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Introduction

You have been hearing about the Net, e-mail, newsgroups, graphics, multimedia, and teleconferencing. Now that you have access to the Internet and this software package, where do you start? Welcome to Microsoft's *Internet Explorer*, one of the leading Internet access suites. With this software package, you will be able to do all of those things and more.

This book will lead you through all of the components of the *Internet Explorer* software suite and explain how you can use the components within your classroom. There will be step-by-step instructions for setting up your *Internet Explorer* utilities and for accessing resources on the Internet to use with your curriculum.

The *Internet Explorer* suite has four components that are integrated, or work together, to provide you with access to the Internet's resources.

Internet Explorer—This component is one you will use most often. It is your web browser, or the software you will use to access Web pages on the World Wide Web.

Outlook Express—This is your e-mail (or electronic mail) and newsgroup software component. You will use it to send and receive messages with other Internet users. By setting up newsgroups, you will be able to access messages from groups of other Internet users about a variety of subjects. There are hundreds of newsgroups about special topics and software packages.

NetMeeting—With this utility, you can conference with other teachers and classes around the world. If you have a camera and microphone attached to your computer, you can see and talk with them as well.

FrontPage Express—You can use this component to help you design and publish your own Web pages. It is a Hypertext Markup Language, or HTML, editor. You can create your pages “from scratch” or use the Wizards.

Using This Book

This book will be divided into sections about each of the components of *Internet Explorer*. Within each section, you will read directions for setting up and using the component, and there will be suggestions for integrating its use into your curriculum.

As you read this book, these graphics will mark items of interest, to help you or provide you with reminders.



Note:—There will be notes throughout the book, which will be reminders or will direct you to instructions in other parts of the book.



Web page—You will be advised to key in different URLs or Universal Resource Locators (Web page addresses).



Help—This icon will direct you to more information about a topic or help with instructions throughout the book.

The following font styles will be used throughout the book.

Bold Italic Words in bold italic will show you which menu items you should click as you follow directions.

Italics Items in italic are words you will be asked to key in.



Note: The instructions and graphics in this book will apply to *Internet Explorer* for *Windows 95*. The instructions should be the same or similar for Macintosh users.

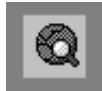
About *Internet Explorer*



Microsoft was formed in 1975, soon after the MITS Altair kit computer was released and promoted the programming language, BASIC (Beginners All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code) for computers. Paul Allen and Bill Gates, who then created Microsoft as a business that would build software, developed BASIC.

With the release of graphical information on the World Wide Web, software developers needed to create browser software so computer users could access this information. NCSA Mosaic was the first graphical web browser. In 1995, Microsoft released its first version of *Internet Explorer*, which was developed for the *Windows 95* operating system.

Internet Explorer and its upgrades are available for download from the *Internet Explorer* home page:

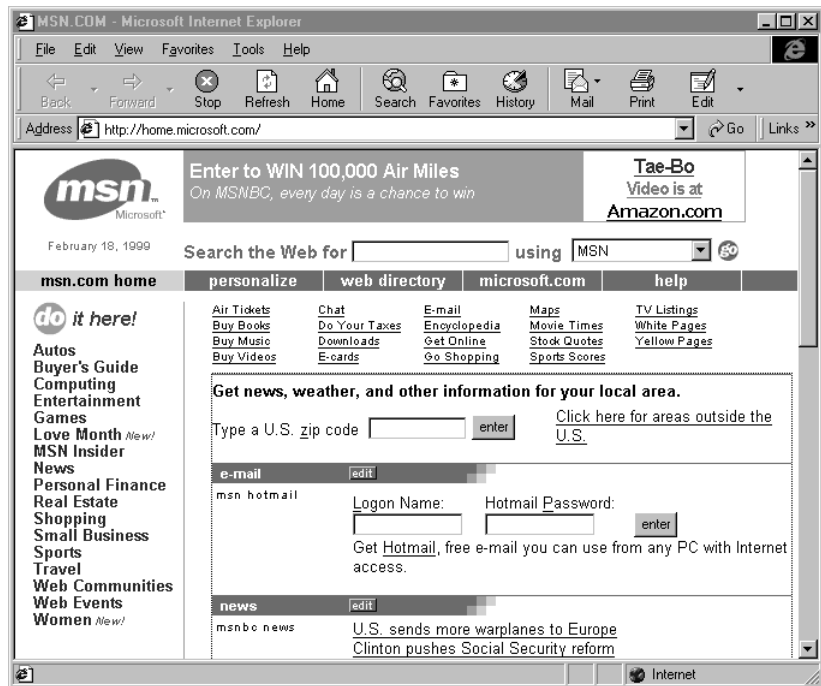


<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/ie/default.htm>

The starting page, or home page, when you start using *Internet Explorer* is the **MSN** home page:



<http://home.microsoft.com/>



Starting Out

The component of this software you will use most is *Internet Explorer*. *Internet Explorer* is your World Wide Web browser. This is the software that will connect you to Web pages around the world. You will be able to keep bookmarks of your favorite Web sites, download files, and view graphics and multimedia.



To start *Internet Explorer*, double-click the *Internet Explorer* icon on your desktop or in the *Internet Explorer* folder.



As the program starts, you will see this splash screen showing the status of Explorer as it is loading your bookmarks and plug-in applications.

Internet Explorer will open to the MSN (Microsoft Network) home page where you will be able to search for information, check your MSN Hotmail, and locate information from several basic groupings of topics.