



Instant Messaging

Introduction

What Will These Lessons Cover?

These lessons will cover how to use Instant Messaging services to connect with others on the Internet. In addition to learning how to download these programs from the Internet and installing them on your computer, we'll show you how to use these programs to set up buddy lists, have conversations with your friends, and utilize various other features like web cam chats and away messages (if these are new terms to you, don't fret!).

How Does This Work?

Instant Messaging works much like e-mailing your friends, family, or coworkers. Like e-mail, communication is achieved through the use of typed messages sent through the Internet. But rather than wait for a response while your letter sits in your friend's inbox, "Instant" Messages are a direct connection with another person that literally pops up on their computer screen. The moment your message is sent to your friend, it will appear on their screen, allowing for them to respond quickly. While this allows for much faster exchanges than occur via e-mail, and also allows for more *conversation* than correspondence, it requires that both people be online and at sitting at their computers for proper functioning to occur.

How Can I Use This?

Instant Messaging is a great way to have a casual conversation with your friends online, to get a quick answer to an important question, or to keep in touch with people easily no matter where they are. It's very easy to use, easy to multitask while using, and often more convenient than a phone call, especially with youngsters who've grown up "IMing" All in all, Instant Messages are an excellent addition to your communication toolbox.

Recommended Sites/Services

Meebo
www.meebo.com

Yahoo! Messenger
messenger.yahoo.com