

LESSON 47

BROWSER CACHE – WHAT IS IT – HOW TO SET IT

In lesson 5 I showed you how to flush the cache from your browser. One of our listeners, Peter, asks how to flush the cache in Netscape Communicator, which was released after I wrote lesson five. So what is cache as used in your Internet browser program? What does it do and why should you flush your cache? Here's what you need to know for increased Internet browser performance.

Cache is a special place in memory that holds the information that was last used so that it's more quickly available the next time you ask for it. Internet browser cache remembers part of the web pages you visit so the 2nd time you load a page it loads faster. Cache information can be stored in memory or on the hard drive.

After opening Netscape Communicator go to the menu bar at the top and click on Edit and then on Preferences. Now double-click on Advanced and then on Cache. From the resulting screen you can change the size of both hard disk and memory cache. You can also clear both disk and memory cache by clicking on the appropriate buttons.

Increase the amount of memory cache from 1024 Kbytes, the default setting, to 2048. Increase the disk cache setting from 5000 Kbytes to 10000. See how much faster Netscape runs.

If you prefer Microsoft Internet Explorer, click on View and then on Internet Options. Click on Settings and in the "Temporary Internet files folder" drag the slider bar to the right to increase the amount of disk space to be used. In the area above labeled "Check For newer versions of stored pages" click on Never. Now click on OK and again on OK. Now try surfing the Net. Your browser program works much faster, doesn't it?

See - That wasn't so hard, was it?

