



Coffee Break

Question on Software or Operating system.

The Cookie Monster

What is a Cookie?

Cookies are employed when you use your web browser to visit web sites on the Internet. The two main browsers, Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator, both allow the use of cookies.

Cookie files allow a web server to store information about you on your computer, and to retrieve that information to identify you in the future. A cookie is a tiny piece of text that is placed on your hard drive. Its job is to record bits of information such as the pages you've visited, items you've put into an online shopping cart, your user name and password.

What can they do?

- Cookies can't get information from your hard drive. They are not programs, just strings of letters and numbers.
- A cookie was first used to store information relating to a user ID and password for a web site so that we wouldn't have to enter information every time we logged onto that particular site.
- Marketers and advertisers are using cookies to track personal preferences. They don't know who we are, but they may know our viewing, and, if we buy online, our shopping habits.
- Generally, a cookie cannot give information back to any site except the site that deposited it. However, a concern has arisen lately regarding the new technology of "**tracking cookies.**"
- People do not like being tracked. Even if some companies mean no harm, people still do not like the fact they are being monitored while they browse. Cookies can also show links in them if someone happens to look at them on your pc
- Advertising banners on web pages place a cookie on your computer to inform the site that you have been here before and to display another advertising banner.
- You can set your browser not to accept cookies, although this is a bit drastic and will stop quite a few sites working properly.

So what is the best option?



The best option is to Delete your cookie from Internet Explorer.

Go to [Tools] [Internet Options]



In the General tab Left Click [Delete Cookies]

<http://www.nirsoft.net/>

On this web site, scroll down to Internet Related Utilities

Click on IECookiesView: Cookies Viewer/Manager for IE

The program is small and could be of some use if you want to know who is dumping cookies onto your computer. Can delete all cookies from within the software.