

WebWhacker

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WebWhacker is the newest addition to ForeFront's family of Internet products. It is a tool designed to reduce the user's dependency on an Internet connection. WebWhacker downloads ("Whacks") single Web pages, groups of pages, or entire Web sites, including text (HTML) and images, and stores them on the local desktop. The downloaded pages and images are relinked locally for later browsing without an Internet connection - right from the local desktop!

"Whacked" information can be viewed and navigated locally with any World Wide Web browser and is a mirror image of the same information on the World Wide Web.

Getting Started

Using WebWhacker is easy. Simply create a new WebWhacker group or open an existing group, add a URL, set the number of levels to be Whacked (optional), and start Whacking! The progress bar lets you monitor WebWhacker activity and after Whacking is completed, use any World Wide Web browser to view the local pages off-line.

This Quick Tips file contains valuable information on using WebWhacker, including a description of the toolbar icons and their use, helpful hints on WebWhacker features and an overview of how to perform specific tasks in WebWhacker.

For additional information and help on using WebWhacker:

*** Welcome Screen**

A Welcome screen designed for easy access displays at WebWhacker startup. Select Quick Start to view the 6 basic Whacking steps or Sample Group to get started. Click on New Group to create a new WebWhacker group or Open Group to open an existing group - always the first step in Whacking. You can turn the Welcome screen display off in Preferences.

*** Quick Start Steps**

These 6 easy steps convey the basics of WebWhacker -- creating groups, adding URLs, Whacking, and viewing -- to the new user. Access Quick Start text from the Welcome Screen or from the Help menu.

*** Sample Group**

New users can begin by opening the Sample Group, a pre-built group of remote URLs ready to Whack. Access the Sample Group from the Welcome Screen or from the Help menu.

*** WebWhacker Help Guide**

All information in this file is also included in the more extensive WebWhacker Help Guide, activated by selecting Contents from the Help menu.

Tool Bar

- * **File** - displays the New Group dialog.
- * **Open** - displays the Open Group dialog.
- * **Knife** - Whacks or downloads all pages (and their images) in the group list that are marked "to be Whacked", indicated by a knife icon in the second column of the list. All new URLs added to the group are initially set "to be Whacked".
- * **Stop** - Stops a Whack in progress. The page being downloaded is completed, all pages already downloaded are relinked, and remaining pages are skipped.
- * **Cut** - cuts the selected page.
- * **Copy** - copies the selected text to the clipboard.
- * **Paste** - pastes from the clipboard.
- * **Web-to-folder** - adds the current browser page URL to this group, automatically attaching the page title to the URL object. (See Requirements in WebWhacker Read Me for supported browsers.) Navigate back to this page by double-clicking the URL object.
- * **Links** - displays the Add Links dialog for any Whacked (local) page. Add Links lists all links contained in the selected page, and allows you to add some or all of these to the group list, so that they can be Whacked.
- * **Info circle** - displays the Properties dialog for any selected page. This dialog gives basic information for the page, including URL, download status and date, local filename, and last modified date of remote URL. From there, you can click on Links, Images, or Errors to view that information for the page.

What is a "Group"?

A "Group" can contain a list of pages from one site or from several sites that are functionally or physically related and is used by WebWhacker to organize and track downloaded information.

WebWhacker Group Window

The WebWhacker Group window displays a list of pages (URLs) that have been added to the group. A page must be added to the Group list before it can be Whacked. A "starting point" page can be added to the list in a variety of ways, including dragging or copying an object from GrabNet, dragging a link from your browser, grabbing the current URL displayed in your browser, or manually typing it in. See Adding URLs to the Group (below) for specific procedures.

Once a page is downloaded, the links it contains can also be added to the list and downloaded. A group may contain any number of pages added as starting points, added from a downloaded page's links, or added automatically by Whacking levels. All pages within a group will interlink locally if related.

A group may contain both local, "Whacked" pages and remote, "to-be-Whacked" pages. There are two icon columns to the left of each page in the list. The first indicates local or remote status of the page. Local (Whacked) pages display a file symbol with a small globe inside, while remote pages display a large globe only. A knife icon may appear in the second column, indicating that the page will be downloaded on the next Whack. A

knife overlaying a single page means one level will be downloaded, a knife overlaying multiple pages means multiple levels will be downloaded (as defined by the user in the Whack Levels dialog for that link).

After Whacking, all local files within the group are relinked, i.e. links within these files are remapped to point to the "new" local file(s). Any page in the list can be viewed in your Web browser by double-clicking it. If the page has been Whacked, the local copy will be displayed. If it is remote, the browser will navigate to the page on the World Wide Web.

Creating a Group

The first time you start WebWhacker, you can open the sample group or create a new group of your own. To create a new group choose New Group from the Welcome Screen or from the File menu. In the dialog displayed, navigate to a folder where you would like to store this group's local files (use the New Folder button to create a new folder if necessary). Note, you should create a new folder for each WebWhacker group. Also, supply a File Name, used for the name of the group window, as well as for the index file that keeps track of this group's files.

As you continue to Whack pages, you can create more new groups, or open and add to existing groups. You may choose to "group" pages from one site, from several sites that interlink, or from several sites that are subject-matter related.

Group Properties

Choose Group Properties from the Options menu to get information such as group log file name, group location, date/time of the last modification to the group, and file-naming convention.

Sort Group by Label, URL, As Added

Sort the URLs in any Group by Label or URL in addition to the default, As Added. Choose Sort By from the View menu and then Label, URL, or As Added. You can also change your default sorting in Preferences.

Adding URLs to the Group

First, create a new group or open an existing group. From any open group window, you can add a "starting point" page to the list in a variety of ways, including dragging or copying an object from GrabNet, dragging a link from your browser, grabbing the current URL displayed in your browser, or typing it in.

* **Dragging an object from GrabNet.** Simply drag any GrabNet object that includes a URL and drop into an open WebWhacker group window. It is added to the list and set "to be Whacked" on the next Whack.

- * **Copying an object from GrabNet.** Copy any GrabNet object that includes a URL and Paste it into an open WebWhacker group window. It is added to the list and set "to be Whacked" on the next Whack.
- * **Dragging a link from your browser.** Simply drag any underlined link from a page displayed in your browser and drop into an open WebWhacker group window. It is added to the list and set "to be Whacked" on the next Whack.
- * **Grabbing the current page from your browser.** If the page you want to Whack is currently displayed in your browser, click on the Web-to-Folder (Grab URL) icon on WebWhacker's toolbar. The URL and its page name will be added to the list and set "to be Whacked" on the next Whack.
- * **Enter directly in WebWhacker.** Choose New URL on the Group menu. Type or paste in the full URL path which must begin with http:// in order to be successfully Whacked. It is added to the list and set "to be Whacked" on the next Whack.

Whack Levels Option

Use the Whack Levels option to automatically download an entire site or subset of a site from a single URL. Select the URL and choose Whack Levels from the Options menu to specify the number of "levels" to download. The next Whack of that URL will automatically add linked pages to the group for the indicated number of levels and Whack all the added links. You can download an entire site using the "all" levels option, as well as include links external to the site (one level).

Whacking

Whack or download pages and their images from the World Wide Web to your local drive using the knife on the toolbar or by choosing Whack from the File menu. You do not need to select/highlight pages; all pages that show the knife icon to the left of the URL will be Whacked. Pages are automatically set "to be Whacked" when first added to the list.

After Whacking, all pages successfully downloaded no longer display the knife. You can turn the knife on and off manually as desired by double-clicking in that column, or by choosing Enable Whack and Disable Whack from the Edit menu. "Re-Whack" by clicking the knife on again, and Whacking.

Whacking places local files into the folder originally specified for the group. There is one .htm file per page downloaded, plus one file for every image referenced by downloaded pages.

Download Error Reporting

If WebWhacker is unable to download a page or image, the URL in the Group displays as red text and the specific error is recorded. To view the error message, select the URL, choose URL Properties from the Options menu (or click the toolbar Info icon), and click on the Errors button in the Properties dialog.

Adding Linked Pages to the Group

Once you have Whacked a page, you can add some or all of the links it contains to the list, and Whack these linked pages into the group. Select any Whacked page (globe icon), and click the Links icon on the toolbar (or Add Links from the Group menu). The Add Links dialog is displayed. Mark any number of links from this list to add to your group. Marked items are indicated with a globe in the left column. Mark a single link by double-clicking in the left column. Mark one or more links by selecting them (use shift for multiple select) and then clicking the Mark button. Mark all links by clicking the Mark All button. The UnMark and UnMark All buttons are to likewise remove marks. When the correct links are marked, click Add and they will be added to the group list. The knife icon in the second column indicates they will be Whacked on the next Whack