

PERSONALIZING YOUR BROWSER'S HOME PAGE

A Seminar Presented by Bill Wilkinson
March 2008

Home Page: The main page of a Web site that often includes hyperlinks to other pages in the site. It serves as a welcome mat for a Web site and may include a logo, table of contents, and/or hyperlinks to related sites.

Portal: A Web site that serves as a window to the rest of the World Wide Web. Its purpose is to guide surfers to just about anything they want to find online and provide as many services as possible in one place, such as free e-mail accounts, stock listings, and personalized news. Yahoo! and Excite are good examples of portals, but Web sites that serve as online guides to specific topics, such as Garden.com, also can be portals.

Browser: An application that allows users to download World Wide Web pages and view them on their own computers. Two of the most popular browsers are Microsoft Internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox.

How to Personalize Your Browser's Home Page

Portals such as **MSN** (msn.com), **Yahoo** (yahoo.com), and **MyWay** (myway.com) let you customize your own Home Page. You can display your choice of weather, news, stock information, recipes, horoscopes, TV and movie listings, and many other information services.

In this demonstration, we will personalize a **MyWay** Home Page.

Follow these steps:

1. Go to the Internet via your browser (e.g. Internet Explorer or Firefox.)
2. In the address bar, type **myway.com**, then click on **GO** or press **ENTER** at the keyboard.
3. Click on the **my page** button that appears to the right of the **MyWay** logo.
4. On the next page, click on the **New user? Sign Up** link that appears immediately to the right of the **MyWay** logo.

5. Complete the form by following these suggestions:
 - a. User Name: Create your own unique user name, using from 3 to 20 characters. (The more characters you use, the more privacy you will have in avoiding crackers.)
 - b. Password: Establish a password of from 6 to 20 characters.
 - c. Create (note the check box) the [yourusername]@myway.com as a free Web-based email address.
 - d. Add a password hint of your choice that will assist you if you forget your password.
 - e. Enter your secret question. You will have three choices.
 - f. Email contact: LEAVE THIS FIELD BLANK!
 - g. Personalize your experience: LEAVE BLANK.
 - h. Verify your registration according to the screen's instructions.
 - i. Terms of Service: Select **I agree**.
6. On the My Way home page, select the **Choose Content** link. (This link, plus others, is located within the blue-banded bar that appears near the middle of the page.)
7. The **Choose Content** dialog box that appears will show two columns, **Available Content Types** and **My Page Content**.
8. By default (automatically preset by the program), 14 items already appear in the **My Page Content** column.
9. For the purposes of this demonstration, **delete** the following items from the **My Page Content** column by following the instructions in step 10:
 - a. Today
 - b. Email & Community
 - c. My Horoscope
 - d. Daily Features
 - e. My Bookmarks
 - f. Daily Fortune
 - g. Build Your Trip
10. To remove individual items from the **My Page Content** column, select the item and then click on **Remove**.
11. For the purposes of this demonstration, select **My Local Papers** from the **Available Content Types** column and move it to the **My Page Content** column.
12. For the purposes of this demonstration, select **Driving Directions** from the **Available Content Types** column and move it to the **My Page Content** column.
13. Now click on the **Arrange Layout** button and then **OK**.

14. Determine whether you want your MyWay home page to list your contents in two columns or three.
15. The instructions for rearranging the content on your page will appear on the layout page itself. How to rearrange the content will be demonstrated during presentation.
16. When you have your home page contents and format the way you want it, click **Finish**.
17. If asked, answer **OK** to the question “Would you like to save your changes?”
18. Now find **Weather** and click on its **edit** button. (The presenter will demonstrate how easy it is to add cities to your weather lists.). Note that you must click on the **Save and Continue** button after each entry. When all entries are made, click **Finish**.
19. Now find **My News** and click on its **edit** button. (The presenter will demonstrate how to personalize your News options.)
20. Now find **My local papers** and click on its **edit** button. (The presenter will demonstrate how to personalize your newspaper options.)
21. Now find **My Stocks** and click on its **New Portfolio** button. (The presenter will demonstrate how to personalize your stock portfolio.)
22. Now find **My Sports** and click on its **edit** button. (The presenter will demonstrate how to personalize your sports options.)
23. Now find **My Way Games** and click on its **edit** button. (The presenter will demonstrate how to personalize your computer games options.)
24. Now find **My Movie List** and click on its **edit** button. (The presenter will demonstrate how to personalize your local movie theatre options.)
25. Now find **My TV Listings** and click on its **edit** button. (The presenter will demonstrate how is to personalize your local TV viewing options.)
26. Select the **colors and themes** tab that appears along the blue-banded bar located a couple inches below the MyWay logo. (The presenter will demonstrate how to personalize your background options.)
27. Select the **logo** tab that appears along the blue banded bar that appears a couple inches below the MyWay logo. (The presenter will demonstrate how to personalize your logo.)
28. Select the **more pref** tab that appears along the blue banded bar that appears a couple inches below the MyWay logo. (The presenter will demonstrate how to modify your additional preferences.)
29. Now, back at your new MyWay home page, select the **Change Search Engine** link that appears immediately below the page’s search

- engine search bar. You have four choices: Google, Yahoo, Ask Jeeves, and LookSmart.
30. Finally, scroll down to the bottom of the home page and select **Make My Page Your Home Page**. Answer **yes** to the question, “Would you like to set your Home Page to <http://my.myway.com/>?”
 31. Now that you have established your own unique My Way page, you can make it the Home Page on your computer. As long as you have access to the Internet, you will be able to access your own personal home page on any computer in the world. All you will have to do is go to www.myway.com and sign in using your username and password the you created as you walked through the steps given here!

In addition to creating a personalized home page, you have automatically created a unique personal email address that you can use as a “throw-away.” Use this address whenever you must give an email address to an individual or a commercial site that you don’t completely trust.