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HOW-TO (/HOWTO)

How to erase specific autosuggested URLs from Chrome, Firefox, and IE

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A big part of my job is doing research online. That's why I'm always looking for ways to make the process easier. One feature that can really help is the autocomplete function.

(http://www.pcworld.com/article/226725/browser_2)

address bar gets filled with mistyped URLs and sites I visited once but never will again. If you've ever spent a boring night surfing around the web chances are your browser's autosuggest function tosses up similar unwanted ghosts.

Erasing *all* autosuggested URLs from your browser is easy, but it would slow you down even more than a few bad suggestions. Deleting just the unwanted URLs, however, really streamlines the browsing experience.

Here's how to dump the annoying addresses while keeping all the good stuff in Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer, and Opera.

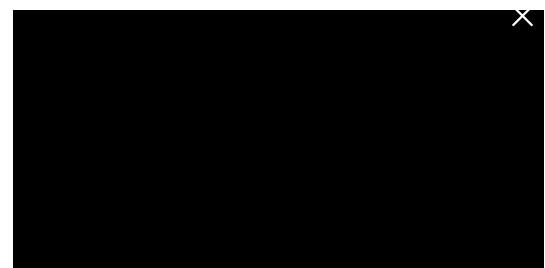


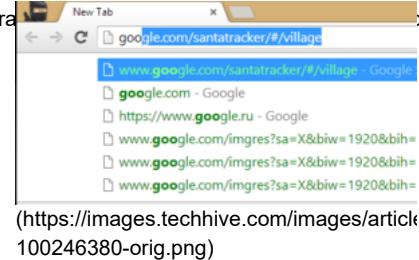
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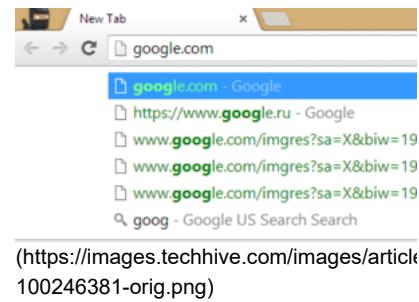
Chrome





Time to get rid of Santa.

Over the Christmas holidays every year, I spend a lot of time researching the various online Santa trackers for our [annual round-up](#) (<https://www.pcworld.com/article/3018063/internet/how-to-track-santa-claus-on-christmas-eve-from-any-device.html>). Way back when that article was first published, I visited Google's Santa site so many times that Chrome automatically suggested I go to Santaland every time I typed in 'Google.com'—even though the santa tracker URL has since changed.



Sayonara, Santa.

To delete a single autosuggested URL, start typing the address as you normally would—Google.com in my example. Then, when the unwanted autocomplete suggestion appears, use your keyboard's arrow keys to highlight the suggestion in the drop-down menu below the address bar.

Finally, press **Shift-Delete** and *poof!* The suggestion disappears. Good riddance Santa...at least until next Christmas.

Firefox

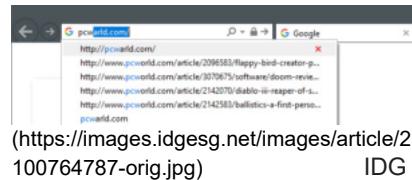


Delete Firefox URLs
with the tap of a button.

The same basic concept you use to delete autocomplete suggestions in Chrome also applies to Firefox. Start typing the URL and then highlight the mistyped URL in the drop-down menu when it comes up. But instead of pressing **Shift-Delete** as we did in Chrome, simply press the *Delete* button to scrub the errant entry.

In the latest versions of Firefox when you delete a highlighted entry it still remains in the address bar, but you can get rid of it with a quick highlight and backspace.

Internet Explorer



Internet Explorer also
lets you scrub singular
URLs with a simple
mouse click.

There's no reliable way to scrub auto-suggested URLs from Microsoft Edge, but Internet Explorer's autocomplete scrubbing works well. If you type an address in the drop-down menu, you'll see an 'x' character next to it. Click that 'x' and it's gone.

Again with IE as with Firefox, the bad suggestion leaves the drop-down menu but remains in the address bar, requiring manual deletion.

Opera



Deleting URLs in Opera's history is similar to Internet Explorer.

Opera's method of deleting URLs is very similar to Internet Explorer's.

Highlight the URL in the address bar and look for an 'x' to the far right. Click that, and the URL will be erased.

In Opera this method works only for sites in your history. It won't include suggestions drawn from your favorites or suggestions pulled from your default search engine. Just like most of the other browsers, the suggestion will remain in the address bar after you delete it from the drop-down, but a quick highlight and backspace will get rid of it forever.

There you have it! A simple way to make your preferred browsers a little easier to use, especially if you're prone to mistyping.

This article originally published February 18, 2014.

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Ian is an independent writer based in Israel who has never met a tech subject he didn't like. He primarily covers Windows, PC and gaming hardware, video and music streaming services, social networks, and browsers. When he's not covering the news he's working on how-to tips for PC users, or tuning his eGPU setup.

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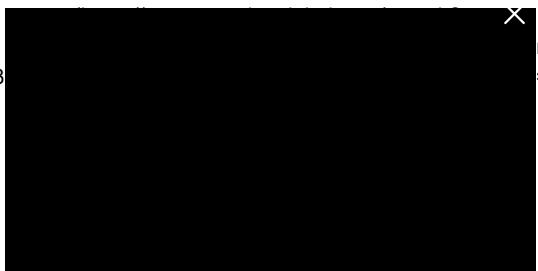
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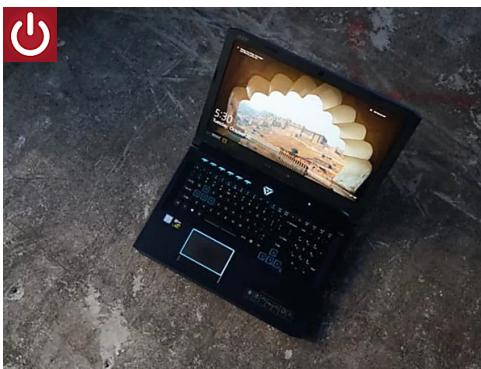
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