

Bowie Senior Center

Surfing the Web

(Without a wetsuit)



Introduction

Surfing the web is just another term for the activity of searching the Internet for web sites of interest. The Internet is a very powerful and fun-filled resource. Even new users find that searching the web is fairly easy to learn and use. This lecturer will provide you with the basics of logging onto the Internet and using a search engine. This handout also provides some suggested resources for further study. Following the lecture we will have fun by logging onto "What things to do when bored on the Internet" (Internet Resource 1) listed on the last page and exploring the various site suggestions.

Terminology

Internet Service Provider (ISP) - An ISP is an organization that provides services for accessing, using, or participating in the Internet. Internet service providers may be organized in various forms such as commercial, community owned, non-profit, or otherwise privately owned. Companies such as Verizon and Comcast provide these services for a fee. Email is usually included with the service.

Web Browser - A web browser (commonly referred to as a browser) is a software application for retrieving, presenting, and traversing information resources on the World Wide Web. Common browsers are Microsoft Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox for PCs, and Safari for Macs.

Search Engine – A search engine is a software system that is designed to search for information on the World Wide Web. The search results are generally presented in a line of results often referred to as search engine results pages (SERPs). Some common search engines are Google, Yahoo, Bing, and Ask.

Wi-Fi - Wi-Fi, also spelled Wifi or WiFi, is a technology that allows an electronic device to exchange data or connect to the internet wirelessly. The signals are produced by wireless routers. These can be in your home or in public places like this classroom, McDonald's, and a library. The receiving zone for a wireless router is called a hotspot.

Surfing the Web – Surfing simply means searching the Internet for information or web sites by typing a question or subject in the search box of a search engine.

URL - A **uniform resource locator**, abbreviated as URL (also known as web address, particularly when used with HTTP), is a specific character string that constitutes a reference to a resource. In most web browsers, the URL of a web page is displayed on top inside an address bar.

Getting Started

Prerequisites

1. A computer or tablet capable of connecting to the internet (either by wire or Wi-Fi)
2. An installed browser and search engine
3. Subscription to an ISP or be located in a free WiFi hotspot
4. Some form of security software installed and updated such as Anti-virus and Malware.

Logging on - This simply means opening your browser by clicking its icon.

Opening the search engine - Some browsers have the search engine displayed in the opening window. For example: Microsoft Internet Explorer displays the Bing search box in the opening window. To use a different search engine, such as Google, you can type "Google" in the search box and press enter or click the magnifying glass symbol. A list of web sites will be displayed from which to choose.

Choose a site - A single click on a site title will open the site's web page.

Things to Search for

The internet offers numerous opportunities. Here are just a few examples taken from Internet Resource 1 listed on the last page of this handout.

- Learning and research
- Multimedia - music, radio, podcasts, videos, vlog, webcam
- Games and entertainment
- Improve yourself
- Shop - online stores and auctions
- Directions, maps, and geographic information
- Get fit, find a date, or locate a social event
- Keep up with current events
- Communicate - chat, e-mail, forums, IM, blogs, and VoIP
- Surf and find popular pages

Surfing Safely

In addition to having a good security system on your computer:

- Be careful what you download.
- Never provide personal information unless you initiate the connection and the site has a secure connection as indicated by "https" before the web address.

- When downloading an application or update, it is best to do so from a known and reliable site. The address will usually start with the name of the company.
- Keep applications current by allowing updates to be installed.
- Take care when clicking links, especially in emails.
- Download from known and trusted sites.
- Stay educated on the latest Web scams.

Favorite Sites

When you have found a site that you like, you can save the address for future access by bookmarking it. While the site is open, click the **Bookmarks** button in the menu bar and click **Bookmark this Page**. You can organize the bookmarks in folders such as shopping, games, and movies.

Internet Resources

1. <http://www.computerhope.com/issues/ch000721.htm>
2. <http://www.centerspan.org/tutorial/surf.htm>
3. <http://www.learnthenet.com/learn-the-web/>
4. <http://www.wikihow.com/Search-the-Internet>
5. <https://support.google.com/websearch/answer/134479?hl=en>
6. <http://hanlib.sou.edu/searchtools/howto.html>
7. <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/SearchEngines.html>
8. <http://docs.oracle.com/javase/1.5.0/docs/api/java/net/URL.html>
9. <http://www.gcflearnfree.org/searchbetter/google-search-tips>



