

Online Privacy Secrets Revealed



*Learn how to stop spammers,
scammers and more*

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Chapter 1: How to Stop Google from Recording your Search habits

The World Wide Web has grown increasingly more public in recent years with massive amounts of data being transferred daily between businesses, customers, and everyday computer users. In August 2006, [AOL apologized for disclosing private information](#) about their users search engine habits. Despite the fact that many are outraged by this disclosure of private information, it is still something that may happen with other search engine providers—Google included.

Google has maintained that they do not and will not release such information, but they have also said that it could happen, perhaps by mistake. Thus, if you want to keep Google from potentially recording and releasing your habits, you should prevent them from getting your private search information in the first place. In this chapter, we will cover how to stop Google from recording your search habits.

So How Do I Cover My Web Search Tracks?

Luckily, stopping Google from recording your searches is really easy. It's a matter of disabling cookies, downloading protective software, turning off Google history logging, or using alternate search engines.

Disabling Cookies

Google obviously cannot track what isn't there. Cookies, in case you don't know already, basically keep track of information for specific sites. Thus, if you have a yahoo.com cookie, it may keep track of your Yahoo mail log-in information or other things that will make your browsing experience more personal and easier. What Google's tracking cookies do, for the most part, is keep track of search habits. If you get rid of the cookies or, better yet, prevent them from happening, Google won't be able to keep track of the habits.

To block Google's cookies, you'll need to go into your web browser's panel (Internet Explorer or [Mozilla Firefox](#)) and manually disable cookies specifically for Google.

For Internet Explorer, click the tab that says "Tools". Then click "Internet Options". From there, go to "Privacy" and then "Sites". Type in google.com and hit "block". If you are from another country other than the U.S., you'll also want to type in your country's Google address and block that. After you're done, hit "OK".

Protective Software

There are actually pieces of software which will effectively block sites from tracking your browser (and search engine) habits. Two such pieces of software are [Scandoo](#) and [Hide My IP](#).

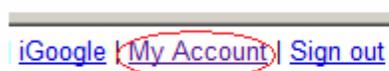
Both Scandoo and Hide My IP can prevent search engines from snooping and recording your browsing habits.

Hide My IP does exactly what it says: it hides your Internet protocol address, your unique personal identification Internet address, which reveals many bits of information about you such as where you are located, software running on your computer, which websites you visit, the name of your Internet Service Provider (ISP), and much more. By hiding your IP, you make it difficult for search engines like Google to determine who you are and where you're from.

Turning Off Google Account Search History

By default, Google will automatically store all your searches if you have a Google account. Do you really trust another company keeping track of what you are searching for? If not, you may want to follow these steps to turn off the Google web search history:

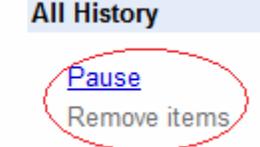
1. Click "My Account".



2. Click "Web History"



3. Click "Pause"



To erase already-saved searches, click "Remove Items" as well. Doing this will effectively prevent Google from recording what you search for.

Using Alternative Search Engines

While the above methods are usually extremely effective, sometimes even they do not work. Thus, one last method to stop Google from collecting your search engine information is to simply stop using Google. Try using [Clusty.com](#) or [Ixquick.com](#) instead of Google for your search engine needs. Neither collects your information and both are quick and effective.

Chapter 2: How to Hide Your Real IP Address while Web Surfing

You are being tracked every time you are on the Internet. That sounds scary, doesn't it? But it's true. Every web site that you visit is able to tell exactly where you are from. Well, they may not be able to tell the street you are from, but they can tell what city and what state you are in. That's because every web site keeps a log of the Internet protocol address (IP address) of every visitor of their site.

Why is this a bad thing? Because it obviously reveals your privacy—sites can tell where you are from, and if this information is put into the wrong hands, it can prove to be harmful to you. That's why many people want to hide their IP address in order to protect their privacy. In this chapter, we'll be going over how to hide your IP and thus protect your privacy.

So should I disable my IP?

Absolutely not! The IP is used to communicate with other devices. If you disable it, you will not be able to connect to web sites. Thus, you will not be able to use the Internet at all.

So does this mean that the IP is a necessary evil that must be revealed? Not necessarily. There are ways for you to make sure that your IP is not revealed to most, if not all of the sites which you browse.

Using Anonymous Proxy Servers

Proxy servers are a wonderful way of shielding one's IP address from the sites which are visited. In essence, a proxy serves as the mediator between you and the Internet. If you browse the Internet through a proxy, the proxy server will request whatever info you need from a particular site without the site knowing your personal IP. The IP that shows up to the site will be the proxy server's IP—not yours.

There are three types of proxy servers. The first type is the proxy server you set up for yourself. Below are instructions for this:

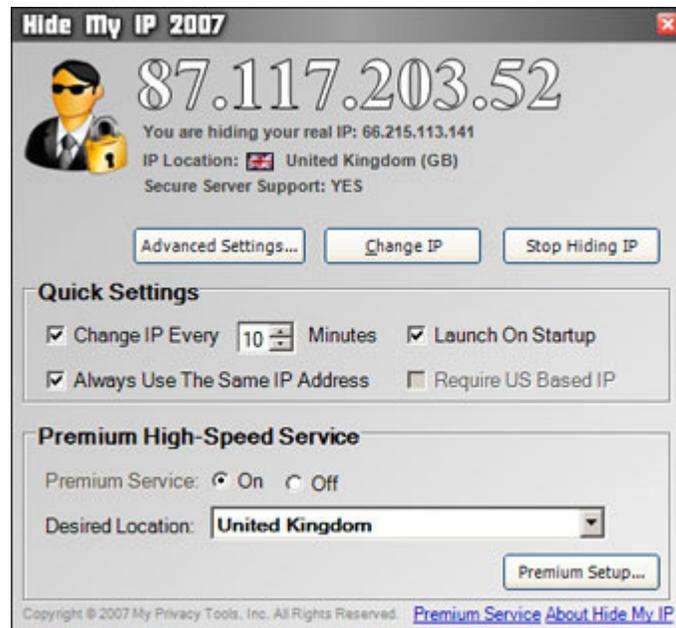
1. Go to "Tools" in Internet Explorer
2. Click "Connections"
3. Click on the current connection and select "settings"
4. Select "Use a Proxy Server"
5. Input the proxy address and port

6. Create a username and password, if necessary
7. Click OK

What proxy address and port you connect to will be determined by several factors, including which ISP (Internet service provider) you have. If you choose to use a proxy server other than your own (say a free one on the Internet or a paid one) you will simply put in their proxy address and port.

Anonymous IP Tools

There's the manual way of hiding your IP address (mentioned above) and then there's an easier and more effective way of doing it. Currently, many software companies sell tools which allow you to hide your IP address. The tools will automatically search for and setup your browser to use a fake proxy IP address, making your web browsing activity anonymous and impossible to trace back to you. One such tool is [Hide My IP](http://www.hide-my-ip.com) from www.hide-my-ip.com. Using this tool, you will be able to search for and automatically adjust your web browser settings to use proxies that Hide My IP finds. This program also works with Instant messengers, E-mail clients, Skype, games, etc...



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