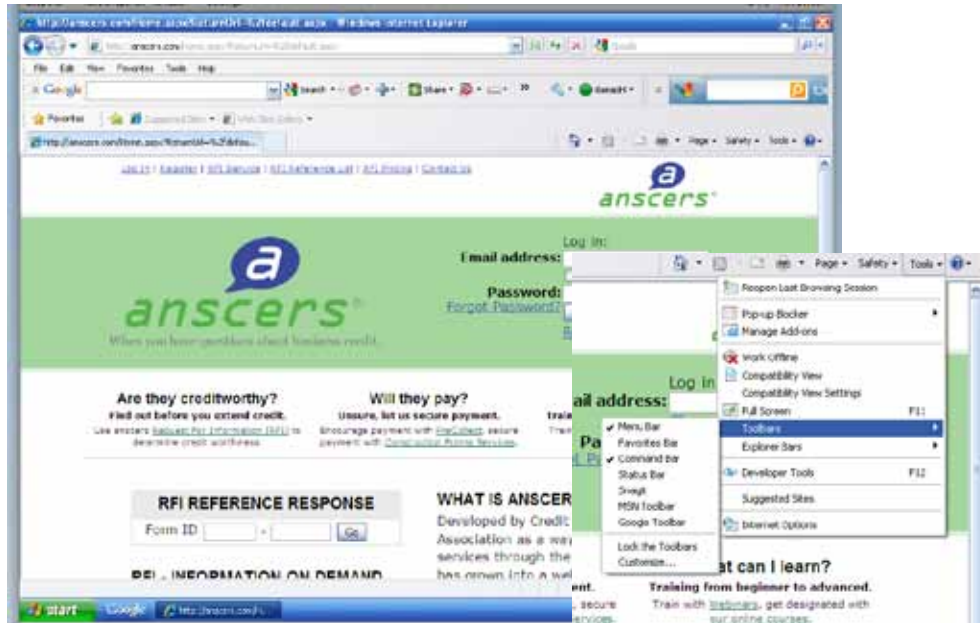


Avoid Explorer Toolbars



Nothing eats up your screen real estate more than adding toolbars to Internet Explorer. During tech support calls we have seen screens with a small 3 to 4 inch scrolling window. All the other space is taken up by the multitude of toolbars that come with Explorer or add to Explorer. There is one for Bing, one for Google, one for Yahoo, antivirus programs have them etc. etc.

Most are not necessary for display or installation. All, shrink your available workspace decreasing your productivity.

For example, here is my screen with all my available toolbars enabled. The extra toolbars take up about an inch of my screen and install conflicting pop-up blockers and security features on top of what is already provided by Explorer.



To turn these toolbars off, go to Tools – Toolbars – and de-select toolbars you do not want to display. I removed everything but the Menu Bar and the Command Bar.

I gained an extra inch of productivity space and deleted conflicting security and pop up programs.

Toolbars are a marketing tool for software companies. Unless you have a 24 inch screen, toolbars are not worth having on your screen. Almost every feature they provide is already provided in Explorer.

Take some time to free yourself of toolbars and take control of your screen space.

Be Aware of Java



There are two types of Java - java programming and java scripting.

Java scripting is used in sites like **anscers.com** and allows for fancy things to happen on web pages. It is controlled through your browser in the security settings.

For Internet Explorer users go to Tools/Internet Options/Security – make sure your levels are Medium to Medium High. If they are Custom double check to make sure Active Scripting is Enabled.

Java programming results in programs that run inside a browser like financial calculators and Pogo games.



The safest way to use Java programming is to download it from the source.

To get the latest and most secure Java go to <http://java.com>.

Click the big red “Free Java Download” button. The site will read your operating system and suggest the best Java for you to download.

Follow the instructions to install, then restart your browser and see what you may have been missing.

When you download Java in this way it will consistently update itself, keeping your web experience nice and fresh.

Be Aware of Carbonite

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"Based on our tests... we'd give Carbonite the edge, thanks to its brain-dead simplicity and slightly lower price. ... Mozy is beset with a relatively geeky user interface and a tendency to throw up unexpected and confusing on-screen messages. Company officials admitted that they need to make their software more user-friendly. On that score Carbonite is just about flawless. Just install it, launch it, and forget about it."

Hiawatha Gray
Technology Reporter

The Boston Globe

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If your computer is damaged, stolen, infected or corrupted, the files you save with Carbonite can be easily recovered. Rest easy knowing that your email, pictures, music and essential documents will be protected with Carbonite Online Backup:

- » **Hassle-Free**
Recover lost files anytime, anywhere with just a few clicks. Try Carbonite FREE for 15 days and see the benefits of secure, easy and hassle-free online backup. No strings attached.
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Every year, 43% of computer users lose irreplaceable files. Carbonite eliminates the risk of losing files by automatically backing up the valuable files on your computer to a secure, offsite location.
- » **Unlimited Space**
There's no need to worry about choosing which files to backup because Carbonite offers unlimited backup for only \$54.95/year. That's it. One flat, low price and no worrying about going over your size limit.
- » **Automatic**
Many online backup services run automatically, but few are as simple or easy to use as Carbonite. Just install Carbonite in a few clicks and it goes to work in the background protecting all the essential files on your computer.

You have heard it a million times “back up your data”. Most of us do not heed the warning until we have been crushed by a hard drive failure.

I was one of those, until I found Carbonite.

Carbonite is a “set it then forget it” backup. You don’t need any hardware.

Simply download the Carbonite software select the folders you want watched for backups, then Carbonite does the rest.

The backups run incrementally throughout the day so that all your latest work, pictures etc are saved.

I have used it twice already to recover from hard drive failure and to transfer data to a new computer. It worked great each time.

Best \$55 bucks I spend each year.

Avoid ie6 - Be Aware ie9



Why?

Enough is enough. Microsoft Internet Explorer 6 was released in late 2001. For its time, it was a decent browser, but in 2009, it is still in use by a significant portion of the web population, and its time is now up.

As any web developer will tell you, working with IE 6 is one of the most difficult and frustrating things they have to deal with on a daily basis, taking up a disproportionate amount of their time. Beyond that, IE 6's support for modern web standards is very lacking, restricting what developers can create and holding the web back.



“It may be the most popular Internet browser in the world, but Microsoft’s Internet Explorer seems to have been condemned to suffer faint praise, especially when compared to the likes of Chrome and Firefox.

Well, that seems to have ended, if the absolutely ecstatic response given to Internet Explorer 9 (IE9), whose beta went public yesterday, is any indication. The beta of the new IE is sleeker, faster, has a more minimalistic interface and supports graphics acceleration (in simple words, if you a graphics card, your browser will take advantage of it, giving you a better browsing experience). For those who keep complaining that IE hogs too much space, there is a performance monitor that keeps track of the plug-ins that might be dragging down your browser performance and gives you the option to shut them, letting your browser get up to speed.

There are a whole lot of interface tweaks that make the browser look better than ever before and well, for the first time in our memory (and mine goes all the way back to 1995), Microsoft seems to have got the edge in the browser wars with Google and Mozilla.”

Source: onlygizmos.com

Note: ie9 only works of Windows Vista and 7

Be Aware of Google Chrome



Chrome is one of the fastest most stable browsers I have used.

You can have Chrome and Internet Explorer installed on your system at the same time.

Since ie9 will only operate on Windows Vista or Windows 7 - Chrome is an excellent alternative for Windows XP users.

Why use Google Chrome?

The [web browser](#) is arguably the most important piece of software on your computer. You spend much of your time online inside a browser: When you search, chat, email, shop, bank, read the news, and watch videos online, you often do all this using a browser.



Speed

Chrome is designed to be fast in every possible way: It's quick to start up from your desktop, loads web pages in a snap, and runs complex web applications fast. Learn more about [Chrome and speed](#).

[Watch video](#)



Simplicity

Chrome's browser window is streamlined, clean and simple. Chrome also includes features that are designed for efficiency and ease of use. For example, you can [search and navigate](#) from the same box, and [arrange tabs](#) however you wish — quickly and easily.

[Watch video](#)



Security

Chrome is designed to keep you safer and more secure on the web with built-in malware and phishing protection, autoupdates to make sure the browser is up-to-date with the latest security updates, and more. Learn more about [Chrome's security features](#).

[Watch video](#)



And more features

Chrome has many useful features built in, including extensions, translation in the browser, themes, and more. Learn more about Chrome's newest and most-loved [features](#).

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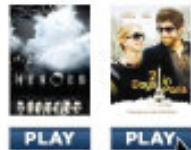
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and Google is working on a TV substitute.

If your a sports fanatic this might not be your answer. Live events are not available.

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Anytime



Instantly watch as
often as you want,
anytime you want

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Currently paying \$150 a month for DirecTV.

I could move to HuluPLUS for less per year than a I pay per month.

Kind of a no brainer.

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Create documents, spreadsheets and presentations online

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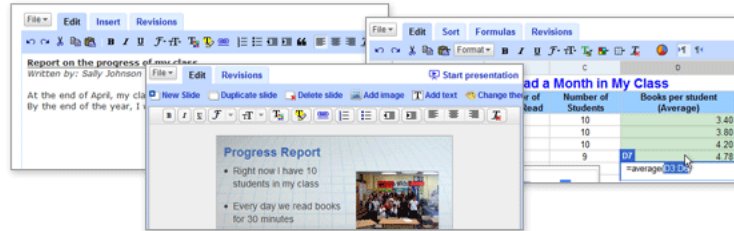
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Start now

Alternatives to Microsoft Office that are great to your pocketbook and can do a better job in most cases.



OpenOffice.org 3 is the leading **open-source office software suite** for **word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, graphics, databases** and more. It is available in **many languages** and works on all **common computers**. It stores all your data in an **international open standard format** and can also read and write files from other common office software packages. It can be downloaded and used completely **free of charge** for **any purpose**.

[Get OpenOffice.org 3 now](#)

Be Aware of Mobile Web



More than four in 10 Americans say they “can’t live” without their mobile phone and nearly half sleep with it nearby, according to a global mobile-phone survey from Synovate, which found that cellphones are increasingly becoming consumers’ “remote controls for life.”

Avoid - sleeping with your phone.

Be Aware of Star Trek Search



Using human knowledge and computational knowledge search is getting Trekie.

These search engines are way beyond Google, but very specific in their nature.

You may not need to use them as often. When you do their information could be priceless.

