

LESSON 5

ALL ABOUT CACHE

Browser software introduced us to the World Wide Web, a view of the Internet with sound, motion, color, and graphics. Your browser software stores graphics and HTML (Hypertext Markup Language), a language frequently used to write Web pages, in cache. The idea behind cache is to speed up your Web access by storing these graphics and HTML segments on your hard drive. Getting this information from your hard drive is faster than having to download the information each time through your modem. Cache speeds up data retrieval, and in this lesson I'll give you information that can improve the performance of your cache.

If you frequently visit the same Web sites like I do, you should increase the amount of hard drive space reserved by your browser for cache. 10MB (Megabytes) reserved for browser cache will yield performance on the net, provided your hard drive isn't almost out of space. Here's what to do:

NETSCAPE NAVIGATOR 3.X

1. Under the Options menu, select Network Preferences, and then select the Cache tab.
2. Change the disk cache to 10,000K (10 Megabytes).

NETSCAPE NAVIGATOR 4.0

1. Under the Edit menu, select Preferences, and then double-click on Advanced. Now select Cache.
2. Change the disk cache to 10,000K

MICROSOFT INTERNET EXPLORER 3.X

1. Open the View Menu, select Options and chose the Advanced tab.
2. Click on Settings, and under 'Amount of disk space to use drag the slider switch the right, setting the size to between 8MB and 10MB.

MICROSOFT INTERNET EXPLORER 4.0

1. Under the View menu select Options and then chose the General tab.
2. In the Temporary Internet Files dialog box, click on Settings.
3. Drag the 'Amount of disk space to use' slider switch to a size between 8MB and 10MB



If you spend most of your Web surfing time without returning to the same sites very often, it's a good idea to flush out purge the memory cache during a Web surfing session. To clear your memory cache:

NETSCAPE NAVIGATOR 3.X

1. Under the Options menu, select Network Preferences, and choose the Cache tab.
2. Click on the Clear Memory Cache Now button.

NETSCAPE NAVIGATOR 4.0

1. Open the Edit menu, select Preferences, and double-click on Advances. Select Cache.
2. Click on the Clear Memory Cache button.

MISROSOFT EXPLORER 3.X

1. Open the View menu and select Options. Now chose the Advanced tab.
2. Click Settings and then chose the Empty Folder button. Now click Yes.

MICROSOFT EXPLORER 4.0

1. Open the View menu, select Options, and chose the General tab.
2. In the Temporary Internet Files dialog box click Settings, then click Delete files.
3. Now click on OK

Note that smart caches, the hard disk and memory caches in your PC, read ahead, trying to anticipate what you may ask for, so that the information will be ready and waiting for you. To see smart cache in action, open you word processor. Close it now, and open it again. It loads much faster the second time because of this smart cache.

Cache in your browser software isn't 'smart' and just stores what you've already viewed. That's why you should flush out your browser cache every so often.

