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## Reloading The Page

By [Joe Burns](#)

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[\[Reload All By Itself\]](#)  
[\[Reload From A User's Click\]](#)  
[\[Use the Full URL?\]](#)

I started to get email asking for this effect right around the time Internet stocks took off. People wrote asking how the stock sites got their pages to reload all by themselves.

The answer is pretty easy so I usually just wrote and answered in the email. While going through my notebook of possible topics, this one came up as one that is asked about a fair amount so I thought I'd write up a quick tutorial.

The trick to reloading the page is to force the browser to not look into the cache, but rather to again make a connection to the Web and bring up the document from the server. Most people know it can be done by hand by holding the shift key and clicking the "Refresh" (on IE) or "Reload" (on Navigator) buttons. If you didn't know...now you do.



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That's a proven method but it's not exactly very pretty to have text asking the user to hold and click. You want your site to do the trick either by itself, or by offering a method whereas the user simply clicks and the browser does it for them.

Below I have two methods. One will reload every so many second all on its own and the other will reload when the user asks for it.

---

## Reload All By Itself

This one's nice and easy. I'll give you the code. Copy and paste it into the document you wish to reload. Once in there, change the number of seconds you wish the page to wait before starting the reloading process. This code goes in between the [HEAD](#) tags.

```
<META HTTP-EQUIV="refresh" CONTENT="15">
```

Right now, the command is set to reload every 15 seconds. I checked a couple of online sites and they were all set about the same. I found the sites displaying stock information were set to around five minutes or 300 seconds.

I don't have a refresh on this page because the darn thing would just keep refreshing and there's nothing on this page that will update.

---

## Reload From A User's Click

I've seen this done a number of ways, but this is my favorite because it, again, forces the browser to load from the server. It is true that pages can become cached if they are reloaded a great many times, but I have had pretty good success with this. Try it:

[Click to refresh the page](#)

Here's the code:

```
<A HREF="javascript:history.go(0)">Click to refresh the page</A>
```

Rather than using a refresh command, I like to go to the history of the page and set it to zero. The zero is the current page since in JavaScript, lists (arrays) are numbered starting with zero. Here's the same effect in a button:

And the code:

```
<FORM>  
<INPUT TYPE="button" onClick="history.go(0)" VALUE="Refresh">  
</FORM>
```

---

## Use the Full URL?

Again, it's possible that a page using the methods shown above can get cached and can stop reloading from the server. A Webmaster friend told me that if you simply set up a link to the current page but use the entire URL, the page would always reload from the server because the request starts at the domain. For example, the full URL of this page is:

<http://www.htmlgoodies.com/tutors/refresh.html>

If you use that full URL in each of the elements above, you'll lessen the chance the page will cache. Thus, the Meta Refresh would become:

```
<META HTTP-EQUIV="refresh" CONTENT="5; URL=http://www.htmlgoodies.com/tutors/refresh.html">
```

You would then change out the JavaScript formats above to simply go to the URL rather than looking at the history file. In fact, you could lose the JavaScript altogether and just make a simple A HREF link right to the current page. The trick is to use the full URL address so that the process starts at the very beginning.

Again, the effect is the same as you'll get with the code above. It just lowers the chance of the page getting stuck in cache.

---

## That's That

Short, sweet and simple. The effect is useful if done correctly. Two methods of using the effect incorrectly are refreshing so that a counter increases and refreshing so that a new banner ad displays. You don't want to refresh your page unless there's a very good reason. There are programs out there that update banners without refreshing the entire page. The use of the refresh to display new counter numbers is just silly.

And yes, I have seen both usages or I wouldn't have thought to bring them up.

Enjoy!

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- **Xgesaid on September 21, 2017 at 6:18 am**

size of the button?

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- **harshsaid on March 12, 2017 at 7:05 am**

how to load a page continuously for every 15 sec?

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- **Oliver C.said on January 17, 2017 at 4:50 pm**

Very, very helpful. THANKS!!!

[Reply](#)

- **Abhisheksaid on March 28, 2016 at 11:29 am**

I want to reload my webpage using browser's refresh or reload button, not my personal webpage button by creating it. please help me.

[Reply](#)

- **Tracysaid on January 25, 2016 at 10:13 am**

Hi, thanks for the great tips. I'm using this in an app on a static page to re-load a chat box I have iframed in. I'm using the option in the headers (the buttons don't work on the page) and while it works, when it refreshes, it opens the chat in a page of its own. This means the user has to hit back to get back into the app, where the timer seems to start again (which is fine). Do you know of a way to keep everything reloading within the static page of the app rather than opening the chat separate? The chat doesn't refresh on its own, which is what got me looking into a solution that ended me up here. Thanks for your time, I really appreciate it.

[Reply](#)

- **billsaid on July 23, 2016 at 8:38 am**

I would like to automatically reload a page just once.

[Reply](#)

- **Sabarisrisaid on December 1, 2015 at 2:11 am**

Very useful article. Thanks!

[Reply](#)

- **Mikesaid on November 10, 2015 at 12:21 am**

Very useful, well done.

[Reply](#)

- **Mikesaid on October 28, 2015 at 3:51 am**

This is what I have been looking for, ideally the ability to refresh a specific page. However, when I set this up in a Joomla CMS site, within the head section, all pages are refreshed.

[Reply](#)

- **hardCodersaid on May 21, 2015 at 12:47 am**

Amazing Hack!

[Reply](#)

- **CBsaid on May 17, 2015 at 1:37 pm**

Very useful, thanks!

[Reply](#)

- **JBsaid on February 2, 2015 at 1:30 pm**

Just what I was looking for. Thanks!

[Reply](#)

- **dutchsaid on January 21, 2015 at 2:34 pm**

I have been searching and searchin and seraching on the internet. Is there really no html code for refreshing a page once? As for my visitors it's not nice if every 15 sec or so the website will be refreshed. If someone knows how to refresh a page ones automatically I would be soooo happy!! :-)

[Reply](#)

- **Skysaid on January 19, 2016 at 3:21 pm**

How would you do that? Wouldn't the count be reset when the page refreshed?

[Reply](#)

- **Willsaid on September 2, 2015 at 2:02 am**

Just have it triggered in a script, that way you could put it in a loop with a sleep command after it or just have it called when ever (onload for example).

[Reply](#)

- **said on May 12, 2015 at 9:07 am**

Hey dutch. The above codes gives the opportunity for your users to reload the page by they will. Your question "Is there really no html code for refreshing a page once?" isnt specified. Once per session, per hour?? Anyway, heres a code to reload your page every hour. You can change the time on the <> section. --- [removed] function refreshpage(interval, countdownel, totalel){ var countdownel = document.getElementById(countdownel) var totalel = document.getElementById(totalel) var timeleft = interval+1 var countdowntimer function countdown(){ timeleft-- countdownel[removed] = timeleft if (timeleft == 0){ clearTimeout(countdowntimer) [removed].reload() } countdowntimer = setTimeout(function(){ countdown() }, 1000) } countdown() } window.onload = function(){ refreshpage(3600, "countdown") // refreshpage(duration\_in\_seconds, id\_of\_element\_to\_show\_result) } [removed]

[removed] function refresh() { var x=document.getElementById("").src; document.getElementById("").src=x; } [removed] ----- greets from Greece, Nick :)

[Reply](#)

- **nilssaid on August 28, 2016 at 11:03 pm**

Once per session, of cause. The problem is, e.g. in Firefox, that it will exhibit a cached version instead of a possibly changed one.

[Reply](#)

- **Will , add this code javascript to your page, to reload your page every 60 seconde. You can change the time.said on April 8, 2016 at 3:27 am**

```
[removed] <!-- var running = false var endTime = null var timerID = null function startTimer() { running = true now = new Date() now = now.getTime() endTime = now + (1000 * 60 * 1) showCountDown() } function showCountDown() { var now = new Date() now = now.getTime() if (endTime - now <= 0) { stopTimer() action = history.go (0) } else { var delta = new Date(endTime - now) var theMin = delta.getMinutes() var theSec = delta.getSeconds() var theTime = theMin theTime += ((theSec < 10) ? ":0" : ":") + theSec document.forms[0].timerDisplay.value = theTime if (running) { timerID = setTimeout("showCountDown()",1000) } } } function stopTimer() { clearTimeout(timerID) running = false document.forms[0].timerDisplay.value = "0:00" } //--> [removed]
```

[Reply](#)

- **Micky said on December 19, 2016 at 11:57 pm**

adding the date picker

[Reply](#)

- **WebCamSuesaid on January 3, 2015 at 7:12 am**

Thank you!

[Reply](#)

- **sandeep Machasaid on November 17, 2014 at 5:56 am**

I want to get to the new different URL from current, when we "refresh" any suggestions?? I want to go one page back ("Last URL") when er refresh the page.. any suggestions??

[Reply](#)

- **yay!said on October 18, 2014 at 5:59 pm**

nice!

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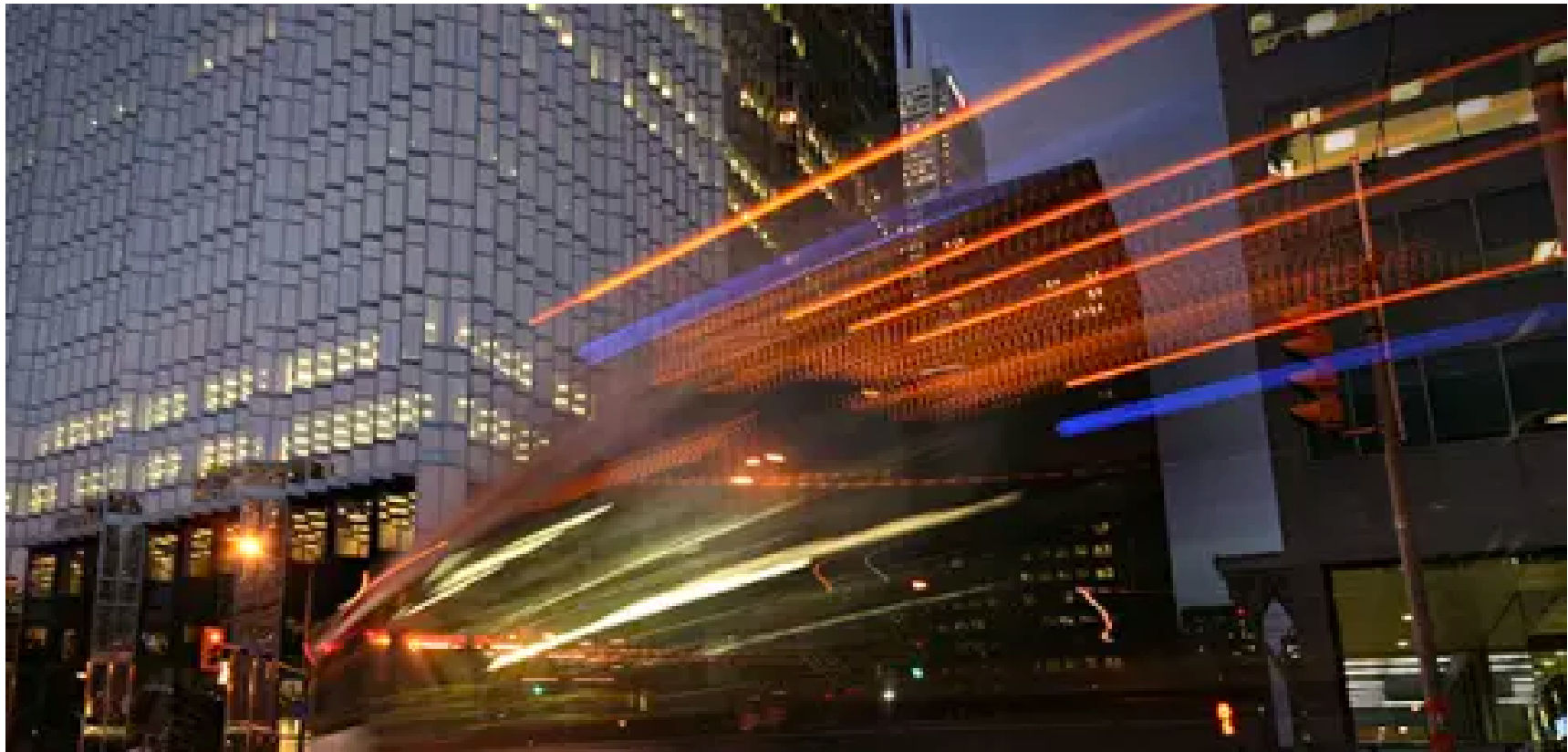
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