

Brighton & Hove U3A - Beginners' Computing

Using the World Wide Web

The **Internet** is a network; like the telephone network or road network, it links whatever is connected to it. The internet connects your computer, to bigger computers serving web pages, e-mails, music, e-books etc. The Internet is sometimes referred to as the information highway.

The **World Wide Web** is the name for just the web pages on the Internet. We can watch **Common Craft Show's** video at www.commoncraft.com/video/world-wide-web.

What is a Browser?

A **web browser** is a program running on your computer that fetches the web pages for you and displays them on your screen. For example:

Firefox	from Mozilla (Firefox is free & my choice)
Internet Explorer	from Microsoft, on Windows 8,7 ...
Edge	from Microsoft, on Windows 10
Chrome	from Google Inc
Safari	from Apple, used on iPhones and iPads.



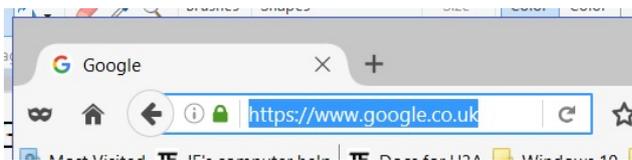
How do you know what is trustworthy and worthwhile?

Searching can give you what you wanted or it can lead you up the garden path. It's a good idea to choose sites you already know.

Your **anti-virus software** and **firewall** will try to protect you from unsafe web sites, but you should not rely on them.

It's best to go to web pages you already know about. Use **recommendations** from friends, family, favourite magazines, Age UK ... and me!

Exercise 1 – When you know the web address (the url)



1. In the browser, tap in the **address field**, top left.
(why does the text inside goes blue?)
2. Type the web address **bbc.co.uk**
3. Type the **Enter** key.

(The message about **Cookies** is there to comply with EU law; tap **Continue**.)

Exercise 2 – Browse ...

Browsing is following **links** one after another. A link can be behind words or images.

1. On the BBC home page, look for a link near the top which will tell you about today's weather.
2. **Follow the link** by tapping (once) on it. This will take you to another web page.
3. Visit another web page the same way ... that's **browsing**!



Where will that link take me?

Stay on the Forecast page but do not tap on anything:

- 1 a) On a **laptop**, hover over NEWS; notice the pointer changes to a pointing hand to show it is over a **link**.



Look at the status bar at the bottom of the window. What does it say?

- 1 b) On a **touch-screen**, hold one finger still on NEWS for a few seconds. What do you see?

2. **Without tapping**, tell me what address you **would go to** if you tapped NEWS?

Hovering or tap-and-hold can be used to check the safety of a link before you there. You can use it over any suspect link, such as in odd-looking e-mails.

Search Engines

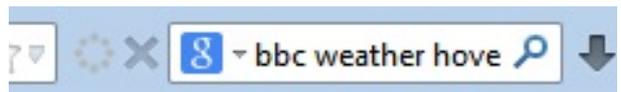
Search engines are special web pages that help you to find (other) web pages. For example:

Google.co.uk	from Google Inc
Yahoo!	from Yahoo!
Bing	from Microsoft Corp

Exercise 3 - Searching

What if the exact web address is unknown? Pick a suggested web site and find it as follows:

1. Tap in the **search box**, top right if there is one
2. Enter the search terms with spaces between words, eg *bbc weather hove*
3. Tap on Search or press the **Enter** key.



The first few web sites listed are often advertisements; you may need to scroll down to find something sensible.

4. Use **hover** or **tap-and-hold** to see where each blue link will take you.
5. *If the address looks right*, follow the link.

Exercise 4 - Saving addresses for later - Bookmarks or Favourites ?

1. Go to a web page you are likely to want again.
2. Look at your browser menus and icons. (Hover to see what the icons do.)

Laptop ?

Does your browser have a menu item to save a Bookmark or Favorite?
or is there a star after the web address  ? What does it do)

Tablet or phone ?

Is there a Bookmark icon below the page?  Where can you save your page?

3. Create a bookmark or save your current web page.
4. In **Firefox**, look for this icon:  What do the two symbols mean?
5. Close your browser window.
6. Open your browser. Show your bookmarks. Choose your page from the list.