

# Alabama Entrepreneurial Research Network

## Guide to Microsoft Internet Explorer

A web browser is a software application used to locate and display files, or pages, from the World Wide Web. The two most popular browsers are Netscape Navigator and **Microsoft Internet Explorer**. Both of these browsers are available free. As one might guess, Microsoft Internet Explorer is by far the most frequently used browser. Computers that have a Windows operating system loaded on them (like Windows XP or Windows 2000) should already have Internet Explorer available. Just look for a blue "e" with a swish around it on your desktop or in your list of programs.



Tip: If you want to make sure that you have the latest available version of Internet Explorer, go to <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/ie/default.asp>. The latest version will be available for free to download. Depending upon the speed of your computer this may take anywhere from several minutes to an hour or even longer.

Since your browser is primarily used to view Web pages, you will probably want to connect to the Internet before you open it. Just follow the instructions from your Internet service provider to connect.

## Going places on the Web

So now you are connected to the Internet, and your Web browser is open. How do you connect to the Web sites you'd like to view?

If you know the Web address of a Web site, it's easy to tell your browser where to go. Use the Address bar near the top of the screen and type in the Web address. Then hit Enter or click on Go.



If you don't know how to find the Web site you're looking for, use a search engine like Google at <http://www.google.com>. (And check out our **Guide to Google** from the Alabama Entrepreneurial Research Network at <http://aern.cba.ua.edu/infores/> for assistance!)



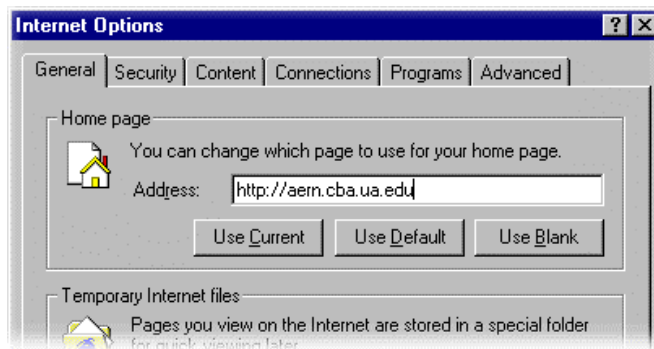
## Setting your browser's home page

When you open the browser, the first page you see is called your home page. (If you're not connected to the Internet yet, you'll get an error message!) The term "home page" can be a little confusing, because it has two different meanings. As stated above, your own browser home page is the page that automatically loads when you first open the browser. But Web sites have home pages, too; a Web site's home page (or the home page of a company or organization) is the main page of the site, the entrance to the rest of the material that is offered. For example, the AERN's home page is at <http://aern.cba.ua.edu>.

It's easy to set your browser to use any Web page that you wish as your browser's home page. First, go to the page you choose on the Web. While the page is displayed, click on the **Tools** menu located near the top of the screen. Select **Internet Options**.



Under the **General** tab, go to the section called **Home page** and hit the button called **Use Current**. Now you have a home page that you have chosen!



Tip: You can return to your home page at any time by clicking on the Home button at the top of the screen.

### Using the Favorites list

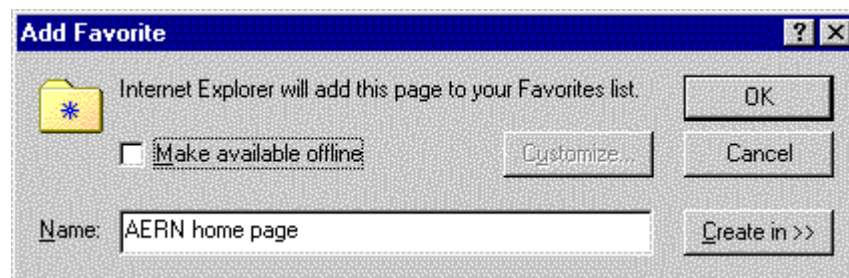
Microsoft Internet Explorer offers many options and functions. Another useful feature is the **Favorites** list. This feature allows you to save

the addresses of Web sites that you visit frequently. After you add a Web site to your Favorites list, you can visit it later by just clicking on it in the list.

To add a Web page to your Favorites list, first go to that page on the Web. Then click on the Favorites menu near the top of the screen.



The Favorites list itself appears. Microsoft has already provided many entries for you. To add your own selection, choose the first option, Add to Favorites.... The "Add Favorite" box will appear. You can edit the name if you wish, then hit the OK button to add this site to your list.



You have now added an item to the list. In the future, when you wish to visit that Web site, just click on the Favorites menu and click on the name of that Web site in the list.

### More help!

There are too many options available with a web browser to mention in this brief guide. For further help with Internet Explorer be sure to check out the **Help** menu at the top of the browser window.