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AUGUST MEETING

**OPEN's next MONTHLY MEETING will be held on
Wednesday, August 7th 2013, at 1.00pm.**

No LCG Meeting in August ...

**Next LCG MONTHLY MEETING
September 4th, 2013 at 7:15 pm**

**"Show and Tell" Evening when members are invited to
bring along a piece of IT Nostalgia.**

Upcoming Event

On Friday the 16th August from 1pm-3pm we will be having guest
speakers from the NBN coming to speak at O.P.E.N .

Bookings are required as places are strictly limited to 20.

Newstream Articles

Deadline : 10 Days before Meeting

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Membership

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LCG Committee 2013/14

President: Bruce Dineen

Vice President: Ivan Turmine

Secretary:

Treasurer: Dennis Murray

Ass. Treasurer: Laraine Rist

Newstream Editor: Ron Baker

Public Officer: Judy Hall

O.P.E.N. Co-ordinator: Robert Tierney

Webmaster/Content: Tom Olsen

Auditor: Ron Baker

Publicity Officer: Iris Meek

"V.I.C.T.O.R." Co-Ordinator: Robert Tierney

LCG Committee: Glenn Gilpin, Reinhard von Samorzewski, June Hazzlewood, Janet Headlam, Julie Hjort

OPEN Committee 2013/14

O.P.E.N. Co-ordinator: Robert Tierney.

Responsible for the smooth running of the Centre on a daily basis

O.P.E.N. Chairperson: Laraine Rist.

Chair all meetings of OPEN and ensure that they run smoothly

O.P.E.N. Vice Chairperson: Robert Tierney.

Chair meeting when the Chairperson is unavailable.

O.P.E.N. Minute Secretary: Heather Loffel.

Handles all incoming and outgoing communications

Responsible for the documentation and distribution of all meeting minutes

Assistant Secretary: - open -.

Help the Secretary where necessary

Treasurer: Dennis Murray.

Responsible for all monies and banking

Assistant Treasurer: Laraine Rist.

Help the Treasurer where necessary.

Newsletter Editor: Dennis Murray.

Publicity Officer: Iris Meek.

Responsible for all advertising

Membership Co-ordinator: Eleanor Horder.

Keep Membership database up to date.

Tutor Co-ordinator: Bruce Dineen.

Keep regular contact with Tutors to bring ideas and concerns to meetings

Maintenance Co-ordinators: Dennis Murray.

Responsible for the maintenance and repairs to all computer equipment

"V.I.C.T.O.R." Co-ordinator: Robert Tierney.

Webmaster/Content: Tom Olsen.

OPEN Committee: June Hazzlewood, Judy Hall, Janet Headlam, Sandra Viney, Kay Dawson, Karia Wicks..

OPEN NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2013

COORDINATOR'S COLUMN

Hello everyone,

This month I want to look at PayPal. On my callouts with the V.I.C.T.O.R program lately I have had students who have had a few different issues with PayPal.

First of all, what is PayPal?

The following description is taken from the PayPal website.

"PayPal, the trusted leader in online payments, enables buyers and businesses to send and receive money online. PayPal has over 100 million member accounts in 190 countries and regions. It's accepted by merchants everywhere, both on and off eBay.

Is it safe to use?

PayPal helps protect your credit card information with industry-leading security and fraud prevention systems. When you use PayPal, your financial information is never shared with the merchant.

Why use PayPal?

Make purchases or send money with PayPal – it's free! Shop and Pay conveniently by saving your information with PayPal. PayPal is accepted by millions of businesses worldwide and is the preferred payment method on eBay."

The issues? I'll touch on them briefly ... first of all these days we seem to be flooded with spam e-mails on nearly every subject imaginable.

One that is doing its rounds lately is supposedly from PayPal . **The email starts off "Dear PayPal User ..."**.

This is the clue is that it is a scam. PayPal always addresses its emails to its members by their full name e.g. "Dear Joe Bloggs ... "

If you get the Dear PayPal User email **delete it immediately!**

Continued in next column>>>>

COORDINATOR'S COLUMN (cont ...)

Pay Pal does send out the occasional email regarding the terms and conditions of you using their service but it will always have your full name shown.

Another issue with PayPal that I came across recently concerns the Australia Post 'Re-loadable pay-as-you-go' Visa Card.

For those that have not heard of this before it is just like a normal Visa Card but the 'credit' available is only the amount you add to it. If your re-loadable card is lost or stolen only the balance that is on the card can be used. Once its gone, its gone!

The second scenario I came across was we had added the pay-as-you-go Visa Card to a member's PayPal account and it was accepted without any problem. But when the member went to buy something on eBay through PayPal it kept saying that the card was invalid.

We tried again without success so 40 minutes later after ringing PayPal Australia and getting someone in America, we were informed that the pay-as-you-go cards do not work with PayPal even though sometimes PayPal's own system allows them to be added.

So it doesn't matter how long you have been using computers you come across scenarios and situations that you have never seen before because things change in cyberspace seemingly daily.

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In September's newsletter there will be details about the upcoming events in Seniors Week in the first week in October ...

Till then ... Happy Computing :O) Rob

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Don't forget that the club telephone is available during class hours.

******* 6343 4928 *******

Members and tutors can be contacted at the clubrooms **during class hours** by telephoning the number shown above.

Monday to Friday 10am – 3pm

Tuesday evenings 7pm—9 pm

VICTOR PHONE NUMBER 0408 174 235

Contact the Coordinator Rob Tierney for assistance with computer problems at home

(Bookings are subject to availability of tutors.)

NEWSTREAM

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★ **(Bookings are subject to availability of tutors.)** ★

NETWORK CHANGES & CHALLENGES

Like it or not the face of computing is changing and OPEN has had to change its approach in order to keep up.

One of the most notable changes has been the increase in the number of portable devices being brought to the club by members—laptops, netbooks, iPads, Android tablets and even a few Windows 8 tablets.

Providing internet access, especially wireless access, for all these 'portables' has been very challenging and has proved beyond the capabilities of some of our existing infrastructure. On Monday afternoons for instance it is not unusual for more than a dozen (12) computers to be trying to access the Internet wirelessly.

After trying to cope with a patchwork arrangement of a very old Telstra modem supplemented by an old wireless router and an incompatible (???) new router we have encountered so many problems that it was decided to 'bite the bullet' and implement a new system based on an updated combination wireless modem-router.

Hopefully by the time you read this all will be working well ...the only changes you should notice are the change of wireless network name to NETGEAR and a change of password which tutors will provide.

Making widespread changes to a network as large as ours at OPEN requires quite an effort and I thank Bruce D and Tony G for 'staying in after school' to get all the work done. There may be a niggle or two still to be sorted out but the improvement in services will warrant the effort.

There have also been some changes in regard to the positioning of certain computers.

The old **OPEN7** XP tower has been retired and replaced by a **dual-booting** XP and Windows 8 computer to provide multiple facilities.

OPEN1 is still OPEN1 but has been moved from the back corner and is now next to the Canon printer.

The spot in the back corner has now been taken by a **new OPEN3** which is a dedicated Windows 8 computer.

If you have any documents on the 'retired' computers please notify your tutor and we will arrange to obtain and transfer them for you.

Dennis

OPEN NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2013

PLEASE NOTE THAT IN 2013 ALL OF JUDY'S MORNING CLASSES WILL

START AT 10 AM

unless an earlier starting time is advised

FAMILY HISTORY ON-LINE

New information is being added to our resources on an on-going basis to help you trace your family's origins. Contact the club for more information.

Classes limited to 8 people.

Wednesday August 14, 2013

1 pm to 3:00 pm

Wednesday August 28, 2013

10 am to noon

Join Judy, Margaret G and the tutors for these informative sessions.

SPECIAL FAMILY HISTORY CLASS

August 21 10 am to noon

Family History Charts

Learn how to use software that can turn your research efforts into a polished, professional chart.

These sessions are only run on a few occasions each year so don't miss the opportunity to learn a very useful skill.

BASIC GRAPHICS

Please check the registration sheets at the club to find out if there are places available.

The dates for the next classes are :

Graphics Workshop August 7

10 am to 12 noon

Basic Graphics August 14

10 am to 12 noon

Next Month : Graphics Workshop September 4

10 am to 12 noon

The aim of the Basic Graphics course is to equip participants with the skills required to enhance photos and includes transferring the images to a computer through scanning and from portable media devices.

LEVEL 2 & 3 GRAPHICS

With Paint Shop Pro 7 and 8

Wednesday August 21 1:00 to 3.00 pm

Paint Shop Pro XI Advanced Class

Wednesday August 28 1:00 to 3.00 pm

These classes are designed for people who have completed the Basic Graphics classes, and involves more advanced features of the Paint Shop Pro graphics programs.

OPEN Session Times

At Studioworks, 1 Pipeworks Rd, L'ton

Standard Sessions \$6.00

[Some special tutorial materials may incur additional charges]

Monday	10 am –12	General & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	Basics and Beyond
	3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Beginners Class
Tuesday	10 am –12	O-Learn & Beginners [all day]
	1 pm – 3 pm	Mac [all day]
	7 pm–9 pm	Basics (Night Class)
Wednesday		Special sessions or Meetings
		As for mornings (see rosters)
Thursday	10 am –12	General & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	General & Beginners
Friday	10 am –12	General & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	Beginners Class

OPEN NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2013

SPECIAL WEDNESDAY SESSIONS

Please register on the sheets – numbers may be limited

Date	Time	Topic	Details
August 7	10 am–12 noon	Basic Graphics	Workshop Session
	1 pm onwards	OPEN monthly meeting	Current Financial Report and General Business. New members are welcome to attend.
		No LCG Meeting in August	
August 14	10 am–12 noon	Basic Graphics	A class for members learning Basic Graphics techniques to enhance photos.
	1 pm–3.00 pm	Family History	Use our the considerable range of resources to trace your ancestors.
August 16	Friday 1 pm–3.00 pm	NBN Presentation With Guest Speakers	Limited to 20 people—check with Rob Tierney for bookings. Friday Beginners Class will not be held on this day.
August 21	10 am–12 noon	Family History Charts	Judy Hall will 'demo' the software available to produce professional Family History charts.
	1 pm–3.00 pm	Level 2 and 3 Graphics Class	Advanced graphics using Paint Shop Pro 7 and 8
August 28	10 am–12 noon	Family History	Use Ancestry.com to aid your research for an additional fee of just \$3.00.
	1 pm–3.00 pm	Advanced Graphics Class	Advanced topics using Paint Shop Pro XI
September 4	10 am–12 noon	Basic Graphics	Workshop Session
	7:15 onwards	LCG Nostalgia night	Members are invited to bring along items of IT memorabilia. Who knows what might turn up?

OPEN NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2013

IS THERE SUCH A THING AS A FREE LUNCH???

Over the last month or so I have found myself doing total reconfigurations of four Windows XP computers—all of which were suffering from the problem of not being able to access the main operating system.

As I've mentioned in past issues of the newsletter an OS failure is not the end of the world. But the processes of recovering data from the hard-disk, re-installing the operating system and programs, and re-establishing services such as internet and e-mail are time-consuming.

And just when you think you are on top of the job something unexpected will come along to thwart your efforts. In three of those recent cases the completion of the job was delayed by unknown or incorrect passwords.

But the headline of this column concerns a case where someone was upgrading from an XP tower to a Windows 7 laptop. In general terms this shouldn't be too dramatic as data can be readily transferred from the old computer if it is still working and many of the programs will probably be compatible with the 'new' computer.

But problems can arise when certain programs aren't compatible. For instance, if you have been an Outlook Express e-mail user in XP you are in for rude shock when you move to Windows 7. You'll have to get used to using Windows Live Mail or the free Mozilla Thunderbird.

If your newer computer runs a 64-bit OS then there will be some older programs that won't run at all, and this is where the person concerned ran into real trouble.

Although I regularly sing the praises of free software the person had a misconception that any program you desire can be downloaded from the Internet free of charge. So when the need for an entry-level graphics program arose they simply Google-d the name of the desired program, clicked the Download button and answered 'Yes' to all the on-screen prompts.

Continued

FREE LUNCH???

It turned out that the web-site chosen had nothing to do with the desired graphics program at all.

I became aware of the problems when I was helping the person re-connect to the Internet. Instead of the usual Google home-page there was something called **Devil Search**, and there were toolbars that I'd never heard of.

When I started querying these new arrivals the person had no idea where the programs had come from. I headed to the **Control Panel>Programs and Features** and found that seven (7) unwanted programs had been installed on one particular day—about the same time as the graphics program was allegedly installed.

It seems highly likely that what was supposed to be a download link to the graphics program was bogus. To an experienced user there might have been some tell-tale signs—program names that had nothing to do with graphics, a download file that was only four Megabytes in size etc. But it's hard to be too critical of inexperienced users. How many of you would know that your Nero DVD burning programs are in a Programs Files folder named Ahead, or that the old Print Artist program lives in a folder named Sierra that isn't even in the Programs Files area?

However what I see as **the real problem** is that many download sites are becoming 'devious', with multiple Download buttons that want to install programs other than the one you might be looking for. I've even found that information websites set up by reputable companies may contain links that divert you to websites that promote unrelated products.

And even when you think you've avoided unwanted toolbars and home-page hijackers by un-ticking the boxes during the installation process don't be surprised if an upgrade to your free program undoes all your good work.

There may be still such a thing as a 'free lunch' but it might leave a nasty taste in your mouth afterwards.

Dennis Murray

WINDOWS 8 SUPPORT FOR BEGINNERS

A class is being held each Thursday from 3:30 to 5:30 pm to assist owners of Windows 8 computers to find their way around the new operating system and its features.

Tutors who can lend a hand to assist the new users with the basic computer skills needed e.g. word processing, internet access, file management are invited to attend.

INCREASED STORAGE CAPABILITIES FOR TABLET COMPUTERS

A lot of tablet-style computers are limited by the amount of 'on-board' storage—usually between 16 GB and 64 GB.

If you want to provide a major increase in storage the **Heli-Dock** (see picture below) may be just what you need. It has a USB port that enables a flash-drive or portable hard-disk to be attached and you can then access all the data on the USB storage device **wirelessly!**

Yes the Heli-Dock creates its own wireless network, and can run on its own rechargeable battery for around 5 hours so you can take all your music and movies with you when you are on the road. **Apps are available to make it compatible with Androids, iPads and smart-phones.**



EXPLORING THE INTERNET WITH MOZILLA FIREFOX

It is important to choose the best Web Browser as it is your gateway to the internet and is used more than any program on your computer. The Microsoft Windows operating system comes with Internet Explorer but a good alternative is Mozilla's Firefox.

One thing that plagues all web browsers is the installation of malicious software and unfortunately Firefox can also be attacked by unwanted software and add-ons [malware].

Some of the signs of malware on your PC:-

Some ad pop-ups display all the time, although you've blocked pop-ups.

Your searches are redirected to another site in order to feed you content from that website and you are being disallowed from blocking them.

Your home page has been hijacked.

Firefox never finishes loading or can't load certain websites.

Firefox crashes or hangs a lot.

Firefox does not start.

Problems with connecting to Facebook.

Firefox keeps opening many tabs or windows.

Unwanted toolbars have been installed.

How do I prevent malware from being installed?

There are simple rules to follow in order to prevent malware from being installed on your computer:

Keep your operating system and other software updated:

Installation of malicious software usually takes advantage of known security vulnerabilities in other programs, which may have been patched in later versions.

Continued in next column >>>>

BRUCE'S AUGUST INFO PAGE

Make sure you are using the latest version of each piece of software you use, including plugins using [Mozilla's plugincheck website](#) and Windows using the Windows Update feature.

Don't install un-trusted software:

Some websites offer you software to accelerate your browser, to help you search the Web, to add toolbars that make things Firefox already does.

Some unwanted programs also come bundled in software packages. Usually, these programs gather information on your browsing behaviour that serve only people who designed them and interfere with Firefox. Make sure you install add-ons from [Mozilla's add-on website](#) and you uncheck unwanted programs in software wizards.

Don't click inside misleading pop-up windows:

Many malicious websites try to install malware on your system by making images look like pop-up windows, or displaying an animation of the website scanning your computer.

Run anti-virus and anti-spyware real-time protection and scan your system periodically. Make sure your anti-virus and anti-spyware real-time protection is enabled. Scan your computer at least every month.

Don't run a fake Firefox:

Download Firefox from mozilla.org/firefox.

How do I get rid of malware?

If your anti-virus and anti-spyware software hasn't detected malware, scan your system with other free malware scanning programs. You should scan with all programs because each program detects different malware and make sure that you update each program to get the latest version of their databases before doing a scan.

Warning: Anti-virus and anti-spyware software may sometimes generate **false positives**. Consider quarantining suspicious files rather than deleting them.

ANDROID FOR WINDOWS

The Android Operating System has become very popular over the last few years but if you are a traditional Windows user you may be missing out on the exciting world of Android.

Now you can run many of the Android apps in Windows with software designed to give you the best of both worlds. These applications do not emulate Android but run the actual Android Operating System from within Windows.

Bluestacks Android App Player

This is a program for running Android apps in windows. It does not look like the traditional Android desktop but provides a stable platform. The program is based on Android OS Version 2.3.4 and all the apps I tried ran perfectly. This software version was made for phones but it has been converted to fit on any PC screen, mine is running in 1080p.

It is currently the only finished stable Windows Android software available at present.

It is free to download and more information can be found at <http://www.bluestacks.com/>

Windroy [formerly WindowsAndroid]

This program runs Android 4.0.3 and is exactly the same as on an Android tablet. The aim of the program's author is to keep Android's originality as well as using the PC's graphic hardware acceleration. It is still a work in progress and unfortunately does not have the means of adding additional apps. It does have a few apps so you can test the software.

It is currently free to download at <http://windroy.com/>

Android for Windows Version 2.5 [beta-1]

This is the Bluestacks Android App Player with a few modifications so as to run in a more Android-like desktop. I found the software very easy to use and contained many apps and also the ability to access the Google Play Store so as to download other apps. Although still in the beta stage, it will emerge as an excellent program. Finding a copy of this software is a bit more difficult but if you know your way around the internet, you should be able to find a copy. I assume that the program is free, as Bluestacks is, but it is not freely advertised.

[Editors note : 'beta' refers to a test version]

Running Android on your PC

Once again it is a matter of the PC's capabilities. This sort of program is better on Windows 7 with a PC that has a graphics card and a reasonable CPU [preferably multi core].

Bruce Dineen

You're being followed! How to block Web tracking



By Patrick Marshall

Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean you're not being watched.

When you're on the Internet, there are good reasons to have that eerie sense of being followed.

By now, most of us know that websites can gather a surprising amount of information about your computer. For example, the page request you send to a site's server includes detailed information about your browser — not just which browser you're using, but the exact version, its configuration, and even the screen resolution the browser is running in. Other gathered data includes the page you came from, what document you're requesting, and — yes, your IP address.

And don't think you have anonymity just because your service provider gives you a dynamic IP address. At a minimum, visited websites can tell what service provider you're with and what city or region you are in.

What's more, any communication with a Web server gives it the opportunity to deposit a cookie on your computer. Benign cookies — small text files downloaded through your browser — simply record information needed to make your Web experience better. That can include sign-in information, where you visited on the site, interface customizations, and the like. Most cookies also keep an identifier for each visitor, so that the next time you connect to a site's server, it can match you up with its records of previous visits. That way, you won't have to start from scratch whenever you go to the site.

Less benign cookies can let websites track your movements around the Internet, and they often collect more information than you really want to give.

Typically, the information gleaned by trackers doesn't include your name and street address. But by putting together all the collected data from page requests and cookies, Web servers can effectively **fingerprint** individual computers and thus track users across the Internet.

What many users don't know is the extent of the information now collected. If a webpage contains an advertisement, your browser will often send a request to a third-party ad server to download the advertisement. In addition to telling the ad server

what site you're visiting, the request contains yet another identifier — still not your name, but a number that corresponds to your computer.

And that ad server might deposit its own cookie on your computer.

So far, all this tracking hasn't identified you by name and address. But online tracking companies will have a considerable amount of information — including, again, your computer's IP address — about your online activities. On some sites, the result is targeted ads, tailored content, and possibly a Web experience that's customized specifically for you (or, more precisely, customized for the activity on a specific computer).

For example, one day I searched for "line trimmers" on Google. The next day, I went to the Home Depot site. What was the first thing I saw? An ad for line trimmers — and it was no coincidence. Some users will be happy with that result; others will not. Let a friend or family member browse the Web with your computer, and ads for products you have absolutely no interest in might follow you around the Internet for days or weeks.

Good intelligence analysts might be able to figure out who's behind a computer by analyzing online activities, but for most users, the real danger comes from joining social-networking sites such as Facebook or Google+. By their nature, social sites encourage you to feed them lots of personal information — including your name and address. The social site, and any organizations with which it shares data, can connect the dots back to a specific individual — as opposed to a specific computer. (And we can assume government agencies are doing the same.)

And you know all those social widgets you find on visited sites? Page requests are sent to those servers as well. If you've logged into Facebook in the past month, for example, and you haven't specifically signed out, the widget can track your presence across all sites that also have the widget. If you want to see how visited websites communicate directly with each other, download the Collusion (see Figure 1) add-on for [Firefox](#) and [Chrome](#).

Trackers can also use embedded **bugs** or **beacons** — typically invisible to users — to get notifications when someone has viewed a site or opened email. And any of the sites you visit might use JavaScript to examine your browsing history.

So what can you do to manage or reduce tracking? In this article, we'll start by looking at the built-in controls available in the three most popular browsers. Unfortunately, though these user-configurable tools provide some protection, you can't rely on them to fully protect your online identity.

(Continued from page 9)

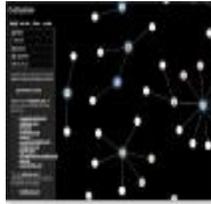


Figure 1

Browsers Offer Limited Support

In a following article, I'll go into third-party add-ons and utilities that provide better protection.

The privacy tools in the major browsers focus primarily on cookie management. To understand how the tools work, it's important to understand the various types of cookies. Here's the short explanation:

- ✦ **Session cookie:** When the cookie doesn't carry an expiration date, it's usually a session cookie — one that will be deleted when the browser is closed.
- ✦ **Persistent cookie:** Also called a tracking cookie, the persistent cookie will remain on the computer until it reaches its expiration date. These cookies can be accessed by their creators whenever you connect to the creators' Web servers.
- ✦ **Secure cookie:** If the cookie is set with an HTTPS attribute, it's sent from the Web server in an encrypted form to prevent cookie theft.
- ✦ **HTTPOnly cookie:** Such cookies can be transmitted only through HTTP or HTTPS requests, which also helps protect them from being stolen.
- ✦ **Third-party cookie:** These cookies come from a source other than the site you're visiting. Webpage ads, for example, typically deliver their own, third-party cookies.

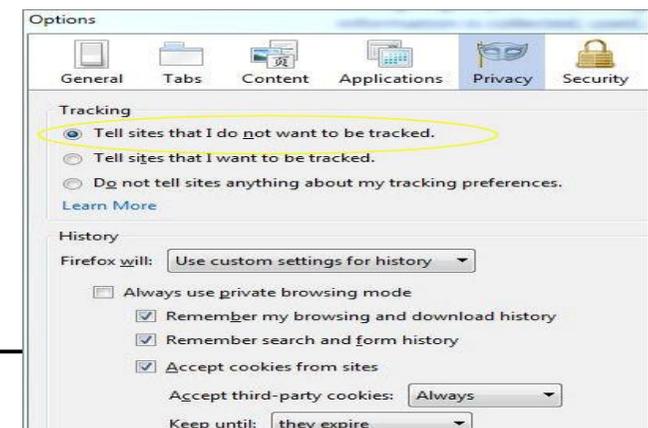
✦ **Supercookie:** Tracking technologies that typically do not use HTTP, supercookies are often created by applications, such as Adobe Flash and Microsoft Silverlight, that you might have installed on your computer. These cookies can store up to **10MB** of data, whereas an HTML cookie is limited to 4K. Supercookies can also track user behavior across multiple sites.

✦ **Zombie cookie:** These cookies are automatically re-created after a user has deleted them. This is done by a script that gets the data from a supercookie. For more on zombie cookies, see Woody Leonhard's Aug. 5, 2010, [Top Story](#), "Eliminate Flash-spawned 'zombie' cookies."

All major browsers give basic controls over the allowed types and duration of downloaded cookies. Some browsers provide additional controls — and they differ in how easy it is to access, understand, and configure these controls. Here's what you get with the leading browsers:

♣ **Firefox:** To its credit, Firefox has made it simple for users to access and navigate the browser's privacy-related tools. All tools and settings — with one exception we'll deal with below — can be accessed by clicking the Tools menu, then Options, and the Privacy tab.

♣ Firefox can be set to automatically send a **Do Not Track** notification to websites that support the technology. Once that's set, every website visited will receive a request in the page header that you not be tracked. But let's be clear: this is just a request. Firefox isn't actively preventing tracking; it's up to each website to honor the request. But it can't hurt to ask. To do so, just click the radio button next to "Tell sites that I do not want to be tracked" (circled in yellow in Figure 2).



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♣ Next, you'll want to adjust your history settings. By default, Firefox accepts all cookies and remembers your browsing history, downloads, and search history. To change that behavior, click on the History/**Firefox will:** button and select either **Never remember history** or **Use custom settings for history** (see Figure 2). You can easily switch between these settings, depending on the sites you plan to visit.

♣ Selecting the custom settings brings up a layered array of controls. I opted to disable my browsing and download history while retaining my search and form history. Then, it was on to cookies. A drop-down list gives you two choices: always accepting third-party cookies or never accepting them. I chose to never accept them, but had I accepted them, I could have stipulated that Firefox delete them when they expire or when I close the browser – or to prompt me each time I close.

♣ The Exceptions button lets me specify sites that will be exempted from the set policy. Try this option for important sites that have lost functionality.

♣ Finally, you can check a box that automatically clears your browsing history whenever Firefox closes.

♣ I had to search for the setting that would disable local-domain (DOM) storage so that supercookies could not use it. As it turns out, this technique – suitable primarily for advanced users – requires manual editing of Firefox's configuration table. To do so, type "about:config" in the URL bar and hit Enter. A long list of browser configuration settings appears. Scroll down until you find **DOM.storage.enable**. Right-click on the listing and then click **Toggle**. Close the browser Window and you're in business.

Firefox is the only one of the three browsers that lets you set private browsing as the default. While Private Browsing ([more info](#)) is on, Firefox doesn't save a history of visited pages, search-bar entries, passwords, cookies, etc.

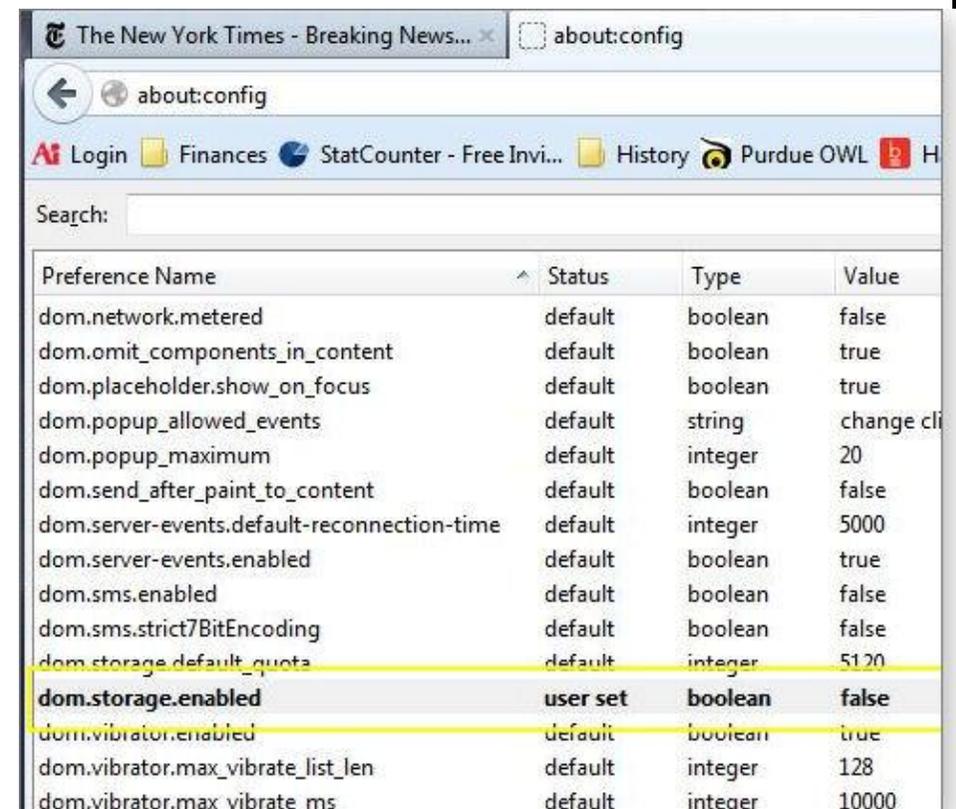
♣ That doesn't mean, however, that websites can't collect information about your PC during a Private Browsing session. Also, some websites might not have their full functionality when you have private browsing on.

♣ To block beacons, scripts, and other forms of online tracking agents in Firefox,

you'll need to download and install add-ons. Fortunately, they are free and easy to install, as I'll discuss in Part 2 of this series.

♣ **Google Chrome:** This browser is the least intuitive of the three browsers when it comes to finding and configuring privacy settings. All Chrome settings are configured on webpages (see Figure 4) that are not especially well designed for ease of use. Moreover, users have to go through several layers to find many of the tools.

♣ To set cookie policy, you start by clicking the three-bar icon in the upper-right corner of the Chrome toolbar and selecting Settings. The Settings page will open in a new browser-window tab – but you won't see a heading for Privacy or Cookie settings until you click the "Show advanced settings" link at the bottom of the page. Scroll down the now expanded Settings page until you find the Privacy heading.



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▲ Now click the **Content settings** button; you'll finally find the options for managing cookies (see Figure 5).

▲ Chrome gives you four choices for controlling cookies: allow or disallow all cookies, allow cookies to be kept just during your current session, or allow only specific third-party cookies.

▲ Like the other browsers, Chrome allows you to enable or disable JavaScript on sites, and you can make exceptions. However, disabling JavaScript entirely might make some sites difficult to use. It would be more helpful if Chrome (and other browsers) detected scripts that are undesirable – as some available extensions (add-ons) will do.

▲ Chrome also lets you show all images on sites – or none. Although it's not explained, blocking images is a way of blocking Web beacons. Again, if you want to be more discriminating about what images are blocked, you'll need to download a Chrome extension – a step I recommend.

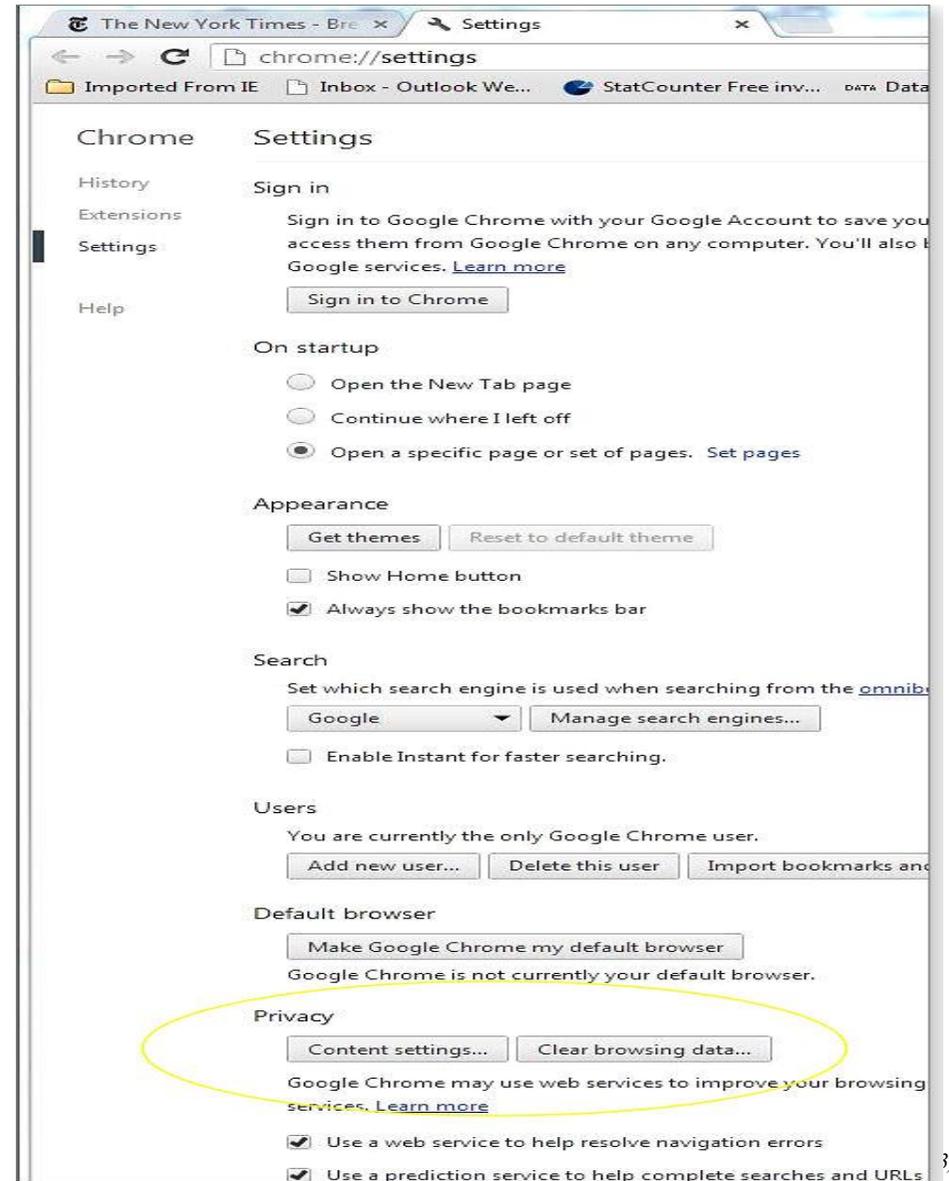
▲ Finally, like other browsers, Chrome supports Do Not Track requests.

▲ The tools for clearing existing cookies and other tracking information are located on another page. Click on the three-bar icon again and select Tools/**Clear browsing data**. You'll then be able to select the specific types of stored data you want to clear. Although it's not well explained, selecting **Delete cookies and other site and plug-in data** will remove Flash cookies. (Nothing is mentioned about other types of supercookies.)

▲

▲ In Chrome, unfortunately, there's no way to prevent supercookies from using local storage – unless you prevent **all** cookies from using local storage.

▲ Chrome includes Incognito mode ([more info](#)) for private browsing. It works much like Firefox's Private Browsing, but cannot be set as the default.



Content settings

Cookies

- Allow local data to be set (recommended)
- Keep local data only until I quit my browser
- Block sites from setting any data
- Block third-party cookies and site data

Manage exceptions...

All cookies and site data...

Images

- Show all images (recommended)
- Do not show any images

Manage exceptions...

JavaScript

- Allow all sites to run JavaScript (recommended)
- Do not allow any site to run JavaScript

Manage exceptions...

▲ Although Chrome provides many of the same basic privacy controls found in competing browsers, we can forgive users who get the impression that Google really doesn't want us to use Chrome's privacy controls. After all, Google *is* one of largest collectors of online-behaviour data.

▲ **Internet Explorer 10:** Microsoft's browser has a relatively strong set of privacy tools, though it would be better if they were in one place. As it is, you're forced to work through several menus to configure all privacy settings.

▲ Starting with cookie management, click IE's gear icon in the browser's upper-right corner and select Internet options; then select the Privacy tab. A slider offers six levels of protection, ranging from blocking all cookies to allowing all cookies (see Figure 7).

▲

▲ Intermediate settings allow or disallow third-party cookies that don't have compact privacy policies and which save information that could be used to contact you. (The dialog box doesn't say what a compact privacy policy is or why it's important; briefly, it allows IE to read a site's embedded policy. For more info, see The Lunch Pail [blog](#).) You can also block first-party cookies that save contact information.

▲ To create a custom policy, click the Advanced tab; you'll then be able to specify whether first- and third-party cookies should be blocked or allowed, or whether you

Clear browsing data

Obliterate the following items from: the beginning of time ▾

- Clear browsing history
- Clear download history
- Delete cookies and other site and plug-in data
- Empty the cache
- Clear saved passwords
- Clear saved Autofill form data
- Clear data from hosted apps
- Deauthorize content licenses

[Learn more](#)

Clear browsing data

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should be prompted for acceptance. In addition, you can allow or disallow session cookies.

▲ Bear in mind, however, that these settings apply only to **HTML** cookies and do not impact supercookies, which are managed by other applications. And even though IE 10 doesn't delete all supercookies when you delete your browsing history, if you have Flash 10.3 or later loaded, IE will at least delete Flash cookies.

▲ To clear your browsing history, simply click the **Tools** menu (not the gear icon) and select **Delete browsing history**. IE will then display a list of delete/preserve options, including temporary Internet files, cookies, your list of visited sites, download histories, etc. (See Figure 8.)



▲ You can also set how long IE 10 retains its history of online activities. To do so, return to Internet options and select the General tab. In the Browsing history section, click Settings and choose the History tab. Then simply set the number of days. Alternatively, you can simply check the **Delete browsing history on exit** box back in the Browsing History section.

▲ Next, turn on IE 10's **Do Not Track** option. In Internet options, click the Advanced

tab and scroll down to the checkbox, **Always send Do Not Track header** (see Figure 9).

▲

▲ You can expect better results, however, by activating IE 10's Tracking Protection. Click Tools/Tracking Protection, and the browser's add-on manager will open with Tracking Protection highlighted. When I did so, I found a single, disabled entry labeled "Your Personalized List." I highlighted that item and clicked the Enable button down in the lower-right corner of the Manage Add-ons window.

▲ Next, I deselected "Your Personalized List" by clicking a blank area just below it, which popped up a new link, **Get a Tracking Protection List online**. Clicking the link took me to Microsoft's Internet Explorer Gallery, where I was offered a choice of additional, much more extensive, third-party lists. Clicking the Add button for Abine Standard added this list to Tracking Protection (see Figure 10).

▲ Once you've enabled tracking protection lists, IE 10 will block all data from going out to those sites.

▲ You can also add some Internet protection with IE 10's InPrivate Browsing, found in the Tools menu, which works in much the same way as Chrome's Incognito mode. As with Chrome, InPrivate Browsing can't be set as the default — you have to enable it for each browsing window.

▲ There are two other controls in Internet Options you might want to use. Click the Privacy tab and check the **Never allow websites to request your physical location** box. Or click the Advanced tab and uncheck the **Enable DOM storage** box to prevent supercookies from using local storage.

Beyond cookies: Additional privacy controls

Even though all three browsers offer basic controls over cookies, you'll need to do

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Delete Browsing History

- Preserve Favorites website data**
Keep cookies and temporary Internet files that enable your favorite websites to retain preferences and display faster.
- Temporary Internet files and website files**
Copies of webpages, images, and media that are saved for faster viewing.
- Cookies and website data**
Files or databases stored on your computer by websites to save preferences or improve website performance.
- History**
List of websites you have visited.
- Download History**
List of files you have downloaded.
- Form data**
Saved information that you have typed into forms.
- Passwords**
Saved passwords that are automatically filled in when you sign in to a website you've previously visited.
- ActiveX Filtering and Tracking Protection data**
A list of websites excluded from filtering, and data used by Tracking Protection to detect where websites might be automatically sharing details about your visit.

[About deleting browsing history](#)

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more and use additional tools if you want to avoid being tracked on the Internet. Perhaps reconsider your membership in social networks. Or at least review the privacy settings you use on those sites and the information you post.

Internet Options

General Security Privacy Content Connections Programs Adv...

Settings

- Play sounds in webpages
- Show image download placeholders
- Show pictures
- Allow active content from CDs to run on My Computer*
- Allow active content to run in files on My Computer*
- Allow software to run or install even if the signature is invalid
- Always send Do Not Track header*
- Block unsecured images with other mixed content
- Check for publisher's certificate revocation
- Check for server certificate revocation*
- Check for signatures on downloaded programs
- Do not save encrypted pages to disk
- Empty Temporary Internet Files folder when browser is closed

*Takes effect after you restart your computer

Reset Internet Explorer settings

Resets Internet Explorer's settings to their default condition.

You should only use this if your browser is in an unusable state.

Manage Add-ons

View and manage your Internet Explorer add-ons

Add-on Types	Name	Status	Address
Toolbars and Extensions	Abine	Enabled	http://www.abine.com/tpl/
Search Providers	Your Personalized List	Enabled	