

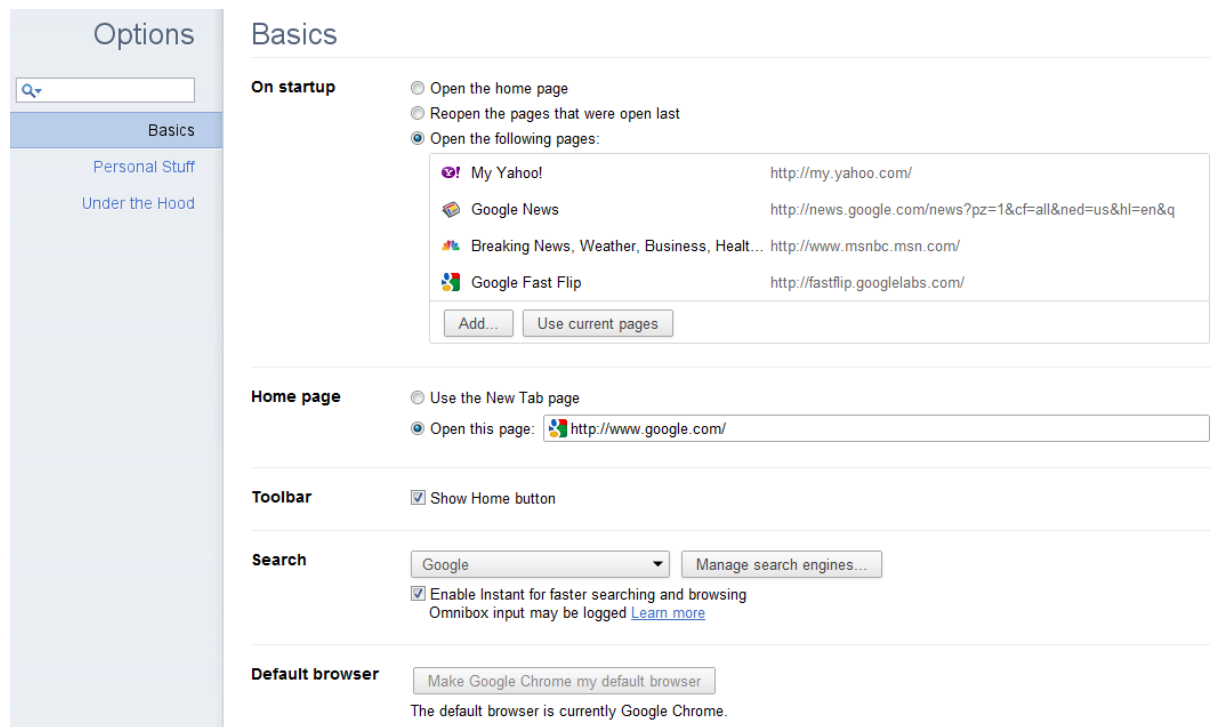
Tips, Tricks, and More Google Magic

By Ron Mettler, March 12, 2011

A. Google Programs of Interest

1. Google Chrome Browser – Search for “google chrome”

Just download and install as directed. Once it is installed you may set your preferences by clicking on the small wrench in the upper right corner (Customize and Control Google Chrome). Before I do that though, I find the home pages that I prefer to open when Google Chrome starts. In one or more tabs, type in the page addresses such as msnbc.com, my.yahoo.com, or news.google.com. Select Options for setting various preferences. If you wish to have Chrome open with specific pages in one or more tabs, click on “Use current pages”. You may set a home page that opens when you click on the Home Icon to the left of the address bar. I typed in google.com for my home page and I checked Show Home Button. I also checked Enable instant for faster searching. See below:



The second page of options is Personal stuff which I set as follows:

The image shows a screenshot of the Chrome browser's 'Options' page, specifically the 'Personal Stuff' section. On the left is a sidebar with 'Options' at the top, a search bar, and three menu items: 'Basics', 'Personal Stuff' (which is highlighted), and 'Under the Hood'. The main content area is titled 'Personal Stuff' and contains several settings sections: 'Sync' (synced to ronmettler@gmail.com, last synced 1 min ago, with buttons for 'Stop syncing this account' and 'Customize...', and a link to 'Remove synced data on Google Dashboard'), 'Passwords' (radio buttons for 'Offer to save passwords' (selected) and 'Never save passwords', with a 'Manage saved passwords...' button), 'Form autofill' (checkbox for 'Enable Autofill to fill out web forms in a single click' is checked, with a 'Manage Autofill settings...' button), 'Browsing data' (button for 'Import data from another browser...'), and 'Themes' (button for 'Reset to default theme' and a link for 'Get themes').

Options

Options

Basics

Personal Stuff

Under the Hood

Personal Stuff

Sync Synced to ronmettler@gmail.com. Last synced: 1 min ago

Stop syncing this account Customize...

[Remove synced data on Google Dashboard](#)

Passwords

Offer to save passwords

Never save passwords

Manage saved passwords...

Form autofill Enable Autofill to fill out web forms in a single click

Manage Autofill settings...

Browsing data Import data from another browser...

Themes Reset to default theme

[Get themes](#)

The below shows how I set Under the Hood settings:

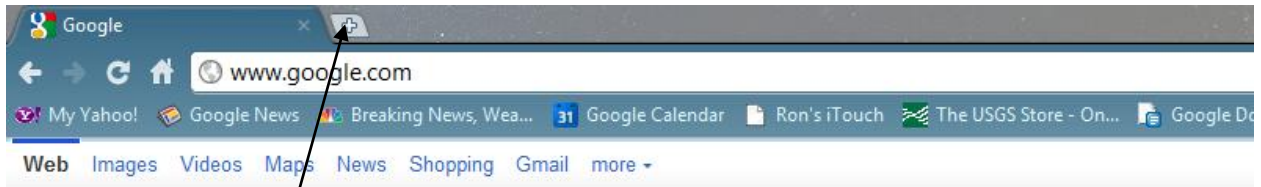
The screenshot shows the 'Options' dialog box in Google Chrome, with the 'Under the Hood' section selected in the left sidebar. The main content area is titled 'Under the Hood' and contains several sections of settings:

- Privacy:** Includes buttons for 'Content settings...' and 'Clear browsing data...'. A note states: 'Google Chrome may use web services to improve your browsing experience. You may optionally disable these services [Learn more](#)'. There are five checked checkboxes: 'Use a web service to help resolve navigation errors', 'Use a prediction service to help complete searches and URLs typed in the address bar', 'Use DNS pre-fetching to improve page load performance', 'Enable phishing and malware protection', and 'Automatically send usage statistics and crash reports to Google'.
- Web Content:** Includes 'Font size:' set to 'Custom' with a 'Customize fonts...' button, and 'Page zoom:' set to '100%'. There are also buttons for 'Languages and spell-checker settings...' and 'Change Gears settings'.
- Network:** A note says 'Google Chrome is using your computer's system proxy settings to connect to the network.' with a 'Change proxy settings...' button.
- Translate:** A checked checkbox for 'Offer to translate pages that aren't in a language I read'.
- Downloads:** 'Download location:' is set to 'C:\Users\Ron\Downloads\Chrome Downloads' with a 'Change...' button. There is an unchecked checkbox for 'Ask where to save each file before downloading'. A note says 'You have chosen to open certain file types automatically after downloading.' with a 'Clear auto-opening settings' button.
- Security:** Includes a 'Manage certificates...' button and three checked checkboxes: 'Check for server certificate revocation', 'Use SSL 3.0', and 'Use TLS 1.0'.
- Google Cloud Print:** A note says 'You have registered your printers with Google Cloud Print using the account ronmettler@gmail.com'. There are buttons for 'Disable Google Cloud Print' and 'Manage Print Settings'.

In order to keep Chrome as your default Browser, when Internet Explorer pops up with a Window indicating that it is not your default browser, check that you do not want IE to be the default and then click on “no”.

Explore the many Extensions available, click on the Customize tool, select Tools, Extensions. The most useful that I use are: Last Pass, Google Share Button, Google Mail Checker, and Screen Capture (by Google). Others include Knol Buddy, StumbleUpon, and Coliris. The extension Google Toolbox (by Google) looks like it is interesting and needs to be explored (I have not done so yet),

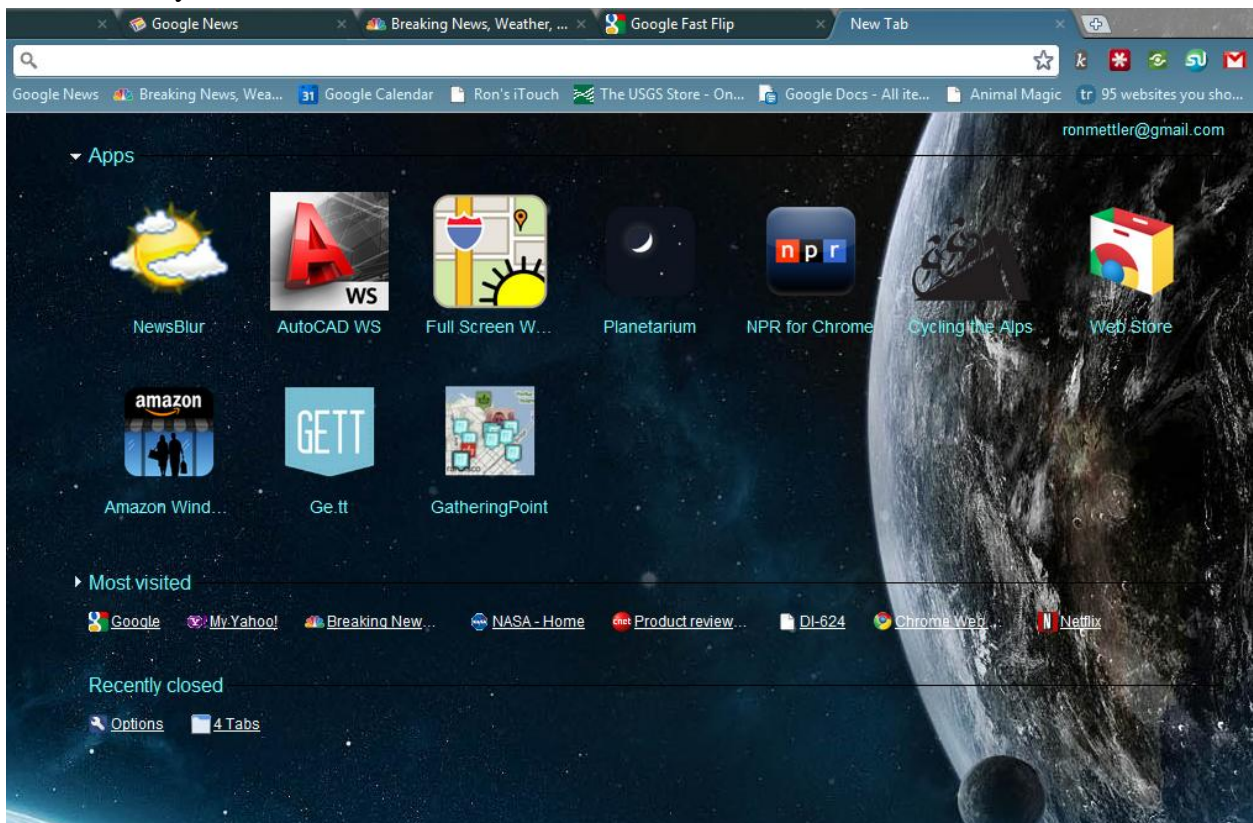
An interesting new feature in Chrome is the screen that appears when you click on the new Tab +:



Click on the + to go to the below screen

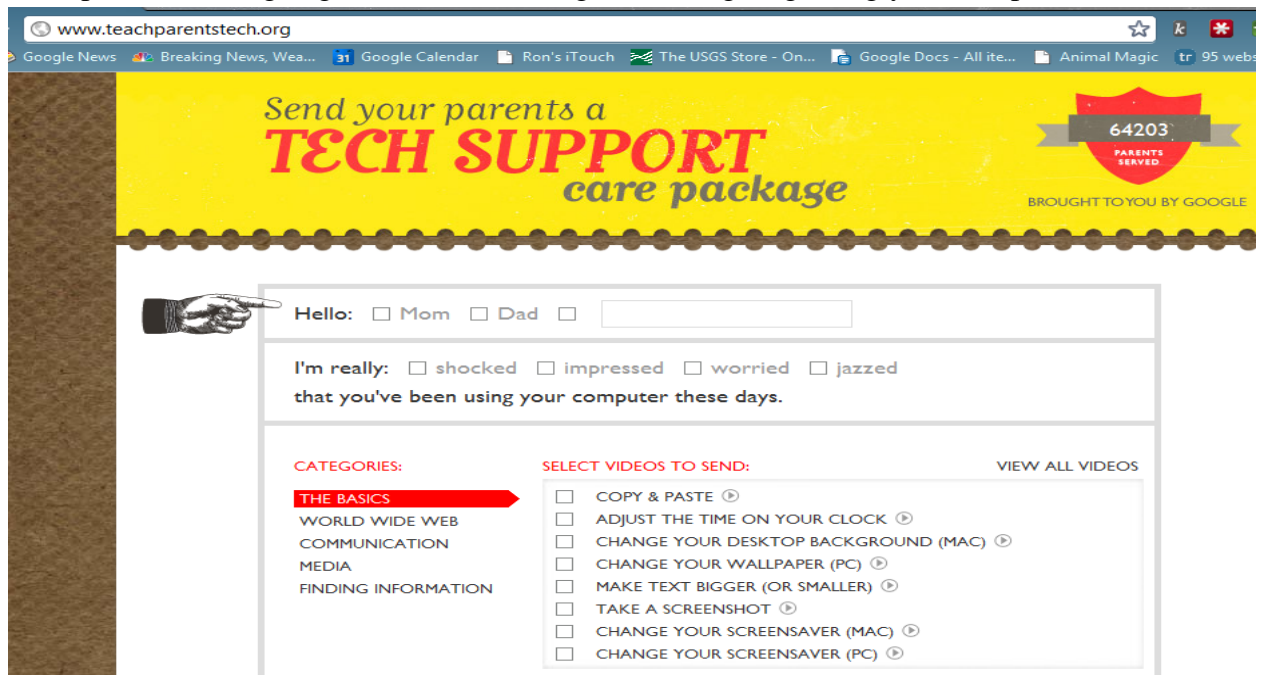
The Google logo in its multi-colored font (blue, red, yellow, blue, green, red).

My new Tab screen looks like:

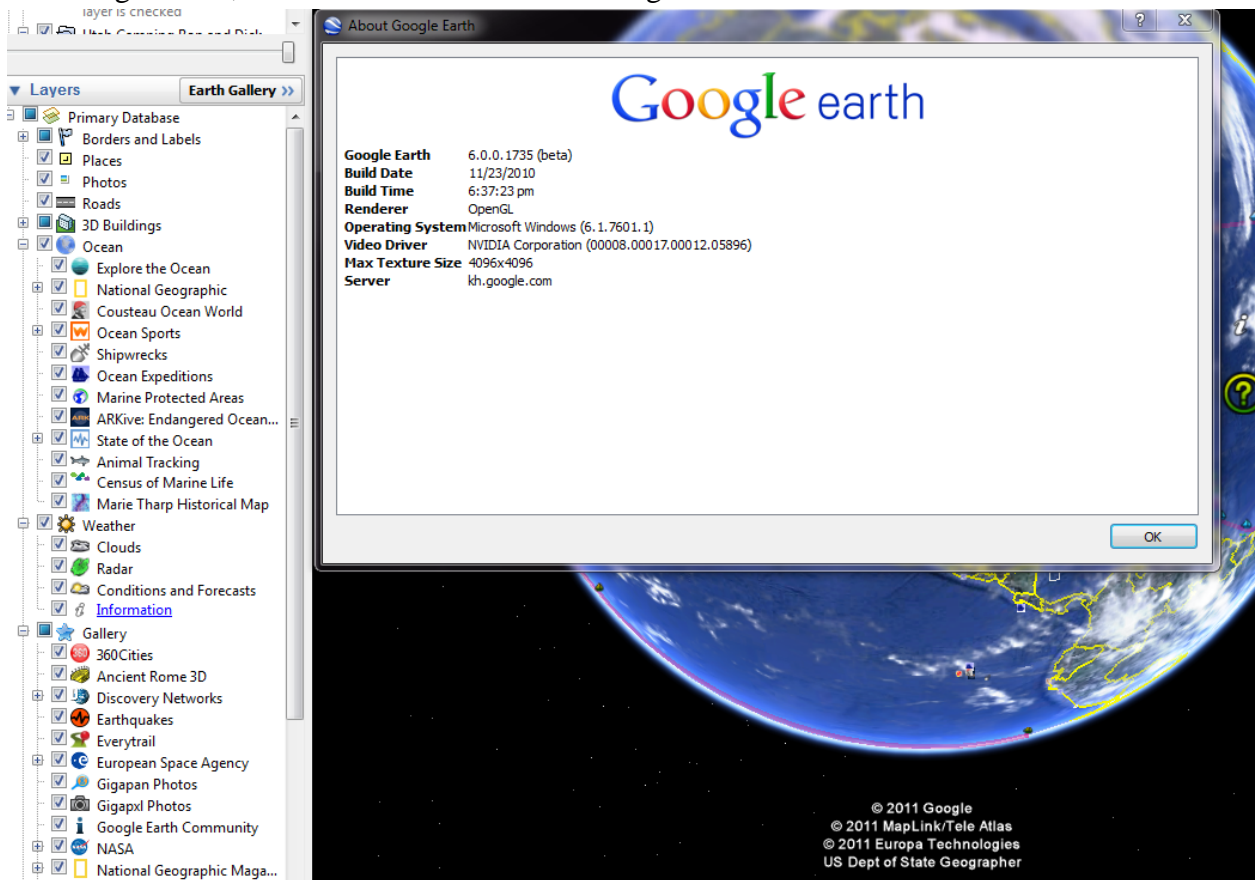


Explore the options, especially the Web Store to add items such as the ones that I have added in the above screen.

2. Teachparentstech.org; a great site for learning basic things regarding your computer.

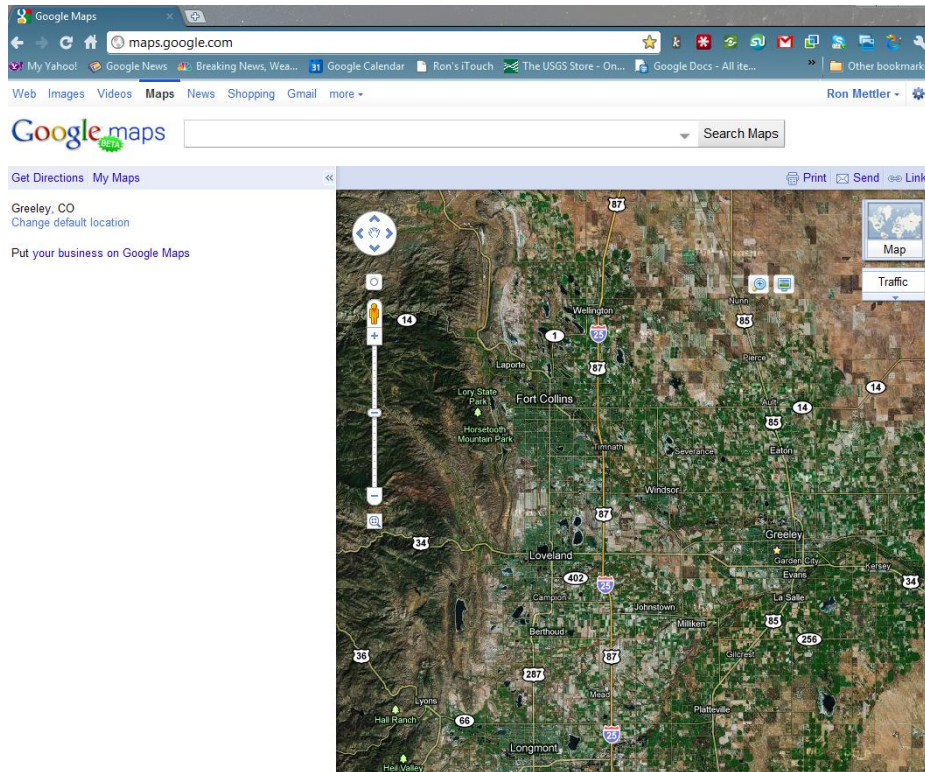


3. Google Earth; the latest version that I am using is:



Note the options that can be displayed on the left side. Check the items that interest you.

4. Google Maps – maps.google.com. Note that you can select your default location and add options such as, videos, traffic, photos etc. Just click on the Map Icon in the upper right of the window.



5. Google Docs, docs.google.com, if you are not using it, you are missing a lot in my opinion.
6. Knol at knoll.google.com is a great resource of information. Note that papers in foreign languages can be translated to English while in Chrome. Don't forget to search Knol when you need information.
7. Google Calendar to keep track of your appointments, calendar.google.com. The calendar can be synched to your iPod, iPad, Android, or other smart phones.
8. Picasa – Great image editor and organizer. Try out the upload to Picasa Web albums feature and then run a slide show on your TV with a Roku, or any Web enabled TV or other similar device. If you are not logged on to your Google account Picasa will prompt you so that the albums upload to your Photos Web location. Note that under Tools, there is a batch upload feature which allows you to upload multiple albums at one time. A nice feature is in Tools, Geotag, Geotag with Google Earth. Tag a photo by selecting the location of the photo in Google Earth, then save the new tag in Google Earth My Places on the left.
9. Google Translate is an automatic feature in Chrome.