

December 30, 1997

It's easy to save single graphics or entire web pages

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This is the sixth of seven columns by Steve Kellman, our newsroom computer wonk, on what to do with that new computer the Big Elf dragged down your chimney. It assumes that the reader is a first-time computer owner who has a PC loaded with Windows 95, word processing and other basic software, a printer, modem and CD-ROM player.*

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The great thing about being on the Internet with a newer browser is that what you see is, for the most part, what you can get.

Like that picture of the 1963 Corvette on the car buff web site? Click on it and it's yours. Find a cool picture of Paris on that virtual tours site? Turn it into your desktop wallpaper with another click of the mouse.

The way to save graphics is by clicking on the picture in question with your right mouse button. In Netscape Navigator, that should give you a pop-up menu with choices like Save Image As... and Set As Wallpaper. Choosing to Save Image As... opens a dialog box with more choices, letting you direct where the file will be saved and what format will be used. If you want to save it to your desktop, look for the Desktop folder inside the Windows folder, which should be inside the folder representing your hard drive. You should usually leave the format setting alone.

Choose Set As Wallpaper and Navigator will automatically add it to the center of your desktop. Want it "tiled," or repeated all over your desktop? You'll need to right-click on the desktop itself and choose Properties, then click the circle next to Tile instead of Center next to the Display: item.

You can also save entire web pages, or at least the text on them. This can be very helpful when using the Internet for research. Just set up a folder on your desktop (or somewhere else) where you want to save the information, and then choose Save As... from the File menu when you're viewing the page you want to save. This won't automatically save all the cool pictures and logos that decorate the page. You'll need to do that manually by right-clicking on each one.

When you want to view those pictures or pages later, you can open them up with your browser for your own personal slide show or multi-page research document. Look under the File menu for Open File..., and find the file in question. You don't even need to be on line.

Of course, you might not want to go around dropping all these cool new graphics and big blocks of text into your business logos and school reports. Some of them may be considered proprietary information. Check for copyright warnings first.

Some advanced web pages have multimedia features that may be beyond your browser's capabilities, at least for now. These features include short movies and sound clips. You'll typically get a message offering you more information on extending Navigator's capabilities and a chance to download the appropriate "plug-in" to let you view (or listen to) the feature.

Recent versions of Navigator will open up a new window to Netscape's home site on the web, and give you a list of "apps" or software applications that can open up the feature in question. Some are free while others are a bare-bones version that you can upgrade later. Most will automatically download the right plug-in for your system to the appropriate folder. Restart your browser to load the plug-in and enjoy.