

Illuminating PC Tips

Note: Illuminating PC Tips are posted on www.MyWFN.com by Joanne Osmond.

Deleting Temporary Internet Files

Every time you check out a new web site or explore the pages in a site, temporary files are stored on your PC. Some are OK because they speed up access to web pages but if they are left to accumulate the number of Internet temporary files will overwhelm your computer system. The files, information and settings in Internet Explorer can be purged as you attempt to get your PC back to its former glory.

Recommendation

1. Start by opening Internet Explorer then click on <Tools> <Internet Options>
2. Click on <Settings>, check the disk space that is used. This 'cache' can help to speed up browsing but if hard drive space is at a premium then reduce the figure to something like 50 MB. My cache is set at 894 MB. Click <OK>
3. To clear out your current store of temporary files, click on <Delete Files> <OK>. This may take a long time so don't get discouraged. This is very important!
4. **DO NOT** click on <Delete Cookies>. It will get rid of all cookies and some of them are necessary. Instead, the cookies folder is located at C:\Documents and Settings\USER\Cookies. Caution: carefully browse the contents of this directory and delete any cookie files you don't need. Some web sites will not work if you delete the cookies so only delete those you don't need.
5. Links to all the pages you visit over a certain period of time are under History. The sites are displayed in the drop down list when you type the name of the site. I love the type ahead feature and it is a great way to see what web sites your child visited. If this kind of tracking isn't useful, change the 'days to keep' figure. Click on <Clear History> to remove all the web addresses from the History folder along with all the URLs from the Address line drop-down list.

Warning: Always back up your data before downloading new software or deleting files off your PC!!