

Tech Topic #2: Managing Bookmark Collections

Purpose

This Tech Topic provides a general overview of a particular type of Internet application that can help you to organize your personal bookmark collections. It includes examples and brief instructions on how to use several different types of bookmark manager software. The objective of this Topic is to enable users to organize and use their bookmark collections more efficiently and to choose a bookmark manager that is appropriate for their needs

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In any Web browser, a "bookmark" is a tool that saves the address or Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of a Web site. Since many Web site addresses are very long, bookmarks can be quite useful in helping you go to Web sites that you frequently visit. By creating a bookmark, you can simply select the site from a menu without having to type anything. In Internet Explorer bookmarks are called **Favorites**

[Using Favorites in MSIE](#)

To add a page to your list of favorite pages

1. Go to the page that you want to add to your Favorites list.
2. On the **Favorites** menu, click **Add to Favorites**.
3. Type a new name for the page if you want to.

When you select a Web page to be bookmarked, keep in mind its future availability. In many cases it is better to bookmark a "home" page or a "root" page rather than to a secondary or tertiary link in the Web site. For example, if you are trying to bookmark a site that has current news, you should probably not mark the site with today's headlines, since the address you bookmark may not exist in the near future. In this case, it would be better to bookmark the home page that provides links to current news. When compiling bookmarks for your collection, be conservative with the number of Web sites you mark. An effective index is one that facilitates quick access to the most useful Internet resources by narrowing the number of choices you have to make.

[Creating Your Bookmark Collection](#)

After you have compiled a good selection of bookmarks, you can begin to make your Bookmark Collection Index.

As your list of favorite pages grows, you can keep it organized by creating folders. You might want to organize your pages by topic. For example, you could create a folder named Art for storing information about art exhibits and reviews.

4. On the **Favorites** menu, click **Organize Favorites**.
5. Click **Create Folder**, type a name for the folder, and then press ENTER.
6. Drag the shortcuts (or folders) in the list to the appropriate folders.
If the number of shortcuts or folders makes dragging impractical, you can use the **Move to Folder** button instead.

Copying Files to the LRC Computer Hard Drive (Using WebWhacker)

When Internet connections are slow, or if you want to download very graphic-intensive site, it may be useful to use "agent" software to automatically download these files to your computer. WebWhacker, one example of agent software, allows you to specify a series of URLs and a depth level of links to follow, and automatically downloads them for you. When this process is completed, Web pages can be viewed while they are saved on your hard drive, so that modem connection speed does not play a factor. WebWhacker helps you to create an archive of Web information; distribute your Web site or product catalog on a CD; easily build a virtual Web for your customers/co-workers.

WebWhacker main features:

- Fast and powerful searching of entire Web sites
- Drag Favorites or URLs to WebWhacker to save them permanently
- Organize Web information in folders.
- WebWhacker monitors Web sites for changes and updates you on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis.
- Save disk space by filtering out useless information from Web pages.
- Schedule WebWhacker to download information during off-peak times.
- Duplicate the directory structure of a Web site.
- Provides you with a list of broken links found on a Web site

You can download the demo version from

URL: <http://www.bluesquirrel.com/products/whacker/index.html>

Bookmark (URL) Managers

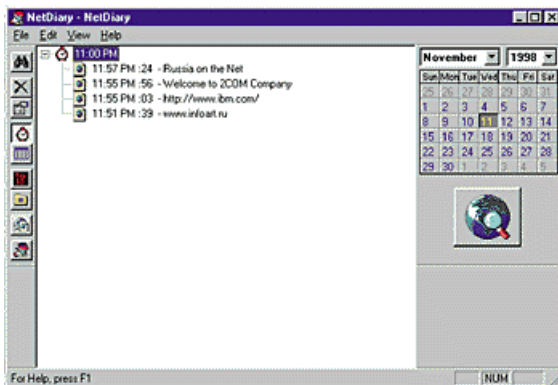
As your bookmark collection grows – it becomes more and more important to organize it in a more sophisticated way that will help you to search through it more effectively. There are special standalone programs, called bookmark (URL) managers, which offer organizing and sorting tools that are more dynamic than the features included in most Web browsers (e.g. "Bookmark" feature in the Netscape Navigator or "Favorites" in Microsoft Internet Explorer). They provide space for adding comments and annotations to bookmarks and the ability to publish these annotated links on the Web. They also provide compatibility between multiple browsers. Today there are dozens of bookmark managers, ranging from simple freeware/shareware programs to sophisticated professional products. A number of Web-based bookmark managers are also available

Most of these programs have the following common characteristics:

- enhanced sorting (by URL, title, descriptions, date, frequency of visits and other)
- search capabilities (as in a data base)
- multiple browsers compatibility
- adding note/description/category fields
- managing duplicate URLs
- checking dead links

- publishing to the Web

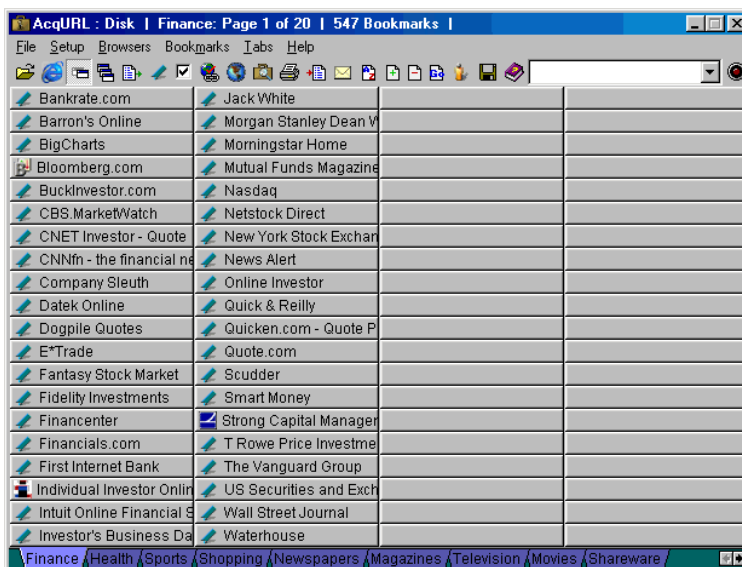
Some have additional useful features, such as supporting cross-references between pages, sites, topics, or categories; tracking usage of URLs in your collection – the date the bookmark was added, the page was modified, the link was checked.



AcqURL

This program works with any browser. It color-codes your bookmarks and shares sets of bookmarks. The program allows you to print, e-mail, import and export bookmarks, check for site updates, open multiple sites at once, compare site access speeds, and check for duplicate bookmarks.

AcqURL also allows you to use multiple search engines with a single click. A list of over 70 search engines is included, and you can add new search engines at any time.



Shareware (30-day trial version) (900 Kb)

URL: <http://www.acqurl.com/>

Compass

Compass has long been one of the most popular and powerful bookmark managers. Due to its richness and the usefulness of its features, it virtually set the standards for this type of application.

This program supports Netscape, Internet Explorer, and Opera file formats. It provides Tree (hierarchical), List, and Description three-panel layout. Export with Template lets you export bookmarks or folders to the format you want. You can edit or create your own Templates. Compass

URL:

http://www.freedomdownloadscenter.com/Network_and_Internet/URL_and_Bookmark_Managers/WebTabs.html

MightyLinker 1.8

MightyLinker is an easy-to-use URL manager that allows you to collect Internet links. For each link you can write your own description and store miscellaneous additional information. Its main features: highly customizable interface; backup function and protection from accidental deletion; browser independent software; Internet links sharing; exchange of collected links with other programs by using its Import/Export facilities.

Free Trial Version – 3,53 MB

URL: http://www.soft32.com/download_11942.html

Check&Get 2.0

This bookmark manager and Web monitoring program detects dead links and duplicates, checks Web sites for new information, monitors Web site availability. It can notify you of changes or Webserver downtime with a pop-up message, by playing a sound, or by sending you an e-mail notification. Powerful searching and sorting capabilities by URL, description, or keywords make your bookmark processing quick and effective. The full version allows you to import, export, and synchronize bookmarks among the most popular browsers (Internet Explorer, Netscape and Opera). Also, you can convert your bookmarks to the Internet-ready HTML file with easy and convenient navigation. It allows you to create your "mini-portal" in seconds and then publish it on the Web. Can work in the system tray.

Free demo version – 2 MB

URL: <http://activeurls.com/ru/>

Web-based Bookmark Managers

Web-based bookmark managers are now also available. Their key advantage is that they provide complete independence from both a browser brand and a single computer. You can access, add to, and manage your bookmarks from any computer in the world, provided it has Web access. Though they lack many of the advanced features of PC-based managers, they are valuable if you want to have an off-site storage of your bookmarks, to share your bookmarks with everyone on the Web without using your own Web site, or as a mechanism for others to suggest pages for you to review.

Among the most popular free are the following Web-based managers:

FURL

Furl is a new tool for saving, sharing, and finding Web sites and pages. It is a free service that saves the important items you find on the Web and enables you to quickly find them again. Furl archives a personal copy of every page you save. When you want to recall it, you can find it instantly by searching the full text your archived items. Each member has a personal archive of 5 gigabytes (GB), large enough to store tens of thousands of searchable items. Furl recommends new Web pages that may interest you, guided by the sites you've already "Furled," or saved.

Furl also offers to share the content you find on the Web. You can send a daily email newsletter of links to friends and colleagues, use Furl to generate RSS feeds for your links, or integrate them into an existing Web site. You can also have people subscribe to get emails on links you collect in all or specific topic areas you use to organize your links. Links can also be posted to specific Web sites by categories, creating a kind of ongoing weblog of saved (Furled) links. Educators use Furl to share resources with their students. Reference librarians are also using it to share new resources on specialty

subjects with their patrons. When you find an interesting article but don't have time to read it, Furl it and uncheck the "mark as read" box.

The way it works is simple. When you find a link you want to save, you click on a downloaded Furl button on your tool bar and a form will pop up allowing you to custom categorize, annotate, rate, assign searchable key words, and if you want, send the link to people you think are interested.

How FURL could be used at a Learning Resource Center?

- your institution staff would be able to subscribe to and/or search specific categories of expert searches performed by information coordinators on their topics of interest
- this accumulated knowledge base of reference links always remains for future users
- a particular topic or group of topics can also be automatically published on a Web page

URL: <http://www.furl.net/index.jsp>

URL: http://www.download.com/Furl-Toolbar/3000-2370_4-10327718.html

MyBookmarks

MyBookmarks is a free Internet service that allows you to keep your browser bookmarks and favorites online so you can access them from anywhere. MyBookmarks.com originated such features such as **Remark** - a Windows taskbar utility that eases importing /exporting of bookmarks, a **Top Bookmarks** section where the most bookmarked sites are tallied, and **Public Bookmarks**, which allows the user to publish his or her bookmarks on the Web with one click. A full-featured editor makes it easy to organize and search your bookmarks online. You can export your online bookmarks back to your local browser.

URL: <http://mybookmarks.com/index.html>

iKeepBookmarks.com

This bookmark manager allows you to upload, and keep your bookmarks on the Web for free. You can access them at any time, from any computer, share your favorite pages, and easily maintain your collection of links

URL: <http://www.ikeepbookmarks.com/>

Additional Resources

The Power of FURL

<http://caphis.mlanet.org/newsletter/20n3ConsConnect2004.html>

URL and Bookmark Managers. Free Downloads

http://www.freedownloadcenter.com/Network_and_Internet/URL_and_Bookmark_Managers/

Bookmark managers Review and Downloads

http://www.download.com/Bookmark-Managers/3150-2370_4-0.html

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