Concepts

1. The internet is a **connection of computers** connected through wires, cable and satellite links.

Exercise: Read through page 21, noting the diagram.

2. **Your computer must be connected to the internet** before you can begin surfing. Icon(s) on the bottom right hand side of the screen will give you information about your connection.

Exercise: Ensure your computer is connected to the internet (pp. 24-27)

3. Website addresses are entered in the **address bar** along the top of the screen; they must be entered correctly or you won't get to the website you want. Even then, people and companies often change or delete their websites and the address changes. In that case, you will be given a message that the server cannot find the address you were looking for.

Exercise: Practice entering a website address, both correctly and incorrectly (pp. 28-32).

4. The **refresh** feature is handy when you want to try and reload a page. There are features such as the **waving flag icon** and **green bar at the bottom of the screen** that indicate if a web page is loading.

Exercise: Find all of these features (p. 33).

5. The **forward and backward buttons** can help you navigate to and from web pages.

Exercise: Practice navigating between web pages and websites (pp. 34-36).

6. Whenever your mouse pointer (or cursor) **changes into a little hand**, you can click on that word, button or image and follow that **hyperlink**.

Exercise: Browse the links on the Visual Steps website (pp. 39-40).

7. If you access the internet over the telephone, it must be **disconnected** after use.

Exercise: Read pages 55-56.

8. The **history button** allows you to access previously-viewed web pages.

Exercise: See and access the pages you previously visited (pp 69-71).

9. You can “bookmark” your favorite sites using the **Favorites menu**.

Exercise: Save, open and organize your favorites (pp. 72-76).

Challenge: How do you delete unwanted Favorites? (Hint: answer on p. 95).

10. **Explorer remembers the sites you’ve been to**, and will suggest, in the form of a drop-down menu under the address bar, where you may be wanting to go. Just ignore it if you’re not interested in any of the suggestions.

Exercise: Practice using this feature (pp. 77-78).

11. Keep your Favorites organized by **saving a web site address directly into folders** within your Favorites menu.

Exercise: Add the Visual Steps address into a folder (pp. 79-81).

Challenge: Change the name of the Visual Steps site from the one suggested.

12. The **drop down menu on the right of the address bar** is also used to give you a list of previously-viewed sites.

Exercise: Practice using this feature (p. 82).

13. You can **customize your start-up page and other features of Internet Explorer** with the *Internet Options...* button under the *Tools* menu. **Remember – You’re customizing Explorer – Not Windows XP!**

Exercise: Set Visual Steps as the home page (p 85).

Challenge: Do you remember what cookies are? Check out other ways you can customize Explorer by exploring the features of the various tabs under *Internet Options...*

14. You can have your Favorites on display all the time by clicking on the Favorites icon.

Exercise: Try out this feature (p. 86).

References:

Stuur, Addo. 2005. *Internet and E-Mail for Seniors with Windows XP*. " Chapters 1 and 2. Visual Steps B.V.

Wikipedia. <http://en.wikipedia.org>. Search terms: "World Wide Web", "Hypertext", "Internet" Uniform Resource Locator", "Address Bar" and "Web Page".

Encarta World English Dictionary. Microsoft Word 2004 for Mac.