

WebCam Xpress TM

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WebCam Xpress Introduction

This is an addition to WeatherXpress documentation.

All programs have a few things that they do that need at least a passing explanation. This program is pretty easy to use, and anyone who can read English should be able to operate the program with little or no help from this file.

But, not everyone is familiar with all aspects of the Internet, and/or web cameras, so each section of the program is explained in some detail.

Quick Start (Stand Alone Version):

Unzip WebCam Xpress to any directory. Before starting the Setup program, make sure there are no other programs running, especially if you are running Windows NT. Start the Setup exe by double clicking. WebCam Xpress will install to any directory you choose. **Reboot after installing.** Once you are back in Windows, connect to the Internet, go to your start menu and find the WebCam Xpress icon. The WebCam Xpress icon can be found by pressing the "Start" button, then selecting the "Programs" area, then go to the bottom of the programs folder listings. The WebCam Xpress icon should be at the bottom of the list. You can make a short cut to put on your desktop by right clicking the icon and selecting "Create Shortcut." Once you've done this, find the new icon in the Start/Program menu list, right click it, hold down the mouse button, and drag it to your desktop. Double click the new icon to launch the program. On start up you will be able to start viewing web cam images. If you launched WebCam Xpress using WeatherXpress, you should see the list of cameras you selected in WeatherXpress. If you start WebCam Xpress by itself you will always start in U.S. Weather Cams.

WebCam Xpress Registration

WebCam Xpress is Freeware. It is a part of WeatherXpress, but it can also be run as a single program. WeatherXpress can operate with or without this program, but the Web Camera feature will not be available to WeatherXpress if WebCam Xpress is not in the same directory.

I'm behind a firewall, can I use WebCam Xpress?

Ordinarily, WebCam Xpress does not require proxies to interact with the network services of external sources. However, in some network configurations the connection between WebCam Xpress and a remote server is blocked by a "firewall." Firewalls protect information in internal computer networks from external access. In doing so, firewalls might limit WebCam Xpress's ability to pull information from external sources. To overcome this limitation, WebCam Xpress can interact with proxy software. A proxy server sits atop a firewall and acts as a conduit, providing a specific connection for each network service protocol. If you are running WebCam Xpress on an internal network from behind a firewall, you'll need from your system administrator the name and associated port number for the server running proxy software for the HTTP network service. A single computer can run multiple servers, with each server connection identified with a port number. A proxy server, like an HTTP server, occupies a port. Typically, a connection uses standardized port numbers for each protocol (for example, HTTP = 80 and FTP = 21). However, unlike common server protocols, the proxy server has no default port and WebCam Xpress requires that so that it can communicate with the proxy server.

Proxy and Firewall Settings, setting your defaults

- 1) Obtain your web browsing, proxy server address from your System Administrator or Internet Service Provider.
- 2) On the Start menu of windows, click Settings, then Control Panel.
- 3) Click on the Internet icon.
- 4) Click on the Connection tab.
- 5) Check the Access the Internet using a Proxy server check box.
- 6) Enter the following information:

Address: your Proxy server name or IP address.

Port: your Proxy server port number

7) Click on the OK button.

In the WebCam Xpress window you have 2 selections, Use Normal Access (most users), Use Default Proxy Access (for those whose system is set up for proxy service using the above method). If you are using a modem or accessing the Internet over a LAN, or some other method that doesn't use a proxy server select Use Normal Access. If your system is configured to use a proxy server already, select Use Default Proxy Access.

Note: Proxy server support may not work in your situation. If you use a proxy server and WeatherXpress doesn't work for you please let me know.

What is with all these Web Cameras?

As of this writing, there are over 6000 cameras pointing at something and sending the image to the Internet at some interval, from every 10 seconds, to once a day, even once a week. Some sites have started using Java to stream their images. Under normal circumstances WebCam Xpress can't display these, but I'm working on some enhancements so it may be possible in the future. I only have about 575 cameras listed right now. It took weeks to check each site, but I have access to a T-1 line at work, so after hours and during lunch, I scanned as many as I could test each day until I finished. If you find some valid camera sites that aren't on my list, e-mail the name of the site, the URL address, and the link to the camera picture if possible. I'm always looking for more Animal sites. There aren't that many right now. I think I have about 70. Several are only up at certain times of the year, and may not be valid right now. A couple of my favorites are Trout Cam in California, and Elephant Cam. Steve's Ant Farm has been around a long time, but it's a little boring... I wish he would liven it up a little. I'll probably put a cam site up myself sometime, so stay tuned.

How do I show the web camera pictures?

Just double click one of the camera descriptions in the list, or select a camera and press "Get Pic". Currently there are several lists. You can access them by selecting Web Cameras in the drop down menu in the Web Cam window.

How do I save the pictures and/or print them?

Use the pull down file menu, or right mouse click on a valid picture. Select save if you want to save a picture. Find the directory folder where you want to store the picture. Type in a name. Select a file type. You will have one of two choices, depending on the file, bmp & gif, or bmp and jpg. The gif or jpg format will not take up as much space as the bmp format. To print, select print. The image will be sent to your default printer. It will print in color if your printer has that capability, otherwise it will be gray scale.

How do I make a web camera image my wallpaper?

Once an image is displayed, either right mouse click the image or pull down the "file" menu in the Web Camera window and select Set As Wallpaper. If there is a valid camera image a message will be displayed saying the name of the new wallpaper image, and the image should now be your background screen.

How do I add a new web camera site?

To add a new site, enter the name of the site in the first text box, the URL address in the second text box, and the complete URL address of the picture you want to recover. Then, press the "Add Site" button, or you can drag the site name to the list and drop it in. To delete a site, ensure you have selected a valid site, then press the "Delete Site" button, or you can "drag" the site name to the trash icon located on the form.

How do I find new web camera sites?

You can search them out on your own, or press the "Get Update" button on the WebCam Xpress window. A file called "NewCams.wmd" will be downloaded from the home web site and opened. You can then check out the sites and copy them to whatever file they belong in. I will add sites to this list as often as I have time for so don't expect new ones every day, or even every week. If you find new sites, you can E-Mail them to me and help out others who might like to view the camera images. I don't accept camera sites showing anything of a sexual or "Adult" nature so don't bother sending pornographic sites, I simply won't use them.

I deleted a site, how do I restore it?

When you delete a site the information is stored in the "trash can." WebCam Xpress only keeps the information on the last site deleted for as long as the Web Camera window is open. So, if you haven't exited the window then the last site you deleted can be recovered. Right mouse - click the trash can icon and select "restore site." Only one deleted site is saved when you do this. If all else fails you can re-install the wmd files to get a site or sites back when something drastic happens.

How do I copy or move sites from one file to another?

To copy one site, select the site you want to copy from the list. Now load the list you want to copy the site to. Once it is displayed, simply press the add button to insert the site into the list. To copy multiple sites, click a site, press the shift key and select another site. All sites, including the selected sites will be highlighted. Right click the list of files and select "Copy." Now, select the list you want to copy the sites to. Right Click the site list, select "Paste," and the files will be added to the list. You can sort the list after doing this if you like. Pressing the control key while clicking sites in a list allows you to select a list of files anywhere in the list to copy.

Some other Web Camera window features.

You can watch a continuous series of pictures from the selected site at varying intervals by selecting the amount of time between picture recovery, 10 seconds to 5 minutes, then put a check in then "Auto-Load" box. Now when you "double-click" the site in the list or press the "Get Pic" button, WebCam Xpress will recover pictures at the specified interval until you press the cancel button.

You can select a site in the list and move it up or down in the list by pressing the "Arrow" buttons. Once you have the site where you want it, press the save button.

If you want your list in alphabetical order, A-Z, just press the "Sort List" button. Press the "Save" button if you want to keep the list in the sorted order.

Install Problems.

If you are having an installation problem, be sure and shut down all programs currently running. Clean out your Temp directory, and delete the directory the install tried to put the files in when you started. There have been occasions where the install looks like a failure under Windows NT, but the only thing the install didn't do was insert an Icon in your start menu. If this happens just drag the program Icon located in the WebCam Xpress directory you installed to, to your desktop. WebCam Xpress should run even on a failed install on an NT system. Most of the systems where I work are using NT 4.0 and this happened on a couple of them. Any other problems just drop me an E - Mail and I'll try to help you out.

WebCam Xpress URL: <http://homepages.waymark.net/~lperry/weather>

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