

What's New in Internet Explorer?

Internet Explorer is not just a browser anymore; now it enables you to integrate the Web with your desktop in numerous ways, and includes a set of programs that help you communicate better, including Outlook Express, Microsoft NetMeeting, Microsoft Chat, and FrontPage Express.

For more information, see [Internet Explorer Help](#).

Context Help Starts Here: Display Properties - Background tab

Help is available for each setting in this group. Click  at the top of the dialog box, and then click the item you want information about.

Shows how the selected wallpaper and pattern will look on your desktop.

Lists the available wallpapers you can use to decorate your desktop. When you click a wallpaper in this list, a preview of how the wallpaper (and any pattern you have selected) will look appears on the monitor graphic above the list.

Click this to browse through your computer or network for the file you want to use as a background on your desktop. Your background wallpaper can be a picture (files with a .bmp, .jpg, .gif, or .png extension) or an HTML page.

Click this to select a pattern that you want to use on your desktop or to create a new one. If no wallpaper is selected, this pattern covers the entire desktop. If wallpaper is selected, this pattern fills in the space around the wallpaper to the edges of your screen.

If this button is not available, you have selected a setting that displays the selected wallpaper or HTML graphic across your entire desktop, leaving no room for a pattern to be displayed.

Determines how the selected wallpaper is displayed on your desktop. To center the image in the middle of your desktop, click **Center**. To make a repeated pattern from the image, click **Tile**. If this option is not available, either no wallpaper is selected or you have selected an HTML page to use as wallpaper on your desktop.

Specifies whether to use the Active Desktop interface. When this check box is selected, you cannot use an HTML page as wallpaper on your desktop or add channels or items to your desktop.

Pattern dialog box

Lists the available patterns you can use to decorate your desktop. When you click a pattern in this list, a preview of how the pattern will look on your desktop appears in the box to the right of the list.

[Click this to edit the selected pattern pixel by pixel.](#)

Pattern editor dialog box

Adds a newly named pattern to the list.

Saves any changes you made to the pattern.

Removes the selected pattern from the **Pattern** list.

Provides a space for you to select the pattern you want to edit or type a name for a new pattern.

Provides a space for you to edit the selected pattern. To change the color of each pixel, click it.

Displays the results of the changes you make in the **Pattern** box as you edit.

Display Properties - Web tab

Shows how the Active Desktop items you have chosen or the channels you are currently subscribed to will appear on your desktop.

Lists the channels that you are currently subscribed to and the available Active Desktop items. If a check box is not selected, the item will not appear on the desktop.

Click this to subscribe to a new channel or add an Active Desktop item, and then follow the instructions on your screen. The new channel or item will be added to the list of Active Desktop items in the box on the left.

Removes the selected channel or Active Desktop item from your desktop and from the list of Active Desktop items in the box on the left.

Click this to change the settings for the selected channel or Active Desktop item. This button is not available if the Channel bar is currently selected.

Opens a small window that displays the selected channel or Active Desktop item. This is useful for making sure that the address you specified for this channel or item is still available and opens the Web site you want.

Click this to restore all the settings in this dialog box to the ones that originally came with the program. You might want to use this option if someone else will be using your computer who wants to subscribe to a different set of channels.

Specifies whether you want your Active Desktop to look and work like the Web. When this box is selected, you can subscribe to channels from your desktop, use a single-click to open items on the desktop, and add active content, such as a stock ticker, to your desktop.

Click this to display the Folder Options dialog box, which contains settings for customizing the way the folders on your computer are displayed.

View/ Folder Options/ Folder tab

Shows how your folder contents will look using the current settings.

Specifies that you want this folder and your desktop to look and work like a Web page. For example, when you choose this option, you will be able to click items on your desktop or in folders just once to open or run them, just like you click links on the Web. To select an item, you just point to it. Also, it enables you to add information, change font styles, and use HTML pages as background wallpaper.

Specifies that you want this folder and your desktop to look and work as they have in previous versions of Windows. For example, when you choose this option, you double-click items on the desktop or in a folder to open or run them, and click them once to select them.

Specifies that you want to choose your own settings to customize the way this folder and your desktop look and work. To set your preferences, click **Settings**.

[Click this to choose a combination of classic Windows and Web-style settings.](#)

View/Folder Options/Custom Settings

Specifies whether to use the Active Desktop interface. When this check box is selected, your computer's desktop looks and works like a Web page, and you can add active content to it.

Specifies that you want your desktop to look and work like a classic Windows desktop instead of like a Web page.

Click this to open the Display properties dialog box, where you can add items to the desktop if you are using the Active Desktop interface.

Displays the contents of each folder you open in the same window. To switch back to the previous folder, click the **Back** button on the toolbar, or press the BACKSPACE key.

Opens a new window every time you open a folder. The previous folder will still be displayed in a window, so you can switch between them.

Displays folders as Web pages. When a folder is displayed as a Web page, you can add information, change font styles, and use HTML pages as background wallpaper. You cannot change the settings for My Computer and Control Panel; these folders are already displayed as Web pages.

Displays a folder as a Web page only when you specifically choose to do so for that folder. When a folder is displayed as a Web page, you can add information, change font styles, and use HTML pages as background wallpaper.

Specifies that you want to open items in folders and on the desktop by single-clicking them, just like you would click a link on a Web page. To select an item without opening it, you would rest your mouse pointer on it.

Specifies that you want icon titles in your folders and on the desktop to appear underlined, just like links on a Web page. For this to apply, you must be sure that the **Underline links** setting in the browser is not set to **Never**

Specifies that you want icon titles in your folders and on the desktop to appear underlined only when you rest your mouse pointer on the title.

Specifies that you want to single-click an item to select it, and double-click an item to open it. This is the traditional Microsoft Windows model.

View/ Folder Options/ View tab

Click this to use the current folder settings on the **View** menu (except for the toolbar settings) for all folders on your computer.

Click this to use the folder settings on the **View** menu (except for the toolbar settings) that were in effect when this program was first installed.

Specifies that when you close a folder, the folder settings you chose are retained whenever you reopen it. When this box is not checked, all folders return to the state they were in when this program was installed.

Displays the path of the folder in the title bar of the window. Click this option if you want a quick way to see the name of the folder that is open.

Hides the three-letter file name extensions for certain files. Click this option to reduce clutter in your folder windows.

Shows a description of the selected folder or desktop item in a small pop-up window. When you select this option, the pop-up description appears even if you are not viewing the folder or your desktop as a Web page. If your folder is already being displayed as a Web page, selecting this option has no effect, because the same information already appears in the left pane of the folder.

Specifies that hidden and system files do not appear in the list of files in this folder. Select this option if you want to protect your system files from accidentally being changed or deleted. Selecting this option also reduces clutter in your folder windows.

Specifies that hidden files do not appear in the list of files in this folder. Generally, hidden files are program or system files that should not be changed. To find out whether a file is designated as hidden, make sure this option is not checked, right-click the file, and then click Properties. Select this option if you want to protect your hidden files from accidentally being changed or deleted. Selecting this option also reduces clutter in your folder windows.

Specifies that all files, including hidden and system files, appear in the list of files in your folders.

Does not display any icons on the desktop when the desktop is being viewed as a Web page. Only the taskbar and HTML items will be visible on the desktop.

Enables you to add buttons to the toolbar for connecting to and disconnecting from network drives. These functions are also available on the **Tools** menu.

Specifies that you want the attributes of each file, such as read only, to be displayed in a column when you are viewing the files in this folder in Details view.

Specifies that your computer can display a file name in all uppercase characters (such as FILENAME.TXT), if that's the way the file name was originally typed. When this option is not selected, file names are changed to lowercase characters (such as Filename.txt), regardless of how you typed them.

Specifies that you want your computer to fill in any jagged edges in the fonts displayed on your screen. This might be useful if you are working with large type or with graphic design, but your computer's performance will be slowed down.

Specifies that you want the entire contents of a window to remain visible while you are dragging that window to a different location. When this option is not selected, only the rectangular outline of a window is visible while you are moving it.

Restores the settings in this dialog box to the settings that originally came with this program.

Properties for a folder (right-click on folder, Properties)

Creates thumbnail graphics of the contents of files in the selected folder, if their file formats allow.

Toolbars, New Toolbar (right-click in taskbar)

Displays the name of the selected folder, or provides a space to type the address of the folder you want to add as a toolbar.

Display properties – Screen Saver tab – Channel Screen Saver settings

Displays a list of channels currently set up to appear as channel screen savers. To add a channel to this list, just click **Yes** when the Channel Subscription wizard asks whether you want to include this channel in the Channel Screen Saver.

Specifies how long you want each channel to display its screen saver before switching to the next channel.

Specifies whether you want to hear the sounds associated with each channel screen saver. This setting works only if you have a sound card and speakers installed on your computer.

Specifies whether you want to move your mouse pointer to close the Channel Screen Saver, or click the **Close** button in the upper-right corner of the window.

View\Folder Options menu, Files Types tab, Add New File Type dialog box

Provides a space for you to type or select the type of file you are adding. MIME stands for Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions; it is a protocol for defining file attachments for the Web.

Provides a space for you to type or select the extension that is associated with this file type—for example, the standard extension for text files is .txt.

Specifies that you always want to open files of this type as soon as they have finished downloading.

Specifies that you always want files of this type to open in the existing window instead of creating a new window.

View\Folder Options menu, File Types tab

Displays the three-letter extension currently associated with this file type—for example, the standard extension for text files is .txt.

Displays the program that is currently selected to open files of this type. If you want to change this program, select the file type you want to change it for, click **Edit**, click **Open**, and then click **Edit** again.

