



Modern Web Surfing

Every computer that comes with a windows operating system also comes with Internet Explorer. There are, however, alternatives to Internet Explorer that are faster and/or more secure. The problem with using alternate browsers is that not all web sites will work with them. Some companies only test their web site's capabilities with Internet Explorer, and therefore the site might have a function that does not work with other browsers. This means that if you use a different web browser you still may be forced to use Internet Explorer some of the time.

Lately, security on the internet has become a greater concern than it used to be. Firefox is one of the new web browsers designed with security in mind and is just as easy to use as Internet Explorer. With Firefox you get almost no pop-ups and it is much safer from spyware.

Another advantage of Firefox is the ability to use the software as "tabs". A tab in Firefox allows you to have multiple browser windows open within one browser session. This looks just like when you use Excel and you open a document that has several sheets in it. You are able to go to each page without closing the others or opening the program again.



The reason this is so useful is that your computer uses less memory and other resources to run a browser with multiple tabs open than it does to run multiple browsers. This

makes your computer run faster while viewing multiple sites at once.

Another advantage of Firefox is that it is an open-source program. This means that any programmer can view their code and suggest bug fixes or improvements. It also means that any programmer can try to make extensions that add new abilities to Firefox. These extensions are then offered for free on the Firefox site. Some of the most popular of these extensions include the ability to block banner ads and being able to see the weather from weather.com on the bottom right of your browser.

Overall, moving to another browser depends on your happiness with Internet Explorer and your comfort level with other browsers. Regardless of your final decision, the future will only bring more options for the web surfers of the world.

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Backups for Business

Everyone who owns a business knows that losing critical data, such as customer orders or financial information, can be a nightmare. In a perfect world data backup would never be needed, but in today's computerized world, it's a necessity. Loss of data means at the least, loss of time spent retyping needed documents or re-creating spreadsheets. That loss of time translates to a loss of money. In a worse case scenario, it can mean a total loss of data; a disaster for a business.

There are many methods for implementing a reliable backup, and they may differ depending on company size and the amount of data that needs to be backed up. For small businesses with two to five computers whose data remains on their individual computers, a simple storage device which attaches to the network may be sufficient. In this scenario, a Network Attached Storage (NAS) device is attached to the network and is shared, and treated as an additional hard drive. These devices typically come with software that can be used to schedule regular backups of important

files, such as business documents or financial information. The price range for such a device is relatively inexpensive, with a general range of three to eight hundred dollars, depending on size.

For bigger businesses with more employees in a workstation/server environment, magnetic tape backup is highly recommended. The drives are similar to floppy disk drives, with a tape cartridge inserted which holds the data. A backup software, such as BackupExec or TapeWare, is used to choose what is backed up and on what schedule. Backups

should be run nightly, with an individual tape dedicated to each week day. Depending on the sensitivity and importance of the data, an additional tape should be used to run a separate backup weekly or monthly. This is an additional failsafe, needed in the event that anything should happen to the tapes or if an older file is needed.

Regardless of which backup method is best for your company, one thing remains clear: having a reliable backup and a computer company to verify its functionality is one of the most important aspects of today's business networks.



"You know what this relationship could use? A delete key."