



## TenStep Supplemental Paper

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### Web Browsing Streamlined

How does an average person surf the web? He or she opens his/her browser, types in an address, goes to a page and then navigates from page to page. During its inception, this page-turning process was more than one could ask for. With the advancement in technology, this system appears tiring and ridiculous. It seems absurd that anyone would actually want to go through full pages of irrelevant material until he/she reaches the information he/she is looking for. Banking on this need for a change, many tools have been devised by companies.

There are a host of new tools and task bars available to streamline web browsing. Some make use of a long horizontal bar that takes its position at the screen's bottom. Others provide tiny windows on your desktop with bits of info like weather reports or traffic updates. Still others empower users to dress their Internet web browsers with color and patterns. They can also add buttons that give the latest on their favorite sports or shopping sites.

Next comes the provision of customized services, including setting up personalized gates to the web. New browsing tools are also being devised.

True, these features are not of recent origin. The new options, developers contend, are more time-saving and flexible. Likewise, they have also come up with products tailor-made for Intranets and customer-based web sites. In the absence of these services, navigating through for a piece of information could prove laborious.

In this quest for new tools, new glitches and few irritants have also come up. Handy personalized features can be accessed only by revealing personal details. For example sometimes the user's gender, ZIP code, job interests and e-mail address must be divulged. This may, privacy advocates opine, lead to security breaches. By downloading these programs, users may inadvertently allow a deluge of information to go into and out of their systems.

The downloading process itself may be exhausting. It may become slow to set up a customized web-clipping service. Looking for many of the .exe files that install these browsing applications may be a bother. There is a chance that your computer may start up more slowly or hang up suddenly because of a conflict between the new software and software already running on the machine.

Therefore, users need to carefully analyze whether they really need to compromise their system's resources and stability for personalized tailor-made tools.