

# Safety Online

## Secure Web Browsing

Question: "What is the best way to clear out evidence of inappropriate surfing on your PC."

Hmm, browsing evidence is stored on your PC and, if you are going through the corporate firewall/proxy servers, it's stored there as well. Some of this content may even be stored temporarily at your Internet Service Provider (ISP). This makes secure web browsing somewhat difficult - but not impossible.

The first step to take is to clear out your browser cache. In IE7 that's Tools, Internet Options, Delete..., Delete files. If you are using an older version of IE then a) shame on you and b) its the same, more or less :-)

The next step is to break out of your IE habit and go for pure Firefox cold turkey. Just download it from <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/> and click on the US English version NOT the British English version, it's free, it's cool and...it's just better...there are tons of extensions that make browsing so much more fun...well more fun for geeks anyway, everyone else just browses the net with the default settings...ZZzzzzzz.boring.

The next section goes into more detail.

There are three types of data being stored about your browsing, temporary files (images, eek!), browsing history (where you have been,

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## Mozilla Firefox

The Mozilla web site is safe and free, they are some of the good guys. Download Firefox, install it, and run it, to clear your settings in Firefox click Ctrl-Shift-Del (or Tools, Clear Private Data for the mouseaholic) so much easier than IE. Bill is still copying features from Firefox to IE7 as we speak. Oh, you can configure Firefox to dump all the browsing data when

you exit using Tools, Options..., Privacy, Clear my data...Settings. Want to open another browser session without leaving the browser? Ctrl-T, <type or paste in the address>, press Enter and you are there...all without leaving the browser.

There are loads of other extensions that allow you do download files and pictures

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*When using IE, really clearing out your browser history means deleting files from the hard disk.*

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### Inside Story Headline

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Word offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or vendors needs.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

## Really Deleting Your Browser History

The rules for corporate firewalls and proxy servers are becoming more stringent and many organisations are logging web sites visited and reporting "baddies" automatically so it can be risky unless you know what exactly policies are in place on the network perimeter. Hackers have ways and means around this but we will only briefly touch on this here.

When using IE, really clearing out your browser history means deleting files from the hard disk. When you tell Firefox to delete your history, it really does, when you tell IE, it keeps a copy! And people wonder why geeks don't trust Microsoft! Sheesh, anyway, for IE this means following the steps above and then tracking down the Temporary and History folders and deleting all the files in all of the sub-directories.

On my machine, Temporary files are found in:

"C:\Documents and Settings\username\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files" as well as "C:\Documents and Settings\Richard Lewis\Local Settings\Temp" and "C:\Documents and Settings\Richard Lewis\Local Settings\History". Some files in these directories may be deleted if you followed the steps above but here is a warning! If you choose to delete cookies, you may be required to login to some web sites and you may not remember the password! Many sites use cookies to track who are and where you have been. Switching off cookies is possible in any modern browser but this can limit your ability to login to some sites...like TradeMe. However, if you close the browser then delete all the files (not directories just files) in these directories it will certainly erase some of where you have been © Remember to empty the Recycle Bin!



## Keeping Safe

OK, you've deleted the evidence, oops, I mean history and now you want to keep it that way. In Firefox you make sure that Tools, Options, Privacy settings are selected. I won't go into detail here, just follow your nose and send me an email if you get stuck.

Another useful tip for Firefox users is to install the Stealther Firefox extension which can make sure that your browsing history disappears when you close the browser. Your browsing history is preserved while you are browsing, which is handy but goes completely when you leave, perfect for hiding those, ahem, sites that you accidentally clicked through.

To get the extension, go to Tools, Add-ons, Click Get Extensions and you will be taken to the Mozilla extensions web page. Search for Stealther and download/install it. You may have to restart your browser for this to work, a small price to pay, nothing!

## NOS Ltd

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NOS provides network configuration management solutions that increase the availability, performance and security of enterprise networks and dramatically reduce the cost of network administration.

NOS also provides web hosting and development services. NOS is based in Wellington, New Zealand but is often engaged around the world on assignment to airlines, large corporates and major vendors.

NOS has the capacity to service your system needs now. In other words, my current contract is about to finish and I'm looking for work so if you help with that enterprise architecture or systems management platform issue, feel free to call Richard on 021 703 804.

## NOS Ltd

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## Quote of the Month

Truth has no special time of its own. Its hour is now - always.  
Albert Schweitzer

## Legaleze

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Thanks for reading this nerdletter. If you have any suggestions for the next one, just email me [lewisr@cyberdude.com](mailto:lewisr@cyberdude.com).

Cheers

Richard

