

Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 vs. Netscape Communicator Brief Comparison Guide

This document provides brief tables for organizations and individuals to compare Microsoft® Internet Explorer 4.0 and Netscape Communicator for the Windows® 95 and Windows NT® operating systems. Please refer to the *Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 White Paper* and *Comparison Guide* for more details. This document is for informational purposes only. **MICROSOFT MAKES NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, IN THIS DOCUMENT.**

The Best Browser

Browser Features	IE 4.0	Netscape
Ease-of-Use & Personalization	Browser	Navigator
AutoComplete Address Bar	Yes	Yes
Integrated Channel, Search, History & Favorite Explorer Bars	Yes	No
Suite Integration with easy suite switching	Yes	Partial
Drag and drop to Favorites, toolbar or menu	Yes	Yes
Reorder links using drag and drop in menu	Yes	No
Thumbnail view of Favorite sites	Yes	No
Offline browsing	Yes	Limited
Navigation History with Back & Next buttons	Yes	Yes
Reorder and Combine toolbars	Yes	Reorder
Integrate mail, news, calendar and conference clients of choice	Yes	No
User selectable full-screen browser mode	Yes	No
User-friendly Error, Alert and Status messages	Yes	No
International Language Support	25-30 (final)	11 (final)
Dynamic HTML	IE 4.0	Navigator
CSS, CSS-Positioning	Yes	Yes
Document Object Model	Yes	No
True Dynamic HTML Styles & Content	Yes	No
Dynamic Positioning	Yes	Layers only
Data Binding and Awareness	Yes	No
HTML Compatibility	IE 4.0	Navigator
HTML 3.2 Support	Yes	Yes
Cascading Style Sheets (CSS1)	Yes (core + advanced)	Partial (core only)
Downloadable Web fonts (TrueType Std)	Yes	No (non-std Bitstream)
HTML 4.0 Working Draft support	Yes	Partial
W3C HTML OBJECT tag	Yes	Limited
Enhanced Frames (borderless, inline, floating)	Yes	Borderless
Forms & Table enhancements	Yes	No
File upload	Yes	Yes
Unicode international character support	Yes	Yes
Interactivity	IE 4.0	Navigator
Full support for ActiveX™ technologies	Yes	No
ActiveX Control Viewer	Yes	No
JavaBeans support (JDK 1.1)	Yes	No
ActiveX Script Debugger	Yes	No
Signing of plug-ins	Yes	Yes
COM/DCOM support	Yes	No
CORBA/IOP support	No	Yes
Installable JIT architecture	Yes	No
Java	IE 4.0	Navigator
Improved AWT	Yes	Partial
Advanced Class Libraries & J/Direct	Yes (AFC)	No
JDK 1.1 cross-platform support	Yes	Limited
JavaBeans support	Yes	No
Automatic and bidirectional integration of ActiveX components and JavaBeans	Yes	No
Dynamic HTML Object Model exposed to Java	Yes	No
Multimedia class libraries with support for DirectX™ API	Yes	No
AutoInstall of Java™ class libraries	Yes	Yes
Just in Time compiler	Fastest	Yes
Scripting	IE 4.0	Navigator
ECMAScript-compatible scripting	Yes	JavaScript only
Scripting of Java Applets	ECMAScript & VBScript	JavaScript only
Support for native document formats (such as Word.doc or Excel.xls) within the browser	Yes	Limited
Support for Visual Basic® Scripting	Yes	No
Integration of objects and scripts	Yes	Partial

Scripting	IE 4.0	Navigator
Full event model for all tags and all scriptable	Yes	No
Scripting of plug-ins	No	Yes
Browser Features	IE 4.0	Navigator
Multimedia		
Multimedia controls	Yes	No
Interactive music control	Yes	No
Progressive playback of video and audio files	Yes	Audio only
In-line (streamed) sound support	Yes	Yes
Video streaming support	Yes	No
Native QuickTime video playback	Yes	Plug-in
Native MPEG video and audio playback	Yes	No
3-D animation and VRML 2.0	Yes	Yes
Performance	IE 4.0	Navigator
HTTP 1.1 basic performance enhancements	Yes	No
MMX-enabled and support for DirectX	Yes	No
Native shell integration	Yes	No
Fast Java VM/JIT	Fastest	Yes
Fast Cache	Yes	No
Direct CD-ROM support	Yes	Yes
Partial download support (files, images, HTTP)	Yes	FTP only
Security and Privacy	IE 4.0	Navigator
Security Zones	Yes	No
Centralized Certificate Management	Yes	Limited
SSL 2.0/3.0 support, PCT 1.0 support	Yes	No PCT
128 bit encryption version	Yes	Yes
Client and Server authentication	Yes	Yes
Interoperable Server Gated Crypto	Yes (final)	Proprietary
Code signing for Navigator plug-ins, ActiveX	Yes	No
Code signing for Java Applets	Yes	Yes
Code signing for scripting	No	Yes
Support for Java Applet "sandboxing"	Yes	Yes
Capabilities-based Java security	Yes	Yes
Profiling Standard support	Yes	No
PICS rating system with pluggable ratings	Yes	No
Global Cookie Disable option	Yes	Yes
Wallet (secure storage of billing information)	Yes	No
Personal Information Exchange (PFX)	Yes	No
Smart Card authentication and applications	Yes	Limited
Cryptographic API	Yes	No

Complete Communication & Collaboration

Communication and Collaboration	Outlook™ Express	Netscape Messenger
SMTP/POP3, NNTP, IMAP4, LDAP, MIME, S/MIME, MIME HTML standard support	Yes	Yes
Can view and compose full HTML messages	Yes	Yes
Multiple mail servers	Yes	No
Offline Mail and News support	Yes	Yes
Rich Mail filtering	Yes	Partial
Search Messages on server and locally	Local	Yes
Auto Add to Address Book	Yes	No
LDAP Lookup	Yes	Yes
Automatic name resolution from Personal Address Book and LDAP servers	Yes	No
AutoComplete from Personal Address book	No	Yes
Three-pane view	Yes	No
Customizable toolbar	Yes	Partial
Stationery templates	Yes	Yes
vCard support	Yes	Yes
Secure password authentication using SASL	Yes	No
Send encrypted or signed mail	Yes	Yes
Newsgroups & Discussions	Outlook Express	Netscape Collabra

Communication and Collaboration Mail	Outlook™ Express	Netscape Messenger
Customizable toolbar	Yes	Partial
HTML View and Compose	Yes	Yes
Multiple news servers	Yes	Yes
Threaded Message views	Yes	Yes
Watch Response Threads to My Messages	Yes	No
Create internal discussion groups	Yes	Yes
Secure discussions with SSL 3.0	Yes	Yes

Communication and Collaboration Live Conferencing	Net-Meeting™	Conference
Standards-based conferencing	T.120,H.323	H.323 only
True Application sharing	Yes	No
Audio Conferencing	Multipoint enabled	Point-to-point only
Video Conferencing (H.323, H.263, H.261)	Yes	No
Data Conferencing (T.120 Multipoint)	Yes	No
LDAP Directory Lookup	Yes	No
Collaborative Whiteboard	Multipoint	Point-to-Point
Multipoint File Transfer (T.127 standard)	Yes	No
Chat	Multipoint	Point-to-point

Live & On-Demand Web Broadcasting	Microsoft NetShow™	NS Media Player
Streaming audio	Yes	Yes
Streaming video & illustrated audio (images synchronized with audio tracks)	Yes	No
Streaming PowerPoint presentations	Yes	No
Live Audio IP Multicast	Yes	Yes
Video & file IP Multicast	Yes	No
VB Script or ECMAScript events & URL flips	Yes	No
Rich scheduling capabilities	Yes	No

HTML Authoring & Publishing	FrontPage Express	NSCP Composer
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General Features		
PageWizard and templates	Yes	Yes
WYSIWYG editing	Yes	Yes
Table editing and creation	Yes	Yes
Import and convert images	Yes (with Office 97)	Yes
Style pages	Yes	Yes

Web Technology Tools		
Netscape plug-ins	Yes	Yes
Java Applets	Yes	Yes
ECMAScript	Yes	Yes
ActiveX Controls	Yes	No
Visual Basic Script	Yes	No

Publishing Tools		
Web Publishing Wizard	Yes	No
Web server	Yes	No

Webcasting of Sites and Channels

Webcasting Channels	IE 4.0	Netcaster
Webcast any site (simple site crawl)	Yes	Yes
Easy optimized Webcast of existing sites	Yes	No
Exclusive Premium Channels	Yes	Limited
Channel content type supported: any HTML, Dynamic HTML, Java, ActiveX Controls	Yes	Partial
Proposed Channel Definition Format support	Yes	Limited
Author-Optimized Delivery Options	Yes (CDF)	No
Open Architecture for Back-end Services	Yes	No
Site architecture changes required	No	Yes
Multicast support	Yes	No
Channels integrated with browser	Yes	No
Offline Channel viewing	Yes	Yes
Full-screen channel viewing	Yes	Yes
Channel Guide/Finder	Yes	Yes
Subscriptions	IE 4.0	Netcaster
Web Content Receive Options		

Webcasting Channels	IE 4.0	Netcaster
In locally cached Web pages	Yes	Yes
In Desktop Web items, channels, tickers	Yes	Channels
In taskbars	Yes	No
In Mail	Yes	No
Notification Options		
E-mail, Desktop, Subscription Status Folder	Yes	No

Offline Reading	IE 4.0	Netcaster
Offline support for Web sites and channels	Yes	Limited
Monitor and download Favorite Web sites with auto Web sitecrawl	Yes	Yes
Single cache for browser and channels	Yes	No
Support site passwords	Yes	No
Download control over page depth sitecrawl	Yes	Yes
Download control over images, applets, controls, audio and video	Yes	No
Customized download schedule	Yes	Yes

Integration between the Web and the PC

True Web Integration Features Single Explorer	IE 4.0	Netscape Netcaster
Single-click navigation and icon launching (on Web, PC, LAN)	Yes	No
Single window for navigating PC and Web	Yes	No
Unified toolbar adjusts for file or Web browsing	Yes	No
Combined Web and local Favorites, available everywhere	Yes	No
HTML viewing of file systems	Yes	No
Native File Management	Yes	No
HTML-based Help	Yes	Yes

Start Menu & Taskbar	IE 4.0	Netcaster
Start Menu Options		
Launch Web icons	Yes	No
Contains your Favorite Web sites	Yes	No
Drag-and-drop customization of all items (applications, favorites, etc.)	Yes	No

Taskbar and Toolbars		
Allows creation of multiple toolbars for launching files, apps, Web tasks	Yes	No
Switch natively between applications	Yes	No
Can contain optional URL address bar, favorite links, tickers or desktop shortcuts	Yes	No
Can contain file shortcuts or search forms	Yes	No
Toolbars can float, dock or merge anywhere	Yes	No

Active Desktop	IE 4.0	Netcaster
Web Desktop items on the native desktop	Yes	No
Add items via button-click, drag & drop	Yes	No
Rearrange or resize desktop items	Yes	No
User-configurable desktop	Yes	No
Screen Saver	Yes	No
Show pre-existing content from native desktop	Yes	No
Create custom desktops and manage them	Yes	Yes
Automatically update content via Web	Yes	Yes
Offline caching	Yes	Yes

Complete Administrative Features

Central Administration	IE4 Admin Kit	NS Mission Control & AutoAdmin
Price for Administration software	Free	\$1,995
Price for each Internet suite copy supported	Free	\$79
Easy, single-step wizard-based setup	Yes	Improved
Pre-configuration of desktop and browser	Yes	Yes
Options can be configured & "locked down"	Yes	Yes
Hands-free setup in corporate deployment	Yes	Yes
Automatic migration of existing configurations	Yes	No

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Central Administration	IE4 Admin Kit	NS Mission Control & AutoAdmin
Automatic proxy configuration	Yes	Yes
Setup, control and update user profiles	Yes (Win32®)	Limited
Multiple user profiles sharing same PC	Yes	Yes