



Please visit our
Computer Tutor

to learn more about computers!

One-on-one computer assistance is provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

Available most Thursdays
3pm-4pm and 7pm-8:30pm



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Take-Along Tutor: Using the Internet

What is the Internet?

The Internet is a network of computers spanning the globe. It allows individuals to communicate and interact with each other around the world. Also called the World Wide Web, the Internet provides a quick and easy exchange of information and is recognized as a central tool in the Information Age.

What is a browser?

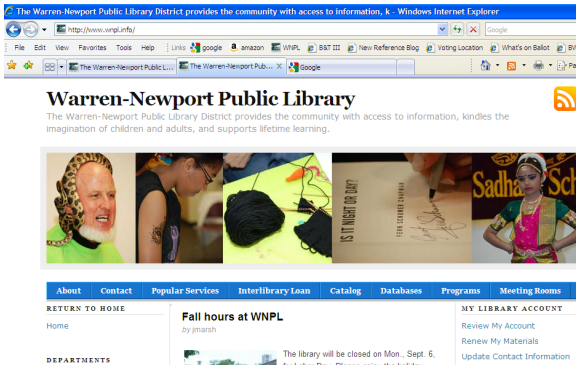
An Internet browser is a computer program that allows you to view Internet pages on your computer. It "decodes" computer signals and allows you to view a web page in a graphic format (i.e., with words and pictures). A browser also provides tools for searching the internet, like tool bars and address bars, which we will discuss later. The two most popular browsers are Microsoft's Internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox.

What is a Web Site? What is a Web Address?

A web site is one “place” on the Internet. Think of it as being one house in a huge city of houses. A web page is one portion or section of a web site (like a room inside of a house). Much like a house, a web site is located by its address. Web or Internet Addresses are written like this: <http://www.wnpl.info>. A web address is also called a URL (uniform resource locator – see handout). REMEMBER...a web site must be typed in **precisely**, or you will not get to the proper place!

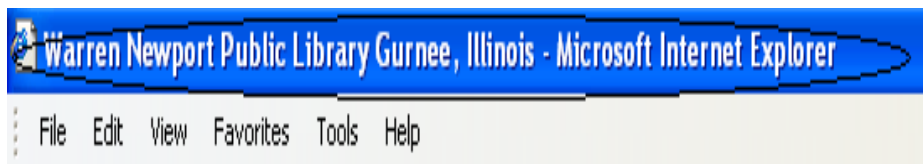
What is a Home Page?

Your “home page” is the first page you see when you start your Internet browser. At the library, the home page is the library’s web site, <http://www.wnpl.info>. From home, you may have a home page from your Internet provider (i.e., SBC Yahoo, AOL, Comcast, etc.). Clicking on the “home” icon in your browser will always return you to the home page.



Parts of a Web Browser Window

Title Bar The title bar displays the title of the page you are currently visiting.



NOTES

Forward Button: Reverses the action of the **Back** button

Home Button: Takes you to the Home page

Hyperlink: A word, phrase, sentence, picture, or other item on a web site that allows you to click on it to go to a different page

Web Address: A combination of letters, numbers and symbols that represent the location of a Web page on the Internet, also known as the **Uniform Resource Locator, or URL**

Address Bar: Displays the current Web page address

Browsing or Surfing: The process of searching for information on the World Wide Web

Web Sites Worth A Try

Google (<http://www.google.com>)

King of the search engines, Google is the most popular Internet search tool available. You can use natural language to search huge portions of the Internet.

Example search: "Tax Forms"

Yahoo! (<http://www.yahoo.com>)

Yahoo! is a search index – it will search the web, but it also provides topics and categories that have been “pre-searched”, with the results listed by subject area.

Example search: Click on the “Finance” tab to locate information on financial data and tax forms.

Warren Newport Public Library Website (<http://www.wnpl.info>)

The library’s web site will allow you to search our catalog, as well as a variety of premium databases (magazine and newspaper articles, genealogy databases, and more).

Example search: Use the catalog to find the new John Patterson book, “Cross”.

Kelley Blue Book (<http://www.kbb.com>)

Search for new and used car prices, as well as automotive reviews.

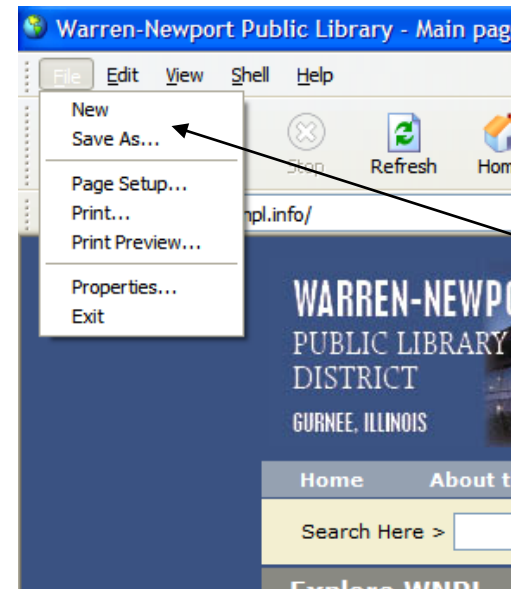
Example search: Find the price of a 2004 Toyota Camry with 40000 miles.

Chicago Tribune Weather Page

(<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/weather/>)

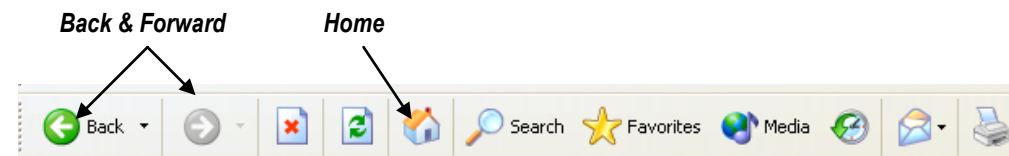
Find the latest weather forecast and radar. You can also search for weather histories (i.e., did it snow last year on your birthday?)

Drop-Down Menu Bar The drop-down menu bar lists different functions that may be performed using the browser (printing, print preview, copy, paste, etc.).



The drop down menu lists additional functions of the browser.

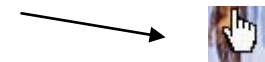
Tool Bar The tool bar contains icons that can be used to perform certain tasks. You can use the forward button to move forward one page, the back button to move back one page, and so on.



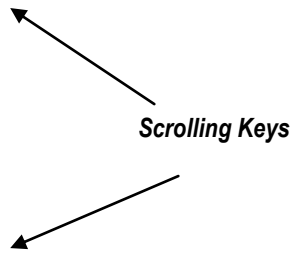
Address Bar The address bar shows the address of the web page you are currently viewing. You can also type an address into the address bar to go to a new page.



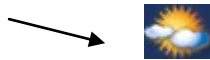
Links A link is a section of a web page that, when clicked on, will take you to a new destination on the Internet. A link can take you to a new section of a web page, or to a new web site altogether. A link will always change your mouse arrow into a pointing hand. Links can be text, pictures, or icons.



Scrolling Keys The scrolling keys allow you to move up or down on the page. A web page can be very long or very short. You can tell if the web page has more material to view by looking at the scroll bar on the right side of the page.



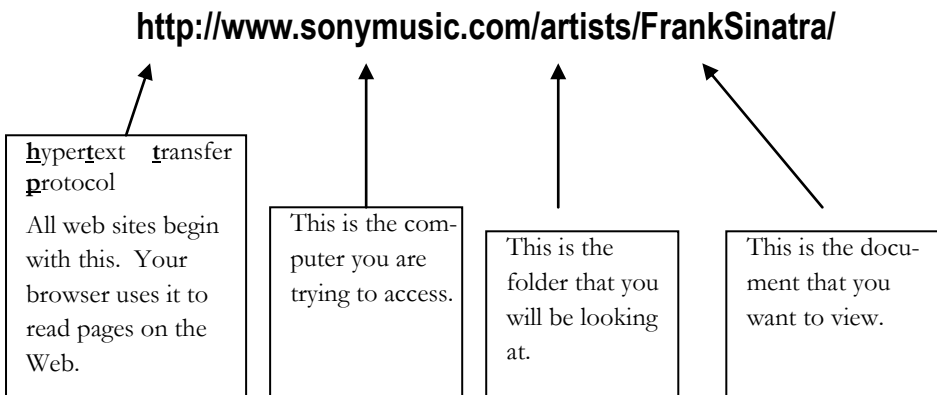
Icons Icons are small images or pictures that contain a link, usually for launching a program or function. This is a weather icon from the Chicago Tribune.



About Web Sites...

1) Why does a web site address have so many letters, periods, slashes, and symbols in it?

A web site address contains many parts. Think of a web site address as a telephone number – each part of a telephone number refers to the location of the person you are calling (area code, exchange, etc.). To get the right person on the phone, you have to type in the **exact** telephone number. Same with a web site address – to get to the right web site, you have to type in the **exact** address:



2) What are the different types of web sites? Who owns these sites?

You can tell what kind of web site you are looking at by the letters at the end of the address. They indicate what kind of organization is hosting or sponsoring a web site. Here are some of the more common web address endings:

www.---.com	Commercial or corporate site, such as www.cnn.com or www.crateandbarrel.com
www.---.org	Non-profit organization, such as www.pbs.org or www.lpzoo.org
www.---.edu	College or University such as www.uchicago.edu or www.berkeley.edu
www.---.mil	Military site such as www.army.mil or www.navy.mil
www.---county.k12.il.us	Free sites often given to schools, etc., such as http://www.d50.lake.k12.il.us/
www.---.info	This may be used by businesses, organizations, or individuals, such as www.wnpl.info

Vocabulary – Web Navigation

Internet: A network of computers located throughout the world that communicate via data lines or wireless connections

World Wide Web (WWW): A part of the Internet

Title Bar: Displays the title of the Web page you are visiting

Menu Bar & Tool Bar: Provide menus and buttons for you to use to navigate the Web or accomplish tasks such as printing Web pages, changing the size of the displayed text, or saving and using favorite Web pages

Information Area: Displays the contents of the Web page

Status Bar: Located at the bottom of the window, this displays information about the page, such as download status and whether the Web site is secure for online purchases

Back Button: Takes you backwards to the previous page