

Tall Latte, With Wi-Fi?

By William Powell

Looking for a place to quietly sip your latte and surf the Web? Well, good news, Starbucks, the popular purveyor of all things coffee, is gearing up to do the same for high-speed wireless Internet service as it did for java: Make it so good and so accessible that customers don't think twice about what it costs. The Seattle-based chain currently offers high-speed wireless Internet service, also known as Wi-Fi or 802.11b, at more than 1200 U.S. locations, with an even-

tual 70 percent of stores offering the service in the year ahead. Sounds great. The catch? Cost and feasibility.

People who want to use the Starbucks service will need to purchase a HotSpot service account from T-Mobile that runs from US\$30 to \$50 per month. Occasional users can pay as they use at a cost of \$3 for the first 15 minutes and 25 cents for each additional minute. So, total cost for a venti latte and a quick check of your email—\$6.40 including tax.

then export your favorites and store them in an HTML document with all of your favorite links intact. Favorites are organized in an outline format that reflects the folders or subfolders you might have created with Internet Explorer's Organize Favorites feature.

To turn your My Favorites HTML document into your homepage, just open it in Internet Explorer, go to Tools, then Internet Options, and in the Homepage section of the General tab, click on Use Current. The next time you open Internet Explorer, your list of favorites will appear.

Part 2

Exporting your favorites into an HTML document is just the beginning. The generic outline format that you wind up with is functional but not very pleasing to the eye. So, if you're feeling adventurous, try opening the HTML file you created in an HTML editor such as Dreamweaver or Front Page. Such programs will give you the ability to rearrange your links, add images and backgrounds, and create a signature look and feel that will be limited only by your know-how.

Notable and Quotable

"You make a **contract** when you make an appointment with someone. I'd never let **technology** distractions abuse that time."

Stephen Carpenter,
CEO, Cingular Wireless
(from a *Fast Company*
interview)

Watch Words

Man's best friend can't keep a secret. No, I'm not talking about the Bush's Baked Beans ads; I'm talking about your computer passwords. Research has shown that users often select passwords that have a personal connection: the name of a spouse, child, or family pet. And those words are especially vulnerable to hackers using password-cracking dictionaries. So even if the dog isn't talking, his name might give you away.

In fact, a survey of 1200 employees of CentralNic, a U.K.-based independent global domain name registry, shows that 50 percent of employees' passwords are family related; 30 percent are influenced by celebrities, fictional characters, or sports teams.

Surprisingly, self-laudatory passwords were used by 10 percent of the employees polled. But then anyone using a password such as *babe magnet* deserves to have his computer hacked. Unfortunately, he'd only be slightly better off using *hubris*.

So, what does it take to create a secure password? Think random. Pick a nonsensical combination of upper- and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols. Use a minimum of six characters, and never, ever, write it down. Also, try to avoid using the same password for more than one application. If that's too much to keep track of, you can always try a password storage device from companies such as MandyLion Labs

mandylionlabs.com. Its ebp Lite fits on a keychain and is secure enough for use in high-security government applications.

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The Web covers Internet technology trends, news, and tips. Send comments, questions, and items of interest to theweb@astd.org.

It's a Small World

Ever wonder about the size of the Internet population? As of September 2002, Nua Internet Surveys estimates the world's Internet population to be 605.60 million. And, it's growing. Nua's May 2002 survey estimated an online population of 580.7 million. So, do a little math assuming the population continues to grow at the same rate of 4.29 percent (I figured that out with the aid of the Percentage Calculator <http://www.athropolis.com/pop-up/c-percnt2.htm>), and the current online population should be somewhere around 658.68 million, give or take a few hundred thousand folks.

Curious about the Internet population in your neck of the globe? Here's a breakdown by major region as of September 2002.

World Total	605.60 million
Africa	6.31
Asia/Pacific	187.24
Europe	190.91
Middle East	5.12
Canada and USA	182.67
Latin America	33.35