

6 Connect to the Web

In this chapter, you will learn how to

- ✓ Connect to the Internet.
 - ✓ Set up Internet Explorer 8.
 - ✓ Display Web sites.
 - ✓ Work with tabs and pages.
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The Internet is a worldwide computer network consisting of millions of smaller networks that exchange information. Originally constructed and used by governments and large organizations for the exchange of text-based data, the Internet evolved almost overnight with the implementation by English computer scientist Sir Timothy Berners-Lee in 1990 of a prototype for the World Wide Web, now referred to simply as *the Web*. While combining the existing concept of hypertext with the communication structure of the Internet, Berners-Lee developed the system of hyperlinks (links from content to other content in the same or a different document) and Uniform Resource Locators (URLs), that paved the way for the global exchange of information we take for granted today.

Tip The prefix *hyper* comes from the Ancient Greek language; it means *over, above, beyond, or excessive*, and is commonly used in Web terminology. *Hypertext* refers to text that you can link from or to. *Hypermedia* refers to audio, video, and graphic elements you can link from or to. *Hyperlinks* connect hypertext and hypermedia elements. Together these terms bring to mind an image of bits of information frenetically zinging all over the world, and that seems like a reasonably appropriate representation of the Web.

Browsing the Web (commonly referred to as *surfing the Web*) has become a form of entertainment in itself, as well as a simple and powerful research tool that literally puts a world of information at your fingertips. Students, teachers, business people, shoppers, gamers, and others can now find almost any information or entertainment they want on the Web. With a high-speed Internet connection, you can stream live radio programs, recorded television programs, and movies from the Internet to your computer, for display on a computer monitor or television screen, in far less time than it takes to go to a video rental store.

Connecting to the Internet

Internet access has become prevalent in workplaces and homes around the world. Many companies have an Internet presence (a Web site) and use Internet-based services to streamline operations. In the past, many employers were concerned that allowing Internet access from company-owned computers would mean a loss of productivity, because people could receive and send personal e-mail messages, divulge privileged information, indulge in surreptitious Web surfing, or download objectionable content. These days, more and more employers are coming to the conclusion that Internet access can actually enhance the productivity of people in some jobs, and many companies now provide organization-wide access.

In addition, Internet access is fast becoming one of the primary reasons for buying a home computer. Setting up a connection from your computer to the Internet is easier than ever with Windows 7. The most difficult part of the process will likely be finding out what types of connections are available from Internet service providers (ISPs) in your area and deciding which one you want to use.

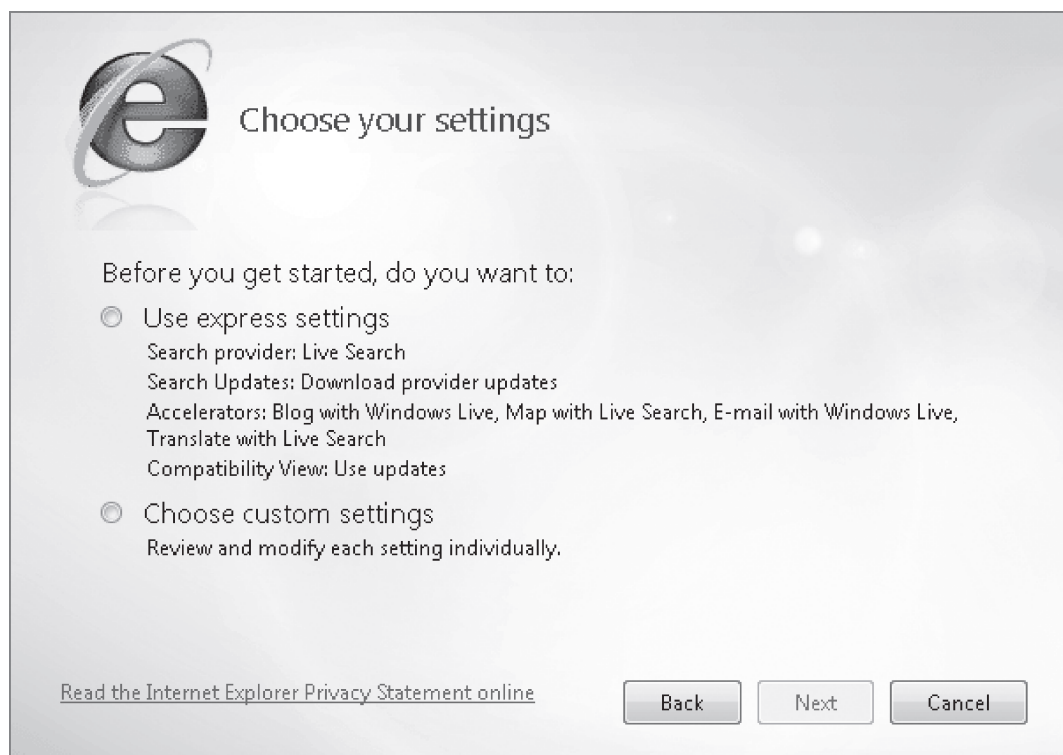
To use the Internet, you must connect your computer to the ISP by using one of the following types of connections:

- **Wired connection** If your computer PC has an Ethernet adapter, you can physically connect the computer to a router by using an Ethernet cable. You can connect the computer directly to the router, to a network switch that is connected to the router, or to a network socket that is connected to the router (usually via cables hidden in the walls). The router handles the connection to the ISP.
- **Wireless connection** If your computer has a wireless network adapter, you can establish a cable-free connection to a wireless router. The wireless router may be connected by an Ethernet cable to another router that handles the connection to the ISP, or directly to the incoming connection (for example, to a cable service outlet).
- **Dial-up** If your computer has a telephone modem and your ISP offers dial-up access, you can physically connect the computer to a telephone socket by using a standard telephone cord. The modem establishes a connection to the ISP through your telephone line by placing a phone call. The connection is active only for the duration of the phone call.

Tip Depending on the area in which you live, you may have access to several ISPs. If you're looking for an ISP, your telephone service provider and your cable television provider are good places to start. You might also have options through a satellite television service provider, a satellite broadband service provider, or a wireless broadband service provider. If you live in a rural community, contact your local town hall for a recommendation. The town administrator will also be able to provide information about companies that have applied for permits to expand their services into your area.

Setting Up Internet Explorer 8

The first time you start Internet Explorer, the Set Up Windows Internet Explorer 8 wizard starts. With this wizard, you can indicate whether you want to turn on the Suggested Sites feature and then either choose a package of default settings (the "express settings") for the remaining features or choose a specific setting for each feature (the "custom settings").



Express settings may vary depending on your previous Internet Explorer use.

When choosing custom settings, you can accept the default search provider and Accelerators, or you can choose to display all the available options so that you can select the ones you want.

Anatomy of a Web Address

The words, letters, numbers, and symbols that appear in the Address bar of your Internet Explorer browser window when you connect to a Web site or page might look like a logical address or like a bunch of gobbledygook. Even when you connect to a simple Web site address such as `http://www.microsoft.com`, the Address box contents change to include additional information about the specific page displayed. Every character has a specific purpose. Here's a breakdown of a typical Web page address and a description of what each part does.

`http://movies.msn.com/showtimes/today.aspx?zip='76226'`

Protocol	Subdomain	Domain name	Folder	Page	Query
http	movies	msn.com	showtimes	today.aspx	?zip='76226'

The *protocol* tells your Web browser what type of connection to make to the destination site. The most common protocol is *http* (Hypertext Transfer Protocol, the protocol that delivers information over the World Wide Web). Another common Web protocol is *https* (HTTP over a secure connection). In a URL, the protocol is followed by a colon and two forward slashes (://).

Tip There are dozens of protocols for many different types of communication, including Internet connections, e-mail delivery, file sharing, local and remote network connections, and a plethora of others. Some of the more familiar protocols include ADSL, DHCP, DNS, FTP, HTTPS, IMAP, IP, ISDN, POP3, SMTP, SOAP, TCP, and Telnet.

The *domain name* is the base address of the site. The top-level domain (TLD), such as *.com*, is part of the domain name. Each domain name is purchased and registered by an organization or individual and is assigned to an IP address representing the location of the site content on a server. Domain names and IP addresses are managed by ICANN (the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers), a non-profit corporation based in California. Although ICANN is an American corporation, it manages Internet-related tasks worldwide in cooperation with international agencies.

When you enter the domain, your computer connects to the Internet to find out the IP address currently assigned to that domain. Then it connects to the server located at that IP address and displays the content located on that server. Because the alphabetic domain name leads you to the less-obvious IP address, the domain name is sometimes referred to as a *friendly name*.

Tip TLDs are governed by an international organization. Each TLD has a specific meaning: There are generic TLDs (such as .com and .net) that are available to anyone, sponsored TLDs (such as .edu, .gov, and .travel) that belong to private agencies or organizations, and two-letter country code TLDs that are intended to represent the country of origin or use of a site's content. Country code TLDs are frequently used for other purposes, however; for example, the TLD .am is assigned to Armenia, and .fm is assigned to the Federated States of Micronesia, but many radio stations have Web site addresses ending in these TLDs.

A recent "unrestricted generic TLD" program that was approved in 2008 will allow organizations and individuals to reserve their own TLDs that don't fit the existing rules. For example, Microsoft could apply for the TLD .msft. The initial fee to have your application evaluated has been set at \$185,000, so it's unlikely a lot of individuals will be applying for the honor in the near future.

Displaying Web Sites

Whether or not Internet Explorer 8 is your default browser, you can start it by clicking the pinned Internet Explorer button on the Windows Taskbar, and then use it to explore the Web. With all browsers, you navigate to a specific Web site by typing its address, or Uniform Resource Locator (URL), in an address box and then clicking hyperlinks to move to specific Web pages.

Tip Your computer keyboard may include a button that you can press to open an Internet browser window. For information about special keyboard keys, see "Your Keyboard" in "Information for New Computer Users" at the beginning of this book.

Internet Explorer 8 has several new features, including the following:

- **Suggested Sites** When this feature is turned on, Internet Explorer tracks your Internet site visits and recommends other sites that fit your personal browsing history. Links to these sites are available from the Suggested Sites Web Slice on the Favorites bar. If the menu isn't there, Suggested Sites is turned off. The Suggested Sites feature does not work when InPrivate Browsing is active.

See Also For information about the InPrivate Browsing feature, see the sidebar "Keeping Your Browsing Information Private" in Chapter 8, "Manage Internet Explorer."



- **Compatibility View** This feature displays Web sites as though you are using Windows Internet Explorer 7, thus negating any incompatibilities between Web sites designed for older browsers and the new Internet Explorer 8 technologies. You can turn on this feature for the current Web site by clicking the Compatibility View button that appears to the right of the Address bar. After you choose Compatibility View for a site, Internet Explorer remembers the site and automatically displays it in Compatibility View on future visits.

Tip The Compatibility View button appears to the right of the Address box only when you are displaying a Web site that does not include Internet Explorer 8 among its browser options. The button background is blue when Internet Explorer is displaying the site in Compatibility View.

- **Accelerators** With these convenient tools, you can interact with Web page content directly from the page. Accelerators enable you to do things such as add Web page content to your blog, send information in an e-mail message, display a location on a map, locate related information, or translate content, with just one click.
- **Web Slices** With these automatically updating information feeds, you can display up-to-date information from certain sites without leaving the current Web page.
- **Visual Search** This add-on displays thumbnails of the pages found as a result of a search from the Internet Explorer Search box.

See Also For more information about Accelerators, Web Slices, and Visual Search, see “Working with Web Page Content” in Chapter 7, “Work with Web Pages and Sites.”

Specifying Sites and Pages

When you want to display a Web site or page, you can either start Internet Explorer as part of the process of displaying the site or page or start Internet Explorer first and then specify the site or page.

To display a site or page and start Internet Explorer:

- Type the URL in the Start menu Search box, and then press Enter.
- Click an active link in a Microsoft Office Word document, Microsoft Office Excel worksheet, or other document that supports hyperlinks.
- Click a desktop shortcut icon that points to the site or page.

To display a site or page on the current tab of an Internet Explorer window:

- Type the URL in the Address bar, and then either click the Go button or press Enter.
- Type a partial URL or site name of a previously visited site and then, in the list that appears below the Address bar, click the URL or site.
- If the URL begins with *www.* and ends with *.com*, type the domain root name (the part between *www.* and *.com*) in the Address bar, and then press Ctrl+Enter.

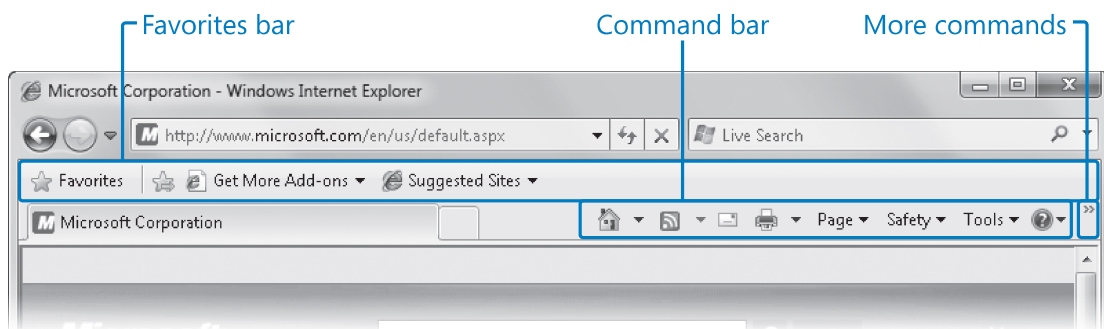
To display a site or page on a new tab of an Internet Explorer window:

- Click the New Tab button, type the URL in the Address bar, and then either click the Go button or press Enter.
- Type the URL in the Address bar, and then press Alt+Enter.
- Type the URL in the Start menu Search box, and then either press Enter or click the URL in the Internet section of the search results list.
- In Internet Explorer, right-click a link, and then click Open In New Tab.
- Right-click the Internet Explorer taskbar button, and then click the site URL or page title in the Frequent list.

Internet Explorer 8 Interface Elements

Internet Explorer displays Web content in a standard window that you manage as you would any other window. In the default Internet Explorer configuration, additional controls for working in and managing Internet Explorer are available on toolbars at the top and bottom of the window.

The Favorites bar and the Command bar appear above the Internet Explorer Content pane, below the navigation buttons, Address bar, and Search box.



By default, commands for working with and managing Internet Explorer are available from the Favorites bar and the Command bar.

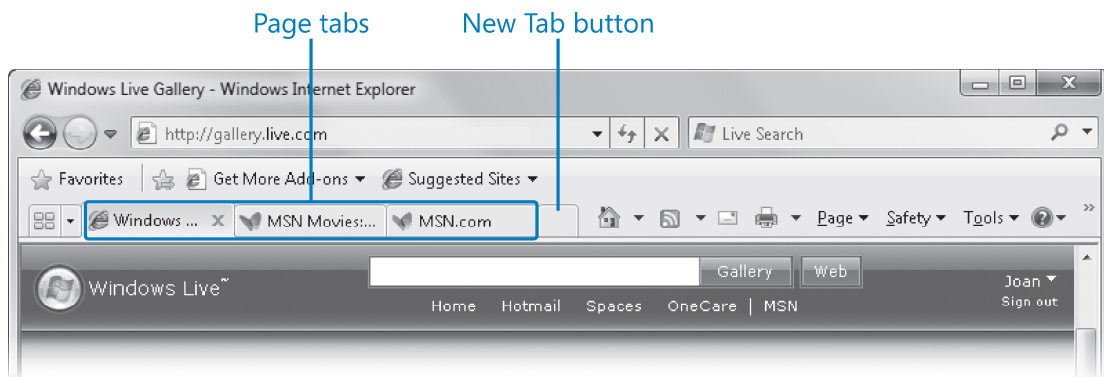
Tip By default, buttons on the Favorites bar are labeled with Web page titles pulled from the page code. You can change the labeling convention, and thus the width of the buttons. To do so, right-click any Favorites bar button, point to **Customize Title Widths**, and then click **Long Titles**, **Short Titles**, or **Icons Only**.

You can change the title on a specific button. To do so, right-click the button, and click **Rename**. In the **Rename** dialog box, type the label you want, and then click **OK**.

If the contents of the Favorites bar or the Command bar exceed its width, a button (labeled with a chevron) appears at the bar's right end. Click the button to display a menu of the other available items.

Working with Tabs and Pages

In the past, if you wanted to view multiple Web pages at the same time it was necessary to open multiple Web browser windows. Versions of Internet Explorer starting with Internet Explorer 7 offer tabbed browsing, which enables you to display multiple Web sites or pages on separate tabs of one Internet Explorer program window. Tabbed browsing is convenient because it takes far less time to open a new tab than it does to open a new browser window, and it's much easier to move between open sites by clicking the tabs at the top of one window than by switching between windows.



You can switch between pages by clicking the page tabs, and open a new tab by clicking the New Tab button.

You can manage page tabs in an Internet Explorer window in the following ways:



- To open a new tab, click the New Tab button to the right of the active tabs.
Tip The inactive New Tab button is blank. Pointing to the button causes the New Tab icon to appear.
- To close the current tab if more than one tab is open, click the Close button at the right end of the tab.
- To close a tab other than the current one if more than one tab is open, right-click the tab and then click Close Tab.
- To close all tabs but one if more than one tab is open, right-click the tab you want to keep, and then click Close Other Tabs.



- 12.** Click the original **MSN Money** tab (the third tab) and then, to the left of the **Address** bar, click the **Back** button to return to the MSN Money home page.

If you visited only two pages on this tab, only the Back button or Forward button is active at any time. If you explored more than two pages, both buttons are active.



- 13.** To the right of the **Back** and **Forward** buttons, click the **Recent Pages** button, and then click a page that doesn't have a check mark next to it to return to that page.



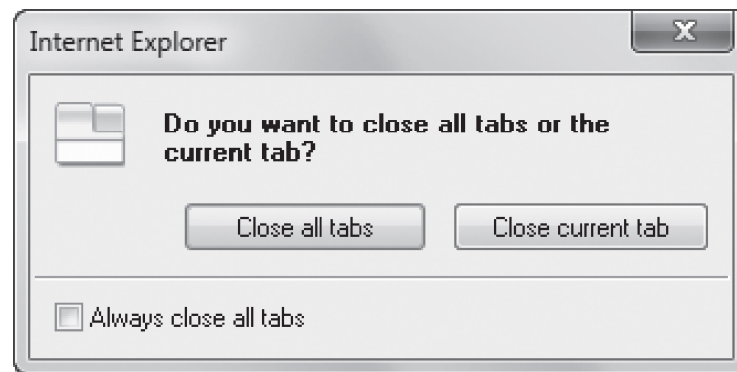
- 14.** On the current **MSN Money** tab, click the **Close Tab** button.

The tab closes. The tab to its right slides to the left and, because its related tab is no longer open, its color changes to the standard tab color.



- 15.** On the **Internet Explorer** window title bar, click the **Close** button.

Internet Explorer prompts you to confirm that you want to close all the tabs.



When multiple tabs are open, Internet Explorer notifies you before closing.

Tip This is one of the settings you can change in the **Tabbed Browsing Settings** dialog box. But before you do, bear in mind that this warning can sometimes come in handy.

- 16.** In the dialog box, click **Close all tabs** to close all the tabs and exit Internet Explorer.

Key Points

- You can connect your computer to the Internet through a wired, wireless, or dial-up connection. You need to have an account with an ISP that provides a connection from your location to the Internet.
- Internet Explorer displays Web content in a standard window that you manage as you would any other window.
- You can open multiple Web sites in one Internet Explorer window, so it's faster and easier to open and switch between sites and pages.
- You can open and move between pages on the same tab or in new tabs. Related tabs are color-coded so you can easily distinguish them.