

Business Computing

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A free monthly publication for small business. Over 20 years experience providing computer and network solutions.

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The Learning Center

Free software to create your own website: Go to nvu.com to use a complete web authoring system that is especially suitable for newcomers. NVU was initially part of the Mozilla Suite but now is a stand alone product. With this software you can get started without any technical expertise and incorporates a what-you-see-is-what-you-get editor for simplicity. Help menus will guide you through the entire process of developing a website and answer some questions that are not discussed on this monthly newsletter. NVU is much like a word processor, where you can proceed to develop your web pages with text and insert graphics. There are toolbars with big self explanatory buttons which will enable new users to get away to a fast start.



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A Newcomers Do-it-Yourself Guide to Setting Up a Website on the Internet

A newcomer in making the decision to create and launch a website for the first time faces a huge learning curve. There are usually local classes which address the issue of generating pages for a website but leave out important details. A novice needs to know how to actually display web pages on the Internet complete with an email message system. It is vitally important to be able to interact with visitors through your website. These articles will bridge that gap and give the reader an overview of how to display a website without delving into the finer details of page design.

The first item to grasp is how your website is displayed on the Internet. For a web site to be made available on the Net, it has to be hosted on a web server. Hosting your website means placing it on the Internet so that it is available to people who want to visit. To cut costs, shared web hosting is the way to go. It allows you to host your website on a server you share with other people. A good example of a low cost web-host would be ixwebhosting.com. They offer low cost hosting as well as personal help in the form of a SiteDude. Here a real person will shift your website on to one of their hosting plans. It should be noted that a well established host is preferred as they can guarantee superior networking and stability. Also the location of the host becomes unimportant on the World Wide Web.

The next step is to transfer your website files to the host so they are displayed on the Net. You accomplish this by what they call a FTP client. FTP stands for File Transfer Protocol and is a small software utility that enables you to get the

files off your computer on to the host. Go to goftp.com for a free download and load the program on your PC. After opening an account with the host you will be instructed on the destination location of your website. You can then upload the files with the FTP software so they are located on a web server. To enable your website to be located on the Net an easily remembered domain name is necessary. Most hosts provide for registration, parking and setup advice for your domain name. The domain name is then pointed at your website for simple navigation.

Another important concept to grasp is DNS or Domain Name Service. DNS is used to translate domain names into numbers. Computers work with numbers but humans prefer names. It is far easier for humans to remember an Internet name such as yoursite.com than a string of numbers. DNS servers are responsible for making this translation. Wherever you decide to host your website, the network you are on must have its own DNS servers. These servers will act as the authority for your domain name and must be part of your domain name setup. The hosts default name servers are usually used along with additional records that govern the delivery of email and other related services.

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How to safely delete stubborn applications which will not uninstall

This article will help you eliminate rogue software that refuses to uninstall. It may be software you downloaded previously and now is a nuisance popping up like an unwelcome guest. First you need to right click on the programs shortcut icon on your Start menu and select Properties. Make a note of the address in the Target pane in the Shortcut of the pop-up menu. You will need to refer to the path and file name throughout the exercise.

Now, make sure nothing from the unwanted program loads automatically when your PC is first switched on. Select Start and type Msconfig in the Run panel and press enter. (unfortunately this utility is not available in Win95 or Win2000.) Click the Startup tab. In the Name or Startup column look for anything related to the program you want to uninstall. In the Command column look for anything related. Uncheck all items that meet either

criterion and then click okay.

Now you need to eliminate any file associations with the rogue software. In Windows Explorer select View, Folder Options (Tools, Folder Options in Windows 98 and XP) and click File Types tab. Look for any file types that are associated with the program you want to uninstall. When you find one click delete to get rid of the association.

The software now needs to be backed up your data before you make changes to the registry. (It would help to read the adjoining article on the Windows Registry in the Learning Centre.) Select Start/Run and type Regedit into the Run pane and press Enter. What you see on the screen is the Registry Editor. In the left pane of the Registry Editor, navigate to the HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\applications. Click the plus sign next to this key then right click the sub-key matching the

programs file name and delete.

Now navigate to HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software and look for a sub-key named for the vendor of the program. Click the plus sign by the vendor name to view the sub-keys beneath. If you see sub-keys for programs you wish to keep, delete only the sub-key for the program you are uninstalling. Otherwise, delete the vendor key entirely. Do the same for HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software key and delete the vendor sub-key. Return to the top of the editors left pane with My Computer selected. Click the Edit menu and select Find to open the dialog box. Enter the program (rogue) name in the "Find what" field. Make sure all the options under "Look at" are checked and click Next or Find Next, depending on your version. If a match turns up, delete the key containing it, and keep searching until you reach the end of the registry. Finally delete the programs folder and any shortcuts on the desktop.

Setting up Your Email Account

Here we will cover one common method of setting up your email account. Usually with your Internet provider you have a login name which comes with one or more mailboxes. This mailbox can be used in conjunction with your website domain name. Wherever your domain name is parked there is usually provision to forward email under several different aliases to your Internet Providers mailbox. For example you could set up several email forwards from aliases such as info@yourdomain.com and sales@yourdomain.com. In this case your mail would be routed from your domain name to your ISP's mailbox where it can be downloaded on your PC or viewed as webmail.

A very important facet of a website is the ability to communicate with your visitors. The caller should be able to go directly to a page on your website and correspond directly with you by email. This email system can be setup using a standard form which is pasted into a webpage and works in conjunction with a software script which is located in a folder on your host. When a visitor calls at your site and decides to join your mailing list they fill out the form and the data is automatically emailed to you. There are scripts available on the Internet which can be easily downloaded.

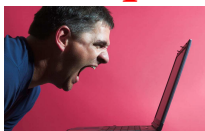
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