

The Magic of Google  
CUGG Presentation by Ron Mettler May 8, 2010

My disclaimer – My presentation contains a lot of my personal preferences mixed in with facts, so it is the viewers responsibility to make whatever judgment they feel is appropriate (be nice to me though). Also note that some features in Google Chrome are only available in the Beta releases 4 or 5. There is some material repeated from prior presentations as an aid to remind those needing a reminder.

A. Google Chrome

1. I use it because it appears to be much faster than IE 8 or Firefox 3.x. I like the fact that it is less likely to be hacked by the evil doers.
2. Specific features such as address bar auto completion, synchronization features, bookmarks handling features and other details are to some extent available in other browsers.
3. Chrome Beta version 4 seems very stable and is available at:

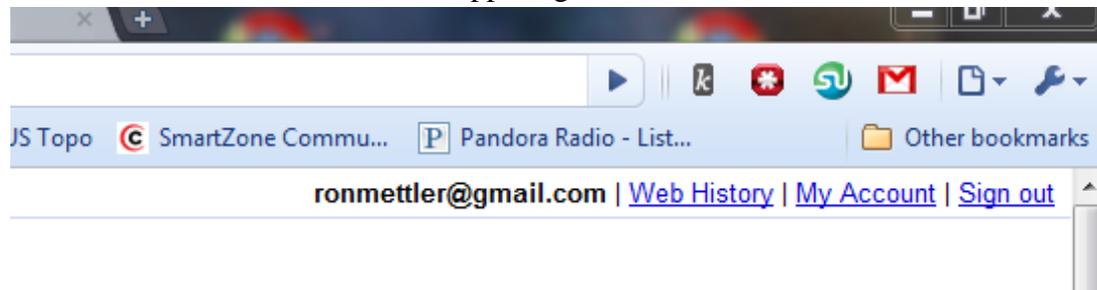
<http://www.google.com/landing/chrome/beta/>

The above site will update to version 5 soon so that will be the default beta installation. Breaking news this morning, Beta 5 is released and may be the default install through the above link.

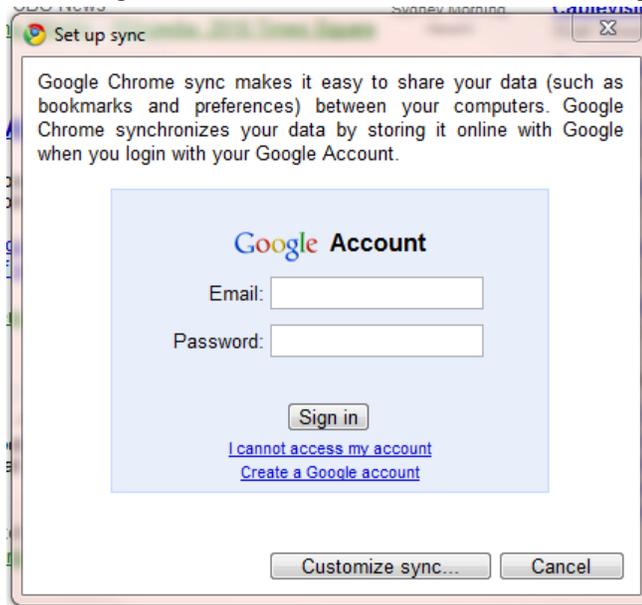
Chrome Beta version 5 appears solid although you may wish to hold off until it has been tested for a month or two. I have it on my laptop and my desktop computers and have not discovered any problems.

4. Beta 5 is clocked at 200 – 310% faster than the original 2008 version of Chrome. Chrome has been increasing in popularity and is a serious contender to IE and Firefox. Beta 5 includes native support for flash videos without having to download and install flash from Adobe.
5. One new feature of Beta 5 over Beta 4 is the ability to synchronize more than just bookmarks. It will now sync bookmarks, themes, history, and settings. You can have multiple computers set to sync automatically. When you are signed on to a Google account, then your computers will set Chrome to look and act the same. To set up sync, go to tools, “Setup sync...”, then type in your Google account information.

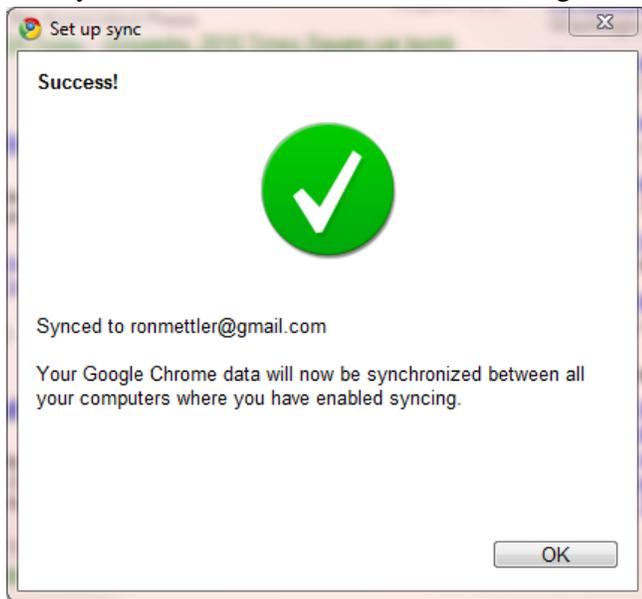
The tools Icon is the wrench in the upper right corner:



The Google account information is entered in the pop up box:



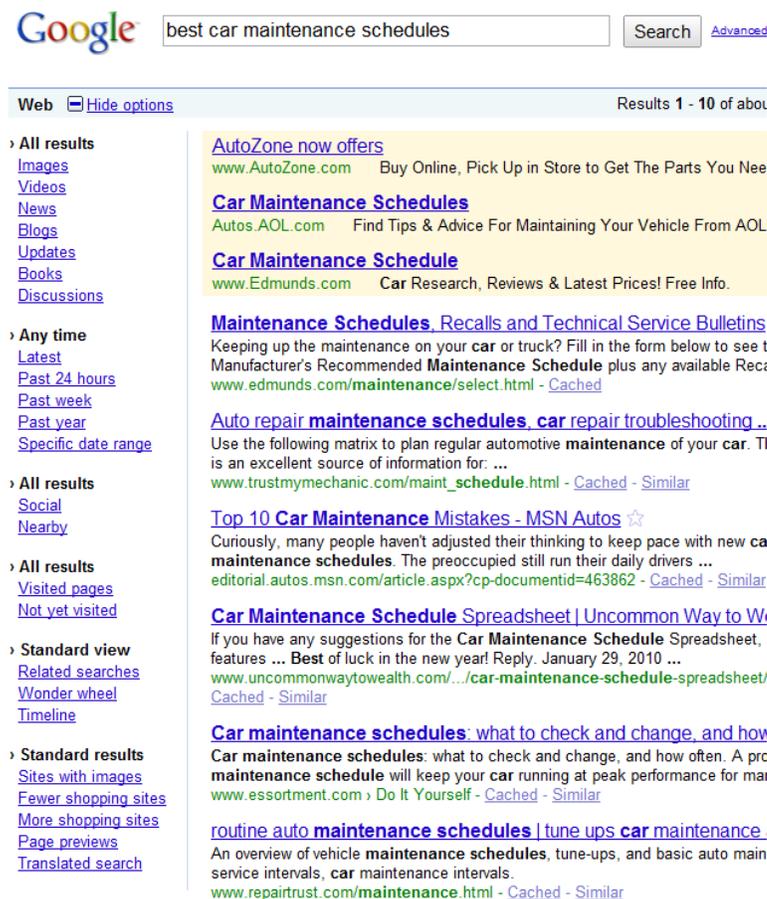
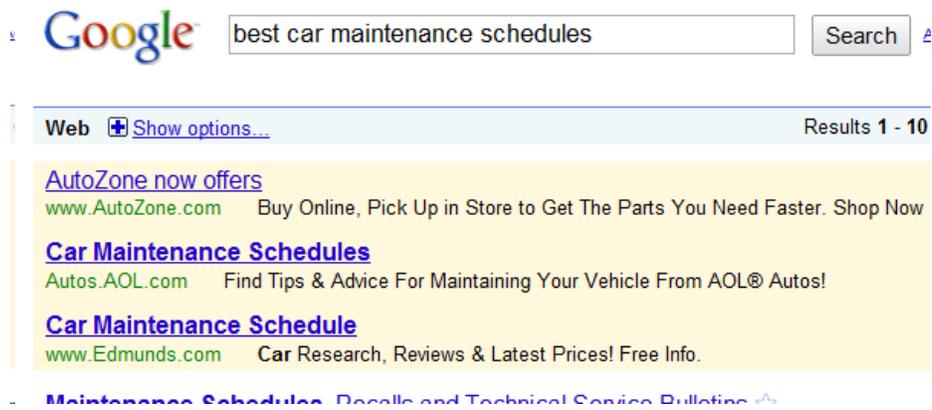
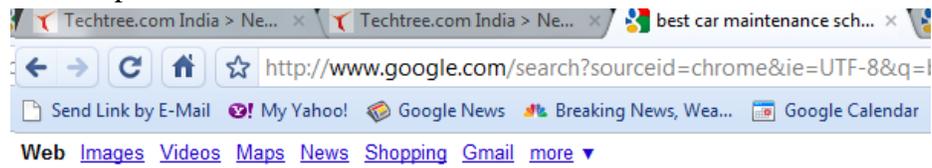
Then you should see similar to the following:



Chrome Beta 4 will sync Bookmarks but not history and themes.

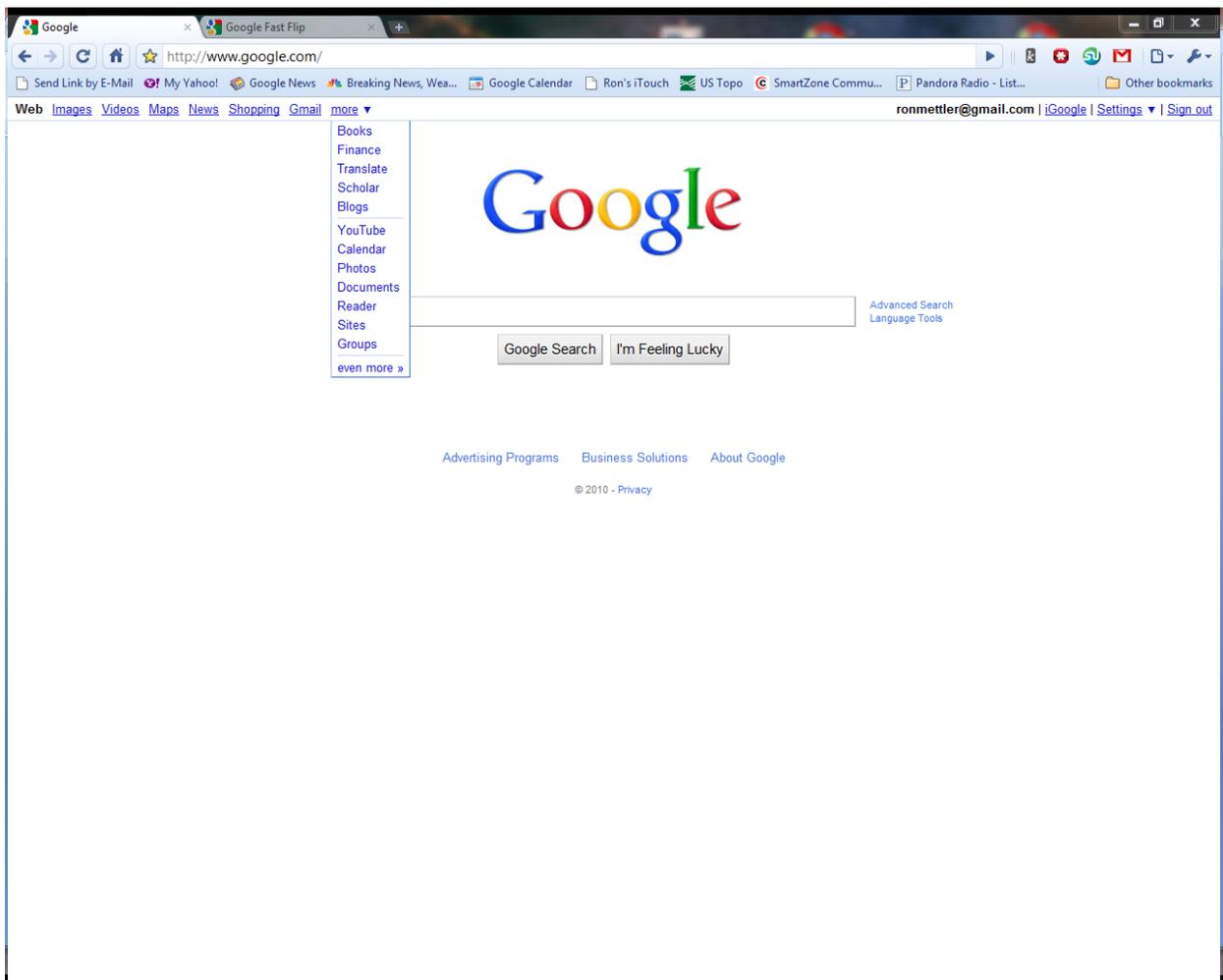
B. Google introduced a new search results screen this week.

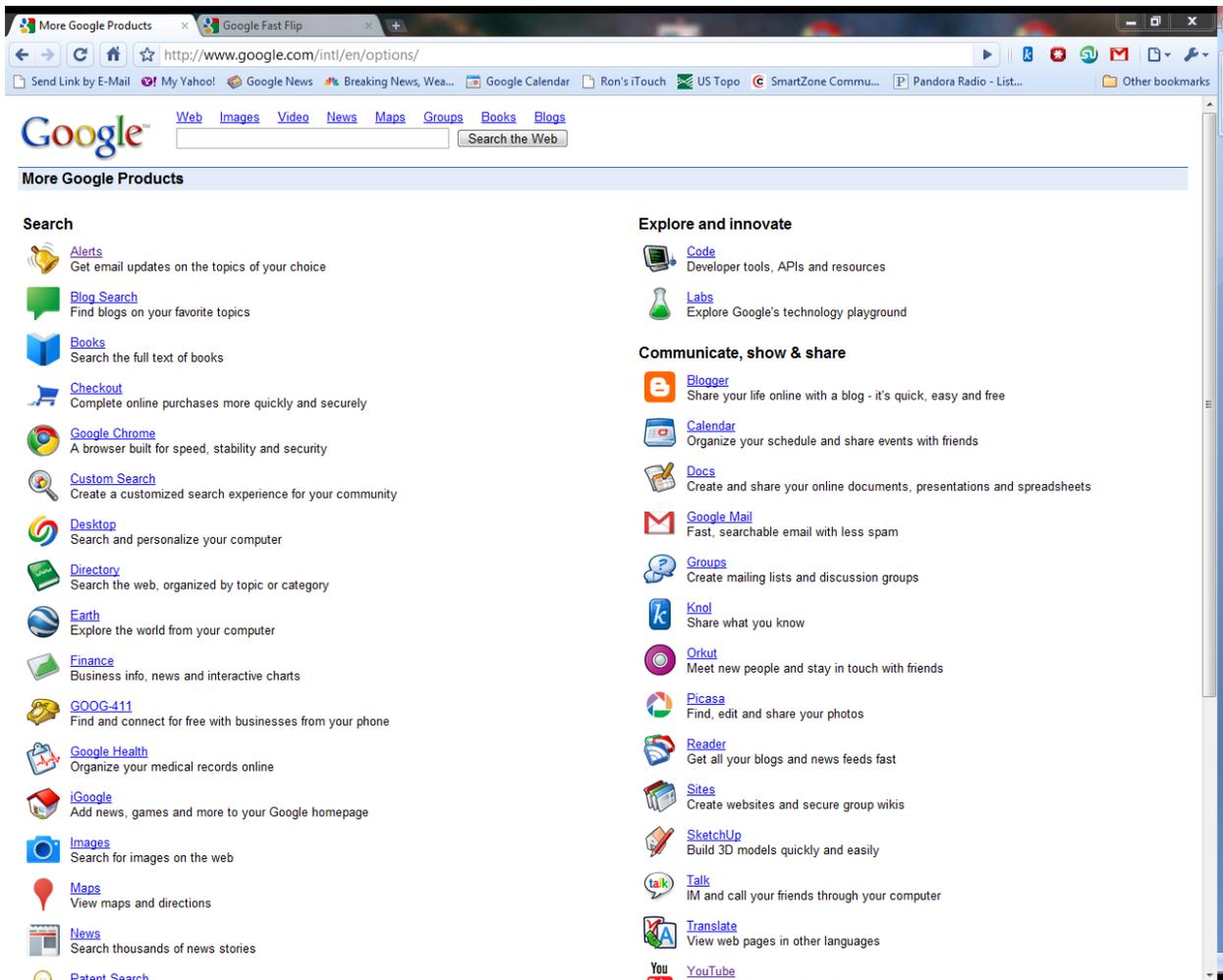
1. To see options click on the +



Note the new options frame on the left.

2. Chrome Incognito Mode now support extensions. Extensions such as Ad Thwart, LastPass may be desirable while running Incognito Mode. I use Incognito Mode for signing on to my bank account although that may not protect me from key loggers and other Malware.
  3. HTML 5 the new programming standard for Web pages as well as Adobe Flash is incorporated into Chrome Beta 5.
- C. More Features in Google can be accessed on “even more” as shown below (Chrome is not needed for access to these items:





1. Alerts are nice for periodically being notified of new Web items pertaining to a subject of interest. A search term can be specified; the term can be filtered by “Type” and an email notification will be sent to you as it happens or once a day or weekly. As an example; if you wished to be kept notified weekly of new developments regarding “Toyota accelerator problems”, enter the search item, then set the parameters.
2. Google Maps has new features – Drag and zoom, Street View, and Earth View. Click on the Drag and Zoom Icon just below the zoom bar, drag a box over the area to zoom into. For Street View click on the Person Icon above the zoom bar and drag to a point on a map. Earth View is actually Google Earth within Google Maps.
3. Google Calendar is my favorite Calendar application. It has Day, Week, Month, 4 Days, and Agenda view. The sync function with iPods, iPhones, and Droid devices make it very versatile. An item posted to calendar on the desktop appears almost instantly on the phone device calendar.
4. Google Groups provides massive resources on many subjects. It is easy to create a new Group with a unique name, email address, and set criteria for member access. Yahoo Groups are very similar. I use at least 3 groups for information exchange (not necessarily

Google Groups). A typical partially open group is <http://www.rcgroups.com/forums/index.php> which I use and which I have posts. Another Group that I use is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Sundancer/>. This group is a member only group site. It is for a small homeowners association in which we post member information, financial reports, notices to owners, site pictures and other items of interest to the members. A third site is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LNVT/>. A quick look at the group sites will provide a better idea of how they are used.

5. Google Sites is a feature that can be used to quickly create a simple Web site. The tools are easy to use and might be considered for a family Web site.

D. Google Chrome extensions – used to add features to Chrome. Click on the tools Icon, then Extensions. I suggest using Google Mail Checker, LastPass, AdThwart, Google Share Button and StumbleUpon.

More if time permits or questions and answers?