

## **JANUARY 2007 NEWSLETTER** *Technology Made Simple*

### **Internet Explorer 7**

There are major changes underway in the computer world; operating systems (Windows Vista) and new browsers to name a few.

By now, you have probably heard that Microsoft has finally released a completely new version of Internet Explorer, called "Windows Internet Explorer 7". It is available to Windows XP SP2 and Windows 2003 SP1 users for free at <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/ie/downloads/default.aspx>

If you choose not to download Internet Explorer 7, be aware that Microsoft intends to push Internet Explorer 7 through Windows Update in the next few days [although you will be given the option of not upgrading]. Long story short: You're getting Internet Explorer 7 sooner rather than later.

This is not a bad thing. The new Internet Explorer 7 has so many new security features that you'd be silly not to upgrade from Internet Explorer 6, also known as "the world's most dangerous web browser." With everyone concerned about security online nowadays in particular, IE 7 has a new "phishing" filter that warns you when you visit a site known for stealing personal information. IE 7's address bar also has a colour coding system that turns the address bar red when you visit sites that have invalid or expired security certificates. There are many additional features that make IE7 a vastly improved browser. These include the ability to delete browsing history, and it supports tabbed browsing. Tabbed browsing allows you to open multiple web pages in one window and then switch between those pages by clicking on little tabs at the top of the page. If you haven't used this feature previously in Apple's Safari Browser or Firefox it is something you are really going to enjoy.

### **Installing Internet Explorer 7**

Before you download and install Internet Explorer 7, most importantly:

Turn off your antivirus program. IE 7's installation program -- the installer, not the program itself -- may cause some conflicts with your antivirus program during installation.

After you've installed IE 7, double-check that your antivirus program is re-enabled [although don't be surprised if your antivirus program has magically turned itself back on without you having to do anything]. Antivirus programs do appear to have a mind of their own!

Once you begin installing IE 7, walk away from your computer. The install will take a much longer than you would expect, your computer will restart TWICE, and on the third boot your computer will take a little longer to boot than normal while Microsoft finishes the installation of IE7. But, as they say 'patience is a virtue'. Once the install is complete, your computer and browser should work a treat. And you will wonder why it has taken Microsoft five years to develop a new browser.

And if it doesn't check out

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/ie/support/default.aspx#ie7Support>

## **Firefox 2**

Imminently, rumor has it that there is a brand new version of Firefox that will be released later this week. Go to <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox> and you should, after 24th October, be able to download the final version of Firefox Version 2.

Firefox 2 offers built-in phishing protection, search term suggestions, close buttons on each tab, the ability to resume a browsing session after a crash, inline spell checking, and much more. For a complete list of what's new, check out <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/2.0/releasenotes/>

So, it's browser updating time.

At **GJ's Computer Services** we use both browsers. For certain websites it is unfortunate that for example some banking websites will only display and function properly in Internet Explorer.

Until next time take care.

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