

Internet Explorer 7 Features and Customizations

February 2009

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the end of this technology bulletin, learners will be able to:

- ◆ Identify the new features found in Internet Explorer (IE) 7.
- ◆ Identify the setting customizations made for campus managed computers.

OVERVIEW

IE7 has been available for download from the Novel Application Launcher (NAL) since 2008, but will now be installed on all managed computers currently running the previous version of Internet Explorer during the week of Spring Break, March 9 - 13.

Using IE7 as the primary browser will increase internet security and provide users with additional features that make surfing the Internet easier.

This technology bulletin describes the features of IE7 and changes being made to default Internet settings as a result of this implementation.

Use the hyperlinks below to navigate to specific sections of the bulletin for quicker review:

- [New User Interface](#)
- [Security Status Bar](#)
- [Customizations Made for Campus Managed Computers](#)
- [Other Reference Materials](#)
- [Contact Information](#)

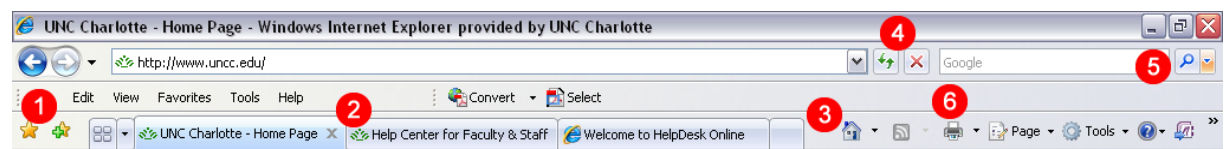
NEW USER INTERFACE

IE7 offers a new streamlined user interface which allows the user to more easily access his/her Favorites and the tasks and tools used most.

There are six main enhancements to the IE7 interface that this communication will address:

- 1) Favorites Menu
- 2) Tabbed Browsing
- 3) Home Button
- 4) Refresh and Stop Buttons
- 5) Instant Search Box
- 6) Advanced Printing

These enhancements are illustrated in the screenshot below.



Let's now discuss the changes to these functions in more detail.

1) Favorites Menu


The ★ icon provides a dropdown list of the Favorites menu. All of the user's current favorite sites will remain saved during this upgrade to IE7.

2) Tabbed Browsing

Users can now navigate from site to another in the same browser window using the tabs in the top of the browser frame. You can now have multiple windows open at once in the same window.



- To add a new tab, click the blank tab or press **Ctrl + T** on your keyboard.

3) Home Button

This familiar house  icon has simply been relocated, but the function remains unchanged.

NEW USER INTERFACE, continued

4) Refresh and Stop Buttons

The **Refresh**  and **Stop**  buttons have been relocated to the end of the address bar for easier use.

5) Instant Search Box

Users are now able to search the web without navigating to a search provider site.

6) Advanced Printing

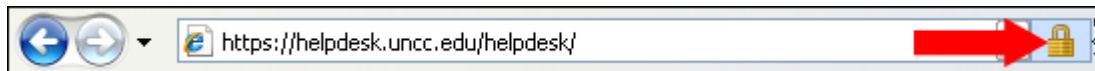
When you print, web pages automatically reduce to fit the correct page size. This will save time and paper when needing to print directly from the web.

- Using the down arrow next to the printer  icon offers a **Print Preview** option, allowing users to view and adjust the page before printing.

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SECURITY STATUS BAR

IE7 has also included several security enhancements designed to protect the identity information available for a website. This has been accomplished by embedding a **Security Status Bar** into the right portion of the standard Address Bar, as shown in the screenshot below:

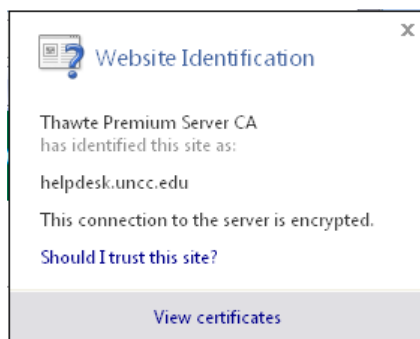


Being cognizant of the Security Status Bar and following a few simple guidelines below, users will be able to better protect themselves during online transactions and prevent web fraud and data theft.

This padlock indicator is displayed when a website may contain fields for sensitive information. A few examples of sensitive information include:

- any personally identifiable information
- usernames
- passwords
- bank account numbers

The background color for the entire Address Bar changes based on the information available about the identity of the website. When the Security Status Bar padlock is visible, users may click on the padlock icon to view the **Security Report** for the website:

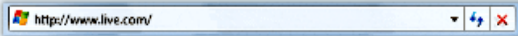

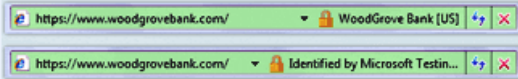
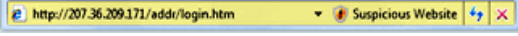

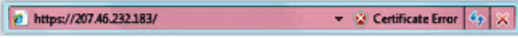


NOTE: Whenever you are visiting any website, you should look at the full address (URL) for the site to understand what website you are looking at. IE7 helps you by enforcing the presence of an address bar in every window, but you still may need to scroll through it or maximize the window in order to view the full address.

[Click here to view a job aid describing how to accept a site certificate in IE7.](#)

SECURITY STATUS BAR, continued

As stated on the previous page, the background color of the Address Bar will change based on the information available about the identity of the website. The chart below gives an explanation of what each of the background colors mean, the type of identity information the website provides, and how users should continue working when confronted with these types of sites.

Address & Security Status Bar	Identity Information	Explanation	What Should I Do?
	<p>White: No identity information is available at this time.</p>	<p>No specific security information is available at this time.</p>	<p>This is the default for browsing websites. Proceed with caution before entering sensitive information.</p>
	<p>White: No identity information is available at this time.</p>	<p>The communication is encrypted.</p>	<p>Verify this is the company you intended to visit before entering sensitive information.</p>
	<p>Green: This site has verified identity information.</p>	<p>The communication is encrypted and the owner has been properly identified.</p>	<p>You should verify that the website owner (displayed in the Security Status Bar) is the one expected before entering any sensitive data.</p>
	<p>Yellow: This site appears to be misrepresenting its identity.</p>	<p>The Phishing Filter in IE7 has determined this may be a phishing web site.</p>	<p>Proceed with caution and do not enter any data into this website, unless you are positive it is a legitimate site.</p>
	<p>Red: This is a known phishing site and is misrepresenting its identity.</p>	<p>The Phishing Filter in IE7 has identified this as a fraudulent website and has been reported.</p>	<p>Do not browse any further or enter any personal information into this website.</p>
	<p>Red: This site's identity is mismatching or invalid – the site may be misrepresenting its identity.</p>	<p>A problem exists with the encryption certificate used for the site.</p>	<p>Make sure you have typed the correct web site address. If the error persists, do not browse any further or enter any personal information before contacting the site administrator.</p>

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**CUSTOMIZATIONS
MADE FOR
CAMPUS
MANAGED
COMPUTERS**

With the installation of IE7 to all campus managed computers running the previous version of Internet Explorer, ITS will also be implementing some customizations to the application for all campus users. This will standardize user options and security protection for the campus community.

First, all IE7 browsers will be set to have a default search engine setting. This means that the Instant Search Box located in the upper right corner of your browser window will automatically be set to search the web using Google's search engine:



Second, the default prompts will automatically enable the phishing service to be turned "on" for all computers. This will allow the Security Status Bar to effectively identify malicious sites, and also protect campus computers, the campus community, and you, the user, from any web fraud or data theft.

Lastly, the list of trusted sites will be populated with common, legitimate web applications used on campus each day. This should alleviate many issues regarding users having problems accessing web-based programs through IE7 since the sites will already be pre-loaded to every machine as a safe site.

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**OTHER
REFERRENCE
MATERIALS**

For more information regarding the features of IE7, check out these resources on the web:

- [UNC-Charlotte Faculty and Staff Help Center: IE7 Now Available for Download](#)
- [UNC-Charlotte Faculty and Staff Help Center: Accepting a Site Certificate in IE7](#)
- [Microsoft Tour: Welcome to Internet Explorer 7](#)

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**CONTACT
INFORMATION**

If you have any questions regarding the information found in this Technology Bulletin, please call the Faculty/Staff Help Center at extension 7-3100.

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