

# The River Cities DAILY TRIBUNE

'Living In a Tech World' Column

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## **Keep A Safe Outlook and Instantaneous Search tips**

### **Outlook Email Trojan**

When I get a malicious email that gets through my defenses several times I try to pass on a warning to my clients and friends. When I am almost taken in by the email it becomes a larger concern. That was the case in the last couple of days with an email with the subject line "Microsoft Outlook Update" from "Microsoft Customer Support". The email was very convincing. It even had all the words spelled correctly, was written in complete English sentences and had graphics that were believable. The headline said "Update for Microsoft Outlook / Outlook Express (KB910721)". Using the hover test on the links all but one of them indicated an actual Microsoft web address but the primary one, the one with the 'update', showed the actual link to be to [\\*\\*\\*.i111.net/](http://***.i111.net/). Not a microsoft.com address even if the word Microsoft was used several times in the address to disguise it. And, of course, the end of the address led to an EXE file. The payload is a Trojan with several names and built to scour your hard drive for passwords to banking and other websites. Once collected, the malware sends the information back to its originator. It is reported that only 18 of 41 virus scanners are currently picking up this malware. Both Internet Explorer and Firefox opened the link in the web browser. Only Opera did not allow the link to open. So even if you think you are protected STOP! THINK! & then CLICK

### **Search Engine Shortcuts**

Browser engines have more uses than keyword searching. The major ones all have built in shortcuts that make them handy for little tidbits of information and in some cases keep you from having to open an entirely different program for help. I've collected a few tips on these shortcuts.

### **Dictionary**

Need a definition of a word? Just type, "define (and the word)" for instance, "define perspicacious,". The definition will appear in the search drop down box in some engines and as the first result entry in others....though you surely already knew all that on account of your great perspicacity.

### **Calculator**

There is no need to open up a spreadsheet or pull out a pocket calculator to do simple--or even complex--arithmetic. Search engines will do it for you. They not only do simple expressions like "139 \* 252" but they can also handle nested terms, exponents and more.

Be careful with your parentheses, though, since  $(5+5)/3$  is very different from  $5+(5/3)$ .

### **Travel Adviser**

You don't need to navigate your way through an airline's Web site just to find out if a flight is arriving on time. Just type in the airline and the flight number into the search bar, as in "American flight 123" or "United flight 456."

### **Currency Converter**

It's easy to use your browser to find out how far a dollar will go this summer in Europe. Type "1,000 euros in dollars" and the search engine will do the conversion for you, at whatever the trading level happens to be at the time.

### **Search Specific Website**

You can also get them to limit their search to a specific Web site. If you want to know what folks at MIT are saying about Albert Einstein, type "site:mit.edu Einstein" and you'll get tailored results.

### **Yellow Pages**

Type in your ZIP code and what you're looking for--pharmacy, Mexican food--and you'll quickly see who is nearby, often accompanied by phone numbers and Web links. A 78654 search turned up 10 Mexican Restaurants and 6 pharmacies located on a map.

### **Caller ID**

When you see an unfamiliar area code, type it in, as in "area code 512" and learn the territory with which it's associated. Same thing with zip codes.

Not all of these tips work in every search engine. But most of these were successful in Internet Explorer, Firefox and Safari using Google, Yahoo, Bing (new Microsoft search) and Ask. They also work in any browser from the actual search engine website. You'll find additional tips at our website.

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