

Why Do I Need to Set Browser Preferences?

Most browsers are set to check web pages on a server on the Internet only intermittently. When you go to a URL, often what you see is a version of the page that has been stored on your computer. Setting browser preferences in this manner means that pages can be accessed faster and your institution's connection to the Internet will not be taxed as much. Most of the time, this is the preferred solution because most web pages are changed infrequently.

However, pages in course management systems are changed very frequently so browser preferences must be set to check with the server where the web pages reside every time you go to them (this is known as refreshing the disk cache). This is particularly important in order to view the latest messages in your discussions area.

Setting Cache Preferences in Internet Explorer

- ▶ Select **Tools** from the browser menu; choose **Internet Options**.
- ▶ Select the **Settings** button in the **Temporary Internet files** section.
- ▶ Click the radio button next to **Every visit to the page**.
- ▶ Click **Okay** and then **Okay** again.

Setting Cache Preferences In Netscape

- ▶ Select **Edit** from the browser menu; choose **Preferences**.
- ▶ Click the **+** next to **Advanced** (on the left).
- ▶ Click **Cache**.
- ▶ Click the radio button next to **Every time**.
- ▶ Click **Okay**.

If you will be using advanced features such as Chat, you may need to change the Java and JavaScript settings in your browser. These allow you to use and view features that were created using Java and JavaScript programming languages.

Setting Java and JavaScript Preferences in Internet Explorer

- ▶ Select **Tools** from the browser menu; choose **Internet Options**.
- ▶ Select the **Advanced** tab.
- ▶ Under Microsoft VM, check **Java Console Enabled** and **JIT compiler for virtual machine enabled**.
- ▶ Click **Okay**.

Setting Java and JavaScript Preferences In Netscape

- ▶ Select **Edit** from the browser menu; choose **Preferences**.
- ▶ Click the **+** next to **Advanced** (on the left).
- ▶ Check **Enable Java** and **Enable JavaScript**.
- ▶ Click **Okay**.