

# Re: Google Toolbar (DON'T INSTALL – MORE ADDICTIVE THAN CRACK?)

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.inetexplorer.ie6.browser/2006-10/msg0080>

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- *From:* "photog" <[photog@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:photog@xxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 19 Oct 2006 12:48:29 -0500
- 

"Vanguard" <[vanguard@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:vanguard@xxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:%23CH0ZZy8GHA.3264@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:%23CH0ZZy8GHA.3264@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

"photog" wrote in message [news:12jck1df8o73s35@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:12jck1df8o73s35@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

<snip>

Considering how much effort some expend on preventing updates the Google toolbar must be more addictive than crack. I feel luck to have never used it. YMMV  
Resisting mightily the temptation to install every doodad offered, photog

Actually I end up disabling much of the Google toolbar. I don't need all the extra fluff. In fact, I'm almost to the point of not requiring the Google Toolbar itself at all because shortcuts can be defined using TweakUI to do various searches.

In TweakUI, under the Internet Explorer node, you can define search strings. By entering the prefix string you define followed by whatever you want to search on, the URL with the string gets used to send the string to the search engine and do the lookup for you. For example, I have the following prefixes defined using TweakUI (first line is the prefix string, 2nd is the URL that gets used):

acro (for finding acronyms)

<http://www.acronymfinder.com/af-query.asp?String=exact&Acronym=%s>

dict (for looking up words)

<http://dictionary.reference.com/search?q=%s>

g (for Google searches)

<http://www.google.com/search?q=%s>

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gg (for searching Google Groups, descending date order)

<http://groups.google.com/groups?scoring=d&q=%s>

gi (for searching Google Images)

<http://images.google.com/images?q=%s>

gn (for searching Google News)

<http://news.google.com/news?q=%s>

ms (for searching Microsoft's web site)

<http://search.microsoft.com/search/results.aspx?qu=%s>

mss (for searching Microsoft's support knowledgebase)

<http://support.microsoft.com/search/default.aspx?spid=global&query=%s>

thes (for thesaurus lookups)

<http://thesaurus.reference.com/search?q=%s>

wiki (for searching Wikipedia)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:Search?search=%s>

So if I want to search Google on, say, Virtual PC 2007, I enter in the Address Bar in IE:

g virtual pc 2007

and the following URL gets opened:

<http://www.google.com/search?q=virtual+pc+2007>

The plus characters get automatically added since un delimited spaces are not allowed in URLs. I don't need the Google Toolbar any more. I can use the prefix in the address bar in IE, in Windows Explorer, or in the taskbar (if you add the Address toolbar). Of course, you still use the "?" prefix in the address bar for whatever is configured as the default search URL (but, for me, that only works properly for the Address bar in IE and not in Windows Explorer or in the taskbar). With the prefix, I get the same results web page as when using the Google Toolbar. The only thing that is missing (and which I still leave enabled in the Google Toolbar) is the Highlight button which highlights each word in the search string using a different color so you can quickly see where each word appears within a web page.

There remains little need for me to keep the Google Toolbar around. Google keeps adding more fluff which means I have to keep disabling more of it. I just wanted it for a handy toolbar for doing searches, but the prefix strings that I've defined (which gives flexibility) in the address bar work very well. Defining your own search URLs provides more flexibility than I get with one toolbar that is geared to just one search database.

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Good post Vanguard. To implement your solution requires XP and TweakUI.

Readers can get TweakUI for XP here:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/downloads/powertoys/xppowertoys.msp>

For those like myself who don't use XP there are two alternatives:

1 Click "Search" in the IE menubar and choose "Customize" then select "Use one search service" then select a search engine for the search window and for the address bar. I use Altavista for the window and Google for the address bar. I don't recommend choosing MSN for either due to privacy concerns (IIRC).

2 Download – install the Internet Explorer 5 Quick Search Web Accessory here:

<http://download.microsoft.com/download/ie5/Utility/1/W98NT42KMeXP/EN-US/ie5wa.exe>

It works fine with IE6 and earlier versions of WIN. It comes with several custom search strings built in and you can create more (like you did Vanguard).

Here's a link that explains the solutions above:

[http://www.petri.co.il/quickly\\_search\\_the\\_web.htm](http://www.petri.co.il/quickly_search_the_web.htm)

For my own searches I use a custom search page I created that resides on my PC and on my website.

Cheers

photog