

Internet Explorer 3.0 Comparison Guide

For the latest version of this document (with informative links) see:
<http://www.microsoft.com/ie/ie3/compare.htm>

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Overview

Internet Explorer 3.0 is the web browser that puts you a step ahead on the Internet! Now with ActiveX, Java, Plug-in, and the broadest HTML support, Internet Explorer 3.0 provides the best browsing experience and most technically advanced development platform for end users, organizations, and content developers. And with innovative Internet conferencing, collaboration, and browser customization, Internet Explorer 3.0 provides the richest feature set of any browser while still offering an easy to use and personalized Internet experience.

This document is designed to provide an informative framework for organizations and individuals to compare Internet Explorer 3.0 and Netscape® Navigator 3.0.

Internet browsers should be compared on two levels: architecture and features. The architecture is the definitive aspect for performance, extensibility, and future features. The feature set is most important for ensuring that the browser takes advantage of the Web's rich offerings, whether it be with respect to content viewing, security, communicating and collaborating, or personalizing the Internet experience. Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 has a more advanced architecture and offers the feature superset of Netscape Navigator 3.0.

- Internet Explorer 3.0 is architected as a set of ActiveX™ Controls. At its heart is the component object model (COM), the object model that allows programmers to mix and match languages as they flexibly program ActiveX objects and create the most compelling applications and web sites. This architecture is primarily important in that it distributes Internet capabilities to the whole desktop. Any application can easily incorporate Internet functionality by using Internet Explorer as an ActiveX control, and likewise, Internet Explorer can take advantage of any other ActiveX enabled applications. Secondly, Internet Explorer 3.0's component based architecture makes it incredibly extensible. Additional functionalities can be inserted without having to fundamentally change the code. Users only need to download the addition, and not another full-sized product, to update Internet Explorer.
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- Beyond having a superior architecture, Internet Explorer 3.0 offers all of the important features that Navigator 3.0 does, and much more:
 - Superior HTML support including HTML 3.2 and Cascading Style Sheets
 - More Web Interactivity with broader programming and scripting language support
 - Richer multimedia with Active Movie
 - Additional security using Authenticode code authentication, CryptoAPI 1.0, and more
 - True collaboration using NetMeeting for multipoint communication
 - Personalization for the individual and the administrator with the customizable toolbar, ratings, and the Internet Explorer Administration Kit

Creating and viewing all the Web has to offer!

With our initial releases, the Microsoft Internet Explorer team concentrated on creating a robust and reliable platform, stressing usability, and catching up with Netscape Navigator's feature set. With Internet Explorer 3.0, Microsoft has moved ahead of Navigator and other browsers by introducing a new component-based architecture, supersetting Navigator features, and enabling a next generation platform for Web content development. Internet Explorer may not be the most used browser yet, but it is the most innovative, technically advanced, and feature-rich browser available.

Cutting-Edge HTML and Style Sheet Support

Both Microsoft and Netscape realize that HTML is the backbone of the Internet. Through the help of Internet standards committees such as the W3C (<http://www.w3.org/pub/www/>) and the IETF (<http://www.ietf.org/>), HTML provides a set of guidelines that define the latest capabilities for the Internet.

But Microsoft and Netscape have taken different approaches to HTML. Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 and Netscape Navigator 3.0 both support all HTML 2.0 and some later standards. Support for the following HTML features are built into both Internet Explorer 3.0 and Navigator 3.0:

- **Standard Frames.** Enable you to seamlessly open several panes within the browser window, or embed a single frame anywhere in a Web page where you could insert a graphic. Frames enable you to display many levels of information without requiring that a visitor leave your site. Both browsers support various options for the frame borders as well.*
- **Standard Tables.** Give you great control over the display of text, graphics, and background colors, making Web content more readable and visually interesting.*
- **HTML 2.0.**
- **Limited Multimedia.** Run video and inline sound in a Web page.

Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 also goes further by fully supporting W3C and IETF HTML specifications, including HTML 3.2, and more. Specifically:

- **Enhanced Frames.** Includes frames-within-frames, floating frames, and non-scrolling frames.
- **Enhanced Tables.** Beyond simply supporting background colors, Internet Explorer 3.0 also supports background images, wrapped text, and cell groupings within tables.
- **Enhanced and TrueType Font Support**
- **“HTML and STYLE” specification.** One of the first post-3.2 HTML specifications proposed by the W3C. This covers SPAN, DIV and STYLE elements and linking of style sheets to HTML documents, it's the glue than binds style sheets to HTML.
- **Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), level 1.** Stylesheets bring desktop publishing capabilities to the Web.
 - **Embedding style information via STYLE attribute.** (contained in the “HTML and Style” specification, an adjunct to CSS). This allows for in-line style information. Authors now have easy access to rich style attributes.

* As introduced by Internet Explorer.

- **Linked style sheets.** For advanced authors, style information can be placed in external documents and reused across an array of HTML documents, a valuable tool for administratively defined intranet and Web publishing. The Webmaster can change the look and feel of an entire web site with changes to a single style sheet.
- **Full font control.** Easier control of font families, weighting, and typographic measurement units (cm's, inches, pixels, percentages, em's, etc) for sizing.
- **Full white-space control.** Allows for setting margins in typographic units around all edges of elements. This is a critical first step towards realizing real desktop publishing-style pages.
- **Full background control** (non-tiled). Allows the web author to place an image behind an object, say, a table cell, in a variety of manners. Beyond the standard full-tile, an image can be tiled vertically, horizontally, or directly positioned anywhere on the page.
- **Backgrounds.** Background colors and image capabilities can be added to tables, paragraphs, or anywhere else they might enhance a web page.
- **Typographic space control.** Allows for setting inter-line and intra-line spacing (font 'leading').
- **Indenting.** Easily indent a line or paragraph of text on an HTML page.
- **Negative margins.** Very rich control allowing elements to float over other elements on a page.
- **CSS Layout.** An experimental specification from W3C for handling frames, floating frames, multi-column layout, 2D direct placement of elements, ordering and overlapping of elements, all in a rich and well-architected HTML syntax.
- **HTML Layout Control.** Supports and facilitates using new HTML extensions as pioneered between Microsoft and the W3C.
- **<OBJECT> tag support.** The first of the post 3.2 HTML specifications from the W3C, this tag is the W3C standard implementation for all EMBED and APPLET functionality. It lets downlevel browsers see substitute content in place of the object, applet, or plug-in that an updated browser would prefer.
- **Scrolling Marquees.** Perfect for calling out time-critical information.
- **Netscape**, on the other hand, not only lags in its support for HTML standards, but is introducing proprietary extensions which are not as rich as the standards-based offerings. Specifically:
 - Netscape supports the <EMBED> tag rather than the HTML standard, more versatile <OBJECT> tag approved by the W3C. The approved HTML specification for the object tag was completed in December 1995, sufficiently before Netscape shipped even Navigator 2.0. Although <EMBED> is a proprietary tag, Internet Explorer supports it for compatibility reasons.
 - Netscape introduced frames to Navigator in September 1995, yet did not submit specifications to the W3C until June 1996.
 - Navigator 3.0 beta 5 has introduced even more proprietary HTML extensions, despite the fact that richer functionalities are already available with W3C supported extensions supported by Internet Explorer:
 - <MULTICOL> tag for placing information in columns
 - <SPACER> tag for positioning information in pages

HTML Support - Employing standards to create great looking Web pages		
HTML 3.2 tags	Yes	Some
Sub/Supr Script	Yes	Yes

Tables wrapped by text (alignment)	Yes	No
FONT Sizing, Color	Yes	Yes
W3C/IETF RFC1952 Tables	Yes	Some
Tables with cell grouping	Yes	Yes
Tables border control	Yes	Yes
Header and footer grouping	Yes	No
W3C HTML OBJECT tag	Yes	No
Stylesheets	Yes	None
Typeface selection	Yes	No [∞]
Typeface scaling (any point size)	Yes	No
Margins control	Yes	No
Watermarks (non-scrolling backgrounds)	Yes	No ^α
Table background color	Yes	No ^α
Table background image	Yes	No
Non-tiled-backgrounds	Yes	No
Full white-space control	Yes	No ^α
Typographical space control	Yes	No
Indenting	Yes	No
Negative Indenting margins	Yes	No
Other		
Scrolling Marquees	Yes	No
Netscape Frames	Yes	Yes
Enhanced Frames (borderless, inline, and floating)	Yes	borderless only
Transparencies	Yes	Yes
Direct placement of objects in page	Yes	No
Background sound	Yes	Yes
Blinking text	No	Yes
HTML 2.0 tags	Yes	Yes

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Internet Explorer 3.0 offers the broadest HTML support of any browser, giving web authors the greatest flexibility and users the best viewing experience.

Bringing Interactivity to the Web

While important to the viewing of static web pages, HTML provides only some of the web's potential for dynamic web pages and Internet interactivity. More powerful web content demands applications such as ActiveX controls or Netscape Plug-ins to extend beyond HTML. Scripting these software applets together provides for interactivity and a dynamic Internet experience.

As corporations move to intranets and the Internet, it becomes increasingly important that they are also able to leverage their existing knowledge and investment in tools and software. Microsoft and Netscape both address these demands, but with different approaches.

[∞] Can only be done using non-approved, W3C extensions on a per-page basis.

Internet Explorer 3.0 and Navigator 3.0 both support:

- **Java applets** are software components created using the Java language.
- **Just-In-Time Java Compiler** for greater performance (Navigator only supports Borland's JIT compiler).
- **JavaScript** is a proprietary scripting language created by Netscape.
- **Plug-ins** are developed by third-party vendors in the C programming language or one of its variants to extend web viewing functionality in a limited manner. Plug-ins are not cross-platform, as they need separate APIs for different platforms. Hence cross-platform offerings are most often original code ported to support the other platforms. Plug-ins are also limited in that they can only be run in a Web environment and not in other applications, so developers of plug-ins can reach only a limited market. In addition, the specifications for plug-ins are defined only by Netscape and change often. Finally, plug-ins are less safe since they rarely offer licensing support and are not code signed.

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Microsoft's open and extensible platform:

Customers have requested a browser that supports cutting-edge Web technology and also leverages existing information and code.

Internet Explorer 3.0 satisfies these demands using ActiveX. ActiveX is the only cross-platform, language and application independent set of technologies.

- **Java** is one of the best languages for creating an ActiveX control. Using ActiveX technologies, Java applets can communicate or be scripted with any ActiveX controls, regardless of the language in which they were created. And because of Internet Explorer's COM architecture, the same Java applets can be used in the browser or any other COM-based application.
- **ActiveX controls** are fast and lightweight software components based on Component Object Model (COM) technology, a technology that lets webmasters and developers create live objects for Web pages or applications. ActiveX controls can be created in a wide variety of languages, including Java. And because they leverage existing technology, ActiveX controls can be used both on web pages and any stand-alone application that is an ActiveX component container (such as Visio™, Visual FoxPro, Microsoft Access) as easily as embedding graphics in Web pages. There are currently over 1,000 ActiveX controls commercially available and usable in web pages. (Developers and web authors can find a wide variety of existing ActiveX controls at <http://www.microsoft.com/activex/gallery/>)
- **ActiveX Scripting** provides the greatest available flexibility to developers for tying together software components. Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 supports JScript, Microsoft's JavaScript-compatible scripting language, as well as VB Script and any other ActiveX enabled scripting language. This provides developers with the ability to choose from a variety of scripting languages, including custom languages.
- **ActiveX Documents** are Microsoft's answer to the common use of the Internet and intranet for disseminating already existing information. Rather than forcing users to port existing documents from their original forms into HTML format, support for ActiveX Documents enables you to open richly formatted documents, such as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet or chart, directly in the browser. For example, a finance intranet page might use ActiveX Document support to place an Excel spreadsheet or chart on its internal Web site. Intranet users could then open the document in its native Excel format and have full editing and control capabilities through the use of the Excel toolbar.

- **Any Just-In-Time Compiler.** The Microsoft Just-In-Time Java Compiler will provide the fastest way to run Java applications in a Web page, but Internet Explorer is extensible enough to use *any* JIT compiler.
- Not only does Netscape not offer the flexibility for creating and scripting active content, but Netscape appears to be limiting the future offering as well. Netscape:
 - Is making semantic changes to JavaScript and the plug-in specifications from version to version – the changes even cause some content to not work between versions of Navigator.
 - Has never published source code for JavaScript
 - Will not license JavaScript technology to others
 - Has not submitted current JavaScript documentation to the W3C nor the IETF
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Scripting and Web Application Development: Using ActiveX to create the webs most interactive pages		
Native ActiveX Control support	Yes	No [†]
Java Applet support	Yes	Yes
Scripting of Java Applets	JavaScript and VBScript	Partial Java Script ^Φ
Support for Java applet “sandboxing”	Yes	Yes
Support for native document formats (such as Word.doc or Excel .xls) within the browser window	Yes (ActiveX Documents)	No [†]
Native VBScript	Yes	No [†]
JavaScript-compatible scripting	Yes	Partial ^Φ
Integration of objects and scripts	Yes	Partial ^Φ
Netscape-compatible Plug-ins	Yes	Yes
Component Object Model	Yes	No
Extensible for creating custom applications	Yes	No
Installable JIT architecture	Yes	No
Browser serves as reusable control for Integration into external applications	Yes	No
Browser serves as extensible components integrated into desktop operating system	Yes	No

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Rather than only support Java, JavaScript, or LiveConnect and rely upon existing technologies being recreated in these languages, Microsoft Internet Explorer supports the widest amount of programming and scripting languages so that users can evolve their technologies to the Internet. Internet Explorer gives developers the greatest flexibility, and users the most content viewing with ActiveX.

Multimedia on the Internet

Multimedia is another important chapter to the active content story. Internet multimedia provides the opportunity for Web developers and authors to provide stimulating content in a dynamic fashion.

[†] Requires either the NCompass Labs DocActive, ControlActive, or ScriptActive Plug-in

^Φ Live Connect classes must be added to the Java applet for scripting to be enabled

Microsoft and Netscape have different vehicles for providing multimedia on the Internet. Whereas Microsoft has worked with Internet standards organizations and independent software developers to support a wide variety of standards, Netscape has focused on a more limited multimedia offering.

Netscape Navigator 3.0 and Internet Explorer 3.0 both support:

- AIFF, AU, MIDI, and WAV audio formats
- AVI video format
- In-line (streamed) sound support (Navigator needs the RealAudio plug-in)
- QuickTime video playback (Navigator needs the Apple QuickTime plug-in), 3D animation, and VRML

In addition to all of the above multimedia formats supported by Navigator 3.0, Internet Explorer 3.0 also supports:

- MPEG audio format
- MPEG video format
- Any ActiveX controlled in-line (streamed) sound
- In-line (streamed) video
- Active Movie, which supports MPV, MPA, MPE, MPEG, AU, AIF, AIFF, SND, MID, RMI, Wav + AVI, MOV, and QuickTime formats in a single control and is open and extensible for future technologies
- ActiveX scripting support and HTML layout control for more and better Multimedia development possibilities

• Multimedia performance is directly linked to integration with hardware, the operating system, and the browser itself. Microsoft Internet Explorer uses DirectX technologies where available to ensure that hardware is optimized for various forms of multimedia. It is tightly integrated with all operating systems. And most importantly, Internet Explorer's component object architecture and Active Movie allow multimedia to be fundamentally integrated with the browser for the best multimedia performance on the Internet.

Netscape Navigator relies primarily upon loosely integrated multimedia support through third-party plug-ins, a bolted-on approach in comparison to Internet Explorer's complete, top-down multimedia offering.

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Multimedia - Using ActiveX Controls to make your Web pages come alive!		
Hardware acceleration of video playback	Yes (DirectX)	No
Progressive Playback of Video/Audio files	Yes	No
Video formats (ActiveMovie™/LiveVideo)	MPEG, AVI, MOV, QuickTime	AVI
Audio formats	WAV, MIDI, AIFF, AU, MPEG audio	WAV, MIDI, AIFF, AU
In-line (streamed) sound support	RealAudio and other ActiveX Controls	RealAudio Plug-in
In-line (streamed) video support	Yes	No
QuickTime video playback	Yes (ActiveMovie™*)	Apple QuickTime† plug-in
MPEG video/audio playback	Yes (ActiveMovie)	No

3D Animation and VRML	Yes (Direct3D and VRML)	Yes (Live3D)

- *Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 offers very rich multimedia capabilities and is integrated with the operating system for great performance.*

Secure Communication and Interaction

Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 provides a comprehensive security solution through the Microsoft Internet Security Framework. It lets Web users communicate privately, download code they can trust, and identify themselves to others across the Internet. Users can conduct transactions and participate in consumer services on the Internet with the same privacy and security as in the real world.

Netscape Navigator 3.0 and Internet Explorer support:

- **Server and client authentication.** Uses a digital identification or certificate to identify the user to Web servers. Conversely, server authentication ensures that end users are communicating with their intended parties.
- **SSL 2.0/3.0.** A Netscape-developed protocol intended to provide secure communication over a TCP/IP connection.

Beyond these features, Internet Explorer supports:

- **Code signing with Authenticode.** Provides accountability for software and software components downloaded from the Internet, including Java applets and other ActiveX controls. Internet Explorer 3.0 lets end users identify who published the software before it is downloaded and verify that it was not tampered with.
- **CryptoAPI 1.0.** Provides the underlying security services for the Microsoft Internet Security Framework, and specifically for secure channels and code signing. The delivery of CryptoAPI through Internet Explorer 3.0 lets developers easily integrate strong cryptography into their applications. This security architecture provides a degree of extensibility that is unmatched by Navigator 3.0.
- **PCT 1.0.** Microsoft's integrated protocol for secure TCP/IP communication.
- Microsoft is actively participating in the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), and other groups to develop Internet security standards. These efforts, along with an adherence to existing certificate and cryptography standards, will ensure that Microsoft security technologies are interoperable and open.

On the other hand, Netscape has not worked as closely with the standards committees when introducing new security measures:

- Despite repeated headlines about security flaws, Netscape failed to submit the SSL protocol specification to any standards body until competition brought them to the IETF security discussion. They remain steadfast in their position of SSL only as they define it.

* Active Movie supports MPV, MPA, MPE, MPEG, AU, AIF, AIFF, SND, MID, RMI, Wav + AVI, MOV, and QuickTime formats in a single control and is extensible for support of future technologies

- Netscape's implementation of certificates, despite being based on the X.509 standard, does not allow access to the certificate store by any other application, a proprietary and closed implementation. (Microsoft's "wallet" implementation allows certificates to be used across applications)¹
- Licensees of SSL are prohibited from making any changes or fixing the known security holes in SSL.

Secure Communication and Interaction		
Support for Java applet "sandboxing"	Yes	Yes
Code Signing for Java Applets	Yes (Authenticode)	No
Control scripting security	Yes	No
Control security for data streaming	Yes	No
Site Certificate Support	Yes	Yes
Client-side Certificates	Yes	Yes
SSL 2.0/3.0 support	Yes	Yes
PCT Support	Yes	No
Support for the Win32 CryptoAPI# 1.0	Yes	No

- *Microsoft Internet Explorer provides the most robust and comprehensive set of technologies for secure online communications and electronic commerce.*

Communicating and Collaborating on the Web

The Web provides the opportunity for unparalleled communication and collaboration. Other than communicating through the medium of Web page publishing, features such as Internet telephony, data and video conferencing, mail, news, chat, and application sharing are integral to complete communications. With the NetMeeting and Microsoft Internet Mail and News features, Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 sets the standard for Internet Communication and Collaboration.

Netscape addressed their need for a communications solution by purchasing InSoft, Inc, the makers of CoolTalk, to supplement their Internet mail and news offerings.

Navigator 3.0 and Internet Explorer 3.0 both offer the following features:

- **Internet Mail and News:** Includes quick access through the browser UI for easy access to mail and news functionalities.
- **Point-to-point communications:** the whiteboard allows for a maximum of two collaborators, as does the chat, and the whiteboard users can only cut and paste onto the shared board.
- **Point-to-point Internet telephony**

Microsoft is building more than a communication and collaboration application, it is building a platform. NetMeeting and Microsoft Internet Mail and News offers much greater communication and collaboration functionality than Netscape does:

¹ See <http://www.microsoft.com/intdev/security> for more details.

[#] See the Internet Explorer 3.0 for Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0 Reviewers Guide for details on the CryptoAPI.

- **Full HTML Support in Mail and News:** More than just HTML reading, Internet Mail and News users can create and read mail and news messages in HTML. Any URL automatically becomes a link, with only a double-click required to send the default browser to the site.
- **Sophisticated Mail Organization and Composition:** Includes automatic mail sorting using the Inbox Assistant, mail prioritization, integrated spell checking, and drag-and-drop attachments and text. In addition, the address book will import from other sources and has group management features that are even easier than creating an alias.
- **Offline and Cached Mail and News capabilities:** Users can mark individual articles, threads, or even entire newsgroups for download. For superior performance, Internet Mail and News caches articles while you read online. Sophisticated cache management ensures that the cache is used efficiently and as defined by the user.
- **Comic Chat:** A graphical chat client.
- **Application sharing:** This is the most important data/document conferencing capability yet offered for Internet standard software. A user can share out any application to other users, and all can see, contribute to, and discuss the changes that are made, whether they have the shared application on their machine or not. This collaborative tool makes NetMeeting a true business feature.
- **Multipoint Communication:** Multipoint chat, whiteboard, and application sharing allow the user to hold meetings with three or more people, where everyone receives the transferred files, can draw on the whiteboard, and see and control the shared applications. This is a true community or collaborative experience, not just a simple point-to-point call.
- **Industry Standards:** NetMeeting adheres to T.120 protocols, the International Telecommunications Union standards for data conferencing used by telephone companies, PTTs, bridge manufacturers, video conferencing vendors, software vendors, and service providers worldwide.
- **Industry Support:** Over 120 companies, including Sprint, AT&T, and BT, have announced their support for Microsoft's H.323/T.120/RTP/RTCP/RSVP approach. As of the original release of NetMeeting, 18 companies had announced products that are or will be compatible with NetMeeting, including Intel, PictureTel, MCI, and Creative Labs. Many more promise to come.

Netscape has not committed to open communication and collaboration standards on the Internet:

- Despite being a member of the International Multimedia Teleconferencing Consortium and announcing support for the T.120 and H.323 standards, Navigator 3.0 does not implement anything based upon these standards.
- CoolTalk does not have an open payload format (like T.120 or H.323), so other applications cannot interoperate with Cooltalk
- Cooltalk is proprietary technology that is admittedly transitory²

Internet Conferencing Features - Communicating with others over the Internet		
Internet Audio Communication	Point-to-Point	Point-to-Point
Collaborative Whiteboard	Multipoint	Point-to-Point

² The CoolTalk dialog box claims that they will be moving to their yet unannounced LiveMedia framework in a later release.

Internet Chat	Multipoint	Point-to-Point
Application sharing	Multipoint	No
File Transfer	Yes	No
Standards-based conferencing (T.120, G.723, H.323)	Yes	No
Internet Answering Machine	No	Yes
NNTP Internet Newsreader	Yes	Yes
Newsgroup Posting	Yes	Yes
POP3 Internet Mail client	Yes	Yes
Read and Create messages in HTML	Yes	read-only
Offline Mail and News support	Yes	No
Multilingual support for Mail and News reading	Yes	No

Microsoft, through the implementation of open standards and an unmatched feature set, has brought true communication and collaboration capabilities to the Internet with Internet Explorer 3.0.

Personalizing the Internet Experience

The ability to personalize one's Internet experience makes accessing pertinent information even easier, whether it be through providing various localized versions, or personalizing the look and feel of the browsing environment. Internet Explorer 3.0 has leapt ahead of Navigator for personalization.

Navigator 3.0 and Internet Explorer 3.0 both offer:

- **History and Favorites (bookmarks) menu**
- **Customizable, personal home page**
- **Localization in a limited amount of languages**

But Internet Explorer provides more personalization:

- **Use Mail/News reader of choice**
- **Customizable toolbar configuration and buttons:** Configure the Internet Explorer toolbar in any manner and customize the quick link buttons to point to Web sites of your choice.
- **Ratings (PICS) support** which allow the user (or parent or administrator) to limit access to sites with optional degrees of language, nudity, sex, or violence as defined by the Recreational Software Advisory Council (RSAC).
- **The Internet Explorer Administration Kit (IEAK)** allows corporate administrators and organizations to:
 - Customize Internet Explorer 3.0 for distribution with corporate logos, favorites, and toolbars.
 - Configure server settings for mail, news, User Location Services, proxy address, ports and exceptions etc.
 - Configure toolbar, favorites, active movie, and custom command folder in a per user or group defined manner.

- The IEAK is licensed free of charge. In comparison, Netscape has yet to release an administration kit and will reportedly charge \$1995 when they do.
- **On-the-fly character set change** by clicking on an icon in the lower right corner of the user interface.
- **At least 25 Localized versions**

Despite being an initiator of the effort to allow parents to limit the content viewing of their children, Netscape has not supported the industry's solution: the Platform for Internet Content Specification (PICS). Netscape now dismisses the PICS solution as "not having any application for the enterprise"³ and irrelevant since most sites do not yet support it.

Personalization Features - Creating the personal Web experience		
Ratings (PICS) Support	Yes	No
History and Favorites (Bookmarks) menus	Yes	Yes
Customizable, personal home page	Yes	Yes
Distribution/Administration Kit	Yes	Yes
Use Mail/News Reader of choice	Yes	No
Ease-of-Use Features Making the Internet accessible to everyone		
Search, e-mail, news, edit buttons on toolbar	Yes	No
View frame's HTML source on context menu	Yes	No
Links table printing option (for printing link sources at the end of the HTML document)	Yes	No
View Source and Refresh context (pop-up) menu commands for pages in frames	Yes	No
Refresh and View Source context (pop-up) for page items	Yes	Yes
Internet shortcuts	Yes	Yes
Quick access to QuickLink locations	Yes	Yes
Customizable QuickLinks	Yes	No
On-line tutorial	Yes	Yes
Mail Send command allows you to mail an Internet shortcut from the browser	Yes	Yes
GUI, Toolbars, help	Yes	Yes
Drag-and-drop of Web page links	Yes	Yes
Full keyboard accessibility	Yes	No
Print Preview	No	Yes
Localization Overview		
Number of 3.0 Beta localized versions	8	1 - English
Number of 2.0 release localized versions	27	6
Number of 3.0 Release localized versions	25	11
View any character set on any version of Windows	Yes	No
International Language control settings	Yes	Yes
Ability to change languages on the fly	Yes	No

³ Marc Andreessen at Netscape's analyst briefing, June 27, 1996.

Languages in which the 3.0 browser will be available[†]		
Brazilian Portuguese	Yes	Yes
Czech	Yes	No
Danish	Yes	Yes
Dutch	Yes	Yes
English (US and International)	Yes	Yes
Finnish	Yes	No
French	Yes	Yes
German	Yes	Yes
Greek	Yes	No
Hungarian	Yes	No
Italian	Yes	Yes
Japanese	Yes	Yes
Korean	Yes	Yes
Norwegian	Yes	No
Polish	Yes	No
Portuguese	Yes	No
Russian	Yes	No
Simplified Chinese	Yes	No
Slovak	Yes	No
Slovenian	Yes	No
Spanish	Yes	Yes
Swedish	Yes	Yes
Thai	Yes	No
Traditional Chinese	Yes	No
Turkish	Yes	No

Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 provides the IS manager and end user with maximum flexibility to customize and personalize the Internet experience.

Conclusion

Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 is a technological leap-frog of Netscape Navigator 3.0. It not only supersedes Navigator 3.0's features across the board, but its componentized architecture lays the foundation for integrating the Internet with every aspect of today and tomorrow's PC.

[†] Not all languages will be available in the beta cycles.