Personalization

Though the Internet provides great promise as an exciting new communications tool, many people cannot reap its benefits, for simple reasons. Research shows that new users still find it too difficult to connect, navigate, download, and communicate on the Web. Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 removes the mystery from getting up and running on the Internet. Improvements to the toolbar reduce the confusion about downloading, and pre-loaded favorites quickly link you to cool sites.

Plus, you can customize your toolbar, Favorites folder, user preferences, and start page to personalize your experience of the Web, making it match your personal characteristics and preferences.

Customizable Toolbar
You can change the size of the toolbar by dragging the Address bar or the Quick Links button up or down, or to the left or right, to remove or display them. You can even turn off any of the toolbars so that you have more room to see web content. Independent software vendors can customize the toolbar by putting their own graphic on the toolbar, adding their sites to the Quick Links button, and adding their own start and search pages.

Figure 13 Toolbar with Address Bar

Figure 14 Toolbar without Address bar and compressed buttons

Figure 15 Toolbar with Expanded QuickLinks

Customizable Quick Links
Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 comes pre-loaded with Quick Links to cool Web sites to help people easily connect to the Web. Though these are preset, , with the Internet Explorer Administrative Kit, Information Systems managers can customize the links to match specific needs of their organizations. For more information on the Internet Explorer Administrative Kit, please see the section titled Customizing and Managing Internet Explorer earlier in this document.

Customizable Internet Ratings
Many people are hesitant to browse the Web because of security concerns. Parents want assurances that children cannot visit sites that display inappropriate information. Corporations have similar concerns, wanting to block the use of sites that offer no business value. Microsoft has been working closely with the Platform for Internet Content Selection (PICS) committee to help define standards for rating Internet content.

Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 is the first browser to support the PICS standard, which enables you to control access to rated Web sites, or use third-party rating bureaus (see PICS specification for more details, at http://www.w3.org/pub/WWW/PICS) to control the types of content you want to see. By choosing different levels of allowable language, nudity, sex, and violence, you can filter out unwanted

sites, effectively blocking users from being able to access objectionable material. Parents or supervisors can set passwords to allow access to any Web site, and you can block users from being able to access Web sites that aren't rated. Since the system is open and extensible, you can set up your own ratings system to further enforce limitations on site access.
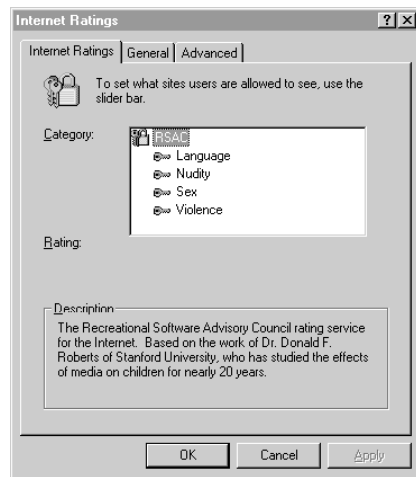

Figure 17 Set access to Web sites based on their content.

Internet Explorer 3.0 reads special tags placed on pages by Internet content providers to determine whether that page meets your criteria for what types of content should be displayed. Web site authors can obtain a rating from the Recreational Software Advisory Council (RSAC), the organization that created and now maintains these ratings. RSACi distributes these PICS tags from their Web site (http://www.rsac.org).

These ratings are based on the PICS technology for defining and creating rating systems. RSAC used the PICS "language" to define it's rating system. Rating can be generated by both the Web site managers and independent bureaus. This way, parents and corporations have a choice of which rating system best meets their needs and preferences.

Managing The Favorites Folder
You can organize and save your favorite sites by creating and naming folders in which to store them. This makes it easier and quicker to find the one you're looking for. Plus, anything you can do with a file, such as copying, renaming, deleting, moving, or including it in a mail message, you can do with the contents of your Favorites list.

You can mail a favorite shortcut to someone else by copying it into an e-mail message. Plus, you can use that shortcut as part of a signature file, so that people reading your message could double-click your shortcut, and go automatically to your WWW site.

Netscape Bookmark Conversion Tool
When you install Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0, it automatically converts all Netscape Bookmarks into shortcuts in your Favorites folder.

Customizable Start Page
Enables you to customize the Microsoft Network home page (www.msn.com) to reflect your personal preferences. You can set the MSN home page to retrieve and update the latest information about your favorite stocks, cartoons, news, sports and more, including the following:

Favorite Links	Weather	Ski Reports
Search Engines	News Services	United Media Comic Strips
Ziff-Davis Computer	Music Clips	Movie Links

News		
Stock Quotes	Sports Scores	TV Listings

Figure 16 Customizable MSN Home Page

Accessibility

Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 provides greater Internet accessibility for all people by being the first browser to provide any significant accessibility features. It enables keyboard navigation of the Web, and provides the option to increase font size on any Web page, and other accessibility features.

Keyboard Navigation

With Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0, you can explore the Web from the keyboard by pressing TAB and SHIFT+TAB to navigate back and forth between image and text links, hotspots in client-side image maps, and more.

As you move to or click a hyperlink or image, a one-pixel border is drawn around it so you can see what is selected. This works for client-side image maps, too − even for hotspots that are circles or polygons!

Other keyboard shortcuts include the following.

ENTER to go to a link	ALT+LEFT ARROW and ALT+RIGHT ARROW to go back and forward	BACKSPACE and SHIFT+BACKSPACE to go back and forward
SHIFT+F10 to display a context menu for a link	CTRL+R to refresh the current page	ESC to stop downloading the page
CTRL+O to go to a new location	CTRL+N to generate a new window	CTRL+S to save the current page
CTRL+TAB to cycle between frames	SHIFT+TAB and SHIFT+CTRL+TAB to go backwards through links and frames	F5 to refresh the page

Large Font Option

With the Font button on the toolbar, you have complete control over the size in which fonts are displayed.

Other Accessibility Features

Provides features that let text-only browsers read your page, including tooltips for pictures that tell you the location (URL) of a link and support for the ALT tag that enables you to display alternate text for images.