Internet Explorer 8

Internet Explorer 8 (IE8) is part of the latest version of Microsoft Windows. It is also available as a free download for older versions of Windows at www.microsoft.com. This article reviews some of the most useful features of the program.

ADDRESS BAR

As you type in the address bar, IE8 displays suggestions based on your browsing history or favourite websites. Type single words into the address bar, and they will be matched to simple domain names, making Web surfing more efficient.

MENU BAR

The classic menu bar containing the “File,” “Edit,” “Favorites,” “Tools” and “Help” menus is not displayed when you first install IE8. You can make it appear by pressing the Alt key.

FAVOURITES BAR

The favourites bar can display links to sites that you visit frequently. To add a website to the favourites bar, type its address in the address bar, then click the “Favorites” tab in the main menu bar. There is an option to add the site to your main favourites list or to the favourites bar itself. You can shorten the titles of tabs on the favourites bar by right-clicking on the tab and selecting the “Rename” option.

TAB BAR

Internet Explorer 8 allows you to have multiple pages open in the same window. You can navigate between them by clicking on their tabs at the top of the main window. This makes it easy to compare 2 different pages or even different versions of the same page. At the left end of the tab bar are links to the “Quick Tabs” and “Tab List” functions, which are useful if you have a large number of tabs open at once. An individual tab can be closed by pressing the Ctrl-W key combination or clicking on the “X” on the current tab.

OPEN A NEW TAB

Click on the small blank tab that is displayed to the right of the tab list or press Ctrl-8. The new tab automatically displays a list of your most frequently visited sites. To create a duplicate of the current tab, press Ctrl-K.

COMMAND BAR

The new command bar appears to the right of the tab bar, just above the main window. It is the new home of the “Home,” “Print,” “Safety,” “Tools” and “Help” icons.

HOME ICON

Click the “house” icon to return to your personal home page, which is displayed when you first open Internet Explorer. You can change your home page by clicking the down arrow beside the icon, or by selecting “Internet Options” from the “Tools” menu.

PRINT ICON

Click the “printer” icon to print the current page. Click the down arrow beside
the icon to display the “Print,” “Print Preview” or “Page Setup” menus. The “Print” menu (Ctrl-P) allows you to select a range of pages to print and to print multiple copies.

PAGE MENU

This new menu displays options to control the display of the current page. An important one is the “Compatibility View” option, which properly displays older sites that were designed for earlier versions of Internet Explorer.

SAFETY MENU

This new menu displays options to control your browsing history and privacy. There is also an option to check for updates to the program.

TOOLS MENU

This new menu provides quick access to many of the most common tools available in IE8. More options are available using the “Tools” menu in the classic menu bar.

FIND ON PAGE BAR

If it is not already visible, you can open the “Find on Page” menu by pressing Ctrl-F. After you enter a search term, this feature highlights each occurrence of the term. Use the “Previous” or “Next” links to browse forward and back through the highlighted terms. Options are available to limit your search to whole words or to match upper or lower case characters.

HELP FILES

Help files are available by pressing the F1 key or by clicking the “?” icon in the command bar. Browsing through these files is a good way to discover other new or useful features of the program.

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