

Cry for Help

Computer Tips & Tricks for
the novice to the advanced.

Internet Searching

How to get the best results from your internet searching. Rather than having to review thousands of “hits” you get back from your search – wouldn’t it be better to get a smaller number that were all relevant?

Try the following to improve your search results.

1. Use accurate **key** words, 3 to 5 is a good number to start with, and don’t use words like; the, in, a, etc.
2. When searching for a proper name like a book title, enclose the phrase in quotes; eg “the cat in the hat”. This will improve your searching accuracy, but be careful, because an extra space is as bad as a wrongly spelt word.
3. If you are not sure which search engine will give the best results; try using a Meta search engine which will run your search words through several search engines at once, and give back the aggregated best results. Eg mamma.com, metacrawler.com and dogpile.com
4. Some search engines also allow you to use boolean logic or word proximity. These extra and powerful options might be called “power search” or “advanced searching” depending on your search engine. Hence you can build up a formula like... A or B, C and D but not E. By the way, the words you enter in 1) above are an example of ANDing.

Give these a try – Good Luck!



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