

Accessing the Internet

What Do You Need?

What you need, you already have. If your computer operating system is any version of Windows or MAC, you already have a built in program to access the internet. Generally, these programs are referred to as browsers. They are designed to access the internet via the World Wide Web.

Internet Explorer does just that:

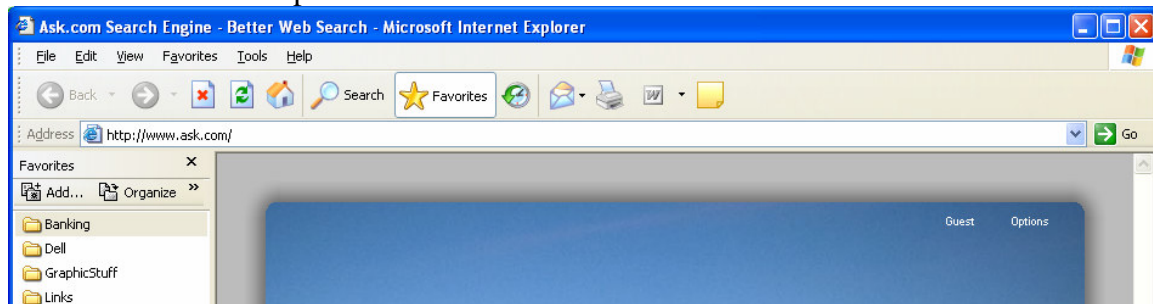
In Windows and now in MAC, Internet Explorer is the most popular browser. You start it by clicking (MAX) or double clicking (Windows) the Internet Explorer icon on the desktop. Your icon may be a slightly different if you have another version of Internet Explorer.



It is assumed that a connection to the internet has already been established. If there is no connection you will get the dreaded “Page cannot be displayed” page. If the connection is available, the browser will load and open the default or “home” page. You can select which of the millions of web pages you would like to use as your home page. Most people find it useful to have a news page or a search engine as their home page.

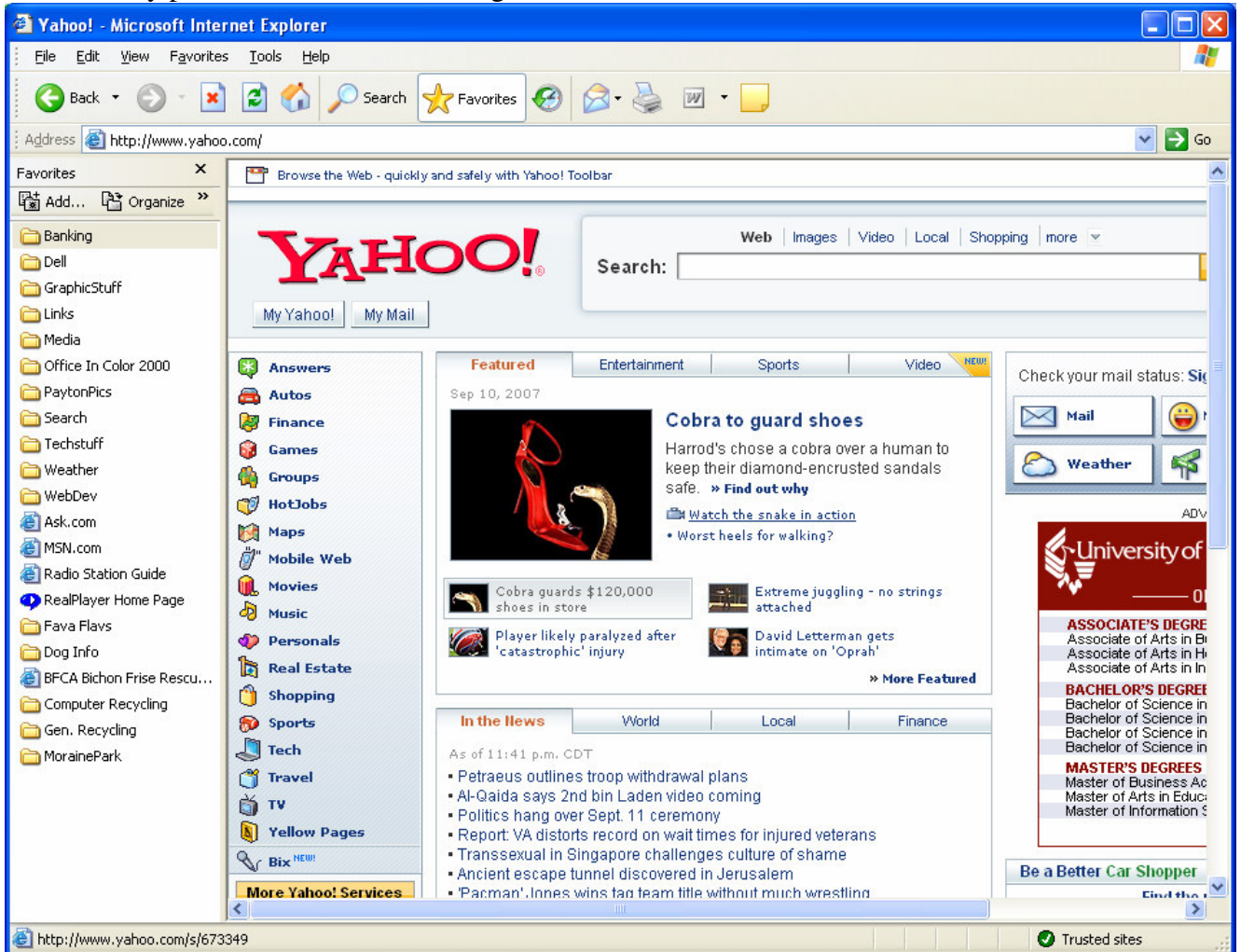
What does it look like?

This is the Internet Explorer toolbar:



The File, Edit, View ... menu is similar to that in most other programs. The line labeled Address has an area for entering a URL which instructs the browser to open a specific web page. For example entering <http://www.yahoo.com> will instruct the browser to open that page, which happens to be a search engine. You can use this page to search the entire web for information on any subject you choose. Try it you'll like it.

Here is an example of a popular search engine page. It is Yahoo.com. It contains a quick navigation section on the left, a body with timely information and links in the center, and some usually paid ads and links on the right.



The underlined text “Watch the snake in action” is a link to a video file which is most likely an animation of the picture next to it. Many of the other lines are also links which become apparent as the mouse moves over each link. Clicking on the link loads and plays the video in this case. If the link is to another web page, the browser will open that web page which has its own text, pictures and links.

Now picture millions of web pages each with its own text, pictures links etc. and you begin to get a feel for the power and scope of the web.

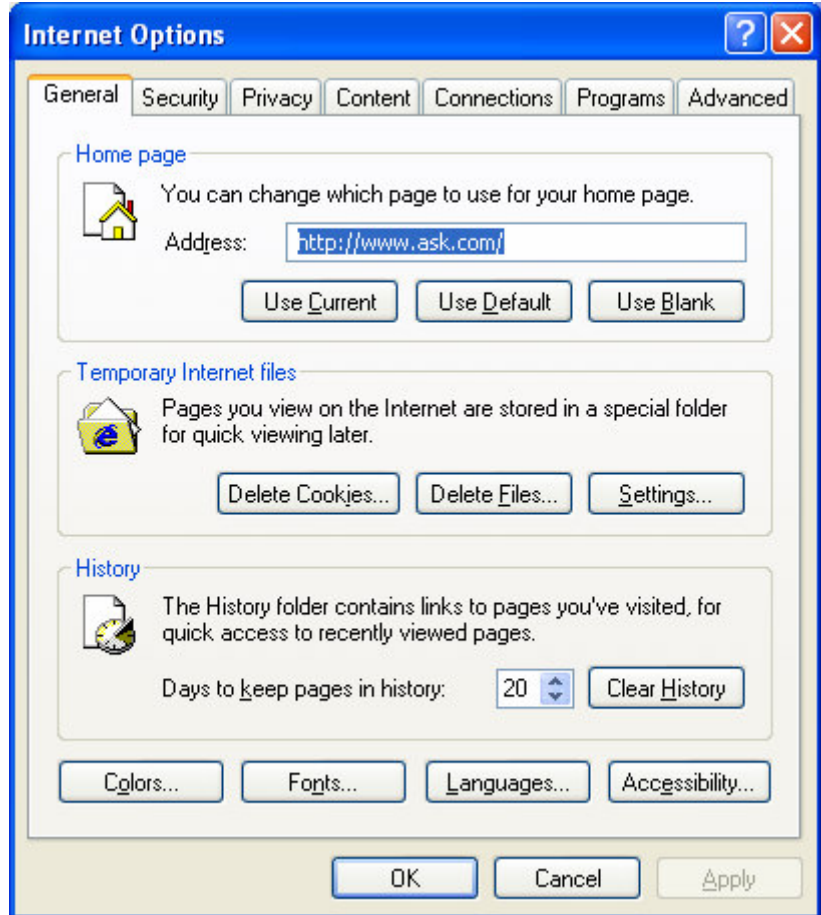
Adjusting the browser settings

You can access the screen to set the home page by clicking on the “Tools” menu item and selecting “Properties”. The screen below will be displayed. The highlighted text is the URL for the home page.

If you first find the page you want to use and open it, you would just click “Use Current” to set the page as your home page. You can also just type in the URL, use Microsoft’s default page or set it to a blank page.

On this screen you can also delete the temporary internet files and cookies. You can also clear the history or url’s that you typed in on the address bar.

Control of the color scheme, fonts, language etc is also available on this screen.



Check back in the future as I add more to this document to cover getting around the web.