

## LESSON 154

### THE ACTIVE DESKTOP - WHAT IS IT?

Active Desktop is a feature that Microsoft added to version 4 of Internet Explorer. With Active Desktop enabled, the Windows operating system is integrated in part with the Internet.

Active Desktop is, essentially, a part of both Windows 98 and Internet Explorer 4.0 and newer. If you use Windows 95, you'll have to upgrade to Internet Explorer 4.0 or newer. It's available as a free download from **[www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)**.

How can you tell if you have Active Desktop installed on your computer? If you see icons to the right of your Start button, you have it. That area is called the Quick Launch toolbar. By right clicking on any blank space on the Taskbar you can install other toolbars that give you more options on the Taskbar.

Also included with Active Desktop are folders that allow you to preview image files. Windows help is valuable here in terms of learning more about Active Desktop. Here's how to do it. Click on Start, then on Help. Click on the Index tab, and then type "Active Desktop" (without the quotes) and click "Active Desktop interface" that appears in the Index keyword section of your Help screen. Now double-click on the topic "Active Desktop interface" to bring up related topics. Double-click on any of the topics (there are two, one on turning on the Active Desktop and another on "what is the Active Desktop?"). You can also highlight a topic and click on the Display button. The help available here deals with just what Active Desktop does and how to use it.

