

What can I do to manage cookies stored on my computer?

Differing browsers offer differing ways to configure your browser's cookie settings. Due to the wide range of differences among differing websites' privacy policies, many browsers allow for universal privacy settings which users can choose from. Users choose differing privacy settings based on their differing privacy concerns. Most commercial and/or professionally-created websites like [Yahoo](#) and [Google](#) have privacy policy pages that disclose how the sites handle, gather, and/or pass on user information to third parties. These are known as 'P3P' features (Privacy Preferences Platform). Get more information on [P3P](#).

If you are a commercial website owner or operation and need help on how to implement a technically sound yet ethical cookie and privacy policy that protects your website's visitors while maintaining the [search engine optimization](#) effectiveness of your website, such as [www.discoverherveybay.com](#) and other websites, please get in touch with us for custom assistance.

If the commercial website you are visiting lacks a privacy policy, be very careful with any information you enter into any forms within the site.

You can easily remove any cookies that have been created in the cookie folder of your browser. For example, if you are on Windows machine, here are the steps on how to use Windows Explorer to erase cookie files:

- * Click on 'Windows Explorer'
- * Select the 'Search' button on the tool bar
- * Enter "cookie" into the search box field for 'Folders and Files'
- * Choose 'My Computer' in the 'Look In' drop down menu
 - * Click on 'Search Now'
- * Select and open the folders that are retrieved
 - * Click to highlight any cookie file
- * Click the 'Delete' key to erase the cookie file

If you don't have Windows Explorer, click the "Help" function on your "Start" button and enter "cookies" to search for information on how to locate the folder.

There are a number of ways to manage cookies. If you use different computers in different locations you will need to ensure that each browser is adjusted to suit your cookie preferences.

Some modern browsers have a feature that will analyze website privacy policies and allow a user to control their privacy needs. These are known as "P3P" features (Privacy Preferences Platform). Find further information on P3P.

Click on the link for your browser below to get information on how to prevent cookies from being created on your particular browser.

[Netscape Navigator 3.0](#)
[Netscape 4.0+](#)
[Netscape 6.0+](#)
[Firefox 2.0+ / 3.0+ / 4.0+/8.0+](#)
[Internet Explorer 3.0](#)
[Internet Explorer 4.0](#)
[Internet Explorer 5.0+](#)
[Internet Explorer \(IE\) 7.0+](#)
[Internet Explorer \(IE\) 8.0+](#)
[Internet Explorer \(IE\) 9.0+](#)
[Google Chrome](#)

What Cookies Do to Your PCs

Cookies are browser dependent and are essentially text files that contain information your browser saves on one of this folders for some websites that do send out cookies. By themselves, cookies pose no risk since they do not contain virus in any form nor do they spy on your PC content to compromise security. They are used to make online surfing faster and easier by make the sites you've visited remember who you are, like remembering you IP address or passwords, along with your own preferences such as when Amazon recommend a book or music CD similar to what you looked for in your last visit.

But this convenience feature of having cookies can be eagerly overused when some websites use them to track you across various websites often for analytical competition purposes and thus, record you surfing behavior. It gets a bit frightening when the companies that track you are those you have never dealt with and to whom you never gave your personal information.

Older browsers like Internet Explorer 5.x or Netscape 4.x offered a limited choice in managing cookies. They just completely allow or disallow cookies so you either benefit from them or not. They can also be set to prompt you for a YES or NO response in each attempt for a site to send one. Today, newer browsers from Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Opera allows better degree of control in selecting which sites can or cannot send cookies.

Managing Cookies from the Latest Firefox 8.0 Browser

Just as an example of what a modern browser can do, you can specify your cookie options under Firefox 8.0 by selecting Tools -> Options -> Privacy. On the Privacy box, you can disallows websites from tracking you by checking on the "Tell web site I do not want to be tracked" under Tracking. But even if you are tracked, you can go to the linked "remove individual cooker" which opens up a new dialog box containing the websites and their respective cookie files saved by the browser. You can individually delete the cookies, search for specific cookie or just delete all of the with one click.

Managing Flash cookies

As browser cookies generally make it faster and easier for you to access sites the next time around, the same benefit can be had with Flash cookies. Deleting them may require you to re-enter verification information in sites that do the next time you visit the same site. Bur just like any cookie, you can delete Flash cookies for security or technical reasons since flash cookers do tend to slow down your browser. Here's what you can do:

- * Visit the Settings Manager for your Adobe Flash Player. You will be taken to the Adobe website.
 - * The Adobe site lists the websites with the cookies in your browser.
 - * Click delete opposite the website where you want the cookies deleted.