



# to Google™ Chrome

Web Kit • Chromium  
HTML5 • JavaScript  
Browsing • OmniFocus  
Source • Web Kit  
JavaScript • Tabbed Brow

Privacy • Open Source  
JavaScript • Customization  
Security • Privacy  
Navigation • Custo



# **Web Geek's Guide to Google Chrome**

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# Introduction

Seems that everything is web-based these days. From paying your bills, to making restaurant reservations, and even watching television, there just isn't much that you can't do using the Web. And we're raising a whole generation of people who can't imagine living without the Web.

There was a time, and many of you probably remember it, when we didn't have a Web—at least, not like it is now. There was an Internet that scholars used to exchange ideas and information, but in the bigger picture, the Internet that we know today is much, much improved from its humble beginnings.

Imagine how it's going to change over the course of the next decade or two. If the Internet already invades every aspect of our daily lives, by the time our kids have kids, it will be a requirement of daily living. And that's where browsers like Google Chrome come into the picture.

Chrome is designed to help you use the Web in ways that work for you. It's the first step toward an Internet that's different from what we know now. But it's not so advanced that we can't use it right now.

## IN THIS INTRODUCTION

- Chrome Changes Surfing
- How It's Put Together
- Special Features
- Who Should Read This Book?

## Chrome Changes Surfing

One of the coolest things about Google Chrome is that it's different from any other web browser that you've ever used—just not so different that it's difficult or uncomfortable to use. Sure, some features and changes take some time getting used to (and you learn about those in this book), but you can install Chrome and begin using it pretty efficiently almost immediately.

What Chrome does, however, is change the way you surf. If you can get used to the minimalist design of the browser, you quickly find that it's far more user friendly than other browsers that are available. It's also much more powerful.

Everything is handled differently in Chrome with one goal in mind: to make surfing (and interacting with) the Web a faster, more efficient part of our daily lives. That means the browser handles web pages better and faster. And it gives you just enough control to allow you to truly interact with the Web in a give-and-take fashion.

Of course, before you can fully take advantage of all that Chrome has to offer, you have to understand all the details about the concept of Chrome and about how to use it. That's what this book brings to the table. In the following chapters, you find everything you need to use Chrome—even to make it completely your own.

## How It's Put Together

We tried to put the book together in a manner that makes sense to you. Of course, we covered everything from the most basic use of Chrome to more advanced, really get your hands into the innards, features. And we tried to cover it so that no matter who you are, you get something from every page of the book.

### Part I: Google Chrome and Browsing the Way It Should Be

The book is broken into three parts. Each part is designed to move you from basic to more advanced use of Google Chrome. If you're already using Chrome, some of the information in the beginning of the book might only require a quick perusal. We do encourage you to at least skim through even the basic chapters, though, because you learn concepts like

- **Chapter 1, “Web Interactions Past and Present”**—If you want to know why Google would enter the Browser Wars, this chapter gives you some insight. Of course, the actual facts surrounding Google’s decision to build and release Chrome are something Google will never actually share with anyone, but the information in this chapter makes some intuitive leaps of understanding based on educated guesses.
- **Chapter 2, “What Google Chrome Brings to the Browser”**—In this chapter, you learn how Chrome is different from other browsers. There’s even a comparison to some of the other browsers that you might be more familiar with.
- **Chapter 3, “Getting Started with Google Chrome”**—The first time that you use Google Chrome, it’s going to seem very strange. This chapter walks you through installing Chrome and helps you to prepare for what you (won’t) see the first time you take it for a spin.
- **Chapter 4, “It’s Everything: The Omnibox (Plus Some)”**—One of the key differences of Chrome, from a user’s perspective is the Omnibox. You might think of it as the address bar. There’s much more to it than just addresses, though. And while we’re sharing the “much more” part, this chapter gives you a closer look at other facets of Chrome that offer additional features.
- **Chapter 5, “Stability on the Net”**—Ever had a web browser crash while you were in the middle of something? If you have, you know how frustrating it can be. This chapter helps you to understand how Chrome can protect you from the angst of a browser crash.
- **Chapter 6, “Safe Browsing on a Threatening Web”**—These days, you find security threats at every turn on the Internet. Chrome is designed to help keep you safe from many of those threats, and this chapter explains those safety features to you in detail.

## Part II: Tinkering Around Under the Hood

If you’re a tinkerer, this part of the book is really for you. In the chapters in Part II, we really get into what makes Chrome work—and what you can do with it.

Chrome is based on open source software, which means that large parts of it are available for you to tweak until your heart’s content. What exactly do you need to know to start making Chrome your own? Here’s the list:

- **Chapter 7, “An Open Source Overview”**—This chapter walks you through exactly what open source is and how it affects what you can do with Chrome. You also find out what some of the components of Chrome that you’ll have access to are.
- **Chapter 8, “Developing Sites for Chrome”**—If you have a website, you probably don’t want to leave Google Chrome users out of those who can view it. But there are a few things that you need to understand before you begin to develop websites for Google Chrome. This chapter is where you learn all about those.
- **Chapter 9, “Spit-Shining Chrome”**—If you’ve done any Internet research about Chrome at all, you know it’s a minimalistic browser—at least in appearance. However, that doesn’t mean you can’t tweak its appearance to make it more visually appealing to you. You can. And in this chapter, you learn how.
- **Chapter 10, “Make It Yours”**—The last chapter in this part is all about making Chrome feel like a browser that was created especially for you. In this chapter you learn some of the customization tricks that help you to take full advantage of all that Chrome has to offer.

## Part III: Chrome for Power Users

This is the shortest part of the book, but it’s probably got some of the most exciting information about Chrome in it. In just two chapters, this part shows you all the capabilities that you want if you’re a power user and how to fix the problems that you might face along the way.

**Chapter 11, “Chrome Hacks for the Power User,”** is where you’re going to find a few little tricks that just blow your mind. By the time you get to Chapter 11, you’ve already looked at more simplistic capabilities earlier in the book, but you better roll up your sleeves for these, because they’re all just one step more.

And of course, no matter how well a piece of software is designed, you’re going to face the occasional problem. That’s what **Chapter 12, “Troubleshooting Google Chrome,”** is for. In this chapter, we walk you through some of the most frequently encountered problems and how to fix them.

## The Appendices

Appendix A, “Google Chrome Shortcuts,” you might find handy, as it lists all the keyboard shortcuts that you can use with Chrome. You’re already familiar with some of the shortcuts; others are probably new to you.

There are several pages of shortcuts to take advantage of. And if you do happen to come across something that you haven’t seen before, make note of it. Highlight it. Or even post it on a note next to your computer so that you can begin using it. These shortcuts help you reduce the time it takes to perform common tasks in Chrome.

Appendix B, “Chrome for the Non-Window User”—gives you an overview of CrossOver Chromium for those using a Linux or Macintosh operating system.

Finally, Appendix C is a glossary of key terms we have talked about in the book.

## Special Features

As you’re reading through the chapters, you’ll come across a set of special features designed to help you pull out important bits of information about the subjects being covered. Those features include



**Geek Speak**—Jargon is frustrating. We do our best to avoid jargon whenever possible, but sometimes it’s not possible. So, you find jargon words defined in clear language in these pullouts.



**No Joke**—Careful! You could damage your device or lose data in some places. There are also other issues that you might need a warning about. These are not joking matters, so this box provides the cautions that you need to avoid damaging the device, application, or data as you work through the steps in the book.



**Yellow Box**—In the Google culture, the Yellow Box is a search appliance that leads to additional information. Our Yellow Box performs the same function. If there’s more that you might need to know—a tip or trick that’s useful or even just a few sentences of deeper information that clarifies a concept for you—you find it in the Yellow Box.

**Privileged Information**—Sometimes there’s really interesting information related to the topic at hand, but it’s not completely relevant to the steps we’re walking you through or the information that we’re giving you. Maybe it’s just something that additional information might make it easier for you to understand and use. In those cases, a sidebar provides the privileged information you need or at least a pointer to get you headed in the right direction.

Each of these features contains information that helps make this book more useful to you. So, keep your eyes open for the special elements. They're your clue that more information is available that you might find useful.

## Who Should Read This Book?

If you've picked up the book and gotten this far into the introduction, it's a good bet that you're part of the audience for the book. We're writing to those who are both beginners and intermediate users. Beginners will find all the information that they need to get started using Google Chrome, whereas intermediate users will find additional tips and tricks that they might not have known about as well as information on programming Chrome widgets and features.

Now, to be honest, if you're an advanced user, you'll probably only find review information in these pages, but the occasional review is good. Often, as we advance into the upper levels of the user kingdom, we forget or overlook some of the basic and simple uses, practices, and applications. So, even advanced users might benefit from a quick skimming of the pages that you find here.

Above all, our goal is to help readers use Google Chrome to the fullest extent possible. We want you to be as excited about Chrome as we are, so we worked hard to pass on all the information that we can to help you make the most of Google Chrome.

Of course, things change. And by the time this book hits the shelves, there will have been many changes that we were not able to cover. So, we set up a website to help you track those changes. The website, <http://www.WebGeeksGuide.com>, contains a blog where regular updates about Chrome as well as other Google applications will appear. You may also find additional training materials when they're available for new features and applications. And of course, we welcome your comments about this or any of the other Web Geek's Guides on the website. Use the **Contact Us** link as often as you want.

Okay, we've blabbered on long enough about the basics and features of the book. Now, we'll let you get on with reading the book. We hope you find the information that you seek and it's presented in a way that makes it easy for you to use. Thanks for reading!

# 4

## It's Everything: The Omnibox (Plus Some)

When Chrome first became available, it was heralded as being "different." And indeed, it is different. As you've already seen, Chrome was designed from the ground up to be something more than other web browsers. But is there more than just what's under the hood?

Of course there is. You've already seen how the interface is different in some ways, for example, keeping your most accessed websites a single click away. But there's more. Remember in Chapter 3, "Getting Started with Google Chrome," when we talked about the Omnibox? Well, let's take a closer look at that little piece of programming ingenuity.

### IN THIS CHAPTER

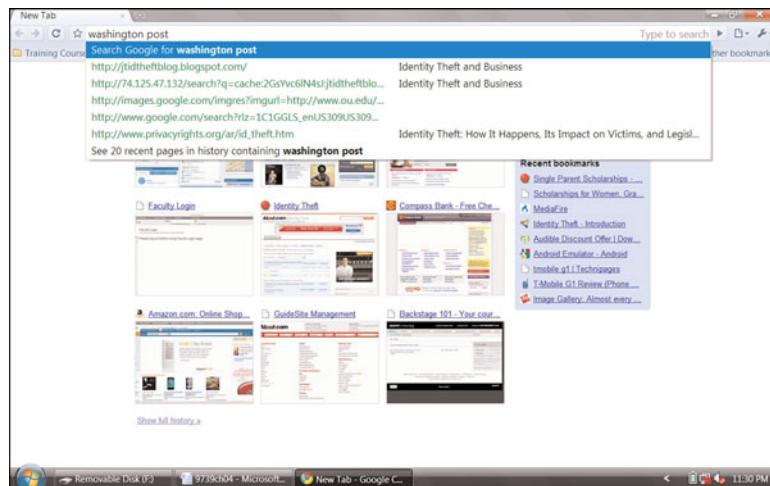
- If It Is Everything, You Should Use It for Everything
- And Then There Are Page Controls
- More Customization and Controls

## If It Is Everything, You Should Use It for Everything

In other web browsers, you find an address bar that runs across the top of the browser. You can type any web address there, and the browser loads that website. Chrome has that same address bar, but it has some additional functionality.

### The Usual Address Bar Duties

In Chrome, the address bar is called the Omnibox. And in addition to its “usual” duties, the Omnibox doubles as a search box (for the Google search engine by default, of course). It even performs much like the Google search engine interface you’re accustomed to by suggesting search terms, as shown in Figure 4.1.



**FIGURE 4.1**

*The Omnibox finds a site for you if you’re having difficulties.*

Instead of entering a website address, you can enter search criteria, and Chrome displays the search engine results for that particular item. For example, if you want to find the *Washington Post* online and really have no idea what on earth the website could possibly be, just type “Washington Post” in the Omnibox, and it points you in the right direction.

Now, if Google isn't your preferred search engine, you're not stuck using it. To search using a different search engine just begin typing the name of that search engine into the Omnibox. As soon as it recognizes search functionality on a site, a Tab icon appears in the Omnibox as shown in Figure 4.2. That means to access that search engine, just press the **Tab** key. A command opens in the Omnibox for a search of that search engine. Just enter your search phrase and press **Enter**. The search is performed in your preferred search engine, and the results are returned in Chrome.

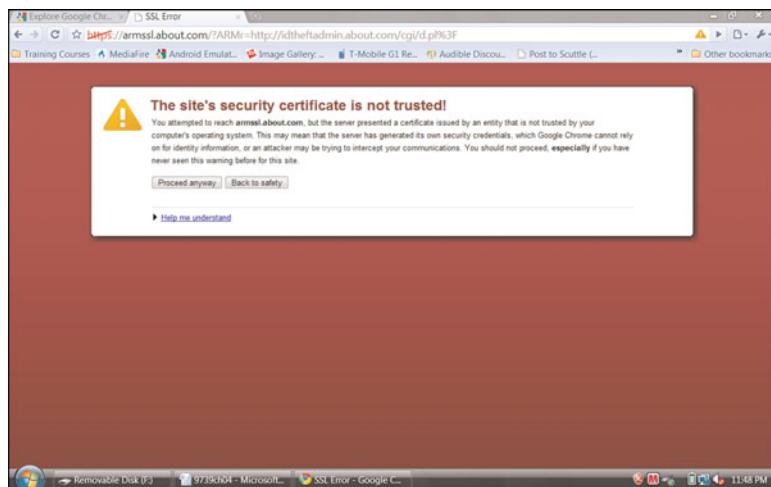


**FIGURE 4.2**

A Tab icon appears in the Omnibox when a website has search capabilities.

## Security Indicators

Improved search functionality is not where the power of the Omnibox ends, however. It's also a tool to help you know that you're surfing on safe websites. For example, if you enter a website that is secured using *SSL security*, you'll notice that the "https" that indicates a secure website appears in green. If there's a problem with the security, you'll see the "https" in red with a slash through it, as shown in Figure 4.3.

**FIGURE 4.3**

Chrome's Omnibox alerts you when secure websites are not performing properly.



**SSL Security** stands for secure socket layer security which is a type of encryption that uses secure certificates for authenticating both the person sending the information and the person receiving it. SSL uses an encryption method that includes both public and private keys. Public keys are the method by which the data is encrypted and private keys are the method by which it is decoded. Public keys are more widely available and private keys are available only to the person who is intended to access the protected data.

Because it might be easy for you to miss the shading of the https portion of the web address for the site that you're visiting, Google also includes an icon at the far right side of the Omnibox to alert you to the status of the web page. A lock icon indicates that security is in place and active for the site. The color of the Omnibox also changes to a yellow-gold if security is in place. If there's a problem with the site's security, a caution icon appears in that spot and the Omnibox maintains a white background color.

## A Few Other Functions

Another neat feature of the Omnibox is its capability to remember web addresses. This is especially handy if you want to move to a favorite site without opening a new tab to click one of your top nine sites. As you begin typing a web address for a site that you access regularly, the site address will auto-fill.

You don't even have to type in the "www" part of the address. Just type the first few letters of what follows the "www," and as soon as the address is highlighted in the auto-fill you can press **Enter** on your keyboard to load the website.

Chrome loads web pages with lightning speed, and sometimes that makes it hard to stop a page from loading. But if you find yourself in a situation where you want to stop a page before it loads completely, you have that option.

While a page is loading, the arrow on the right end of the Omnibox turns to an X. Just click the X to stop the page from loading. You can always restart (or refresh) the page by clicking the **Refresh** button, shown in Figure 4.4.



**FIGURE 4.4**

*Control how your web page loads using the buttons on either end of the Omnibox.*

When you first start using Chrome, the Omnibox is going to feel a little strange. It will take a few uses for you to become accustomed to the way the Omnibox works, and it might even take a little longer than that for you to change your habits to take full advantage of it.

Once you are used to it and use all the features of the Omnibox, however, you'll find that going back to some other browser is just...uncomfortable.

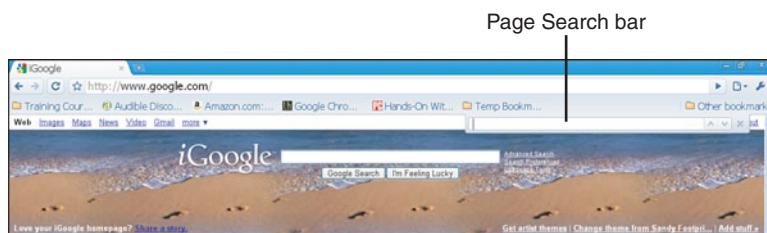
## And Then There Are Page Controls

As good as the Omnibox is, there are still a few more controls that you might want to know how to access. These controls—the page controls—let you use the browser more efficiently. The Page menu on the right end of the Omnibox looks like a page with one corner turned down.

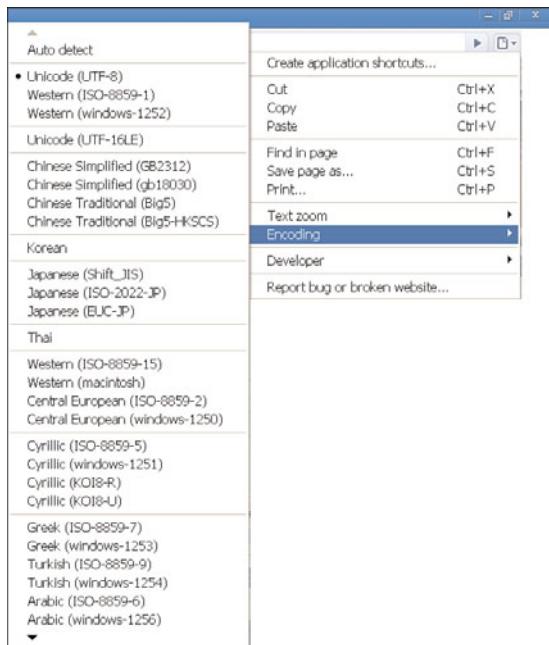
The Page menu is where you find most of the basic controls that you can use on a page, plus a couple of extras. You also find some keyboard shortcuts in this menu. Table 4.1 shows you all the commands available through this menu, what the command does, and what the keyboard shortcut is, if there is one.

**Table 4.1** Chrome Page Controls

Command	Purpose	Keyboard Shortcut
Create Application Shortcuts	Opens a dialog box that allows you to create a shortcut to the current page from your desktop, Start menu, or Quick Start bar.	None
Cut	Cut (or copy) highlighted text.	Ctrl+X
Copy	Copies highlighted text.	Ctrl+C
Paste	Pastes copied (or cut) text into the spot where the cursor is located in a document.	Ctrl+V
Find in Page	Opens a search bar specific to the page that you're on (shown in Figure 4.5).	Ctrl+F
Save Page As	Opens a dialog box to save the current web page to your hard drive.	Ctrl+S
Print	Prints the current web page.	Ctrl+P
Zoom	Zooms in to the text on a page.	Ctrl++ (Zoom in), Ctrl+- (Zoom out), Ctrl+0 (Return to Normal View)
Encoding	Opens a list of available encoding types (shown in Figure 4.6).	None
Developer	Opens the Developer menu	None
Report Bug or Broken Web Site	Opens a dialog box (shown in Figure 4.7) that allows you to report a bug or broken web page. Fill in the requested information and click <b>Send</b> to report issues.	None

**FIGURE 4.5**

Chrome includes a search bar that's specific to the web page you're surfing.

**FIGURE 4.6**

If your page doesn't render properly, you can select a different type of page encoding to see if that might improve the rendering.

**FIGURE 4.7**

Report broken web pages or functions on pages that don't work properly so the team at Chrome can continually improve the browser.

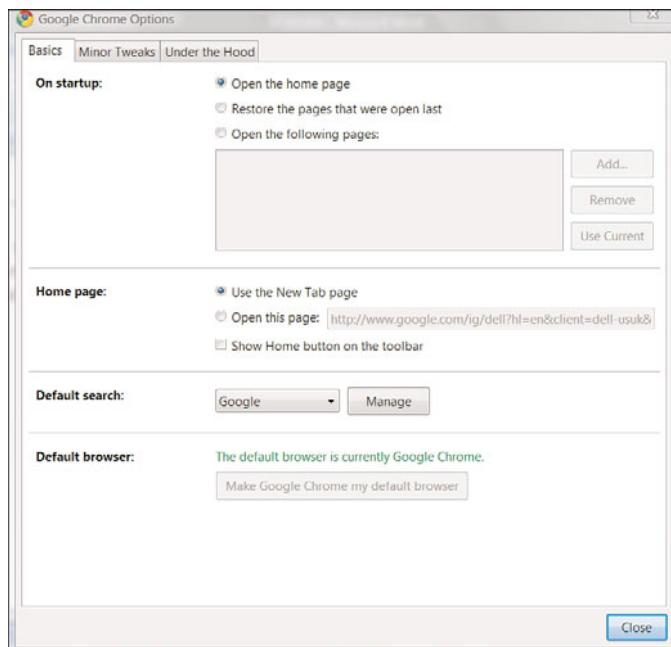
Page controls are only one part of the controls available in Chrome. Another menu, discussed in the next section, gives you control over the behavior of the browser and access to additional tools that help you more easily navigate the Web.

## More Customization and Controls

The other menu available in the Chrome interface, the Tools menu, is found under the wrench icon. This customization and controls menu is much like the Page menu; you have access to point-and-click controls as well as keyboard shortcuts that make navigation much faster. Table 4.2 outlines the capabilities found in this menu.

**Table 4.2 Chrome Customization Controls**

Command	Purpose	Keyboard Shortcut
New Tab	Opens a new tab within the browser window	Ctrl+T
New Window	Opens a new browsing window	Ctrl+N
New Incognito Window	Opens a new incognito window	Ctrl+Shift+N
Always Show Bookmark Bar	Enables the Bookmark bar directly below the Omnibox	Ctrl+B
History	Shows your surfing history	Ctrl+H
Bookmark Manager	Opens the Bookmark Manager	Ctrl+Shift+B
Downloads	Opens the Download folder	Ctrl+J
Clear Browsing Data	Clears the history and other stored data from your browser's cache	None
Import Bookmarks and Settings	Imports bookmarks and settings saved in another browser	None
Options	Opens a new window that provides many options (shown in Figure 4.8). These options are discussed in the following sections.	None
About Google Chrome	Opens a dialog box with information about Google Chrome (including version number)	None
Help	Opens Google's help pages	F1
Exit	Closes the browser, including all open tabs	Alt+F4

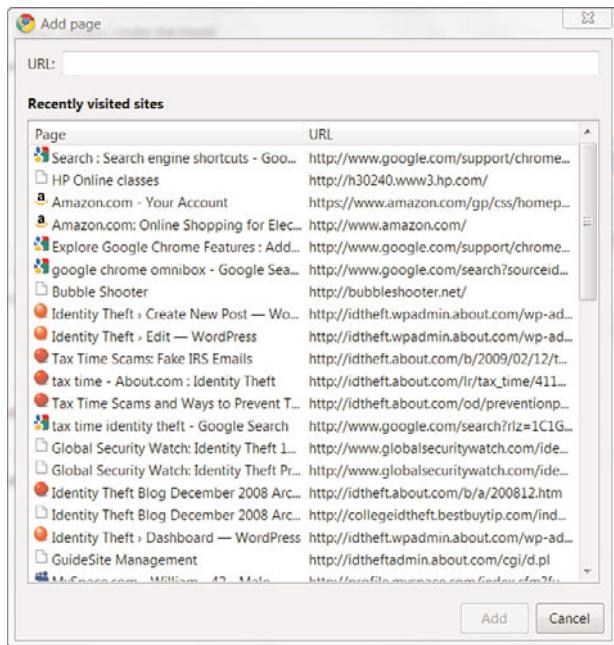
**FIGURE 4.8**

The Options command opens an additional window of customization options for Chrome.

## The Basics Tab

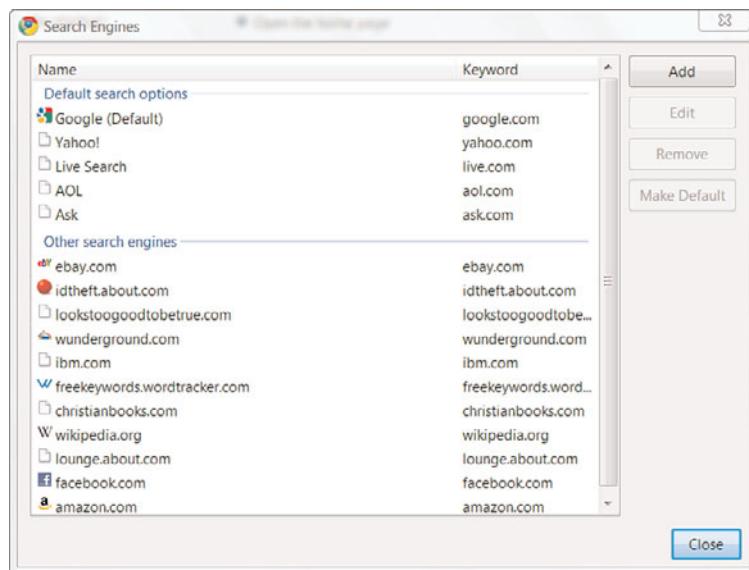
When the Options window opens, it should automatically open to the Basics tab. Four sections on this tab give you options for how Chrome behaves:

- **On Startup**—This section of the menu gives you options for how Chrome should behave when it's opened. You can choose to have it start on the home page, to restore tabs that were open when the browser was last closed, or to open a list of specified websites. This list includes any websites that are important to you. Just select **Open the Following Pages** and then click **Add**. A new window like the one in Figure 4.9 appears. Select the website you want to have opened, or type the address of the desired website into the text box provided. You can enter as many websites as you want.

**FIGURE 4.9**

Add specific websites to open automatically each time you open the Chrome browser.

- **Home Page**—This option allows you to set how you want your browser home page to appear. You can choose the new tab that opens your nine most visited websites, or you can set a specific page to open as your home page. The other option that you find here is the option to show the Home Page button on the toolbar.
- **Default Search**—Google is the search engine for Chrome by default, but you do have other options, and this is where you set those options. You can choose from Google, Yahoo!, Live Search, AOL, and Ask. And if you click the **Manage** button, a **Search Engines** window opens that you can use to add additional search engines to your options, as shown in Figure 4.10.
- **Default Browser**—This is where you make Chrome your default browser. If Chrome is already your default browser, a green notification appears in this section. If there is no notification, click the **Make Google Chrome My Default Browser** button and Chrome replaces whatever browser you currently have set as default.

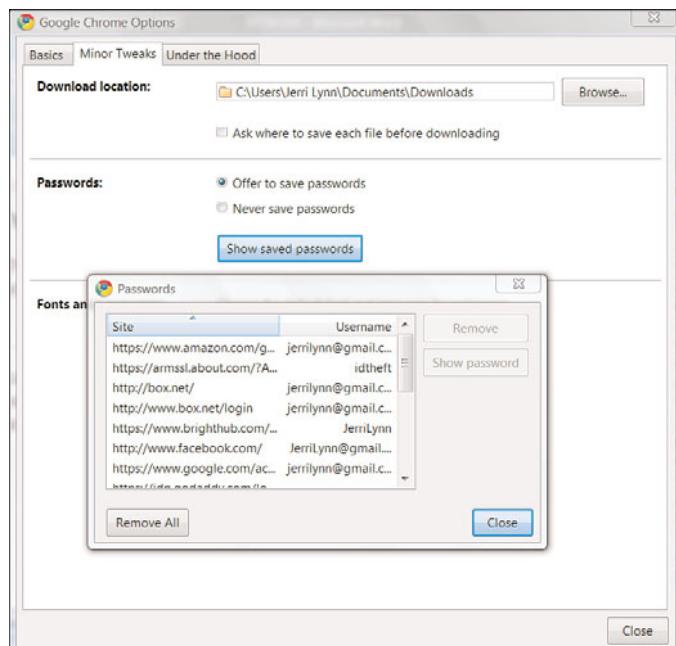
**FIGURE 4.10**

Even though Google is the default search engine, you can choose the search engines that you're most comfortable using.

## The Minor Tweaks Tab

The next tab in the Chrome Options window is the Minor Tweaks tab. This tab provides options that let you set three of the ways in which Chrome behaves. These include

- **Download Location**—This is where you set your download location. By default, Chrome downloads go into a Downloads folder on your hard drive, but you can choose to be asked where files should go each time a new download starts.
- **Passwords**—Here is where you choose whether Chrome should offer to save website passwords for you. You can also view the websites and usernames for which the passwords are saved (shown in Figure 4.11) when you click the **Show Saved Passwords** option.
- **Fonts and Languages**—Use the button in this section to open the **Fonts and Languages** dialog box, where you can manage the fonts and languages that appear in Chrome.



**FIGURE 4.11**

Click **Show Saved Passwords** in the **Passwords** section of the **Minor Tweaks** tab to see a list of the websites for which you have saved usernames and passwords.

## The Under the Hood Tab

The final tab in the Options window is a bit different from the first two. This tab contains multiple check boxes and additional buttons that allow you to set your privacy preferences, network proxy settings, web content settings, and security settings.

Most of these settings should be left at the default level unless you have a specific need to change them. For example, phishing and malware protection is enabled by default. You can disable it, but then you won't get the phishing and malware notifications and protection that are automatically enabled in Chrome.

Still, if you need to change these settings, you can return to defaults at any time by clicking the **Reset to Default** button at the bottom of the screen. This resets all the option settings that you have changed.

## Closing the Door

By now, you've figured out that Chrome is very different from any other browser available today. The Omnibox is one of the most useful and most interesting differences from an interface standpoint. And while the customization and controls are similar to other web browsers, there are a few interesting new features there, as well.

Some other features of Chrome aren't quite as obvious, too. One of those features is unparalleled stability. Since stability has been a major issue with other browsers, you'll be interested to know that the Chrome designers put a lot of thought into creating a browser that's stable under even the worst conditions. Keep reading, because it's covered in all the detail you need in Chapter 5, "Stability on the Net."

# Index

## Symbols

// (comment code), 165  
@description (Greasemonkey scripts), 166  
@exclude (Greasemonkey scripts), 166  
@include (Greasemonkey scripts), 166  
@name (Greasemonkey scripts), 165  
@namespace (Greasemonkey scripts), 166

## A

about: commands, 196-198  
about:cache command, 198  
about:crash command, 198  
about:credits command, 198  
about:dns command, 28, 198  
about:hang command, 198  
about:histograms command, 198  
about:memory command, 198  
about:network command, 197  
about:plugin command, 197  
about:shorthang command, 198

about:stats command, 198  
about:terms command, 198  
about:version command, 197  
accessors (C++), 154  
Acid testing, 113-114, 229  
Acrobat Reader, 126  
activating  
    developer browser features, 22  
    DNS pre-fetching, 29-30  
add-ins, 25, 229  
address bar. *See* Omnibox (address bar)  
Adobe  
    Acrobat Reader, 126  
    Flash Player, 126  
allocating memory, 77-78  
allow-all-activex  
    command-line switch, 191  
always-enable-dev-tools  
    command-line switch, 191  
Android, 138, 229  
antimalware software, 89  
antiphishing.org website, 133  
antivirus software, 37, 89  
Apache, 106  
APIs (Application Programming Interfaces), 131, 229

**app command-line switch**, 191  
**Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)**, 131, 229  
**applications**, web-based, 13-15  
  Chrome and, 14-15  
**architecture**, multi-threaded, 84-86  
**ARM instruction set**, 130, 229  
**arrays**, searching, 167  
**assert-test command-line switch**, 192  
**attaching tabs to windows**, 35  
**auto-filling web addresses**, 60  
**auto-open options**, 91  
**Autodesk Labs Project Draw**, 140  
**AutoHotKey**, 143  
**automation-channel command-line switch**, 192

**B**

**back-end functions**, 118-119, 230  
**Badware Website Clearinghouse**, 133  
**banner ads**, removing with bookmarklets, 163-165  
**BASE\_CPU\_H routine (C++)**, 153-154  
**Basics tab (Options window)**, 65-67  
**Baumgold, David**, 221  
**Benchmark section (Google Code website)**, 130

**benchmarking**, 25, 230  
  performance benchmarks for Chrome, 26-30  
**beta testing**, 110  
**blacklisted websites**, requesting review of, 133  
**Bookmark Manager**, 50-52  
**bookmarklets**, 124  
  ChromeMailer, 142  
  ChromeStumble, 141  
  creating, 163-165, 181-182  
  definition of, 125, 181, 230  
  Delicious, 183  
  Digg, 141  
  Dual Pane View, 141  
  FriendFeed, 184  
  Gmail This, 141  
  Google Toolbar for Chrome, 141  
  installing, 164  
  overview, 140-141  
  Search Selected Text, 142  
  ShareThis, 184-185  
  StumbleUpon, 183  
  TinyURL, 184  
  Twitlet, 141  
  Twitter, 183  
  TwitThis, 141  
**bookmarks**  
  Bookmark Manager, 50-52  
  Bookmarks bar, 50  
  searching for, 52  
  troubleshooting, 202-203  
**Bookmarks bar**, 50  
  bookmarklets. *See bookmarklets*  
  changing icons, 177-178, 180-181  
  increasing capacity of, 175, 177  
  printing from, 185-186  
**browser extensions**. *See extensions*

**Browser process (Chromium)**, 116  
**browsers**. *See web browsers*  
**browsing data**, clearing, 32-34  
**Bsdiff**, 151  
**Bspatch**, 151  
**BuildBot**, 119  
**Buxfer**, 140  
**bytecode**, 129  
**Bzip2**, 152

**C**


---

**C++**, 152-155  
**cache**, 32, 230  
  inline caching, 128-129  
**Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)**, 48, 235  
**certificates**, 93-95  
**Certificates window**, 95  
**changing**  
  Bookmark icons, 177-178, 180-181  
  default browser, 205-206  
  home page, 205  
  languages, 54  
  Most visited pages, 207  
  search engines, 59, 66  
**channel command-line switch**, 192  
**Chrome**  
  customization controls, 64-65  
  customizing  
    *changing languages*, 54  
    *displaying Home button on toolbar*, 52-53  
    *initial customization*, 44-45  
    *overriding font size/style*, 54  
    *setting home page*, 54

- developer browser
  - features, activating, 22
- downloading, 40-41
- evolution of web browsers, 18-19
- Firefox versus, 22-24
- Home button, displaying on toolbar, 52-53
- home page
  - features of, 46-47
  - setting, 54
- Incognito mode, 36-37
- installing, 43-44
- Internet Explorer versus, 19-22
- links, opening, 14
- menus, 47-48
- Opera versus, 24-26
- page controls, 61-64
- performance benchmarks, 26-30
- role in web-based operating system, 11
- software tester feature (predownload page), 42-43
- tabbed browsing, 34-36
- Terms of Service, 42
- web addresses, typing, 49-50
- web-based applications and, 14-15
- Chrome Automatic Theme Switcher, 143**
- Chrome Dual View, 125**
- Chrome feature keyboard shortcuts, 215**
- Chrome Plugins extension, 144**
- Chrome Portable, 124-125**
- Chrome Privacy Guard (CPG), 142**
- ChromeMailer, 142**
- ChromePass, 142**
- ChromeSpot, 144**
- ChromeStumble, 141**
- Chromium**
  - back-end functions, 118-119
  - BuildBot, 119
  - definition of, 112-113
  - libraries, 118-119
  - processes, 116-118
  - SCons, 120
  - scripts, 118-119
  - threads, 115-116
  - WebKit, 113-114, 123
    - advantages of, 124
    - development of, 123-124
  - WebKit Core, 114
  - WebKit Glue, 114-115
  - website, 104
- Chromium Theme Creator, 158-159**
  - Settings tab, 160
  - Theme Creator tab, 160-162
  - Viewer tab, 159
- Chromium Themes extension, 144**
- classes**
  - C++, 153
  - hidden classes, 128
- clearing browsing data, 32-34**
- Codeweavers, 220**
- collaboration in open source software, 109-111**
- comic book for Chrome explanation, 41**
- command terminal, 222**
- command-line switches, 190-196**
  - adding, 190-191
  - allow-all-activex, 191
  - always-enable-dev-tools, 191
  - app, 191
  - assert-test, 192
  - automation-channel, 192
  - channel, 192
  - crash-test, 192
  - debug-children, 192
  - debug-print, 192
  - definition of, 190, 230
  - disable-dev-tools, 192
  - disable-hang-monitor, 192
  - disable-images, 192
  - disable-java, 192
  - disable-javascript, 192
  - disable-logging, 192
  - disable-metrics, 192
  - disable-metrics-reporting, 192
  - disable-plugins, 192
  - disable-popup-blocking, 192
  - disable-prompt-on-repost, 192
  - dns-log-details, 192
  - dns-prefetch-disable, 193
  - dom-automation, 193
  - dump-histograms-on-exit, 193
  - enable-file-cookies, 193
  - enable-logging, 193
  - enable-watchdog, 193
  - first-run, 193
  - gears-in-renderer, 193
  - gears-plugin-path, 193
  - geoid, 193
  - hide-icons, 193
  - homepage, 193
  - import, 194
  - in-process-plugins, 194
  - javascript-debugger-path, 194
  - js-flags, 194
  - lang, 194
  - log-filter-prefix, 194
  - log-level, 194
  - make-default-browser, 194
  - memory-model, 194
  - memory-profile, 194
  - message-loop-histogrammer, 194

new-http, 194  
 no-events, 194  
 no-sandbox, 194  
 omnibox-popup-count, 194  
 playback-mode, 194  
 plugin, 194  
 plugin-launcher, 194  
 plugin-path, 195  
 plugin-startup-dialog, 195  
 process-per-site, 195  
 process-per-tab, 195  
 proxy-server, 195  
 record-mode, 195  
 remote-shell-port, 195  
 renderer, 195  
 renderer-assert-test, 195  
 renderer-crash-test, 195  
 renderer-path, 195  
 renderer-startup-dialog, 195  
 restore-last-session, 195  
 safe-plugins, 195  
 silent-dump-on-dcheck, 195  
 single-process, 195  
 start-maximized, 196  
 start-renderers-manually, 196  
 tab-count-to-load-on-session-restore, 196  
 test-sandbox, 196  
 testing-channel, 196  
 testshell-startup-dialog, 196  
 trusted-plugins, 196  
 Uninstall, 196  
 upload-file, 195  
 use-lf-heap, 196  
 user-data-dir, 196  
 wait-for-debugger-children, 196  
**commands, about:**  
**commands**, 196-198  
**comment code (//)**, 165  
**constants (C++)**, 154

**constructors (C++)**, 154  
**Consumer Fraud Reporting web site**, 88  
**controls**  
   customization controls, 64-65  
   page controls, 61-64  
**cookies**, 33, 230  
**costs of open source software**, 107, 109  
**CPG (Chrome Privacy Guard)**, 142  
**crash management**, 72-73  
**crash-test command-line switch**, 192  
**crashes, troubleshooting**, 202  
**CrossOver Chromium**, 221  
   installing  
     for Linux, 221-223  
     for Mac OS X, 224-227  
**CrossOver Games**, 221  
**CrossOver Linux**, 220  
**CrossOver Mac**, 220  
**CSS (Cascading Style Sheets)**, 48, 235  
**customization controls**, 64-65  
**customizing Chrome**  
   Basics tab (Options window), 65-67  
   changing languages, 54  
   displaying Home button on toolbar, 52-53  
   initial customization, 44-45  
   Minor Tweaks tab (Options window), 67-68  
   overriding font size/style, 54  
   setting home page, 54  
   Under the Hood tab (Options window), 68

**D**


---

**Database API (Gears)**, 132  
**db\_thread (Chromium)**, 116  
**deactivating DNS pre-fetching**, 29-30  
**debug-children command-line switch**, 192  
**debug-print command-line switch**, 192  
**default browser**  
   changing, 205-206  
   setting, 66  
**default settings, resetting**, 68  
**default.dll file**, 174  
**Delicious bookmarklet**, 183  
**@description (Greasemonkey scripts)**, 166  
**detaching tabs from windows**, 35  
**developer browser features (Chrome)**, activating, 22  
**developer browsers**, 22, 230  
**development of open source software**, 109-111  
**Digg**, 141  
**disable-dev-tools command-line switch**, 192  
**disable-hang-monitor command-line switch**, 192  
**disable-images command-line switch**, 192  
**disable-java command-line switch**, 192  
**disable-javascript command-line switch**, 192

**disable-logging command-line switch**, 192  
**disable-metrics command-line switch**, 192  
**disable-metrics-reporting command-line switch**, 192  
**disable-plugins command-line switch**, 192  
**disable-popup-blocking command-line switch**, 192  
**disable-prompt-on-repost command-line switch**, 192  
**disabling DNS pre-fetching**, 29-30  
**displaying Home button on toolbar**, 52-53  
**DNS (Domain Name System)**, 28, 230  
**DNS pre-fetching**, 27-30, 231  
**dns-log-details command-line switch**, 192  
**dns-prefetch-disable command-line switch**, 193  
**dom-automation command-line switch**, 193  
**Domain Name System (DNS)**, 28, 230  
**download files, saving**, 44  
**download location, setting**, 67  
**downloading**  
  Chrome, 40-41  
  Chromium Theme Creator, 158  
**Dual Pane View**, 141  
**dump-histograms-on-exit command-line switch**, 193

**E**

**Edit Bookmark dialog box**, 175-176, 181-182  
**Eich, Brendan**, 155  
**enable-file-cookies command-line switch**, 193  
**enable-logging command-line switch**, 193  
**enable-watchdog command-line switch**, 193  
**enabling**  
  developer browser features, 22  
  DNS pre-fetching, 29-30  
**encryption**, 81-82  
**EULA (End User License Agreement)**, 105  
**@exclude (Greasemonkey scripts)**, 166  
**.exe tools**, 142-143  
  AutoHotKey, 143  
  Chrome Automatic Theme Switcher, 143  
  Chrome Privacy Guard (CPG), 142  
  ChromePass, 142  
  Google Chrome Backup, 142  
  Google Chrome Bookmark Exporter, 143  
  TabsLock, 142  
**extensions**, 23, 231. *See also bookmarklets; plug-ins*  
  .exe tools, 142-143  
    AutoHotKey, 143  
    Chrome Automatic Theme Switcher, 143  
    Chrome Privacy Guard (CPG), 142  
    ChromePass, 142

*Google Chrome Backup*, 142  
*Google Chrome Bookmark Exporter*, 143  
*TabsLock*, 142  
**Gears**, 138-140  
**Greasemonkey**, 136-137, 144-147  
  overview, 136-137  
  theme managers, 144  
  themes, 143-144

**F**

**Facebook page displays, troubleshooting**, 205  
**favorites**. *See bookmarks*  
**files**  
  auto-open options, 91  
  default.dll, 174  
  download files, saving, 44  
**file\_thread (Chromium)**, 116  
**finding themes**, 172  
**Firefox, Chrome versus**, 22-24  
**FireFTP**, 23  
**firewalls**, 80, 89  
**first-run command-line switch**, 193  
**Flash**, 126  
**fonts, overriding size/style**, 54  
**Fonts and Languages dialog box**, 67  
**fragmentation**, 77, 231  
**fragmented disks**, 32, 231  
**freeze-ups, troubleshooting**, 203  
**FriendFeed bookmarklet**, 184

**functions**, 128, 231  
 back-end functions,  
 118-119  
**future of web-based  
 operating systems**, 10-11

**G**


---

**gadgets**, 25, 231  
**garbage collection**, 27  
**Gears**, 131-134  
 capabilities of, 138-139  
 Database API, 132  
 installing on other  
 browsers, 138  
 LocalServer API, 132  
 Safe Browsing API, 133  
 web applications that use  
 Gears, 139-140  
 WorkerPool API, 132  
**gears-in-renderer**  
 command-line switch,  
 193  
**gears-plugin-path**  
 command-line switch,  
 193  
**Gecko**, 122  
**geoid command-line  
 switch**, 193  
**Gmail This**, 141  
**Google**, pattern tracking  
 by, 13-14  
**Google Blog**, 137  
**Google Breakpad**, 150  
**Google C++ Testing  
 Framework**, 151  
**Google Chrome**. See  
**Chrome**  
**Google Chrome  
 Backup**, 142  
**Google Chrome Bookmark  
 Exporter**, 143

**Google Chrome Dual  
 View**, 125  
**Google Chrome Portable**,  
 124-125  
**Google Code website**,  
 Benchmark section, 130  
**Google Reader**, 139  
**Google Toolbar for  
 Chrome**, 141  
**Google v8 library**, 150  
**graphic novel for Chrome  
 explanation**, 41  
**Graphical User Interface  
 (GUI)**, 224  
**Greasemetal**, 147-148  
**Greasemonkey**, 136-137,  
 144-147  
 defined, 231  
 writing scripts, 165-168  
**GUI (Graphical User  
 Interface)**, 224

**H**


---

**hacks**  
 about: commands,  
 196-198  
*about:cache*, 198  
*about:crash*, 198  
*about:credits*, 198  
*about:dns*, 28, 198  
*about:hang*, 198  
*about:histograms*, 198  
*about:memory*, 198  
*about:network*, 197  
*about:plugin*, 197  
*about:shorthang*, 198  
*about:stats*, 198  
*about:terms*, 198  
*about:version*, 197  
 for Bookmarks bar, 175  
*adding bookmarklets*,  
 181-185  
*changing icons*, 177-181

*increasing Bookmarks  
 bar capacity*, 175, 177  
*printing from Bookmarks  
 bar*, 185-186  
**command-line switches**,  
 190-196  
*adding*, 190-191  
*allow-all-activex*, 191  
*always-enable-dev-tools*,  
 191  
*app*, 191  
*assert-test*, 192  
*automation-channel*,  
 192  
*channel*, 192  
*crash-test*, 192  
*debug-children*, 192  
*debug-print*, 192  
*definition of*, 190  
*disable-dev-tools*, 192  
*disable-hang-monitor*,  
 192  
*disable-images*, 192  
*disable-java*, 192  
*disable-javascript*, 192  
*disable-logging*, 192  
*disable-metrics*, 192  
*disable-metrics-reporting*,  
 192  
*disable-plugins*, 192  
*disable-popup-blocking*,  
 192  
*disable-prompt-on-  
 repost*, 192  
*dns-log-details*, 192  
*dns-prefetch-disable*, 193  
*dom-automation*, 193  
*dump-histograms-on-  
 exit*, 193  
*enable-file-cookies*, 193  
*enable-logging*, 193  
*enable-watchdog*, 193  
*first-run*, 193  
*gears-in-renderer*, 193  
*gears-plugin-path*, 193  
*geoid*, 193  
*hide-icons*, 193

*homepage*, 193  
*import*, 194  
*in-process-plugins*, 194  
*javascript-debugger-path*, 194  
*js-flags*, 194  
*lang*, 194  
*log-filter-prefix*, 194  
*log-level*, 194  
*make-default-browser*, 194  
*memory-model*, 194  
*memory-profile*, 194  
*message-loop-histogrammer*, 194  
*new-http*, 194  
*no-events*, 194  
*no-sandbox*, 194  
*omnibox-popup-count*, 194  
*playback-mode*, 194  
*plugin*, 194  
*plugin-launcher*, 194  
*plugin-path*, 195  
*plugin-startup-dialog*, 195  
*process-per-site*, 195  
*process-per-tab*, 195  
*proxy-server*, 195  
*record-mode*, 195  
*remote-shell-port*, 195  
*renderer*, 195  
*renderer-assert-test*, 195  
*renderer-crash-test*, 195  
*renderer-path*, 195  
*renderer-startup-dialog*, 195  
*restore-last-session*, 195  
*safe-plugins*, 195  
*silent-dump-on-dcheck*, 195  
*single-process*, 195  
*start-maximized*, 196  
*start-renderers-manually*, 196  
*tab-count-to-load-on-session-restore*, 196

*test-sandbox*, 196  
*testing-channel*, 196  
*testshell-startup-dialog*, 196  
*trusted-plugins*, 196  
*Uninstall*, 196  
*upload-file*, 195  
*use-lf-heap*, 196  
*user-data-dir*, 196  
*wait-for-debugger-children*, 196  
multiple user profiles, 186-190  
*themes*  
*finding*, 172  
*installing*, 172-175  
*precautions*, 175  
**hidden classes**, 128  
**hide-icons command-line switch**, 193  
**history of open source licensing**, 105-106  
**history thread (Chromium)**, 116  
**Home button, displaying on toolbar**, 52-53  
**home page**  
*changing*, 205  
*features of*, 46-47  
*setting*, 54, 66  
**homepage command-line switch**, 193  
**How to Download and Build V8 website**, 131  
**Hunspell**, 151

---

**I**

**icons, changing Bookmark icons**, 177-181  
**image editors, setting path for**, 160  
**import command-line switch**, 194

**in-process-plugins command-line switch**, 194  
**@include (Greasemonkey scripts)**, 166  
**Incognito mode**, 36-37  
**inline caching**, 27, 128-129, 232  
**installers**, 44, 232  
**installing**  
*bookmarklets*, 164  
*Chrome*, 43-44  
*Chromium Theme Creator*, 158  
*CrossOver Chromium for Linux*, 221-223  
*for Mac OS X*, 224-227  
*Gears*, 138  
*themes*, 172-175  
*troubleshooting installation*, 202-205  
**Internet, web-based operating systems**, 10-13  
*future of*, 10-11  
*mobile access and*, 11  
*openness and*, 12-13  
*resource sharing and*, 10  
**Internet Explorer, Chrome versus**, 19-22  
**io\_thread (Chromium)**, 116  
**isolated tabs**, 76-77, 232

## J

---

**Java**, 126  
**Java property access**, 27  
**Java Virtual Machine (JVM)**, 26, 232  
**JavaScript**, 155. *See also scripts*  
**JavaScript engines**, 19, 127, 232  
**javascript-debugger-path command-line switch**, 194

**js-flags command-line switch**, 194

**just-in-time compilation**, 27

**JVM (Java Virtual Machine)**, 26, 232

## K

---

**keyboard shortcuts**

- address bar shortcuts, 215
- Chrome feature shortcuts, 215
- defined, 213
- navigation shortcuts, 214-215
- text shortcuts, 216-217
- web page navigation shortcuts, 216

**keyword searches with Greasemonkey scripts**, 165-168

**KHTML**, 122-123, 232

**KJS**, 123, 232

## L

---

**LAMP server**, 106

**lang command-line switch**, 194

**language settings, downloading Chrome**, 40

**languages, changing**, 54

**layout engines**

- comparison of, 122-123
- definition of, 122
- WebKit. *See* WebKit

**Libjpg**, 149-151

**Libpng**, 151

**libraries**, 148-152

- Chromium, 118-119
- table of, 150-152

**libxslt**, 152

**licenses (software)**, 104-105

**links, opening**, 14

**Linux**, 106, 220

- distros (distributions), 119, 233
- installing CrossOver Chromium, 221-223

**LocalServer API (Gears)**, 132

**lock-ups, troubleshooting**, 208

**log-filter-prefix command-line switch**, 194

**log-level command-line switch**, 194

**loops**, 163

**LZMA**, 151

## M

---

**Mac OS X**

- defined, 220
- installing CrossOver Chromium, 224-227

**make-default-browser command-line switch**, 194

**malware**, 37, 233

- spyware, 97
- Trojan horses, 97-98
- troubleshooting, 207-208
- viruses, 96-97

**malware protection**, 78-82, 89-90

**markup**, 123, 233

**markup languages**, 123

**McCloud, Scott**, 41

**Media Player**, 126

**Megamorphic properties (V8)**, 129

**memory**

- allocation, 77-78
- memory leaks, 127, 233

**memory leaks**, 127, 233

**memory-model command-line switch**, 194

**memory-profile command-line switch**, 194

**menus**, 47-48

**message-loop-histogrammer command-line switch**, 194

**MIME**, 233

**MIME types**, 123

**MindMeister**, 140

**Minor Tweaks tab (Options window)**, 67-68

**mobile access**

- openness in, 12-13
- web-based operating systems and, 11

**Mocha**, 155

**Monomorphic properties (V8)**, 129

**Most visited pages, changing**, 207

**MSHTML**, 122

**multiple user profiles, creating**, 186-190

**multithreaded architecture**, 84-86

**MySpace**, 140

**MySQL**, 106

## N

---

**@name (Greasemonkey scripts)**, 165

**@namespace (Greasemonkey scripts)**, 166

**namespaces (C++),** 153  
**navigation keyboard**  
  shortcuts, 214-216  
**Netscape Plugin Application Programming Interface (NPAPI),** 137, 152  
**Network Security Systems (NSS) library,** 150  
**new-http command-line switch,** 194  
**no-events command-line switch,** 194  
**no-sandbox command-line switch,** 194  
**NPAIP (Netscape Plugin Application Programming Interface),** 137, 152  
**NSPR library,** 151  
**NSS (Network Security Systems) library,** 150

**O**

**Omnibox (address bar),** 47-48, 58-61  
  auto-filling web addresses, 60  
  keyboard shortcuts, 215  
  refreshing page loads, 61  
  searching with, 58-59  
  security indicators, 59-60  
  stopping page loads, 61  
  troubleshooting, 202  
  typing web addresses in, 49-50  
**omnibox-popup-count command-line switch,** 194  
**Open Handset Alliance,** 12, 233

**open source software**  
  Chromium  
    *back-end functions,* 118-119  
    *BuildBot,* 119  
    *definition of,* 112-113  
    *libraries,* 118-119  
    *processes,* 116-118  
    *SCons,* 120  
    *scripts,* 118-119  
    *threads,* 115-116  
    *WebKit,* 113-114  
    *WebKit Core,* 114  
    *WebKit Glue,* 114-115  
    *website,* 104  
  collaboration in, 109-111  
  compared to proprietary licenses, 108  
  cost of, 107, 109  
  development process, 109-111  
  examples of, 106-107  
  history of, 105-106  
  overview, 103-104  
  reusing resources, 31

**opening**  
  files, auto-open options, 91  
  links, 14  
  Task Manager, 73

**openness, required for web-based operating systems,** 12-13

**Opera, Chrome versus,** 24-26

**operating systems, web-based,** 10-13  
  future of, 10-11  
  mobile access and, 11  
  openness and, 12-13  
  resource sharing and, 10

**Options window**  
  Basics tab, 65-67  
  Minor Tweaks tab, 67-68  
  Under the Hood tab, 68

**out-of-the-box,** 22, 233  
**overriding font size/style,** 54

**P**


---

**page controls,** 61-64  
**page loads**  
  refreshing, 61  
  stopping, 61  
**Page menu,** 47-48  
  page controls, 61-64  
**PassPack,** 140  
**passwords, saving,** 67  
**pattern tracking,** 13-14  
**Paymo,** 140  
**peer-to-peer software,** 88-89, 234  
**performance benchmarks**  
  for Chrome, 26-30  
**phishing,** 98, 234  
**phishing protection,** 78-82, 90  
**Picasa,** 140  
**playback-mode command-line switch,** 194  
**plug-ins.** *See also extensions*  
  Acrobat Reader, 126  
  Chrome Dual View, 125  
  definition of, 126  
  Flash, 126  
  Java, 126  
  NPAPI (Netscape Plugin Application Programming Interface), 137  
  QuickTime, 126  
  Real Player, 126  
  Silverlight, 126  
  Windows Media Player, 126

plugin command-line switch, 194  
 plugin-launcher command-line switch, 194  
 plugin-path command-line switch, 195  
 plugin-startup-dialog command-line switch, 195  
 PNG (Portable Network Graphic), 234  
 Premonomorphic properties (V8), 129  
 Presto, 122  
 printing from Bookmarks bar, 185-186  
 privacy  
     Incognito mode, 36-37  
     policies, 42  
 process-per-site command-line switch, 195  
 process-per-tab command-line switch, 195  
 processes (Chromium), 116-118  
 profiles, creating multiple, 186-190  
 property access (Java), 27  
 proprietary licenses, compared to open source licenses, 108  
 protocols, SSL (Secure Sockets Layer), 91-92  
 proxy-server command-line switch, 195  
 psyToy.net website, 144  
 Pthreads-w32, 151

## Q–R

QuickTime, 126  
 Real Arcade, 126  
 Real Player, 126  
 record-mode command-line switch, 195  
 refreshing page loads, 61  
*Remember The Milk*, 132, 139, 234  
 remote-shell-port command-line switch, 195  
 removing banner ads with bookmarklets, 163-165  
 Render process (Chromium), 117  
 renderer command-line switch, 195  
 renderer-assert-test command-line switch, 195  
 renderer-crash-test command-line switch, 195  
 renderer-path command-line switch, 195  
 renderer-startup-dialog command-line switch, 195  
 Request a Review option (Google Webmaster Tools), 133  
 resetting default settings, 68  
 resource sharing with web-based operating systems, 10  
 resources, reusing, 31  
 Restore the Pages That Were Open Last option, 82-84

restore-last-session command-line switch, 195

reusing resources, 31  
 RLZ parameter, 234  
 RLZ parameter reporting, 112

## S

---

Safe Browsing API (Gears), 133  
 safe-plugins command-line switch, 195  
 safe\_browsing thread (Chromium), 116  
 sandboxes, 99, 234  
 sandboxing, 89, 98-100, 117, 234  
 saving  
     download files, 44  
     passwords, 67  
 SCons, 120, 151  
 scripts  
     Chromium, 118-119  
     Greasemonkey, writing, 165-168  
 search engines, changing, 59, 66  
 Search Selected Text, 142  
 searching  
     arrays, 167  
     for bookmarks, 52  
     keyword searches with Greasemonkey scripts, 165-168  
     with Omnibox (address bar), 58-59  
 Secure Sockets Layer (SSL), 91-92, 234  
 security certificates, 93-95

**security features**

- antivirus software, 89
- auto-open options, 91
- crash management, 72-73
- firewalls, 89
- importance of, 88-89
- Incognito mode, 36-37
- isolated tabs, 76-77
- memory allocation, 77-78
- multithreaded
  - architecture, 84-86
- overview, 71, 87
- phishing and malware protection, 78-82, 89-90
- privacy policies, 42
- Restore the Pages That Were Open Last option, 82-84
- sandboxes, 99, 234
- sandboxing, 89, 98-100, 117, 234
- Secure Sockets Layer (SSL), 91-92
- security certificates, 93-95
- Security Information window, 80
- software tester feature (Chrome predownload page), 42-43
- Stats for Nerds, 74-76
- Task Manager, 73-74
- types of threats
  - overview, 95-96
  - phishing*, 98
  - spyware*, 97
  - Trojan horses*, 97-98
  - viruses*, 96-97
- Web site encryption, 81-82
- Windows Defender, 95
- security indicators in Omnibox (address bar), 59-60**
- Security Information window, 80**

**servers, LAMP, 106****setting**

- default browser, 66
- download location, 67
- home page, 54, 66
- startup options, 65

**Settings tab (Chromium Theme Creator), 160****ShareThis bookmarklet, 184-185****shortcuts. *See* keyboard shortcuts****silent-dump-on-dcheck command-line switch, 195****Silverlight, 126****single-process command-line switch, 195****Skia, 118, 151****skinning Google Chrome, 172-175****snopes.com Web site, 97****software licenses, 104-105****software tester feature (Chrome predownload page), 42-43****source code, 104, 235****speed of V8, 130. *See also* performance benchmarks****spelling web addresses, 49****spyware, 97****Sqlite, 151****SQLite Database browser, 178****SSL (Secure Sockets Layer), 91-92, 234****SSL 2.0, 235****SSL Security, 60, 235****stability. *See* security features****start-maximized**

- command-line switch, 196

**start-renderers-manually**

- command-line switch, 196

**startup options, setting, 65****Stats for Nerds, 74-76****StopBadware.org**

- website, 133

**stopping page loads, 61****stringencoders, 151****strings (C++), 152****Stroustrup, Bjarne, 152****StumbleUpon**

- bookmarklet, 183

**style sheets, 48, 235****T****tab-count-to-load-on-session-restore command-line switch, 196****tabbed browsing, 34-36****tabs**

- isolated tabs, 76-77
- navigating, 214-215

**TabsLock, 142****Task Manager, 73-74****Terms of Service, 42****test-sandbox command-line switch, 196****testing**

- Acid testing, 113-114
- beta testing, 110

**testing-channel command-line switch, 196****testshell-startup-dialog command-line switch, 196**

**text**  
 keyboard shortcuts, 216-217  
 troubleshooting, 203

**Theme Creator tab**  
 (**Chromium Theme Creator**), 160-162

**theme managers**, 144

**themes**, 143-144  
 Chromium Theme Creator, 158-159  
*Settings tab*, 160  
*Theme Creator tab*, 160-162  
*Viewer tab*, 159  
 finding, 172  
 installing, 172-175  
 precautions, 175  
 theme managers, 144  
 troubleshooting, 204

**Themes folder**, 174

**Themes for Chrome extension**, 144

**threads** (Chromium), 115-116

**threats**. *See also* security overview, 95-96  
 phishing, 98  
 spyware, 97  
 Trojan horses, 97-98  
 viruses, 96-97

TinyURL bookmarklet, 184

TLS Lite, 151

toolbar, displaying Home button on, 52-53

**Tools menu**, 47-48  
 customization controls, 64-65

torrents, 89

Torvalds, Linus, 220

Trident, 122

**Trojan horses**, 97-98  
 troubleshooting, 207-208

**troubleshooting**, 201  
 bookmarks, 202-203  
 Chrome crashes, 202  
 Chrome freeze-ups, 203  
 Chrome installation, 202-205  
 Chrome lock-ups, 208  
 default browser setting, 205-206  
 distorted text, 203  
 Facebook page displays, 205  
 home page setting, 205  
 Most visited pages order, 207  
 Omnibox, 202  
 spelling web addresses, 49  
 themes, 204  
 Trojan horses, 207-208  
 WordPress issues, 209

**trusted-plugins command-line switch**, 196

Twitlet, 141

Twitter bookmarklet, 183

TwitThis, 141

typing web addresses, 49-50

**U**

---

UI (user interface), 20, 114, 235

**UI thread** (Chromium), 115

**Under the Hood tab** (Options window), 68

**Uninitialized properties** (V8), 129

**Uninstall command-line switch**, 196

**upload-file command-line switch**, 195

**URLs**. *See* web addresses

**use-lf-heap command-line switch**, 196

**user interface** (UI), 20, 114, 235

**user profiles**, creating multiple, 186-190

**user-data-dir command-line switch**, 196

**UserScript blocks** (**Greasemonkey scripts**), 165

## V

---

**V8**, 119, 128-131  
 code generator, 129  
 hidden classes, 128  
 inline caching, 128-129  
 online resources, 131  
 performance, 130-131  
 source code, 131

**V8 forum**, 131

**V8 JavaScript Engine**, 26-27, 235

**V8 Wiki**, 131

**VAR command** (**Greasemonkey scripts**), 166

**version number**, determining, 206-207

**Viewer tab** (Chromium Theme Creator), 159

viruses, 96-97

## W

---

**W3C** (World Wide Web Consortium), 113-114, 236

**wait-for-debugger-children command-line switch**, 196

**WC3 standards**, 126, 236  
**web addresses**  
  auto-filling, 60  
  typing, 49-50  
**web browsers**, evolution of, 18-19  
**web data thread**  
  (Chromium), 116  
**web page navigation**  
  keyboard shortcuts, 216  
**Web Standards Project Acid**  
  Tests website, 114, 229  
**web-based applications**, 13-15  
**web-based operating systems**, 10-13  
  future of, 10-11  
  mobile access and, 11  
  openness and, 12-13  
  resource sharing and, 10  
**WebKit**, 113-114, 123  
  advantages of, 124  
  development of, 123-124  
**WebKit Core**, 114  
**WebKit Glue**, 114-115  
**WebKit library**, 150  
**websites**  
  Codeweavers, 221  
  David Baumgold, 221  
  encryption, 81-82  
  passwords, saving, 67  
  Wine, 221  
**widgets**, 25, 236  
**windows**  
  attaching/detaching tabs, 35  
  navigating, 214-215  
**Windows Defender**, 95  
**Windows Media Player**, 126  
**Windows Mobile**, 138, 236  
**Windows template library**, 151  
**Wine**, 221  
**WordPress**, 140  
  troubleshooting, 209  
**WorkerPool API (Gears)**, 132  
**World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)**, 113-114, 236  
**writing Greasemonkey scripts**, 165-168  
**www prefix**, 49

## X-Z

---

**X86 instruction set**, 130, 236  
**XPath command (Greasemonkey scripts)**, 167  
**Zlib**, 151  
**Zoho**, 139