



Steve Maurer Publications Newsletter

Computer, Software, and Internet Tips and Tricks!

June 6, 2003

Two Great Software Tools and Two Cool Tips!

What's in this Issue

Well, graduation is over and summer is finally getting here. My son graduated from High School this year and have we ever been busy! But things have settled down around the Maurer house and I've finally found time to get this newsletter out. Sorry for the delay!

In this issue, I will tell you about two great software tools that I've found recently, DBXtract and SlimBrowser. One tool is for Outlook Express users, and the other is a general browsing tool with some unique features.

I would also like to give you two tips, one for cleaning up your "Start" menu, and the other is about saving only the text on web pages into a Word document. Hope you enjoy this issue!

Steve

Two Fantastic Tools

DBXtract

Eureka, I have found one of the best tools for Outlook Express users that I have ever seen! Many of you have read my tutorial on Saving Outlook Express Email to Disk in Bulk. While the technique works great, there is one problem...emails with identical subject lines will not save correctly. There are some work-arounds for that problem, but they can be lengthy and rather cumbersome. Well, here is a program that will make the task much easier.

Outlook Express emails are kept in DBX files, which are the mailboxes. For instance, your inbox will be named "inbox.dbx", you might have "drafts.dbx", and other mailboxes (without the quotes, of course). DBXtract will extract the messages from the dbx file (hey, that's where the name came from!) and allow you to store them in another folder on your hard drive. You could probably send them right to a storage media, like a floppy disk or Zip Drive.

I would still filter my mail into separate folders first, but identical email subject lines are not a problem. DBXtract will take identical email subjects and append a number to them automatically. For instance, if you had four emails, each with the subject line "Howdy", then DBXtract would rename them: Howdy.eml; Howdy(1).eml; Howdy(2).eml and Howdy(3).eml. You can also specify a particular file name for the set of emails. Since all the emails extracted will have the same file name, the number is again appended to the file name.

DBXtract works with one DBX file at a time, and with one identity at a time (if you have multiple identities in OE). Check out more on this great free program in the Cool Links section.

SlimBrowser

Here is another great program I came across recently. SlimBrowser is a browser that is based on the Internet Explorer program. You must have IE installed on your browser. SlimBrowser has a lot of fantastic features. For instance, if you often open links in a new window, like I do, you will find the tabbed interface very useful. Instead of a new window that you will have to move or resize, SlimBrowser adds a tab for the new page. You can click back and forth by using the tabs. You can close all the pages with one click, or close all but the currently active one.

SlimBrowser allows you to save the open windows in "Groups" or add them as you come across them. It is similar to the "Favorites" folder, but with some better management features (Favorites still is available, though).

The program also has a pop-up blocker built in to it, so you can get rid of those pesky ads jumping up on your screen. There are a lot of other options and features in SlimBrowser...you'll just have to visit the Flash Peak site and see for yourself. Check out the Cool Links section for the site address.

Two Cool Tips

The first tip is about cleaning up your start menu. If you are like me, you have hundreds of programs on your computer and each and every one is on the Start>Programs menu (or at least it seems that way)! When I click on "Start" then go to "Programs", the list is so long that it take FOREVER to scroll down to the one I want. I could just delete the shortcuts to the programs I don't use often, but then I would have to re-create them if I needed them later. Here is a much better way to clean up that long list.

First, click on "Start" then "Programs" and then scroll over to the program shortcut you would like to hide. Right-click on the shortcut and then click on "Properties" on the pop up menu. On the dialog box you then get, check "Hidden" at the bottom of the box. When you click "Apply" the shortcut will disappear. It is not deleted, just hidden. Do this for all the ones you want to hide.

To get the shortcut back, go into Windows Explorer and find the "Start Menu" folder. (The easiest way to do this is to right-click on the "Start" button and choose "Explore". This will open up right to the Start Menu in Windows Explorer.) Choose the shortcut you want to show again in the start menu and right-click on it. You will get the properties dialog box. Click on the "General tab", uncheck the "hidden" check box, and the shortcut will be visible again.

Tip Number Two is about saving only the text from a web page into a Word document. For example, you might want to save the fantastic information from one of my online tutorials for future use, but not want the pictures included (although I can't imagine why!). To do that, highlight the area where the information is, including the graphics, right-click somewhere in the highlighted area, and choose copy. Open a new Word document. Now you could just paste into the document, but this time choose "Paste Special" from the "Edit" drop down menu. In the dialog box you get, choose "Unformatted text". Your selection will be pasted without pictures or picture placeholders. You will have just the text.

In the next newsletter, I will discuss how to save the entire web page to your computer. There are 4 options in Internet Explorer and each one will give you a different result. But PLEASE

remember this...web pages, as well as other documents and graphics, belong to the publisher of the website or document. If you intend to use them for anything other than personal use, be sure to contact the owner for permission. Don't try to pass them off as your own creation, that is copyright infringement. Most webmasters, like myself, will give you permission to use their information within certain guidelines and restrictions. If you would like to reprint one of my articles, tutorials, or other information, contact me at steve@maurer.net and I'll get with you.

See you next time,

Steve

Quote-ables

A house is no home unless it contains food and fire for the mind as well as the body.

Sarah Margaret Fuller, author (1810-1850)

Cool Links

Find online tutorials at The Classroom on my website.

For the SlimBrowser go to Flash Peak at <http://www.flashpeak.com>

To download the DBXtract program, click on this link:

<http://www.oehelp.com/DBXtract/Default.aspx>

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