

LESSON 7

DOWNLOADING FROM THE NET

The Internet is a rich source of information and software programs that can be downloaded to your computer. Software programs are usually compressed or 'zipped' to a single small file, so that the download time is shortened. Downloading a program or plug-in for your browser that consists of several files takes much more time to download.

If the file you download ends with ".EXE" extension, the compressed file is self-executing, meaning that you can unzip or uncompress the file without having to use any special software. If the downloaded file ends with a ".ZIP" extension, you'll need a special software program like Zip Magic from Mijenix (www.mijenix.com) or WinZip.

I find that the biggest problem most people have with files that have been downloaded from the Internet is finding the new file once it has been downloaded into the computer. I have a plan!

At an empty space on the Desktop, right-click, and click on New. Now click on Folder. You will see a new folder created on your Desktop. It will have the name New Folder and your cursor will be blinking just to the right. Type in a name for the new folder, and press the Enter key. I like to call this new folder "Internet".

Lets download the free version of Real Audio as our example. With Real Audio you hear my show live on the Internet at www.jefflevy.com and you can hear my show and almost the entire KFI lineup at www.kfi640.com. In your browser, click on Open, then type in www.realaudio.com and press Enter. In the upper left corner of the Web page you'll see a button for downloading a free version of Real Player 5.0. Click on that button. Now click on Real Player free.

You will be asked to choose an OS (Operating System) like Windows 95 or Windows 3.1, and a CPU (Central Processing Unit) like a Pentium or 486 system. Open these dialog boxes and select the appropriate choices. Now fill in your name and e-mail address. You may also select a language and a connection or modem type. These are optional selections. When you have finished, click on
DOWNLOAD FREE REALPLAYER.

Now select a download site. I picked SF Bay Area USA. You'll now see the "Save In" screen. Click on the down arrow at the end of the "Save In" location. Use your UP arrow to move to the top of the list, which is your Desktop. Now press the Enter. You'll see a folder named "Internet". Click on the Internet folder once, and then double-click it. You are now back to the "Save In" dialog box.



The "Save In" space will show the folder "Internet" and the file to be saved will show as "RP32_50". RP32_50 is the 32 bit or Windows 95 version of Real Player 5.0. Now click on Save and the file will be downloaded to the Internet folder that appears on your desktop.

Once you are back at your desktop, click on the Internet folder and now double-click. You will see a dialog box with a 2 sections. In the right section you'll see RP32_50. Click on View, then on Details. Now you can see that the file RP32.50 is really RP32.50.EXE. The ". EXE" extension simply means that the compressed file is self-extracting. Click on the file, then double-click it. RP32_50 will now self-extract and install on your computer. Just follow the prompts to move from one install screen to the next.

What's important to remember here is that we created a desktop folder in which we save downloaded files, making it easier for us to find the files that have been downloaded into our computer. Once you have finished with the install, you can click on the Internet folder and drag it to the Recycle bin. You can create a new "Internet" folder when you next download from the Internet.

Now, wasn't that easy?

