

# Internet Exposure and Exploration

## Topics to be covered:

- navigation
- understanding URLs
- search basics
- favorites
- usage issues

Before we get started, here are some words you should become familiar with:

**browser:** a program that allows us to see pages on the web as text, pictures, sounds, etc. Two examples are Internet Explorer and Netscape Communicator.

**URL:** uniform resource locator--the specific location or address of any web page. It is what you type into the "location" field.

**search engine:** a web site that helps you find whatever you are interested in  
examples: [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com), [www.lycos.com](http://www.lycos.com)

**favorites:** copies the location of a particular web page into your browser's memory, so you can easily go back to it in the future

## • navigation

Open your browser. (We will be using Internet Explorer today.) Here is what the tool bar looks like:



You use the buttons on the tool bar to move around.

You can use the **Forward** and **Back** buttons to negotiate through the web.



The **Home** button will take you to the browser start page.



Use **Stop** if a web page is taking a really long time to load, or if you decide you don't really want to look at it.



Use **Refresh** if you have stopped a page and you want it to start loading (or coming back) again.



Use **Print** to print a web page.



- **understanding URLs**

The **Address** bar is where you put the URL of the site you want to visit. Each web page has a different address or URL.



Most URLs begin with “**http://**”, which tells the browser that this is a web page and how to handle the page.

Next, you usually see “**www.**”, which means that this is part of the world wide web.

After that, you see the name of the particular site, such as “**lawndale.k12.ca.us**” or “**apple.com**”.

The endings of a URL can give you clues about what kind of site it is.

**.com** = commercial

**.edu** = college or university

**.net** = network site, such as Earthlink

**.gov** = government

**.k12.ca.us** = K - 12 school or district

**.mil** = military

After you type the URL, make sure there are no spaces. Then, press the return key on your keyboard or click “**Go**” after you enter the URL.



Make sure you don't have any typos!

- **search basics**

Unless you know the exact address of a web page, you probably can't get to it without a search engine. Search engines scour web pages for you, and you then look through their results.

First, find a search engine. Here are some possibilities:

**http://www.lycos.com**

**http://www.altavista.digital.com**

**http://www.yahoo.com**

**http://infoseek.go.com**

**http://www.excite.com**

**http://www.metacrawler.com**

**for kids: http://www.yahooligans.com**

You should try different search engines, and find what you like the best.

How do you conduct a search?

Use a “**keyword**” (what you are really looking for, like “**bicycle**”) and type it into the search field. Type return or press the search button, and look through the results. You will probably get a lot of web pages, or hits!

### **Narrowing your search:**

It's a bit overwhelming when you search for something, like "bicycle", and get over 10,000 hits. How can you check through them all? Is that feasible?

We all know that, no, it isn't feasible. Here are some ways to narrow your search:

-- Search using more than one word. Use quotations marks around the words, and the search engine will only return pages with both words together. ex: "bicycle horn" or "cashmere t-shirts"

-- Use Boolean operators: AND, OR or NOT

ex: bicycle AND horn, bicycle OR horn, cats AND dogs NOT birds

-- Skim the hits you receive. You don't have to look at every single one.

### **• adding favorites**

A "favorite" allows your browser to return to page you have visited in the past, without you having to type a URL. Favorites are very useful, because they allow you to go back to something you found interesting without having to remember the address. They are kind of like speed-dials on telephones. To add a favorite in Internet Explorer, got to "Favorites" and hilite "Add Page to Favorites". To access a page you have added to your favorites list, go back to the "Favorites" menu and hilite the name of the page you want.

### **• usage issues**

Before any of your students can use the Internet, they need to have returned an Acceptable Use Policy signed by a parent or guardian. The Acceptable Use Policy outlines what students may and may not do while using the Internet at school.

The district has also outlined an Acceptable Use Policy for teachers. However, this is presently being renegotiated with the union. When the new agreement is worked out, it will supersede the old agreement. Until then, we should be aware of what acceptable use is and model good behavior for students.

E-mail and telephone conversations are not personal or privileged communications. Therefore, the district can monitor e-mail or voice mail messages.

### **References for further information:**

There are many on-line resources for using the Internet. Some good web sites are:

<http://sln.fi.edu/primer/>

<http://www.learner.org/courses/rfts/>

<http://www.learnthenet.com/english/html/00start.html> (especially the information on browsers, bookmarks and sending e-mail)