

Search Engines

Google Earth 4Unleash your inner cartographer with this interactive globe. Use extensive global-satellite images to examine details on streets. The latest version of Google Earth adds a new interface, higher-quality terrain data, and textures for 3D buildings.

http://www.download.com/Google-Earth/3000-2054_4-10411076.html?tag=nl.e415

BitComet 0.79Search for and download torrent files with this popular BitTorrent client.

http://www.download.com/BitComet/3000-2196_4-10296306.html?tag=nl.e415

Anyone can use a search site. But sometimes it takes a search master to get the desired results. A set of keywords may get you anything from advertisements to zebras. At Kosmix, you can search smart by category. Type "China" into the Travel category and find hotels or tourists spots. The same keyword in Politics will offer very different results.

Search results can be further broken down by subcategories. Personalized priority can be given to subcategories for each search genre.

Currently, only Health, Travel and Politics genres are available. Kosmix says that it plans to branch out to many different search "flavors." Check back once in a while to see what gets added.

www.kosmix.com

When you need to find something on the Internet, you probably refer to Google.com. Most people do. What you may not know is that Google offers ways to help you find whatever you may be seeking. The site has set up specific pages to help you find local listings, convert currencies, get stock quotes, check the weather and find the status of a flight or package.

www.google.com/help/features.html

Google Toolbar. Improved security makes this toolbar a safe choice when you're surfing your favorite sites.

http://www.download.com/Google-Toolbar/3000-2379_4-10056938.html

StumbleUpon is a new way to surf the web. It lets you channel-surf pages recommended by friends and peers – great sites you can't find using search engines. www.stumbleupon.com

InfoSpace is one of the best people finder tools. In addition to individual and business listings for the USA and other countries, you can do reverse lookups on Phone Numbers, Street Addresses, Email Addresses, and Area Code. www.infospace.com

Switchboard provides white pages, yellow pages and email search tools. www.switchboard.com

Find Email Addresses FAQ: According to David Lamb, author of this Frequently Asked Questions document, the best way to find someone's e-mail address, if you already have any way to contact them, is to ask directly by mail or phone. Failing that, Mr. Lamb gives some helpful tips for searching online. www.cs.queensu.ca/FAQs/email/bigfinding.html

Classmates is an alumni search service that helps you find US high school and college alumni and friends from around the world. www.ClassMates.com

US Search offers some fee-based services that can help you locate missing persons, do background checks, social security number checks, by accessing the same US public record databases used by the FBI, law enforcement agencies and private investigators to locate people. If you need to search for address history, relatives, roommates, neighbors, bankruptcies, tax liens, civil judgments, property ownership or criminal records, this is the place. www.ussearch.com

Search Engine Watch is a comprehensive resource for search engine registration and submission tips, web searching tips, lists of search engines, comparisons, tests and statistics. www.searchenginewatch.com

Ixquick searches many prominent engines simultaneously, translating your search into each search engine's syntax. You can perform natural language or complex boolean searches with Ixquick. Ixquick supports phrases, wildcards, omitted terms, must-have terms, parentheses, and other modifiers. www.ixquick.com

Search Engine Colossus provides a full list of most of the search engines in the world, it includes 195 countries and 95 territories. It lists the language options of the search engines and a brief explanation of the subject of the searches

www.searchenginecolossus.com

If you're tired of searching the Internet, but rarely finding what you really want, this site can help. FINDSPOT is a collection of the best search tools on the Internet combined with the help and tips you need to use them successfully. With its help, you can search like a pro! www.findspot.com

Clusty: Google, Yahoo and MSN dominate search, but you may be on the lookout for an innovative approach. This metasearch engine from Vivisimo clusters results by sub-category to help you zero in on what you need. For more cool new search tech, try Grokker (www.grokker.com), where Yahoo Search query results are displayed as a circular map. www.clusty.com

Sidestep.com: A couple of years ago Time Magazine christened SideStep one of the coolest websites around, but since then it has added a whole bunch of new features—including a handy Web-only version of its travel search engine (it started out as a downloadable application for your PC, and that toolbar is still available) and separate search engines for vacation packages and cruises. If you're picky about your plane seat assignment, Seat Guru provides detailed information (material, amount of legroom, location of video monitors and exit rows, whether there's a power port for your laptop nearby, etc.) by airline and type of aircraft. Mouse over icons on seating charts to get the lay of the land.
<http://www.sidestep.com/air/>

Google's Maps: You've probably heard about Google's new mapping service. Google maps are practical, sure, with driving directions and a way to quickly find local business locations. But what drives people to Google is its nifty feature that lets you toggle between a street map and a satellite view. It's just too cool. Just as cool is the way you can navigate Google maps. Compared to MSN's MapBlast and YahooMaps, which force you to click an icon to navigate, Google lets you hold and slide the left mouse button to pan around the map. That's terrific.
<http://maps.google.com/>

This is one of the world's largest and best search engines. Just type in a few keywords and click to search more than 1.3 billion Web pages. Internet Explorer users can add a custom Google toolbar. www.google.com

This site has attempted to index and classify millions of Web sites and establish a library of more than 7,000 full-text online publications. www.northernlight.com

This metasearch engine permits the user to use more than 800 search engines at the same time. www.search.com

This search engine will search more than 600 million Web pages in seconds. www.alltheweb.com

Good set of instructions on search commands and expressions. Works well with most search engines. www.searchenginewatch.com

Subject specialists, librarians, and other information professionals have compiled their own directories of links, either exhaustive or "best of" for just about any topic imaginable. There are even directories of good directories. A great place to start is the Librarians' Index to the Internet. www.lii.org

A great search engine that includes quick language translation. www.av.com

This search engine will query 13 search engines at the same time. www.metacrawler.com

This specialized search engine searches topics like business, government, people, and travel. You will find results from the "invisible Web," which typically isn't indexed by general-purpose engines. www.search.com

AltaVista is consistently one of the largest search engines on the web, in terms of pages indexed. Its comprehensive coverage and wide range of power searching commands makes it a particular favorite among researchers. In addition to crawler-based web page matches, it also offers news search, shopping search, multimedia search and human-powered directory results from LookSmart (see below). www.altavista.com/

Ask Jeeves is a human-powered search service that aims to direct you to the exact page that answers your question. www.askjeeves.com/

Direct Hit measures what people click on in the search results presented at its own site and at its partner sites, such as HotBot. Sites that get clicked on more than others rise higher in Direct Hit's rankings. Thus, the service dubs itself a "popularity engine." Aside from running its own web site, Direct Hit provides the main results which appear at HotBot (see below) and is available as an option to searchers at MSN Search. Direct Hit is owned by Ask Jeeves (above). Some Direct Hit information appears at Ask Jeeves. www.directhit.com/

Excite offers a medium-sized crawler-based web page index, as well as access to human-powered directory results from LookSmart. www.excite.com/

FAST Search consistently has one of the largest indexes of the web. FAST also offers large multimedia and mobile/wireless web indexes, available from its site. The site, also known as AllTheWeb.com, is a showcase for FAST's search technologies. FAST's results are provided to numerous portals, including those run by Terra Lycos. www.alltheweb.com/

Google is a search engine that makes heavy use of link popularity as a primary way to rank web sites. This can be especially helpful in finding good sites in response to general searches such as "cars" and "travel," because users across the web have in essence voted for good sites by linking to them. The system works so well that Google has gained wide-spread praise for its high relevancy. Google also has a huge index of the web and provides some results to Yahoo and Netscape Search.

www.google.com/

HotBot is a favorite among researchers due to its many power searching features. In most cases, HotBot's first page of results comes from the Direct Hit service (see above), and then secondary results come from the Inktomi search engine, which is also used by other services. It gets its directory information from the Open Directory project (see below).

www.hotbot.lycos.com/

Backed by US television network CBS, iWon has a directory of web sites generated automatically by Inktomi, which also provides its more traditional crawler-based results. iWon gives away daily, weekly and monthly prizes in a marketing model unique among the major services.

www.home.iwon.com/index_gen.html

Originally, there was an Inktomi search engine at UC Berkeley. The creators then formed their own company with the same name and created a new Inktomi index, which was first used to power HotBot. Now the Inktomi index also powers several other services. All of them tap into the same index, though results may be slightly different. This is because Inktomi provides ways for its partners to use a common index yet distinguish themselves. There is no way to query the Inktomi index directly, as it is only made available through Inktomi's partners with whatever filters and ranking tweaks they may apply. www.inktom.com/

LookSmart is a human-compiled directory of web sites. In addition to being a stand-alone service, LookSmart provides directory results to MSN Search, Excite and many other partners. Inktomi provides LookSmart with search results when a search fails to find a match from among LookSmart's reviews.

www.looksmart.com/

Lycos started out as a search engine, depending on listings that came from spidering the web. In April 1999, it shifted to a directory model similar to Yahoo. Its main listings come from the Open Directory project, and then secondary results come from the FAST Search engine. Some Direct Hit results are also used.

www.lycos.com/

Microsoft's MSN Search service is a LookSmart-powered directory of web sites, with secondary results that come from Inktomi. RealNames and Direct Hit data is also made available. www.msn.com/

Northern Light is another favorite search engine among researchers. It features a large index of the web, along with the ability to cluster documents by topic. Northern Light also has a set of "special collection" documents that are not readily accessible to search engine spiders. There are documents from thousands of sources, including newswires, magazines and databases. Searching these documents is free, but there is a charge of up to \$4 to view them. There is no charge to view documents on the public web -- only for those within the special collection. www.northernlight.com/

The Open Directory uses volunteer editors to catalog the web. Lycos and AOL Search also make heavy use of Open Directory data. www.dmoz.org/

Yahoo is the web's most popular search service and has a well-deserved reputation for helping people find information easily. The secret to Yahoo's success is human beings. It is the largest human-compiled guide to the web, employing about 150 editors in an effort to categorize the web. Yahoo has well over 1 million sites listed. Yahoo also supplements its results with those from Google. If a search fails to find a match within Yahoo's own listings, then matches from Google are displayed. Google matches also appear after all Yahoo matches have first been shown. Yahoo is the oldest major web site directory, having launched in late 1994. www.yahoo.com/

Use 13 search engines at once with: www.metacrawler.com

Your ability to find what you need in the vast information warehouse of the Web is only as good as your search engine and your ability to use it. Search Engine Watch keeps a close eye on the subject, with a great collection of links to search engines for every task imaginable; searching tips; and search engine news, reviews, and updates. <http://searchenginewatch.com>

Dogpile does a lot of what other search engines do, but it does it all from one location. Dogpile combines several different search engines to help you thoroughly search the Web, Usenet, and even File Transfer Protocol (FTP) sites. You can also check stock quotes, weather forecasts, and yellow page listings. Many of the search engines that Dogpile uses are standalone search tools such as www.Deja.com and Alta Vista. <http://www.dogpile.com>

While most search engines can find good information on technology and the Internet, it's usually a little harder to find really good resources on academic topics. The Librarians' Index of the Internet is a perfect place to start your next research project. While it can't completely replace a trip to the library, it has a wealth of links on subjects including Arts, History, Science, and Philosophy, so you can do all of your background research from home. <http://www.sunsite.berkeley.edu/InternetIndex>

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UCmore XP works with any search engine in Internet Explorer to give you more substantial--and better organized--results. This toolbar auto-installs into IE. From its vantage point at the top of your browser, it lists several categories related to the subject of your search. You can click any of them for further lists of categorized links. If you want to know more about the site you're visiting, click UCmore XP's icon to see a description of the site's purpose. http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,23210,tk,hsx,00.asp

Info.com: The site is sort of a meta-search engine in that it grabs data from Altavista, Ask Jeeves, Google, Yahoo, and others. Info.com differentiates itself by providing extra links that are relevant to the search topic. <http://info.com/>

Googlebar mimics the Google Toolbar, a handy search utility that works only in Microsoft's Internet Explorer. It resides in your browser toolbar. You can search right from wherever you are on the net, without opening another window or going to Google's site. Googlebar also lets you do specialty searches, such as Froogle searches, right from the bar. This utility also works in Firefox. Note: Googlebar is in no way associated with Google.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,23221,tk,hsx,00.asp

LostGoggles (formerly MoreGoogle) increases Google's usefulness with some new features. You get the same search results, but with the added bonuses of images of the Web pages, live Amazon information, and the ability to check for older versions of a site. You can set MoreGoogle to open search results in a new window. Note: LostGoggles is not a Google product. This is beta software; use it at your own risk.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,23447,tk,hsx,00.asp

How can Google instantly find a zillion Web sites with information about the words you search on, while your own PC takes forever when you use Windows' search tool (Start, Search, For Files and Folders)? Google consults an index of the Web it has already built into its database, rather than digging through the entire Internet with each search. Microsoft's new MSN Toolbar Suite beta, in addition to its other useful features, aims to make finding files on your hard disks as fast, easy, and accurate as Web searches. Best of all, the toolbars for Internet Explorer, Outlook, Outlook Express, Windows Explorer, and your folder windows are free.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,24601,tk,srx,00.asp

This toolbar lets you search from anywhere on the Web and protects you from spyware and pop-ups. Yahoo Toolbar fits snugly into your browser, right under the address field. You can enter any search term, click "Search Web," and you'll get pages of results. This latest version scans your PC for programs that may be spyware and lets you decide whether to delete them. The program also blocks pesky pop-ups.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,24025,tk,hsx,00.asp

Google Maps is Google's response to other popular map sites like MapQuest and Yahoo Maps. Navigate on over to maps.google.com, type in what you're looking for--an address, a city, a point of interest, an airport code, etc--and Google will display a really high-quality map of that location. <http://maps.google.com/>

Find and Run Robot searches for any installed program on the fly. As you type in the program name it is launched with a single keystroke.

www.donationcoder.com/Software/Mouser/findrun/

Clusty: Google, Yahoo and MSN dominate search, but you may be on the lookout for an innovative approach. This metasearch engine from Vivisimo clusters results by sub-category to help you zero in on what you need. For more cool new search tech, try Grokker (www.grokker.com), where Yahoo Search query results are displayed as a circular map. www.clusty.com

Sidestep.com: A couple of years ago Time Magazine christened SideStep one of the coolest websites around, but since then it has added a whole bunch of new features—including a handy Web-only version of its travel search engine (it started out as a downloadable application for your PC, and that toolbar is still available) and separate search engines for vacation packages and cruises. If you're picky about your plane seat assignment, Seat Guru provides detailed information (material, amount of legroom, location of video monitors and exit rows, whether there's a power port for your laptop nearby, etc.) by airline and type of aircraft. Mouse over icons on seating charts to get the lay of the land.

<http://www.sidestep.com/>

Google's Maps: You've probably heard about Google's new mapping service. Google maps are practical, sure, with driving directions and a way to quickly find local business locations. But what drives people to Google is its nifty feature that lets you toggle between a street map and a satellite view. It's just too cool. Just as cool is the way you can navigate Google maps. Compared to MSN's MapBlast and YahooMaps, which force you to click an icon to navigate, Google lets you hold and slide the left mouse button to pan around the map. That's terrific.

<http://maps.google.com/>

This is one of the world's largest and best search engines. Just type in a few keywords and click to search more than 1.3 billion Web pages. Internet Explorer users can add a custom Google toolbar. www.google.com

This site has attempted to index and classify millions of Web sites and establish a library of more than 7,000 full-text online publications.

www.northernlight.com

This metasearch engine permits the user to use more than 800 search engines at the same time. www.search.com

This search engine will search more than 600 million Web pages in seconds. www.alltheweb.com

Good set of instructions on search commands and expressions. Works well with most search engines. www.searchenginewatch.com

A great search engine that includes quick language translation. www.av.com

This specialized search engine searches topics like business, government, people, and travel. You will find results from the "invisible Web," which typically isn't indexed by general-purpose engines. www.search.com

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Excite offers a medium-sized crawler-based web page index, as well as access to human-powered directory results from LookSmart. Excite was launched in late 1995. It grew quickly in prominence and consumed two of its competitors, Magellan in July 1996, and WebCrawler in November 1996. Magellan was discontinued in April 2001. WebCrawler continues to operate as a separate service, but it provides the same results at the Excite.com site itself. www.excite.com/

FAST Search consistently has one of the largest indexes of the web. FAST also offers large multimedia and mobile/wireless web indexes, available from its site. The site, also known as AllTheWeb.com, is a showcase for FAST's search technologies. FAST's results are provided to numerous portals, including those run by Terra Lycos. FAST Search launched in May 1999. www.alltheweb.com/

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(see above), and then secondary results come from the Inktomi search engine, which is also used by other services. It gets its directory information from the Open Directory project (see below). HotBot launched in May 1996 as Wired Digital's entry into the search engine market. Lycos purchased Wired Digital in October 1998 and continues to run HotBot as a separate search service.

www.hotbot.lycos.com/

Backed by US television network CBS, iWon has a directory of web sites generated automatically by Inktomi, which also provides its more traditional crawler-based results. iWon gives away daily, weekly and monthly prizes in a marketing model unique among the major services. It launched in Fall 1999.

www.home.iwon.com/index_gen.html

Originally, there was an Inktomi search engine at UC Berkeley. The creators then formed their own company with the same name and created a new Inktomi index, which was first used to power HotBot. Now the Inktomi index also powers several other services. All of them tap into the same index, though results may be slightly different. This is because Inktomi provides ways for its partners to use a common index yet distinguish themselves. There is no way to query the Inktomi index directly, as it is only made available through Inktomi's partners with whatever filters and ranking tweaks they may apply. www.inktomi.com/

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www.looksmart.com/

Lycos started out as a search engine, depending on listings that came from spidering the web. In April 1999, it shifted to a directory model similar to Yahoo. Its main listings come from the Open Directory project, and then secondary results come from the FAST Search engine. Some Direct Hit results are also used. In October 1998, Lycos acquired the competing HotBot search service, which continues to be run separately. www.lycos.com/

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Northern Light is another favorite search engine among researchers. It features a large index of the web, along with the ability to cluster documents by topic. Northern Light also has a set of "special collection" documents that are not readily accessible to search engine spiders. There are documents from thousands of sources, including newswires, magazines and databases. Searching these documents is free, but there is a charge of up to \$4 to view them. There is no charge to view documents on the public web -- only for those within the special collection. Northern Light opened to general use in August 1997.

www.northernlight.com/

The Open Directory uses volunteer editors to catalog the web. Formerly known as NewHoo, it was launched in June 1998. It was acquired by Netscape in November 1998, and the company pledged that anyone would be able to use information from the directory through an open license arrangement. Netscape itself was the first licensee. Lycos and AOL Search also make heavy use of Open Directory data. www.dmoz.org/

Your ability to find what you need in the vast information warehouse of the Web is only as good as your search engine and your ability to use it. Search Engine Watch keeps a close eye on the subject, with a great collection of links to search engines for every task imaginable; searching tips; and search engine news, reviews, and updates. <http://searchenginewatch.com>

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Info.com: The site is sort of a meta-search engine in that it grabs data from Altavista, Ask Jeeves, Google, Yahoo, and others. Info.com differentiates itself by providing extra links that are relevant to the search topic. <http://info.com/>

This toolbar lets you search from anywhere on the Web and protects you from spyware and pop-ups. Yahoo Toolbar fits snugly into your browser, right under the address field. You can enter any search term, click "Search Web," and you'll get pages of results. This latest version scans your PC for programs that may be spyware and lets you decide whether to delete them. The program also blocks pesky pop-ups.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,24025,tk,hsx,00.asp

Google Maps is Google's response to other popular map sites like MapQuest and Yahoo Maps. Navigate on over to maps.google.com, type in what you're looking for--an address, a city, a point of interest, an airport code, etc--and Google will display a really high-quality map of that location. <http://maps.google.com/>