Lab 1.1.8 Web Browser Basics – Instructor Version

Objective

- Learn how to use a web browser to access Internet sites.
- Become familiar with the concept of a URL.
- Use a search engine to locate information on the Internet.
- Access selected web sites to learn the definitions of networking terms.
- Use hyperlinks to jump from the current web site to other web sites.

Background

A web browser is a very powerful tool that many people use everyday to surf around different sites on the World Wide Web. A web browser can help find anything from airline flight information to the directions on how to get to a place. A browser is a client application program or software that is loaded on the PC to gain access to the Internet and local web pages.

The web site name, such as **www.cisco.com,** is a Universal Resource Locator (URL). This URL points to the World Wide Web server (WWW) in the Cisco domain (CISCO) under the Commercial domain (COM).

When the URL is typed, the browser makes a request of a Domain Name Server (DNS) to convert the URL to an IP address. The IP address is used to contact the site.

The browser can be used to access search engines by typing the name in the address bar. Some search engines include www.yahoo.com, www.excite.com, www.lycos.com and www.google.com.

There are several web sites that provide definitions of networking and computer related terms and acronyms. These can be used to help learn more about networking and to do research on the Internet. Two of these are www.whatis.com and www.webopedia.com.

Most web sites contain hyperlinks. Hyperlinks are words that are underlined and highlighted. By clicking on a hyperlink a user "jumps" to another page on the current site or to a page on another web site.

A computer configured with an up-to-date browser and access to the Internet is required.

Step 1 Start the web browser

If using a modem to make the connection, dial the number before starting the web browser. What version of Netscape or Internet Explorer is being used? Answers will vary.

Step 2 Identify the location or address field

After the browser has been started, click and highlight the **Location** field in Netscape or the **Address** field in Internet Explorer in the toolbar at the top of the page. Press the **Delete** key to delete the current address. This will clear the Location or Address field.

Step 3 Type in a Web URL

Type in `www.cisco.com` and press **Enter**. This is how to navigate from one site to another on the World Wide Web (WWW). This will open the www.cisco.com Web site.

Step 4 Type in another Web URL

To load a new page, type in a new URL such as `www.cnn.com`. Notice the status on the bottom bar of the browser. What does it say? Opening page http://www.cnn.com. . .

Step 5 Use the browser management buttons

Each of the buttons on top of the browser has a function. If the mouse is positioned over a button a box will appear identifying the button.

Click on the **Back** button. What did it do? Returned to www.cisco.com

Click on the **Forward** button. Does it return to the CNN Web site? Yes

Try clicking on the **Reload** or **Refresh** button. What do they do?

Completely reloads the current web page

Type `www.microsoft.com` and press **Enter**. Click on the **Stop** button as the window is loading. What happens? The page stops loading.

Step 6 Use a search engine

Type the URL for a search engine such as `www.google.com`. Search for the word `browser`. What was the result? 43,900,000 results in 18 seconds – only 1st 10 are displayed

Step 7 Access networking terms definitions web sites

Enter the URL for `www.webopedia.com`. Enter the keyword of `browser`. What was the result?

Displays the definition for the word "browser".

What hyperlinks were available?

Software application, Netscape Navigator, Internet Explorer, graphics, text, multimedia, video, plug-ins

Enter the URL for `www.whatis.com`. Look up the keyword of `DNS`. Click on the Exact Match for DNS under **whatis.com terms**. What does it say about DNS?

The domain name system (DNS) is the way that Internet domain names are located and translated into Internet Protocol addresses. A domain name is a meaningful and easy-to-remember "handle" for an Internet address.

Because maintaining a central list of domain name/IP address correspondences would be impractical, the lists of domain names and IP addresses are distributed throughout the Internet in a hierarchy of authority. There is probably a DNS server within close geographic proximity to your access provider that maps the domain names in your Internet requests or forwards them to other servers in the Internet.

This concludes the lab.

Reflection

Identify a way to navigate from one site to another.

If the same graphics or text is seen the next time the NBA site is visited, what should be done to ensure that updated news is seen?

Hyperlinks provide a fast link from one site to another. To make sure updated news is seen, simply click the Refresh or Reload button in the menu bar.