

# Downloading, Uploading, Installing: What's The Difference?

Beginners' Kaffee Klatch  
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Are you ever confused about the terms **downloading**, **uploading** and **installing**? They all sound like they could be the same thing, so what does each mean to the computer world? Here's a brief descriptive rundown for you.

**Downloading** - This is moving a file that's on the Internet onto your computer. For most of us, downloading is just a matter of clicking a download link on a Web site and saving the file to a disk, usually a hard drive.

**Uploading** - This is actually the opposite of downloading. With uploading, you take a file from your computer and send it to another computer on the Internet.

**Installing** - This is often confused with downloading, but it's a different animal. When you install something, you basically "put" the program on your computer so you can use it. Normally, this is done via a setup program (or wizard) to make the installation easier. Once you're finished installing a program, you can usually run it from your Start menu (All Programs area) or from a shortcut icon on the desktop.

While on the subject of downloading, we will explain and demonstrate these options that are available via the context menu (accessed by right-clicking the targeted hyperlink).

- Open
- Open in New Window
- Print Target
- Save Target As