

JANIS WEBER
"THE MOUSE TRAP"
Sylvania Advantage, Sylvania, OH
August 2, 2010
jwpctutor@gmail.com
419-318-9112

What are cookies and temporary internet files?

***COOKIES** are small files which are stored on a user's computer. They are designed to hold a modest amount of data specific to a particular client and website, and can be accessed either by the web server or the client computer. Cookies are a convenient way to carry information from one session on a website to another, or between sessions on related websites. They are like a trail of information crumbs like in the Hansel and Gretel storybook. These cookies remember what you have typed in and may want to use again like your name, address, account data, passwords, etc. When you reopen that same website, your data will still be there for your convenience. It is not necessary to keep. You can delete all remnants but you will have to type any and all information in again each time you visit. If you are on a public computer or are giving your old computer to someone, you would want to erase the crumbs. They carry no security threat and are not large enough to worry about clogging your hard drive.

***TEMPORARY INTERNET FILES** (or CACHE) are files like graphics, video, audio, animations, etc, that are stored on your computer's hard disk to speed up surfing. The idea is that if you surf to a website, your browser will take certain files from that site and store them on your computer's hard drive. Next time you open that same site, the page should load faster because you already have some of the information stored on your computer's hard disk. These files can be hefty and perhaps should be deleted periodically or even never allowed to accumulate at all.

To control cookies and temporary internet files, open Internet Explorer and click on TOOLS / INTERNET OPTIONS. In the General tab open the browsing history settings button. You should see a list of options including the deletion of cookies and TIF. If you choose the Advanced Tab instead of the General, you can check the box that says "empty the temporary internet files when browser is closed". Firefox uses the term cache, so don't let that alternate term confuse you.

Next Issue: How to buy a printer

I MAKE HOUSE CALLS:

I offer a 20% discount on my hourly rate for those aged 60 and over. I will come to your home or office and help you with almost any predicament. I have an endless amount of patience and knowledge. Give me a call at 419-318-9112. Don't forget to sign up for my FREE NEWSLETTER online. Subscribers will get extra hints and tips not included here. References are always available upon request.

Janis Weber, B.A., owner of Ohio Computer Training, is a personal computer instructor. E-mail any specific questions or comments to jwpctutor@gmail.com or contact her for assistance at 419-318-9112. New public classes are listed on her website: www.OhComputerTraining.com.