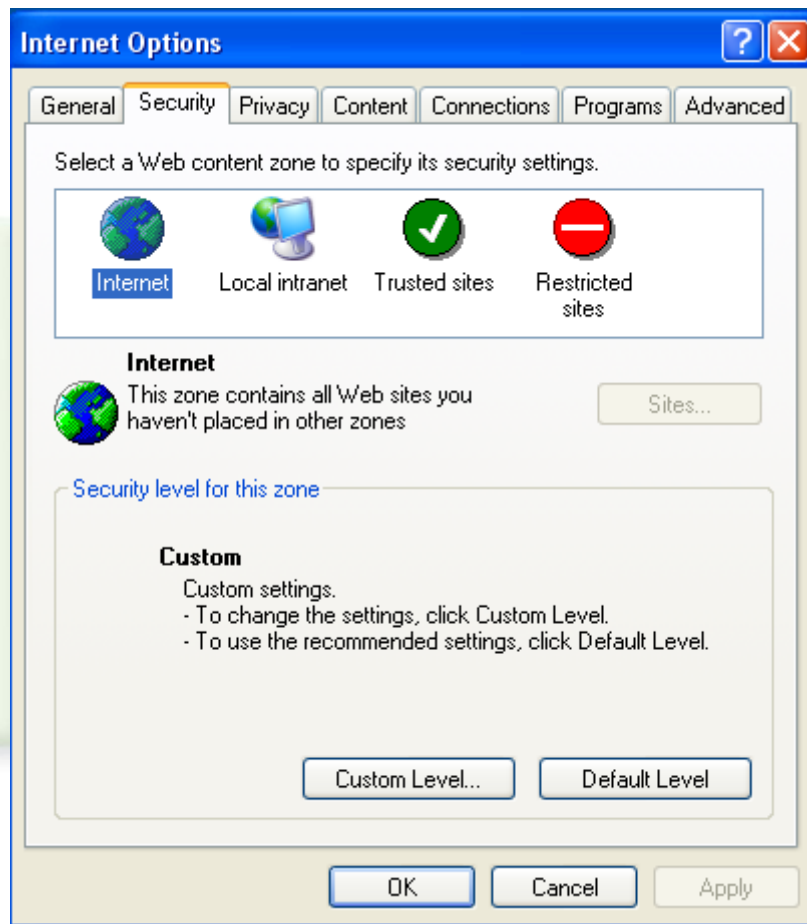# 6.4.1

SECURITY SETTINGS

(Microsoft Internet Explorer)

Objective

At the end of this lab students will be able to set the security options within Microsoft's Internet Explorer and set up custom zones (Trusted, Restricted, local intranet) for different web sites.

Information for Laboratory

A. Students will use Microsoft IE's security option tab to set up restricted and trusted zones.
B. Students will test their configurations by going to selected web sites that they set up on their computer.
C. Students will evaluate the effectiveness of the security setting options available with Microsoft Internet Explorer.

Student Preparation

The student will have completed requisite reading. The student will require paper for notes and should be prepared to discuss the exercises upon completion.

Estimated Completion Time

30 Minutes

Internet Web Access Security

The internet and email are the two most common ways of infecting PCs nowadays. ActiveX, Java applets, file downloads, etc. from unknown sites can do a lot of damage to PCs.

Microsoft IE Security Settings

Tailoring the myriad security option settings with IE can be a daunting task for the casual user. This lab will take you through most of the available options in IE.
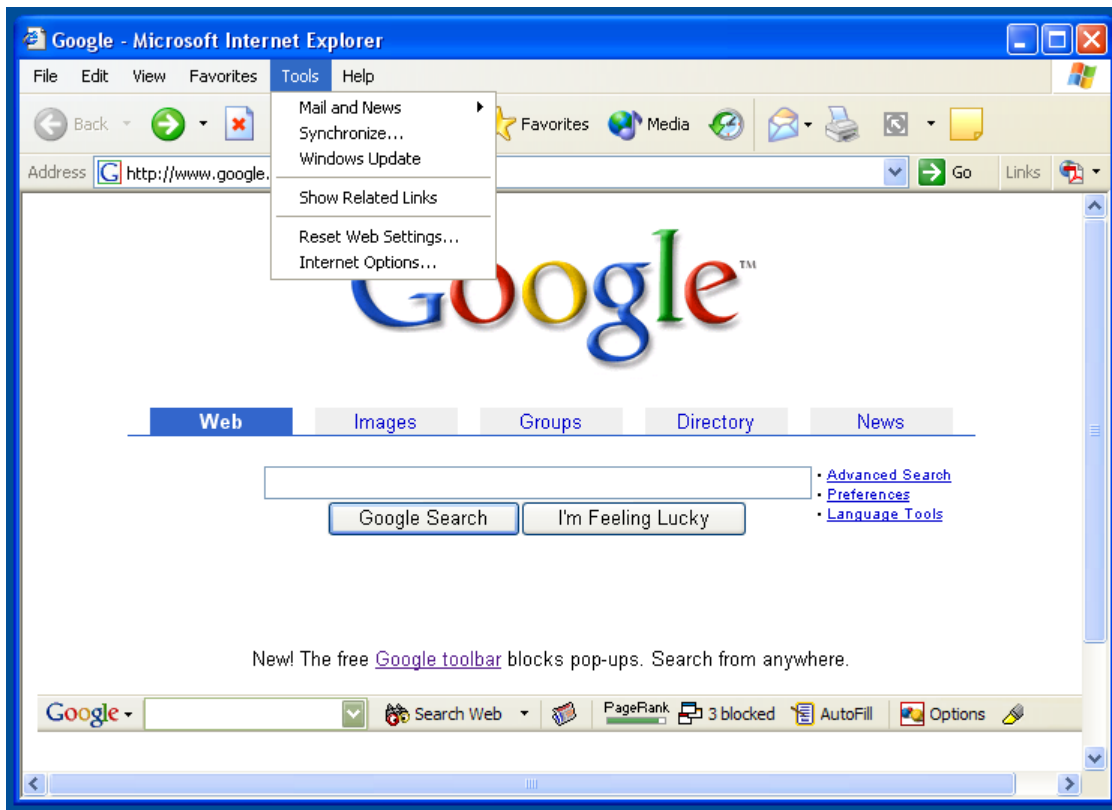
Step 1:

Click on the Microsoft Internet Explorer icon on your desktop.

You will be brought to a particular web site based on your settings. As you can see, the computer below defaulted to the google site.
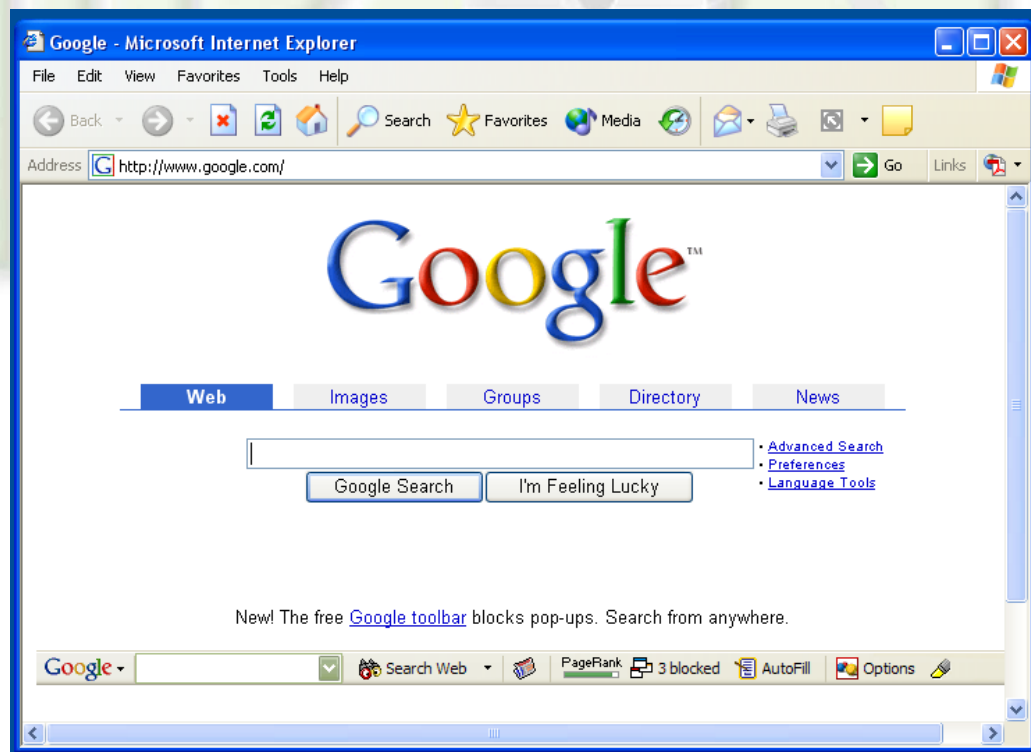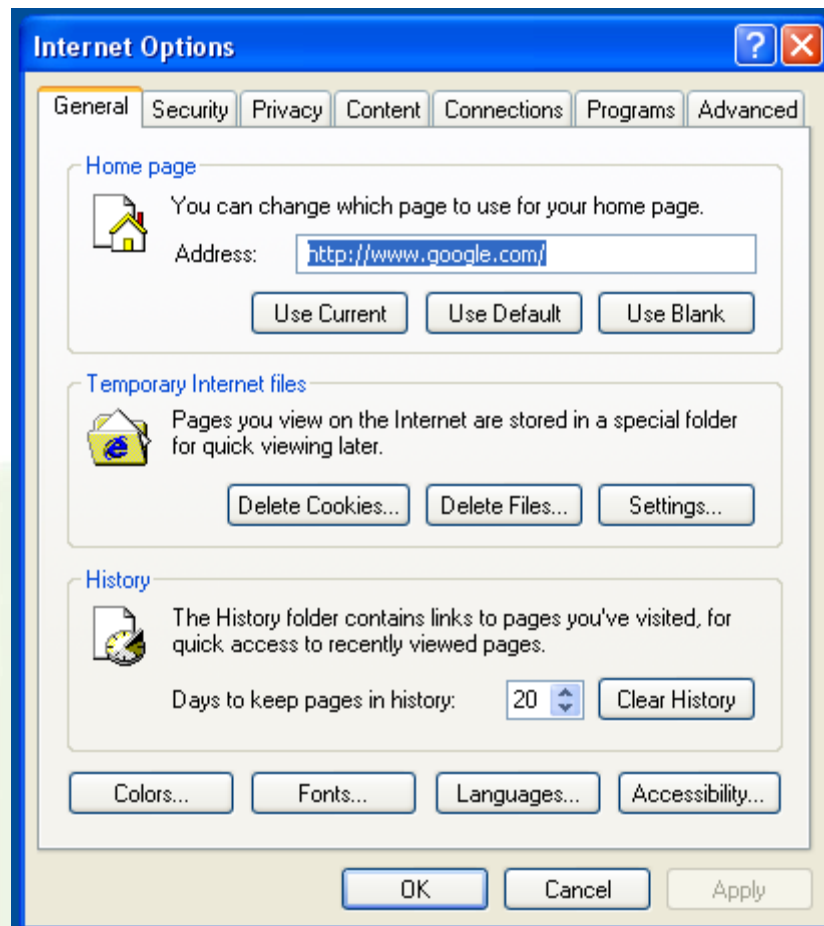
Step 2:

Click on Tools up on the IE tool bar at the top of the screen. You will see the screen below.
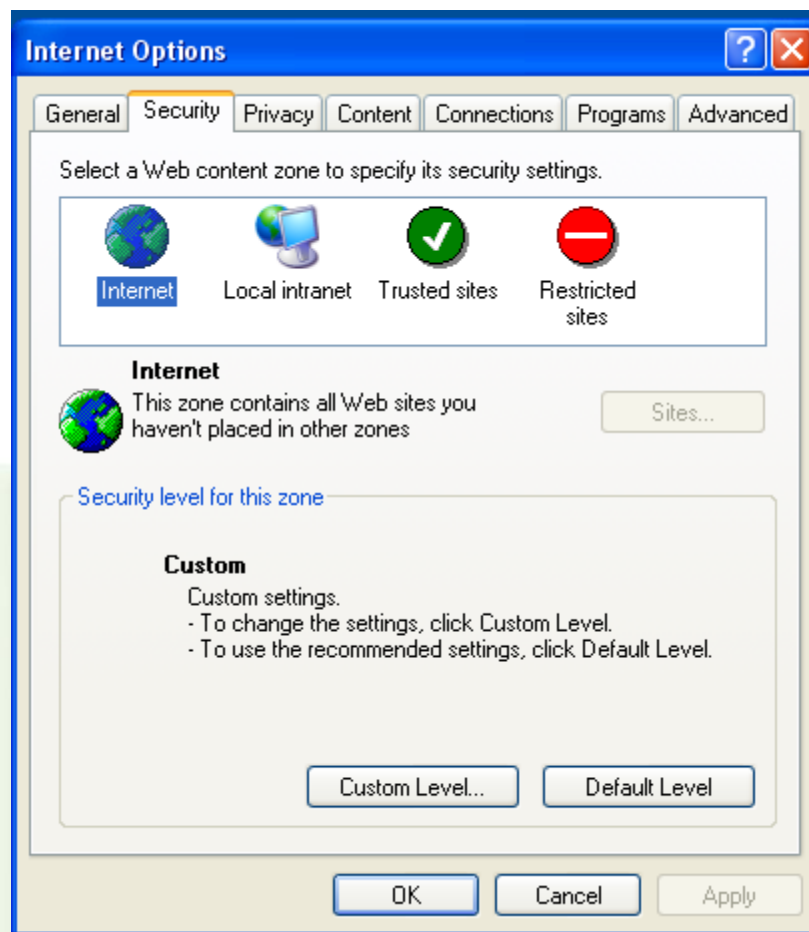
Step 3:

Click on the Internet options item. You will be brought to
another screen which looks like the one shown below.

Step 4:

Click on the Security Tab. You will see a screen similar to the one shown below.

Microsoft divides up web sites into four different "zones", Internet, Local intranet, Trusted sites and Restricted sites. The Local intranet zone contains all web sites that are part of an organization's intranet. The Trusted site zone is composed of web sites outside of the organization that you trust will not harm your PC. The Restricted sites zone contains web sites identified as being potentially damaging to the PC. The Internet zone would be every other site that does not fit within the other three zones. You can then tailor your security settings for each zone.

Step 5:

We will first add a site to the Restricted zone and configure the security level settings for this site. Click on the Restricted sites Icon and then click on the Sites Button. You will see a screen similar to the one shown below.
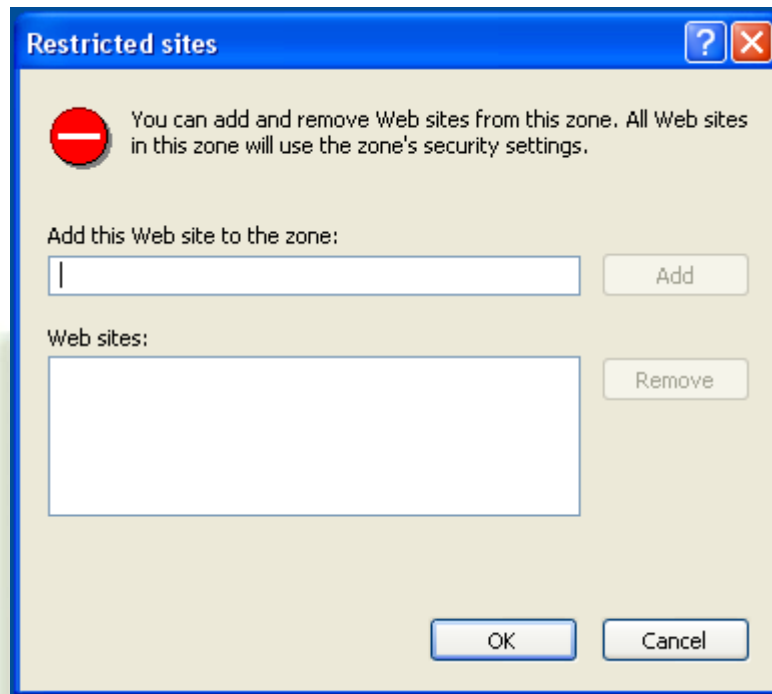
Your cursor will be in the text box shown. Type in www.tonylevin.com and click the Add button. Click OK. You will be brought back to the Security Tab screen.

You have now put the tonylevin.com web site in the Restricted sites zone. However, the security level for each zone uses the Default IE settings. To change or look at the settings you need to click on the Custom Level button. We will do this now. Click on the Custom Level button. You will see a screen similar to the one shown below.
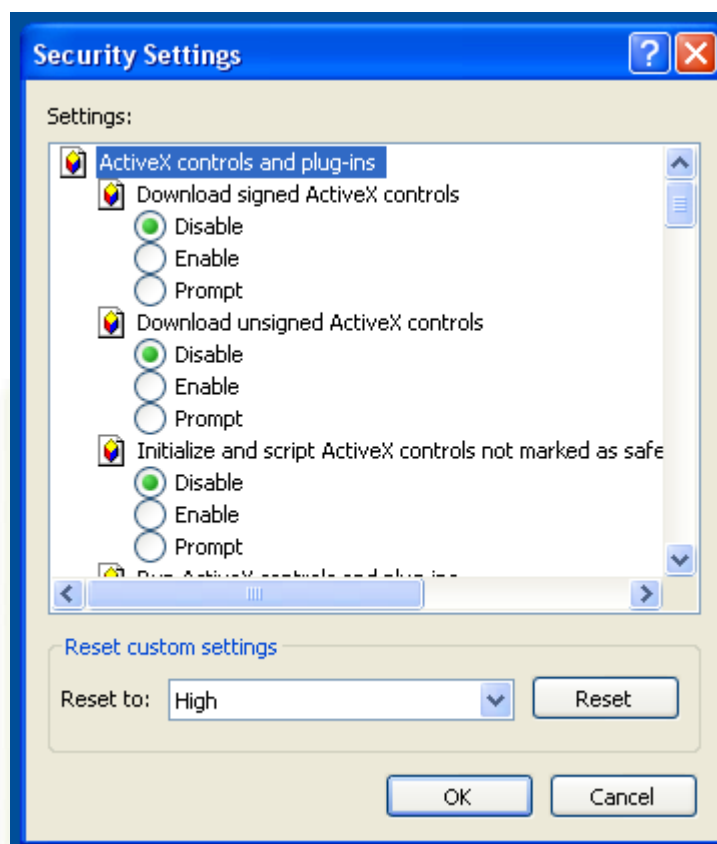
Changing the security settings can be done via two ways. The first way is to use the Reset to option. You have four choices. High, Medium, Medium-low, and Low. By choosing one of these four options, the Radio buttons automatically set themselves accordingly. Using the slider bar, look at the current radio buttons set with the High option. Let's see what happens if you reset your security settings from high to Medium. Hint: To do this, click in the Drop down box, pick Medium and then click Reset.   It will ask the user if they really want to change the security setting for this zone. Click on Yes.

Did any of the Radio button settings change? _____

List two or three that did. _____

_____

Another way to change the security settings is to individually pick which options you wish to allow or restrict by clicking on the appropriate Radio buttons.

Step 6:

Make sure the Reset Custom settings is set to High and click on Reset. Click Yes when prompted.

Step 7:

Using the slider bar, go down until you come to the File download option.

Disable file downloads.

Step 8:

Let's test our settings. Click on OK to get back to the security Tab and click on OK again to get to the home page of IE. Enter in www.tonylevin.com in your browser.

Step 9:

On the main page, click on the Site Stuff link at the top of the page. You will see a screen similar to the one shown below.

Click on one of the links under the MEDIA heading. When you click on it you should see something similar to this.

Security Alert

Your current security settings do not allow this file to be downloaded.

OK
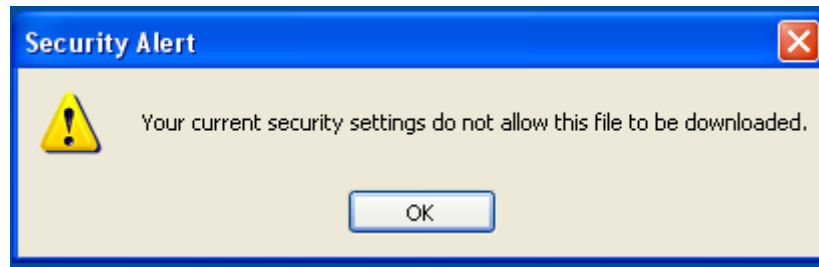
The reason for this is that the File Downloads option is disabled.

Analysis

1) What Radio button option settings do you think are most important ?

2) After working with IE security settings, what do you like about it?

3) What is a weakness with it?

Summary Discussion

A classroom discussion should follow the lab. Review the lab questions and your analyses as a group. Share your experiences and knowledge with the class.

If You Want To Learn More

Research personal firewall software with similar functionality such as Norton Internet Security or ZoneAlarm.

Appendix

This lab was done using MS Internet Explorer version 6.0.2900 The computer operating system was Windows XP Professional version 2002 Service Pack 2