The Internet for Airheads

How to use Email and the World Wide Web for Geezers

The Internet Browser

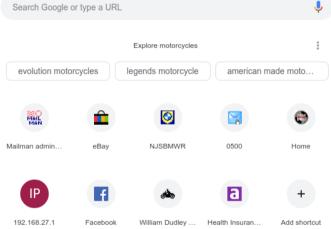
Google is not the same as "the Internet" You don't need to use Google to get to websites you visit regularly.

To go to Ebay, put "ebay.com" in the address (URL) bar of your browser.

To go to the ABC website, put www.airheads.org In the URL bar







Using Google Search, p1

If your browser has Google search set as the default, just put search terms in the URL bar.

Otherwise, put google.com in the URL bar and hit enter, and then put your search terms in Google's search box.

To require a search term to be present in the result, put the term in "quotes".

Using Google Search, p2

To search for something NOT matching a term, put minus sign in front of the term.

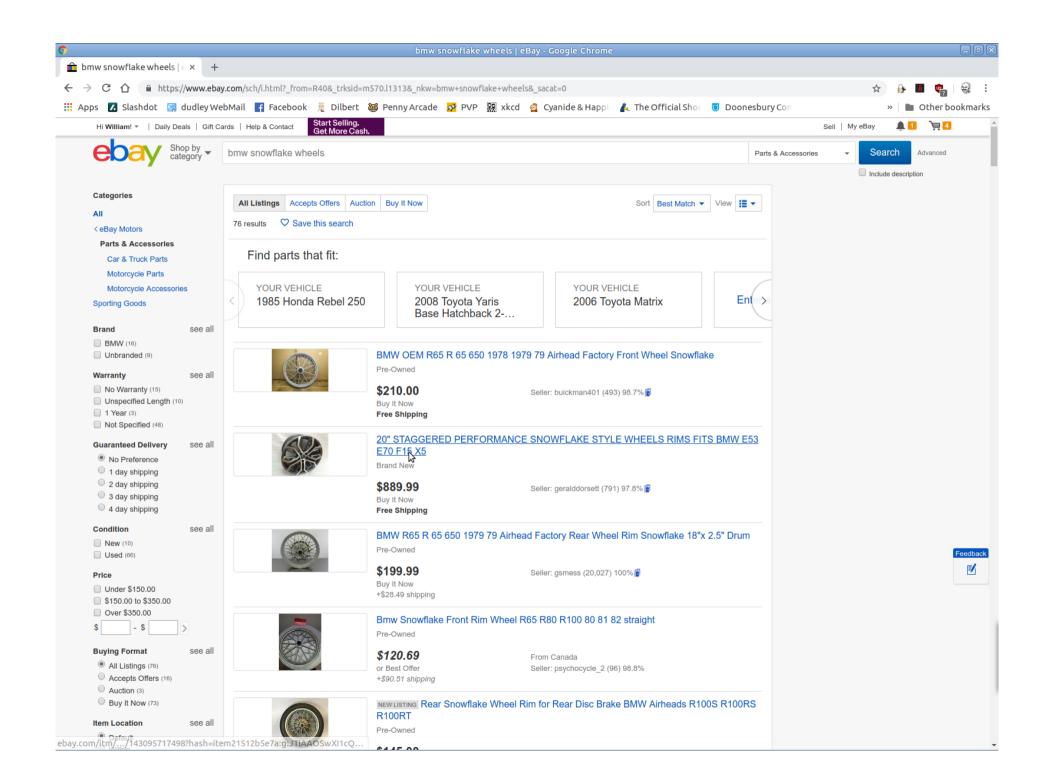
Visit www.google.com/advanced_search to learn about or make more complex searches.

Using Ebay Search, p1

Put ebay.com in the URL bar and hit <enter>

Ebay's search function is excellent, and uses similar rules to Google's search.

Ebay has a check box for "only buy from US seller" (as opposed to worldwide seller).



Using Ebay Search, p2

Ebay has a button for "Buy it Now" (as opposed to an auction)

Ebay has controls that allow you to specify a price range for the search.

Ebay's default search is "best match", which is a good starting point. Later, turn on "price, low to high" to sort by price.

Using Amazon Search

Put amazon.com in the URL bar and hit <enter>.

Amazon's defaults search is "Featured", so you'll want to change that to "Price: low to high".

Amazon also has checkboxes to narrow the search on the left side of the browser window.

When you request a web page, your browser sends a request to the web server, and it responds by sending you back your own copy of the page. The page you see on your screen is ON YOUR COMPUTER.

If you fill in a form "on the internet", you are transmitting the information over the internet to the company's web server.

Bad actors can read the information sent between your computer and the web server.

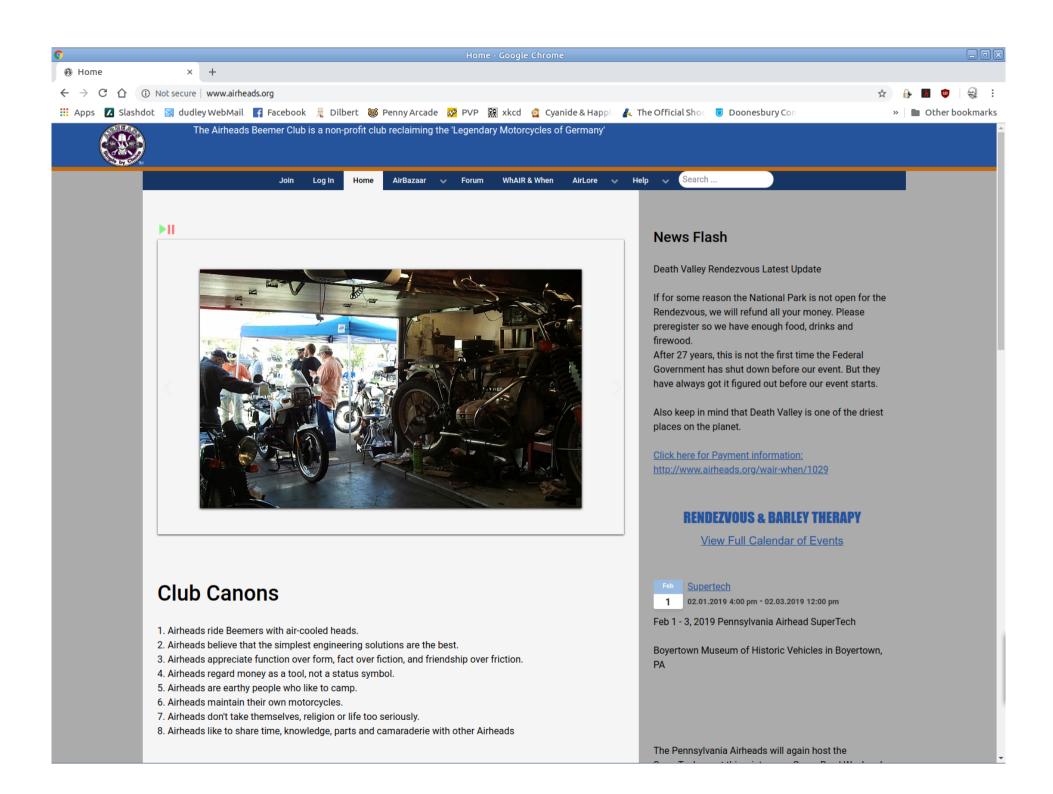
To beat the bad guys, web servers are now installing encryption software.

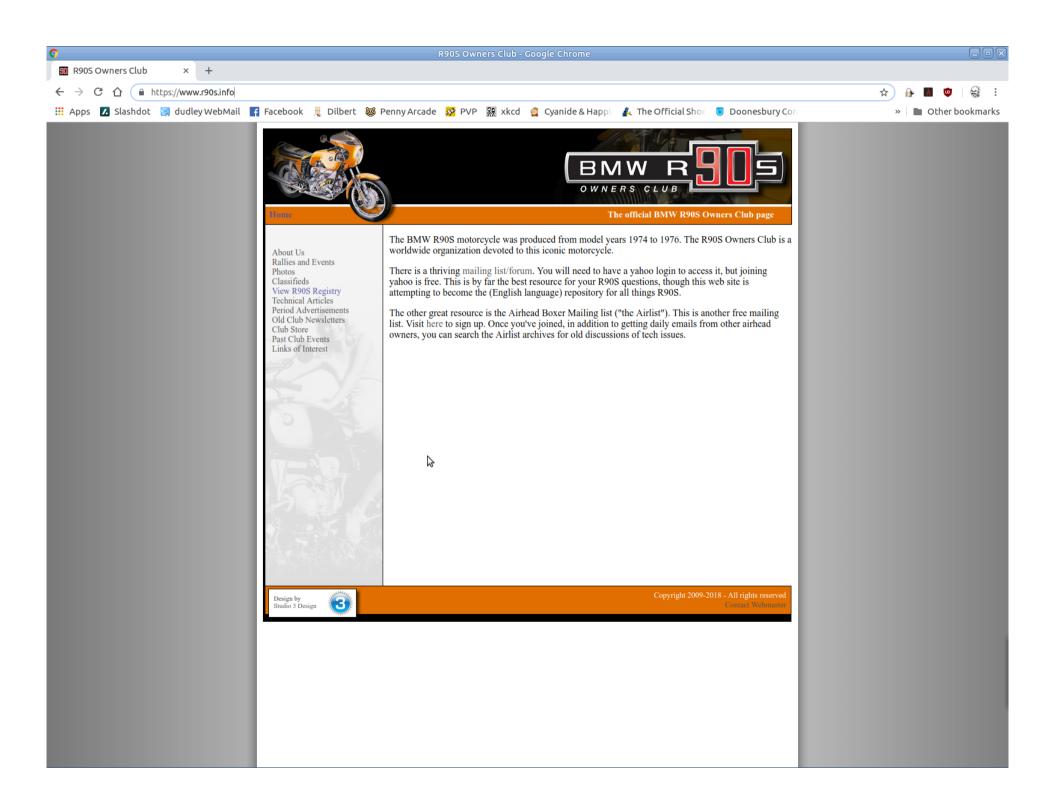
A web site that has encryption has **https** at the front of their URL.

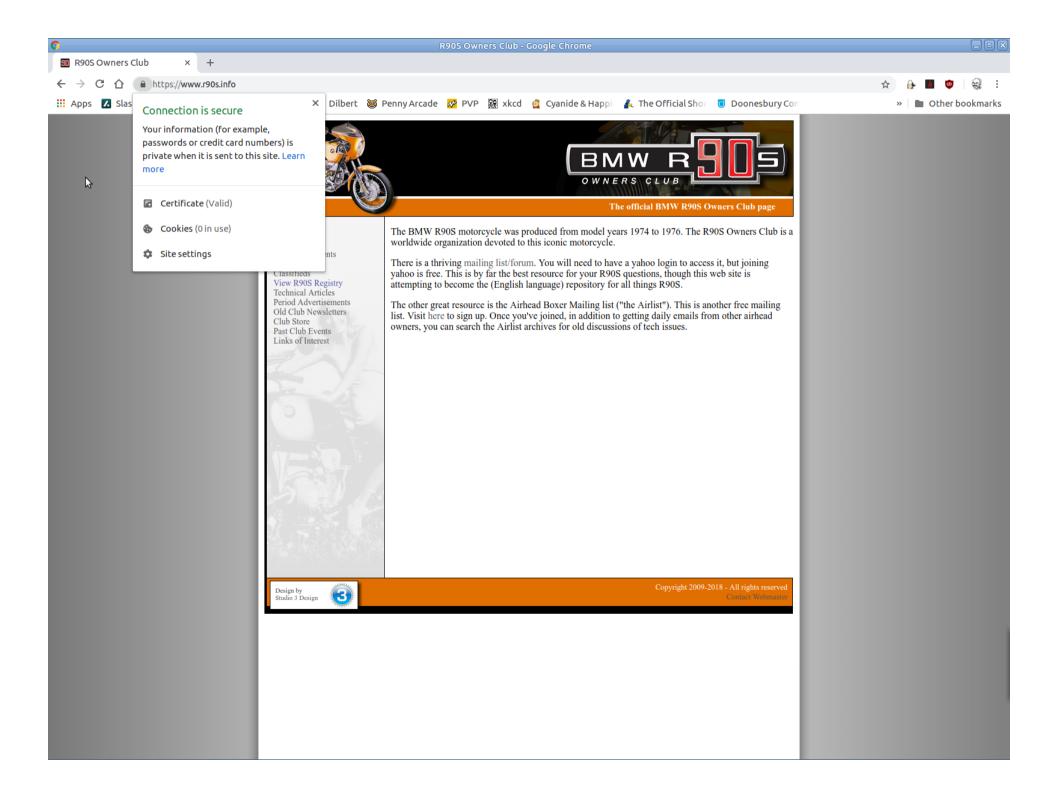
If a web site URL starts with **http**, it means that the traffic is **not** encrypted.

Firefox and Chrome browsers will sometimes show you a warning about an un-encrypted web site.

If you're not sending personal information to a web site, then encryption doesn't matter.







You should always be dealing with an encrypted web site when dealing with your money.

In other words, your bank website should have **https** at the front of the URL.

If you are buying something with a credit card, the website should be **https://**something.com

Passwords, p1

You should choose decent passwords.

You should have different passwords for different web sites.

You should write your passwords down and keep the paper(s) in a file cabinet.

Passwords, p2

One scheme is to have **different** "high security" passwords for your bank(s) and any other web site involving money.

You can use one (or more) "low security" passwords for web sites that don't involve money.

If one of your banks has a database "leak", and if you have different passwords for each bank, then only that one bank account is at risk.

Passwords, p3

An **additional** way to keep your passwords is to use a program like "KeePass".

KeePass is available for all computers and operating systems.

Your browser will also remember your passwords, until that day that it doesn't. Write them down.

Privacy and Tracking, p1

It's almost impossible to avoid being "tracked".

Tracking is marketers looking at what you're buying/researching so they can offer you more of the same type of goods.

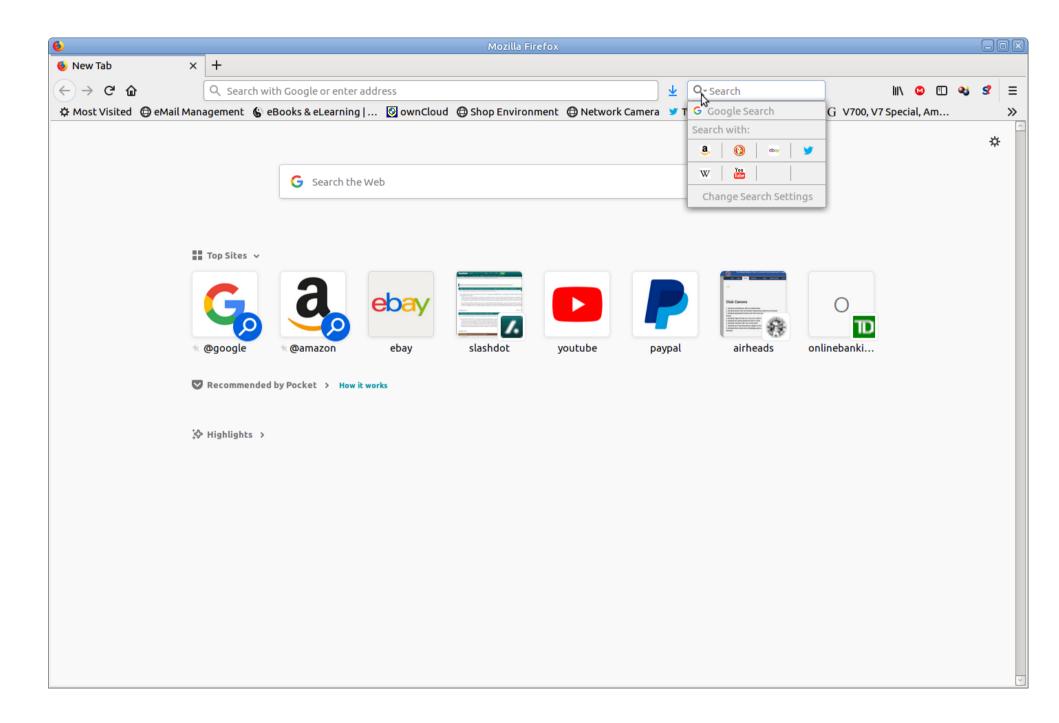
You can put your browser in "private" or "incognito" (Chrome) mode.

I think the tracking is mostly harmless.

Privacy and Tracking, p2

If this bothers you enough, you can use a different search engine and limit some of the tracking.

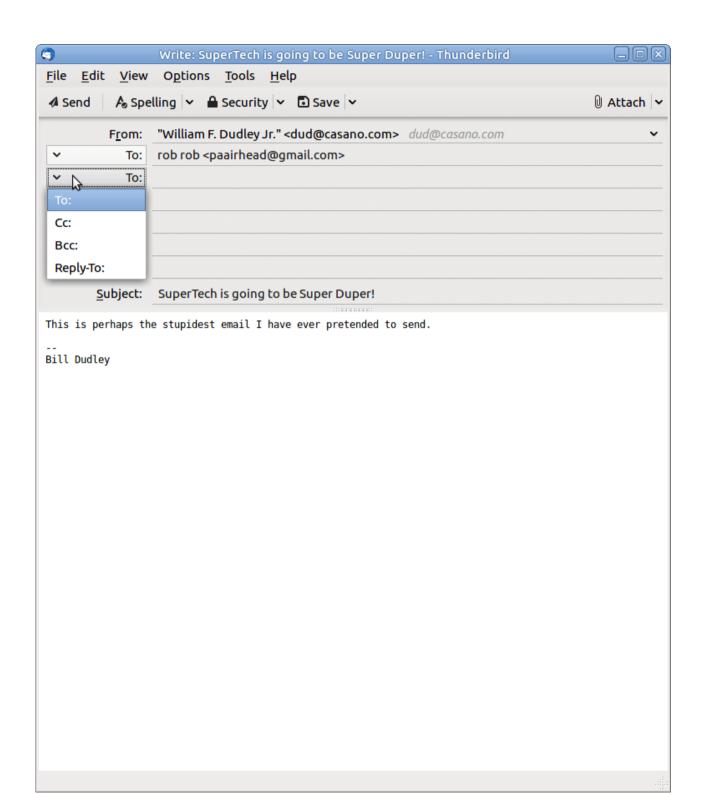
I recommend duckduckgo.com for a non-tracking search engine.



The "To:" field is for the **main** recipients of your message.

The "Cc:" field is for **additional** recipients, who you might not expect to reply.

The "Bcc:" field is for **secret** recipients, whose identities you wish to keep secret from all other recipients.



The "Subject:" field is how you tell your potential reader what the topic is.

The "Subject:" should in a few words indicate the **point** of the email.

The "Subject:" is what will convince your potential reader to either read or ignore your email.

Examples of a good "Subject":

Subject: How to block crankshaft on 1975 R90/6

Subject: set of R100RS bodywork for sale in NJ

Subject: help needed adjusting carbs, 1984 R100RT

Examples of a bad "Subject":

Subject: Hello

Subject: email from <your name>

Subject: is my bike broken?

Subject: <blank>

Subject: Re: Airheads Digest Vol 3 Issue 23

Email: discipline, p1

If you change the topic of an email, change the Subject to match.

Don't change the Subject unnecessarily.

If you want to change the topic, it is best to start from a new, blank email, and use an appropriate Subject.

Email: discipline, p2

When you reply to a message, **especially** on a mailing list, **trim** your post.

Trim means to use your email program's editor to delete unnecessary text from the message.

→ note: gmail ←

Unnecessary text is: part or all of previous replies.

Email: discipline, p3

Unnecessary text can also be: boiler plate, like legal disclaimers, long signatures.

Do not trim so much that someone reading your email has no idea of the context of your reply.

Leave enough of previous replies that the topic and the most recent useful reply remains.

Email: warning emails, p1

Don't freak out when you get one like this:

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Subject: Warning: could not send message for past 4 hours
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Email: warning emails, p2

This one is slightly more interesting:

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Subject: Returned mail: see transcript for details

The original message was received at Mon, 7 Jan 2019
02:13:47 -0500 (EST)
from [114.96.251.26]

---- The following addresses had permanent fatal
errors ----
webmaster@njsbmwr.org
    (reason: 450 4.1.8 <bhfavnyxn@tbmj.com>: Sender
address rejected: Malformed DNS server reply)
```

Email: warning emails, p3

As is this one:

Subject: Returned mail: see transcript for details

The original message was received at Sat, 12 Jan 2019 09:56:49 -0500 (EST)

from 1.6.233.121.broad.xz.js.dynamic.163data.com.cn [121.233.6.1] (may be forged)

---- The following addresses had permanent fatal errors ---- <webmaster@dudley.nu>

(reason: 550-5.7.1 This message does not have authentication information or fails to pass authentication checks.)

Mailing list discipline

An example mailing list is the airheads list hosted on micapeak.org.

If you subscribe in digest form, **BE CAREFUL** when replying that you don't send the entire digest. **TRIM** your reply!

Do not send "me too" replies. Nobody cares.

Most of you run Windows, and need to be extremely careful about malware.

Malware can steal your banking credentials, or lock up all the files on your computer until you pay a ransom.

For Windows anti-virus, my son recommends Malwarebytes(1), BitDefender (2), or Kaspersky (3).

Alternatively, switch to a Mac or run Linux.

Don't click on links in email unless the email is from a source you're sure you know.

Email scammers are just like telephone scammers: they pretend to be trustworthy.

Telephone scammers can make the call look like it comes from any number, any company.

Email scammers try to make their emails look like they come from a legitimate company.

Just as the IRS won't telephone you, the IRS also won't email you.

Similarly, Microsoft isn't going to call you or email you.

Therefore, any email you get that purports to be from the IRS or Microsoft or some "soliciter" in Africa is a scam.

Any email that asks you to click on a link and enter your login and password to "fix" some security problem is most likely a scam.

Emails threatening to shut down your internet access are most likely bogus.

If you get an email that seems like it might be from your bank or your ISP, call them up.

Don't trust any email address, link, or phone number in the email.

Look up the web address or phone number yourself, using your most recent bill, or google it.