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Turn Off AutoComplete

Normally, IE6 attempts to automatically type in web addresses after you begin typing in a few characters. Depending on your setup, IE6 may also try to automatically complete forms and passwords for you as well. While this may seem useful at times, in other instances this automatic completion can be downright annoying.

To turn this feature off, click the "Tools" menu and select "Internet Options". From the multi-tabbed dialog box that follows, select the "Content" tab. Click the "AutoComplete" button. An "AutoComplete Settings" dialog box appears. Now, check or uncheck the options you would like. For example, to stop IE6 from automatically entering in web addresses, uncheck the "Web addresses" checkbox.

Press "OK" to close this dialog box, then "OK" to close the "Internet Options" dialog box.

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Change Text Size Quickly

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If you have a wheel mouse, you can use it to quickly increase or decrease the size of text. Just hold down the CONTROL key and scroll the wheel up to increase text size. Hold down the CONTROL key and scroll the wheel down to decrease text size.

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Jump Back and Forth Between Multiple Pages

Stuck inside a webpage and want to exit the site? Or, did you do this and realize that you need to re-access the document from which you exited? If so, you may find yourself clicking the "Back" or "Forward" buttons multiple times. Stop doing this! Click on the pulldown arrow next to the "Back" or "Forward" buttons and a list of all previous or subsequent pages will appear. Just click on the page that you want to visit.

If you have a hard time clicking on the arrow next to the buttons, just right-click the "Back" or "Forward" button to bring up the same list of sites.

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Find Text on a Particular Webpage

You know how to search for web pages on the Internet, right? Just use a search engine and enter in your desired text and press the search engine's "Search" or "Find" button.

Once you've pulled up a webpage, however, do you know how to search the page, and only the current page, for your desired text? Click the "Edit" menu and select "Find (on this page)". Enter in the text for which you want to search and press "Find Next."

Or, you can press CONTROL-F to pull up the "Find (on this page)" dialog box.

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Load Internet Explorer The Fastest Way Possible!

Edit your link (Short Cut) to start Internet Explorer to have -nohome after it. For Example:

"C:\Program Files\Internet Explorer\IEXPLORE.EXE" -nohome

This will load internet explorer very fast because it does not load a webpage while it is loading. If you want to go to your homepage after it is loaded, just click on the home button.

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Open Links In New Windows Quicker In Internet Explorer!

You may know that to open a link on a web page in a new browser window, you can just right-click the link and choose "Open in New Window" on the pop-up box that appears. There's an easier way to do the same thing. Just hold the SHIFT key down while left-clicking the link.

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Get Rid Of Home Pages!

Tired of seeing MSN, or another webpage every time you start Internet Explorer 6? Get rid of this homepage and start with a nice, blank, clean window by clicking the "Tools" menu and selecting "Internet Options." On the "Internet Options" multi-tabbed dialog box that follows, make sure the "General" tab is selected. Under "Home page," click the "Use Blank" button. Press OK to close the dialog box.

Now, every time you start Internet Explorer 6, a blank page should appear with "about:blank" in the location bar.

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Disable Page Transition Animations In Internet Explorer!

Internet Explorer supports page transition animations. This means that if a webmaster chooses to do so, his or her page can show an animation whenever the page is loaded or exited. While these animations may be nice the first few times you see them, some people may find them annoying. If you fall in this category, there is a simple fix to disable the animations.

Click on the "Tools" menu and choose "Internet Options". On the "Internet Options" multi-tabbed dialog box that follows, select the "Advanced" tab. Underneath "Browsing", you should see a checkbox labeled "Enable page transitions". Uncheck this box and press "OK" to disable these animations.

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Make A Desktop Shortcut In Internet Explorer!

Want a shortcut on your desktop to your favorite webpage so you can access it quicker (such as Internet Fixes at <http://www.internetfixes.com/><grin>)?

Just visit a webpage in Internet Explorer, click the "File" menu, choose "Send", and then select "Shortcut to Desktop".

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View Source Fails In Internet Explorer!

Problems running the "View Source" command with Internet Explorer 6? If this command fails to open Notepad, one culprit may be too many Temporary Internet Files or a corrupt temporary file. I know it doesn't naturally seem the two problems are related, but they are. To get this feature back, you may need to dump Internet Explorer 6's cache.

Clear the Temporary Internet Files in Internet Explorer by clicking "Tools" then "Internet Options". When the "Internet Options" multi-tabbed dialog box appears, select the "General" tab. Click the "Delete Files" button. When the "Delete Files" dialog box appears, check "Delete All Offline Content" then press "OK".

This process may take a few minutes. When done, click "OK" to close the dialog box. Now, the "View Source" option should open Notepad. If not, restart Internet Explorer, revisit the page you were just on, and try again.

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Start Internet Explorer In Kiosk Mode!

You can start Internet Explorer 6 by automatically loading a website and running in kiosk mode, filling the entire screen with the site and hiding all toolbars and menus. This may be useful in batch files.

To do this from the "Start" menu, choose "Run", then type in the following and press "OK".

```
iexplore -k SITE
```

Replace SITE with the name of the URL to visit. For example, the following would start Internet Explorer 6, running Internet Fixes in full-screen mode.

```
iexplore -k http://www.internetfixes.com
```

Or, from a batch file, enter the following:

```
Start "" "C:\Program Files\Internet Explorer\IEXPLORE.EXE" -k SITE
```

Replace SITE with the name of the URL to visit. If the above results in a "File Not Found" error, replace the second quoted string with the path to Internet Explorer on your system.

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Stop Asking To Change Browsers In Internet Explorer!

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If you frequently switch between Microsoft Internet Explorer 6, Netscape, Mozilla, Opera, and possibly other browsers, you may get tired of Internet Explorer always asking you whether or not you would like it to be the default browser. To stop this prompt from appearing, from within Internet Explorer click the "Tools" menu and select "Internet Options". On the multi-tabbed "Internet Options" dialog box that appears, select the "Programs" tab. Uncheck "Internet Explorer should check to see whether it is the default browser" and press "OK" to close the dialog box.

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Remove Right-Click Menu Items In Internet Explorer!

When you right-click on a web page in Microsoft Internet Explorer 6, options normally appear such as "Back", "Forward", "View Source", etc. However, depending on software you have installed (sometimes unwittingly), other options may appear when you open this menu. If you are seeing items in the right-click menu that you want to remove, you can try this trick.

(WARNING! This tip involves modifying the Registry. Mistakes can cause Windows or applications to stop functioning normally. Use at your own risk.)

1. From the "Start" menu, select "Run", then type in "Regedit" and press "OK".
2. In the Registry, navigate to the following section:
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\MenuExt.
3. Now, underneath this key you may find folders representing menu items you want to remove. To remove the menu items, just click on the keys and choose "Delete".

Note that this tip will only remove menu items installed by software. You cannot remove menu items such as "View Source" or "Print" using this tip.

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Display Script Errors In Internet Explorer!

If you are developing a webpage that involves lots of scripts, when you pull up these pages in Microsoft Internet Explorer 6, it may complain that errors are on the page, but the browser may not let you know where the errors occur. Remedy this.

1. Open Internet Explorer, choosing "Tools" - "Internet Options".
2. From the multi-tabbed dialog box that follows, click "Advanced".
3. Scroll down to "Browsing".
4. Check "Display a notification about every script error".
5. Press "OK" to close the dialog box.

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Be sure to uncheck this box when you go back to normal browsing lest numerous dialog boxes interrupt your normal Internet surfing.

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Quick Launch A Web Page In Internet Explorer!

On some versions of Windows, you have a QuickLaunch bar next to the area of the taskbar that shows the currently running programs. This is useful because when programs are here, you can launch them more quickly than by navigating through the "Start" menu, hence the name "QuickLaunch".

If you have a webpage or a couple of webpages that you visit often, you can place shortcuts to these webpages on the QuickLaunch bar. Just visit a webpage, then click and drag the icon on the top-left part of the Internet Explorer window to your QuickLaunch bar.

If you don't like the web page's icon in the QuickLaunch bar, just right-click on the icon and choose "Properties". On the multi-tabbed dialog box that follows, click "Web Document". Then, click the "Change Icon" button. You can choose from the various icons provided, or click the "Browse" button and search your system for more icons. Most DLL and EXE files contain an icon or two, or you can type "%SystemRoot%\system32\SHELL32.dll" (without quotes) in the "File name" box for a bunch of icons.

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See Your Most Visited Websites In Internet Explorer!

Curious about which websites you visited the most in the last couple of weeks? Unless you have disabled your Internet Explorer 6 history function, you can do the following:

1. Open up Internet Explorer 6.
2. Press CONTROL-H to open up the "History" pane.
3. Click on the "View" pull-down and choose "By Most Visited".

The top site in the list is the most visited website. To see how many times you have visited a particular site, right-click on a site and choose "Properties".

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Lost http Prefix In URLs In Internet Explorer!

After dealing with some viruses and spyware, you may have come across a situation in Internet Explorer 6 where the default prefix "http://" is missing.

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For example, if you type in www.internetfixes.com into Internet Explorer, it will never add the "http://" in front, making the correct URL <http://www.internetfixes.com>

If this has happened, copy the text between the --- signs below into a file called 'prefix.reg' (use Notepad or your favorite text editor). Note that the [HKEY] lines are split in two for viewing on this page. Double-click the file from Explorer, and it should solve your problem. Since this is a registry editing tip, all standard disclaimers apply.

```
[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\
Windows\CurrentVersion\URL\DefaultPrefix]
@="http://"
```

```
[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\
Windows\CurrentVersion\URL\Prefixes]
"ftp"="ftp://"
"gopher"="gopher://"
"home"="http://"
"mosaic"="http://"
"www"="http://"
```

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Easter Egg Acknowledgements In Internet Explorer!

Although it's not quite an Easter Egg in Internet Explorer 6.0, the following does provide you with a "Thank You!" screen plus a list of the Internet Explorer 6.0 team members:

1. Open up Internet Explorer 6.0
2. Choose "Help" then "About Internet Explorer".
3. Click the "Acknowledgements" link in the bottom of the dialog that follows.
4. Sit back and enjoy!

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Clicking On A Hyperlink Does Nothing In Internet Explorer!

Does clicking a link in Internet Explorer 6 do nothing? If you are having difficulty running the web browser, part of your operating system or registry may have gotten damaged. This could have been due to a virus, spyware, or just turning off the computer without going through the "Start" - "Shut Down" process. The following Microsoft Knowledge Base article may help:

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;281679>

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Troubleshoot Internet Explorer Running Slowly!

Is Internet Explorer 6 all of a sudden running much more slowly than normal? Here are a few things you should try:

1. Clear your website cache. If it is too big, Internet Explorer 6 may slow down.
2. Scan your computer for viruses with your virus scanner. If you don't have one, consider the free AntiVir product.
3. Defrag your hard drive. Double-click "My Computer" on your desktop. Right-click your hard drive in Windows Explorer, choose "Properties", select "Tools", click "Defragment Now", and follow the on-screen instructions.
4. You may have spyware or adware. Visit the Internet Fixes removing spyware and adware page for more information on ridding yourself of these pests.

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What Version Of Internet Explorer Are You Running!

You should always consider upgrading to the latest version of Internet Explorer to ensure you have all available security and stability updates. To see which version of Internet Explorer you are running:

1. From Internet Explorer 6 - click "Help" - "About Internet Explorer".
2. Read the version information in the "About Internet Explorer" dialog box. If you are running Windows XP and the "Update Versions" does not have at least "SP2", you need to update your web browser.

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What Are Cookies In Internet Explorer!

"Cookies" are data that web sites send to your computer while running Internet Explorer 6. This data can record things such as where you've visited in a site, how often you've visited the site, ..etc. It may also contain auto-login information so if you repeatedly visit a site that asks for your username and password, the cookie can take care of entering this information to the website automatically. Such cookies may also contain personalization information so that if you visit a news site, a cookie may tell the website that you like sports news and don't need to see market reports, for example.

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While some cookies do not associate your actual name with the places you visit, if the web site happens to pick up your name, such as with a cookie that holds auto-login information, and cross-references the two pieces of information, that web site can find out a lot of things about you personally that you may not wish the web site's administrators to know. However, this may be a small price to pay for personalization features.

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Delete All Your Cookies In Internet Explorer!

Using Internet Explorer 6, you can instantly remove all your browser-stored cookies. Just click the "Tools" menu and select "Internet Options". From the multi-tabbed dialog box that follows, select the "General" tab. Click the "Delete Cookies" button underneath "Temporary Internet Files" and press the "OK" button to confirm.

Note that deleting all your cookies may delete saved settings on certain web sites.

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Where Is My Webpage Coming From In Internet Explorer!

Just because you happen to visit a webpage at a given URL does not mean that webpage just comes from one address. Banners may be loaded from other URLs, integrated content may come from elsewhere, scripts may be loaded from other sites, and more.

To see just where your webpage in Internet Explorer 6 is coming from, click the "View" menu and choose "Privacy Report". You'll see a list of all the webpages and graphics that make up your page, plus the cookies that websites tried to set on your machine and whether or not they were accepted or blocked, based on your privacy settings.

Click "OK" to close the dialog box when done.

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Clear The Cache Automatically In Internet Explorer!

For various reasons, you may want your Internet Explorer cache (the Temporary Internet Files folder) to be cleared whenever you exit the browser. Perhaps you don't want the folder to get too big; perhaps you want to clear your tracks for security or privacy reasons, etc. To do this:

1. Open Internet Explorer, choosing "Tools" - "Internet Options".

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2. From the multi-tabbed dialog box that follows, click "Advanced".
3. Scroll down to "Security".
4. Check "Empty Temporary Internet Files folder when browser is closed".
5. Press "OK" to close the dialog box.

If you are doing this for security reasons, do realize that deleted files can sometimes be recovered by people who know what they're doing.

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Clear The History Automatically In Internet Explorer!

Your history file stores the last places you have visited on the web. To make sure the file doesn't get too big, Internet Explorer automatically clears the history after items have been in for a certain number of days. If you find history items being deleted too quickly or if you want to cover your surfing tracks by deleting history items faster, do the following.

Click on the "Tools" menu, selecting "Internet Options." On the "Internet Options" multi-tabbed dialog box that appears, near the bottom of the dialog box, you should see this prompt:

"Days to keep pages in history:"

If you want your history pages to expire after seven days, place a 7 in the box and press OK. If you want pages to expire sooner, enter a smaller number. If you want pages to expire later, enter a larger number.

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Prevent Cookies By Site In Internet Explorer!

Are you concerned about a particular website setting cookies on your machine? You can prevent websites, by domain, from setting cookies on your machine by doing the following from within Internet Explorer 6.

1. Choose "Tools" - "Internet Options".
2. From the "Internet Options" multi-tabbed dialog box that appears, select the "Privacy" tab.
3. Click the "Edit" button next to "To Over ride cookie handling for individual web sites"
4. Type in a domain and press the "Block" button to prevent that domain from setting cookies on your machine.
5. Press "OK" and close both dialog boxes when done.

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Clear Internet History In Internet Explorer!

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Normally, Internet Explorer 6 keeps track of the websites you visited during the last few days in a History list, accessible by pressing CONTROL-H. While this may be useful in that you can more easily remember and access recently visited websites, if several people access your machine, others might also be able to view your recently visited sites. Thus, for privacy, if you want to temporarily clear the History list, do the following:

1. From Internet Explorer, choose "Tools" then "Internet Options".
2. When the "Internet Options" multi-tabbed dialog box appears, select the "General" tab.
3. Click the "Clear History" button.
4. Press "OK" to close the dialog box.

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Change Cookie Preferences In Internet Explorer!

You can change cookie preferences for the Internet zone based on your privacy and Internet usage needs, either allowing all sites to set cookies, disallowing all cookies, or allowing cookies to be set based on certain circumstances.

To set the cookie preferences:

1. From Internet Explorer, choose "Tools" then "Internet Options".
2. From the "Internet Options" multi-tabbed dialog box that appears, select the "Privacy" tab.
3. From here, you can raise or lower the slider to heighten or lessen the cookie blocking settings. To the right of the slider is a description of what each setting does regarding cookies. Note that if you block all cookies, certain websites may not function correctly.
4. Click "OK" when done.

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Disable History Modification In Internet Explorer!

There may be times where you need to disable the ability for a user on your machine to modify their history settings. The following registry edit will do just that for the current user, graying out their history settings. Note that as this is a registry edit, standard disclaimers apply.

1. Open REGEDIT.
2. Navigate to section: HKEY_CURRENT_USER\ Software\ Policies\ Microsoft\ Internet Explorer\ Control Panel.

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3. Create a new DWORD value.
4. Name it "History". Give it a value of "1".
5. Close REGEDIT.

Close and re-open Internet Explorer. If you access the "Internet Options", you'll note that the "History" section is grayed out.

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Disable AutoComplete For Privacy In Internet Explorer!

Normally, Internet Explorer 6 comes enabled with a feature called AutoComplete. This enables Internet Explorer to automatically fill in a web address or a username/password combination in a form when it recognizes such information based on your typing of a partial entry. This may be useful in that it can save you typing, especially if you frequently visit the same site or reenter the same information in forms. However, if someone else uses your machine with the same account, they may be able to see which websites you visit or get access to your username and password information.

To disable all AutoComplete settings:

1. From Internet Explorer, choose "Tools" then "Internet Options".
2. From the "Internet Options" multi-tabbed dialog box that appears, select the "Content" tab.
3. Click the "AutoComplete" button.
4. Uncheck everything.
5. Click the "Clear Forms" button.
6. Click the "Clear Passwords" button.
7. Press "OK" to close the dialog boxes.

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Allow Cookies By Site In Internet Explorer!

If you have Internet Explorer 6 set to reject all cookies due to privacy concerns, you may find it necessary for a certain site or two to be able to set cookies. This may be useful for logins or personalization. To enable a specific site to set cookies on your machine:

1. From Internet Explorer, choose "Tools" then "Internet Options".
2. From the "Internet Options" multi-tabbed dialog box that appears, select the "Privacy" tab.
3. Click the "Edit" button next to "To Override cookie handling for individual web sites".
4. Type in a domain and press the "Allow" button to allow that domain to set cookies on your machine.
5. Press "OK" and close both dialog boxes when done.

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Clear The Website Cache Manually In Internet Explorer!

Internet Explorer 6 normally keeps a cache (a backup copy) of certain parts of recently-viewed webpages on your hard disk. This way, if you return to a page you just visited within the last few hours or days, Internet Explorer 6 can first check to see if the webpage has changed since it was cached on your hard disk.

If the currently-accessed page has not been changed recently, instead of having to load the entire webpage from the Internet, your web browser will instead load parts of it from your hard disk. Especially if you are accessing the Internet via a dial-up connection this can result in a huge speed increase for certain sites.

Situations may crop up, however, where you need to clear this cache. Perhaps you are working on a public machine and don't want others viewing details about the webpages you visited. Or perhaps Internet Explorer 6 is not working quite right; clearing the cache can sometimes solve stability and speed problems with the browser. To clear Internet Explorer 6's cache:

1. From Internet Explorer 6, choose "Tools" - "Internet Options".
2. When the "Internet Options" multi-tabbed dialog box appears, click the "General" tab.
3. Click the "Delete Files" button.
4. Check "Delete all offline content".
5. Click "OK".
6. Wait (it could take a few seconds or a few minutes) for Internet Explorer 6 to clear its cache.

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My Cookies Are Being Deleted In Internet Explorer!

If you need to keep cookies for a particular website (to store login information or preferences), make sure Internet Explorer 6 is configured to enable cookies for that particular site.

If you perform this technique and cookies are still not being saved, check your firewall and anti-spyware software if you have any installed. Depending on your firewall or anti-spyware software settings, all cookies may be deleted

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before being stored on your computer, or they may only be stored until you close the web browser. Techniques for modifying firewall and anti-spyware behavior differ depending on the software packages.

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Try Printing In Landscape Mode In Internet Explorer!

Often when you try to print web pages, Internet Explorer 6 will clip off some of the text on the right, making the printed pages only marginally usable. If this occurs, try printing your web pages in landscape mode.

Click the "File" menu then "Page Setup". On the dialog box that appears, underneath "Orientation", click the "Landscape" radio button. Press "OK" to close.

Now, large web pages may not get truncated by IE6 as the landscape printing provides for much more horizontal room.

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Troubleshooting Bad Webpage Printouts In Internet Explorer!

When you print a webpage using Internet Explorer 6, if the page comes out looking odd because some of the background colors and images are omitted, there is an easy fix. Click the "Tools" menu and choose "Internet Options". On the "Internet Options" multi-tabbed dialog box that follows, select the "Advanced" tab. Scroll down through the option until you see "Printing". Now, check "Print background colors and images" and press "OK" to close the dialog box.

Note that there is a trade-off when doing this; your webpages may print slower and you may use more toner or ribbon. Your printouts, however, should look much nicer and much closer to what you see in the browser.

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Always Preview Before Printing In Internet Explorer!

Before printing a webpage with Internet Explorer 6, always use the Print Preview mode to see how the webpage will look on a piece of paper. Just click "File" and then "Print Preview" to select this mode.

Why is Print Preview so important? Unfortunately, depending on a webpage's layout, graphic elements or blocks of text might get chopped off. Text does not always wrap correctly, so you may print out a page of important text only to find out huge sections of it missing! That is why you should always Print Preview.

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If you notice missing text or graphics in your on-screen virtual printout, you can always change your paper orientation from Portrait to Landscape. Click "Close" to exit Print Preview mode. Click "File" then "Page Setup". On the "Page Setup" dialog box that follows, choose the "Landscape" radio button under "Orientation". Then press "OK" to close that dialog box. Afterwards, preview your document again to see if it looks ok and that no text or graphics are cut. If everything looks fine, click the "Print" button from the Print Preview mode to get a hardcopy of your desired page.

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Shortcut To Security Properties In Internet Explorer!

Instead of navigating menus and dialog boxes to get to the Internet Explorer 6 Security Properties, if your status bar is visible (the bar on the bottom of the IE window), find the icon labeled "My Computer", "Internet", "Local Intranet", "Trusted Sites", or "Restricted Site" on the right side of the status bar. Double-click the icon (or the label) and you will be taken to the Internet Security Properties dialog box.

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Block ActiveX Controls In Internet Explorer!

ActiveX Controls provide websites with added degrees of functionality, interactivity, and multimedia. However, they can also introduce problems, such as rogue software masquerading as valid ActiveX Controls that can do damage to your computer and/or data. If you want to disable the use of ActiveX controls when viewing the Internet, do the following:

1. From IE, choose "Tools" then "Internet Options".
2. When the "Internet Options" multi-tabbed dialog box appears, select the "Security" tab.
3. Click "Internet".
4. Click the "Custom Level" button.
5. When the "Custom Level" dialog box appears, disable all options underneath the heading "ActiveX Controls and Plug-ins".
6. Click "OK" to close the dialog box.

While disabling ActiveX Controls provides a higher level of security, doing so may disable Flash and the usage of Windows Update. You can, though, put valid sites in a "Trusted Sites" zone.

1. From IE, choose "Tools" then "Internet Options".
2. When the "Internet Options" multi-tabbed dialog box appears, select the "Security" tab.
3. Click "Trusted Sites".
4. Click the "Sites" button.

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5. From here, enter websites as appropriate that you feel are trustworthy. Click the "Add" button after adding each site.
6. Click "OK" to close the dialog boxes.

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Always Keep Internet Explorer Up-To-Date!

It's very important that you keep your Internet Explorer browser up-to-date. When a new service pack or security patch is released, get it as soon as possible!

The importance of this cannot be overstated. Although you may normally restrict your browsing to websites that are almost always "safe", there are unfortunately those on the Internet that constantly try to come up with ways to exploit Internet Explorer security holes to cause damage. These people may place rogue code on innocent-looking webpages and try attracting people to visit such sites. Do so with an un-patched version of Internet Explorer, and who knows what could happen? At best, perhaps your home page or search page may get changed without your knowledge. At worst, your browser may crash, your entire computer may crash, or your computer could get infected with a virus.

To find out what updates are available to your browser, open Internet Explorer, choose "Tools", then "Internet Update". Scan for updates and apply the latest browser and patch hot-fixes.

Note that if someone else manages your computer hardware and software (if you are using a computer at work, for example), be sure to contact your administrator before applying fixes. Also, while patches are normally safe to install, there is that minimal chance that a patch or hot-fix could cause problems to your machine. Always back up your important data before applying updates.

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Keep The Home Page From Changing In Internet Explorer!

Tired of webpages or software changing your Internet Explorer home page from about:blank or your favorite website such as Internet Fixes.Com <grin>? There are several ways to help secure Internet Explorer's homepage from being changed.

Before performing any of these techniques, be sure to change the home page to what you desire, close Internet Explorer, then reopen it to ensure the home page is what you set. If the homepage changed again, you may have spyware / adware on your machine that must be disabled and/or removed.

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Once the homepage is set to what you desire, if you are comfortable editing the Registry, the following modification will prevent the Home Page in Internet Explorer from being changed:

1. Navigate to [[HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Policies\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\]
2. Create a new DWORD value called Homepage.
3. Give it a value of 1.
4. Close the Registry Editor.
5. Restart Internet Explorer.

Or, you can try the following anti-spyware software that has options to lock the Internet Explorer Home Page:

SpywareBlaster: - <http://www.javacoolsoftware.com/spywareblaster.html>

(instructions current as of v3.2):

1. Click "Tools".
2. Select the "Misc. IE Settings" tab.
3. Check "Disable the IE Home Page settings area in the Internet Tools Control Panel".
4. Close SpywareBlaster.

SpyBot Search and Destroy - <http://www.spybot.info>

(instructions as of v1.3):

1. Select "Mode" - "Advanced".
2. Click "Tools" in the left pane.
3. Click "IE tweaks" in the right pane.
4. Check "Lock IE start page setting against user changes (current user)".
5. Close SpyBot.

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Prevent An ActiveX Control From Running In Internet Explorer!

For security reasons, you may want to prevent certain ActiveX Controls from running in Internet Explorer. Perhaps you have a malicious control installed that you need to disable that is not currently caught by anti-spyware software, or you know of a particular ActiveX control that you never wish to download and activate in the first place. To do so, the following Microsoft Knowledge Base Article may help:

MSKB 240797 How to Stop an ActiveX Control from Running in Internet Explorer - <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/q240797/>

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Just Show The Frequent Favorites In Internet Explorer!

Do you bookmark a lot of sites with Internet Explorer 6? Your Favorites menu probably gets extremely clogged. One way to help organize this menu is to have IE only show the most recently used Favorites. Then, if you need them, you can click a link to show the rest of the Favorites.

1. Open Internet Explorer 6, choosing "Tools" - "Internet Options".
2. From the multi-tabbed dialog box that follows, click "Advanced".
3. Scroll down to "Browsing".
4. Check "Enable Personalized Favorites Menu".
5. Press "OK" to close the dialog box.

Now, when you click on the "Favorites" menu, only folders and Favorites you have used recently are shown. Click the double-down-arrow to show all your favorites.

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Modify Favorites With The Explorer Interface!

Tired of using the default Internet Explorer 6 mechanisms to modify your Favorites? If you are a Windows "power user", you may find modifying your Favorites with Explorer easier.

1. From the "Start" button, choose "Run".
2. Type "Favorites" (without the quotes) and press ENTER.
(Note that this works under Windows XP and may not work on earlier versions of Windows).

From here it is easy to do the following, and more:

1. Create a folder (right-click in the window, choose "New" then "Folder" and give it a name).
2. Rename a Favorite or folder (click on a Favorite or folder, press F2, then edit).
3. Move a Favorite between folders (just drag-and-drop the Favorite).
4. Delete a Favorite or folder (right-click a Favorite or folder, select Delete).
5. Change a Favorite's URL (right-click a Favorite, choose "Properties", change the URL).

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Delete A Favorite In Internet Explorer!

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To remove one of your Favorites from Internet Explorer 6 without going through the "Organize Favorites" dialog box:

1. Open the "Favorites" menu.
2. Navigate to and highlight the Favorite you want to delete.
3. Right-click, then choose "Delete" from the popup menu that appears.
4. Depending on your Windows settings, you may be asked to confirm moving the Favorite to your Recycle Bin. Say "Yes", and it is gone!

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Print A Favorite Without Visiting the Page!

You can print the webpage of one of your Internet Explorer 6 Favorites without viewing the site in the browser window. To do so:

1. Open the "Favorites" menu.
2. Navigate to and highlight the Favorite representing the webpage you wish to print.
3. Right-click on the Favorite and choose "Print" from the popup menu that appears.
4. Follow the onscreen dialog boxes, and then watch your webpage print without you having to view it in your browser!

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Create A Favorite Shortcut On Your Desktop!

While the Internet Explorer 6 Favorites menu lets you quickly access sites you wish to visit again, perhaps you find the task of opening Internet Explorer 6, accessing the Favorites menu, then finding and clicking the site cumbersome? If you have a Favorite that you visit daily and would like a quick shortcut to it from your Desktop, do the following:

1. Open Internet Explorer 6. Do not maximize the window. If it is already maximized, shrink the window size so you can see the Desktop.
2. Open the "Favorites" menu.
3. Navigate to and highlight the Favorite representing the webpage you wish to print.
4. Hold the right mouse button down on the Favorite, then drag to the Desktop and release the right mouse button.

Voila! A shortcut to your Favorite is now a double (or single, depending on your Windows settings) click away on your Desktop!

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Quickly Rename A Favorite In Internet Explorer!

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Would you like to rename the description of one of your Internet Explorer 6 Favorites without navigating the "Organize Favorites" dialog box?

1. Open the "Favorites" menu.
2. Navigate to and highlight the Favorite you want to delete.
3. Right-click, then choose "Rename" from the popup menu that appears.
4. Type in your new Favorite name and press "OK".

The change should be reflected in your Favorites menu.

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Sort Your Favorites In Internet Explorer!

After you add dozens (hundreds?) of websites to your Internet Explorer 6 Favorites menu, it may be hard to find what you are looking for, especially if you do not organize your Favorites into subfolders. Use this tip to make your task a little easier by sorting your Favorites by name.

1. Open the "Favorites" menu from Internet Explorer 6.
2. Right-click on any Favorites and when the popup menu appears, choose "Sort By Name".

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Disable Add-On Toolbars And Buttons In Internet Explorer!

If you surf the web often, you may have come across various extensions to your web browser such as toolbars, extra link buttons, etc. Or, perhaps you have new buttons and toolbars on Internet Explorer 6 appear without warning and would like to remove them.

If you want to quickly remove these add-ons to your browser without having to go through the "Add/Remove Programs" routine, just click the "Tools" menu and choose "Internet Options". Click the "Advanced" tab on the multi-tabbed dialog box that follows. Scroll down underneath "Browsing" until you find the checkbox "Enable third-party browser extensions". Uncheck this box and press "OK" to close the dialog box.

Finally, close all Internet Explorer browsers and restart them. Voila! The extra toolbars and buttons should now be gone.

If the toolbars reappear, you most likely have spyware on your machine and need to get rid of it. Visit the Internet Fixes Forum page and post a question for more information on ridding yourself of these pests.

<http://internetfixes1.brinkster.net/forum/default.asp>

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