

The Internet Tourbus Guide to the Most Useful Sites in the World

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Gateway to Educational Materials

<http://thegateway.org/>

Sponsored by the US Department of Education, the Gateway is a free meta-search engine for high quality lesson plans, curriculum units, and other educational resources. At last count, the Gateway searches 36,957 different sources.

Rubistar

<http://rubistar.4teachers.org/>

Also sponsored by the US Department of Education, Rubistar is a free, online rubric-creating tool for educators who don't have the time to develop rubrics from scratch. Using simple, form-based templates you can create a rubric for the assessment of almost any topic or classroom activity.

Kathy Schrock's Guide for Educators

<http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/>

Kathy Schrock's Guide is a free, categorized list of over 2,600 annotated sites useful for educators. Schrock's Guide is updated daily to include the newest sites for enhancing curriculum and professional growth.

Standards for Success

<http://s4s.org/>

Created by the Association of American Universities [with the assistance of the Pew Charitable Trusts], this site offers a free report specifically identifying what students need to know and be able to do in order to succeed in entry-level courses at America's research universities. This report is so significant that The College Board is using it as a foundational element in the development of College Board examinations, including the SAT, PSAT, and Advanced Placement exams.

MIT OpenCourseWare

<http://ocw.mit.edu/>

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology's OpenCourseWare Project recently posted, free of charge, all of the course materials – lecture notes, quizzes, homework, etc. -- for 500 courses representing 33 academic disciplines and all five of MIT's schools. OpenCourseWare plans to post the course materials for *all* of MIT's undergraduate and graduate courses within the next few years.

The Internet Tourbus

<http://tourbus.com/>

The Internet Tourbus is a free, semi-weekly Internet newsletter that talks about interesting technology sites and topics. This handout contains just a few of the thousands of sites that Tourbus has visited over the past eight years. To subscribe, just key in your email address in the green box on the Tourbus homepage.

The LangaList

<http://langa.com/>

Written by Fred Langa, the LangaList is hands down the best Windows-related Internet newsletter in the world. The LangaList offers "tips, tricks, and other information you need to make the most of your hardware, your software, and your time online." There is no cost to subscribe.

Slashdot

<http://slashdot.org/>

Slashdot is a constantly-updated online community offering the latest news, reviews, and commentary about technology in general and information technology in specific. Expect to see a LOT of articles you won't understand ... but Slashdot is still worth the trip, especially if you want to stay up to date with what is REALLY going on in the tech world.

Today's Papers

<http://slate.msn.com/code/todayspapers/todayspapers.asp>

Today's Papers is a daily news briefing compiled from The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, and the country's other major newspapers. If you want to keep up to date with what is going on in the world but don't have the time to read a newspaper or watch the evening news, Today's Papers is a daily must-read.

TinyURL

<http://tinyurl.com/>

Key in a really long URL and TinyURL smushes it for you, making it easier for you to share that URL with others. The service is free, and the folks at TinyURL promise that the smushified URLs will never expire.

Google Toolbar**<http://toolbar.google.com/>**

The Google toolbar is a free, Windows-based program that adds a whole new row of buttons to the top of your Internet Explorer browser. The Google Toolbar lets you search Google, auto-fill forms, find information about a particular web page, and so on. Best of all, the Google Toolbar also includes a free pop-up blocker.

Ad-Aware 6**<http://www.lavasoftusa.com/support/download/>**

Ad-Aware is a free Windows 98/ME/NT/2000/XP program that scans your computer for both spyware and malware, software used by marketers and hackers to track your movement around the Internet. For information on how to download, install, and use Ad-Aware on your PC, search for tourbus ad-aware 6 at Google.

Urban Legends Reference Pages**<http://snopes.com/>**

Snopes.com contains the largest collection of urban legend debunking articles in the world. Before you forward an email story or warning to all of your friends, search snopes.com first to make sure what you are forwarding is actually true.

The Internet Archive**<http://archive.org/>**

The Internet Archive is a free, constantly-updated archive of recent multimedia history. For example, the Archive's Wayback Machine lets you search through archive copies of over 11 billion web pages from 1996 to today. And the moving images archive contains over 2,000 educational movies – think "Duck and Cover" and "Perversion for Profit" – that you are free to download.

Internet Movie Database**<http://imdb.com/>**

The Internet Movie Database is a free, searchable database of over 260,000 film and television productions made since 1892. Most everyone knows about IMDb's searchable database, but there are a BUNCH of hidden treasures in this site: the now playing list, movie/TV news, photo galleries, and much more.

MetaCritic**<http://metacritic.com/>**

MetaCritic is an easy to read meta-archive of film, video, music, and game reviews. The numbers and colors next to each movie/CD/game's title give you that title's average review score from 1 to 100, quickly showing you if that item has received good or bad reviews. Before you rent another DVD or buy another computer game, make sure you read MetaCritic's reviews first.

Coffee Break Arcade**<http://coffebreakarcade.com>**

Coffee Break Arcade gives you links to over 100 free online games grouped into six different categories: classic games, cool games, sports games, shooting games, racing games, and casino games. What better way to waste an afternoon than by playing "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" or Midway's classic arcade game "Root Beer Tapper?"

In4mador!**<http://in4mador.com/>**

As long as you're wasting some time, head on over to In4Mador and check out their constantly updated collection of links to interesting and fun web sites. From the Lifetime Movie Plot Generator to the Age-Progressed Forensic Photograph of Michael Jackson, In4Mador will provide you a constant supply of fun URLs you can email to your friends.

NetSquirrel.com**<http://netsquirrel.com/>**

Patrick Crispen's homepage. [Patrick is the guy who made this handout.] Check out the classroom resources section for some free PowerPoint presentations you are welcome to steal. NetSquirrel.com also includes information on how to disable the Windows Messenger Service and protect your Windows XP, 2000, or 2003 system from both spammers and hackers.

Zombo.com**<http://zombo.com/>**

Zombocom is arguably the greatest site on the Internet. You can do anything at zombocom, anything at all. The only limit is yourself. [By the way, you need a pretty good sense of humor to truly "get" this site.]