
Clean Temporary Files from Browser Cache

Summary

Your computer saves temporary files of pictures, text, and cookies as you browse the Web. Removing these may improve the speed of your computer (slightly) and may remove adware and virus installers that hide within the temporary folders.

These sections follow:

*Safari on Apple Macintosh
OS X*

*Firefox - Version 1.5 for
Windows and Mac OS X*

*Firefox - Version 2 for
Windows and Mac OS X*

*Internet Explorer - Windows
and Mac OS X*

*Internet Explorer **Version 7***

Are cookies a convenience or an invasion of privacy?

Cookies are small files that keep site-specific information (like passwords, preferences, etc.) to make it easier when returning to that site.

Some feel cookies are helpful because they remember some passwords and preferences. Others feel cookies are an intrusion. *(Do you really want Amazon to remember your book preferences and then present targeted ads when you shop on-line? Personalized service or Big Brother looking over your shoulder?)*

Some don't like the thought of thousands of unwanted cookies building up. A few might be useful but the vast majority are unwanted and were placed on you computer without your knowledge.

BOTTOM LINE: You decide whether to leave the cookies or clear them as you follow the steps below.

Empty Safari's Cache (Macintosh OS X)

1. Launch the Safari browser.
2. Open the **Safari** menu.
3. Choose **Empty Cache**.
4. Click the **Empty** button.
The following steps are optional. Some people like cookies.
5. Open the **Safari** menu.
6. Choose **Preferences**.

7. Choose the **Security** icon at the top.
 8. Click the Show **Cookies** button.
 9. Click the **Remove All** button.
 10. When asked to confirm, click the next **Remove All** button.
 11. Click the **Done** button.
 12. Close the Security dialog box.
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Empty Firefox's Cache

Firefox 1.5 for Windows

1. Run Mozilla Firefox.
2. Open the **Tools** menu.
3. Choose **Options**.
4. Choose **Privacy**.
5. Select any **tab**.
6. Use the tab's **clear** button, if desired.
*Optionally use the **Settings** button to set cache clearing when Firefox closes.*

Firefox 1.5 for Macintosh OS X

1. Run Firefox.
2. Open the **Firefox** menu.
3. Choose **Preferences**.
4. Choose **Privacy** on the left.
5. Click an individual Clear button or the Clear All button.
For example, if you want to keep the cookies, don't use Clear All.
6. Confirm that you want to clear the items.
7. Click **OK**.

Firefox 2.0 for Windows and Macintosh OS X

1. Run Firefox.
 2. Open the **Tools** menu.
 3. Choose **Clear Private Data**
 4. Check boxes for items to be cleared and uncheck boxes for items to be retained.
 5. Click the **Clear Private Data Now** button and the window closes on its own.
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Empty Internet Explorer's Cache

IE for Windows prior to version 7 which is described below

1. Run Internet Explorer.
2. Open the **Tools** menu.
3. Choose **Internet Options**.
Optional: Click the Delete Cookies button.
4. Click the **Delete Files** button.
5. Click the **Clear History** button (optional).
6. Click **OK**.

IE for Macintosh OS X

1. Launch Internet Explorer.
2. Open the **Explorer** menu.
3. Choose **Preferences**.
4. Choose **Advanced** on the left under Web Browser.
5. Click the **Clear History** button.
6. Click the **Empty Now** button for cache.

The following steps are **optional**. Some people like cookies.

7. On the left, under Receiving Files, choose Cookies.
8. Single-click any one cookie in the list.
9. Use Command-A to select all.
10. Click the Delete button.
11. Click OK.

Empty Cache in Internet Explorer 7

1. Run Internet Explorer 7.
2. Open the **Tools** menu.
3. Choose the item(s) you want to clear.
 - a. **Delete all**, which is at the bottom, is not selective and clears everything.
 - b. **Delete files** will remove general Internet clutter. This is a safe choice.
 - c. **Delete cookies** does what it says.
This is generally safe, but some users like and want to keep the cookies.
 - d. **Delete history** clears the log of pages that you have visited recently.

- e. **Form data** is information you typed on a Web page, perhaps on a purchasing form for online shopping.
- f. **Passwords** - a security issue

IE (and other browsers) can remember usernames and passwords that you type on Web pages. Examples might be logging into GMail, Netflixs, ordering on EBay, and so on.

- 4. Close after clicking the appropriate button(s).

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