# Scott Granneman

Internet Explorer 5 Configuration

This is an overview explaining how to configure Microsoft's Internet Explorer 5 Web browser. It was originally prepared for a client on 17 August 1999. Now that IE is up to version 6, some of the advice given here may be outdated. However, the general principles still hold.

As you go through this document, compare your Internet Options to the pictures on this page. Make the changes necessary to your Internet Options so that it matches what you see here. To help with that process, you may want to print this page out first.

If you're ready, let's go!

Open Internet Options using one of the following methods:

1. Open IE > Tools menu > Internet Options
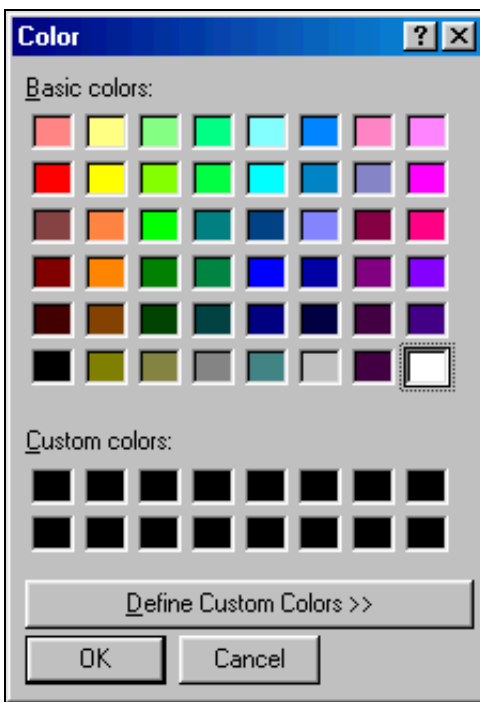2. Start > Settings > Control Panel > Internet Options
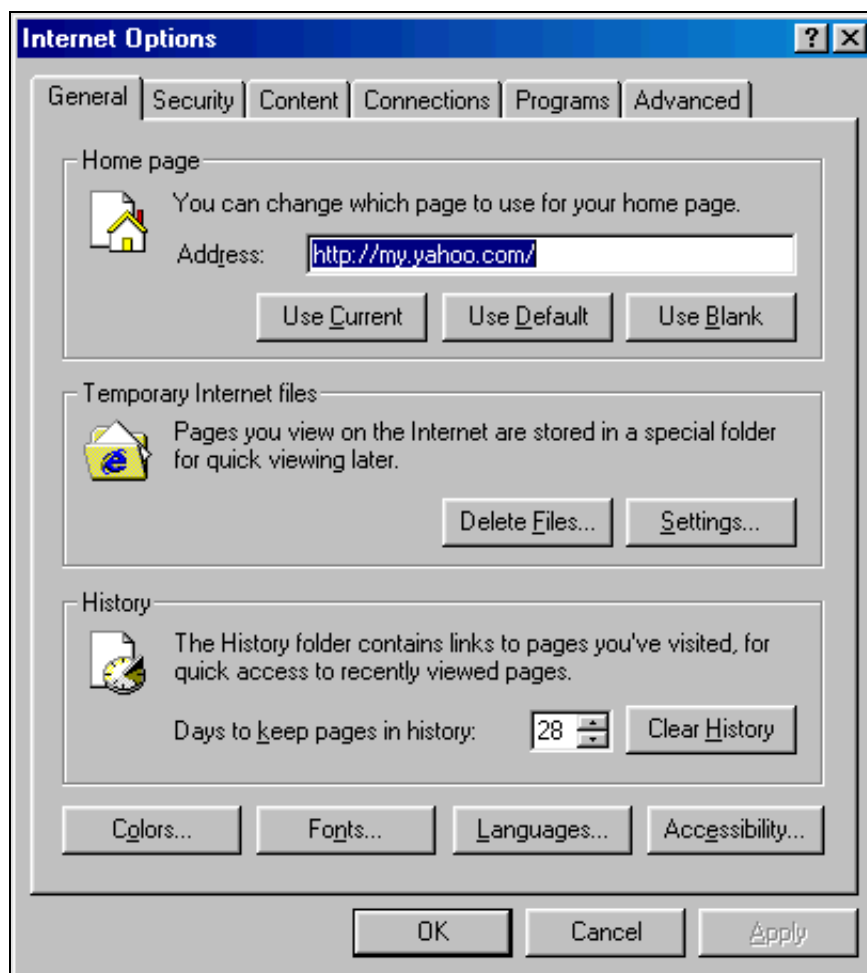
Change the **Address** in the **Home page** section to the home page you want your users to use. I use http://my.yahoo.com - a lot of people I know use http://www.yahoo.com or http://www.google.com.

Click on the **Colors ...** button.
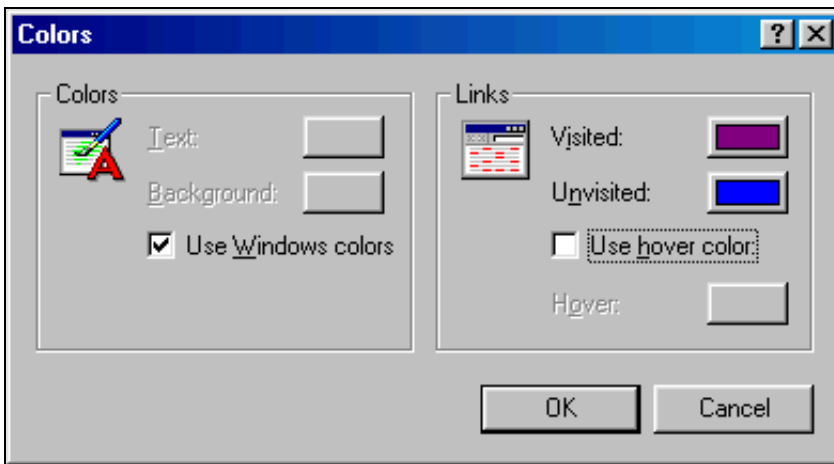
Check **Use hover color**. I would leave the Hover color as red.
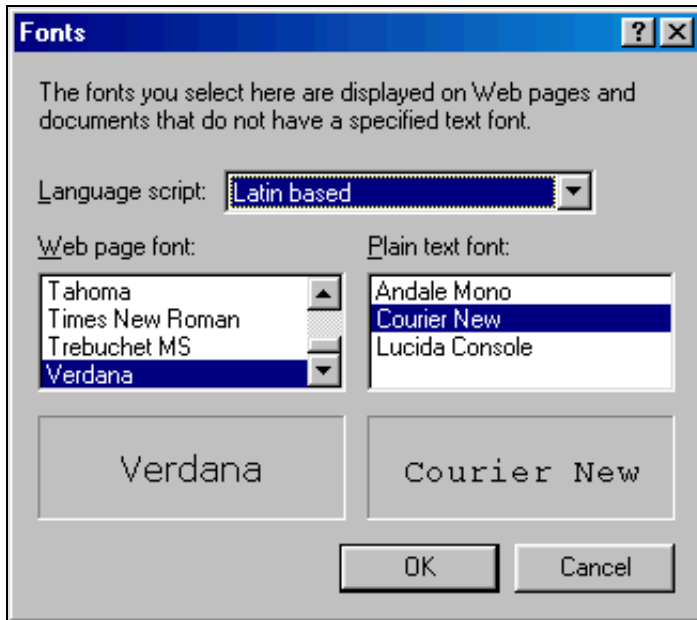
Uncheck **Use Windows colors**.

Click on white, in the bottom right of the **Basic colors**. Click **OK**.

Click **OK**.

Click on the **Fonts ...** button.

Change the **Web page font** to Verdana or Trebuchet MS or Arial. All are fine choices for viewing Web pages. We use Trebuchet MS, but that font does have a funky "&" character that some people don't like. Click **OK**.

Click on the **Security** tab.
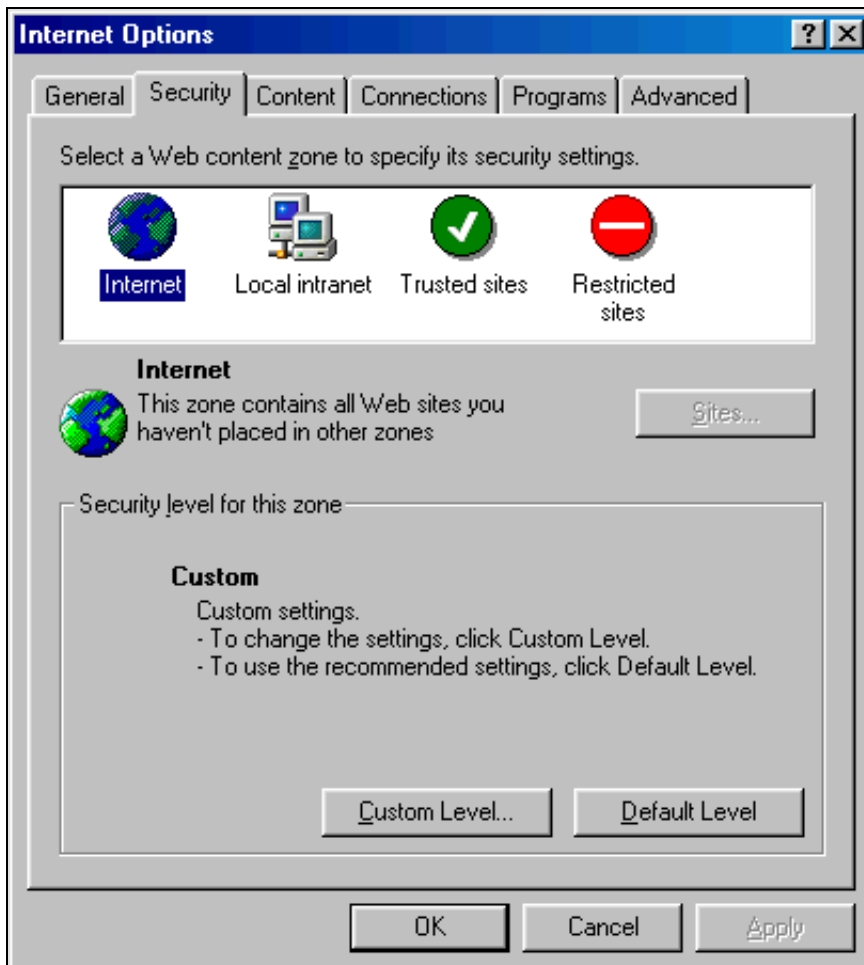
Make sure you've chose **Internet** under **Select a Web content zone to specify its security settings**. Click on **Custom Level ...**

Security Settings

Settings:

- Run ActiveX controls and plug-ins
  - ○ Administrator approved
  - ○ Disable
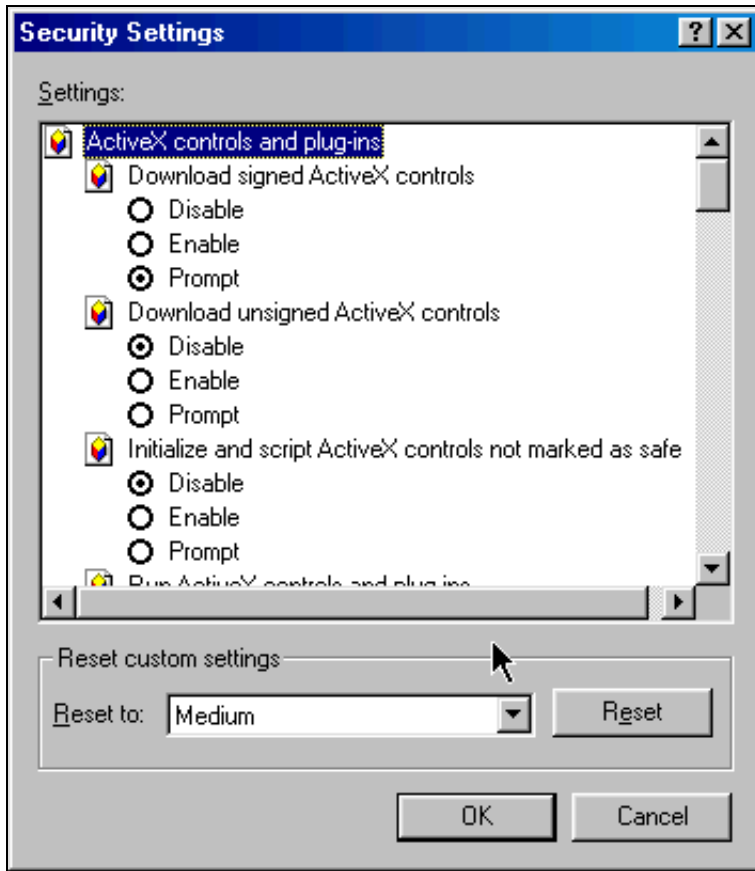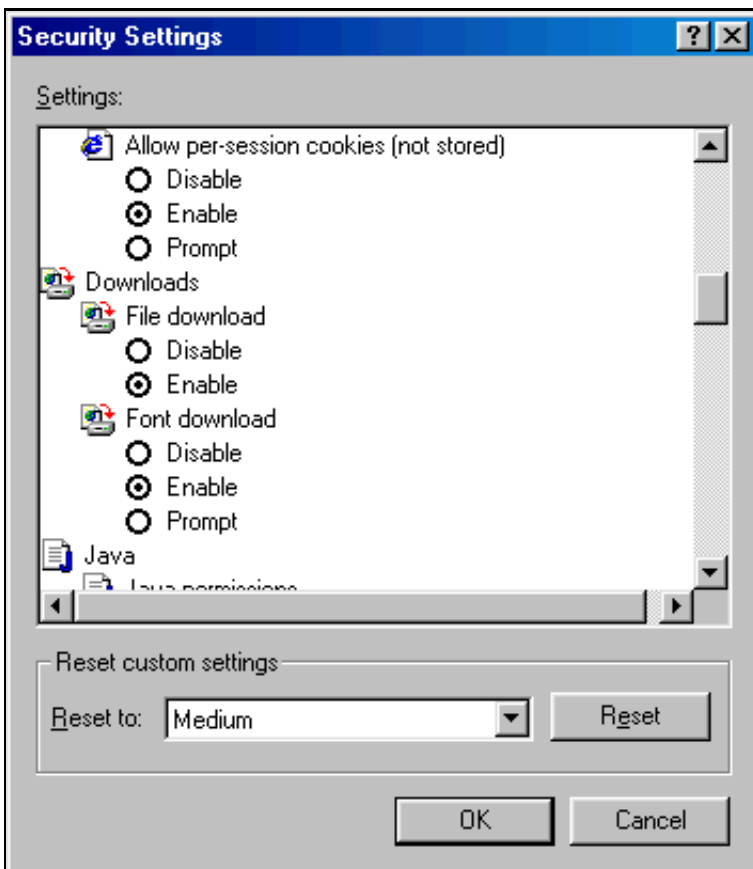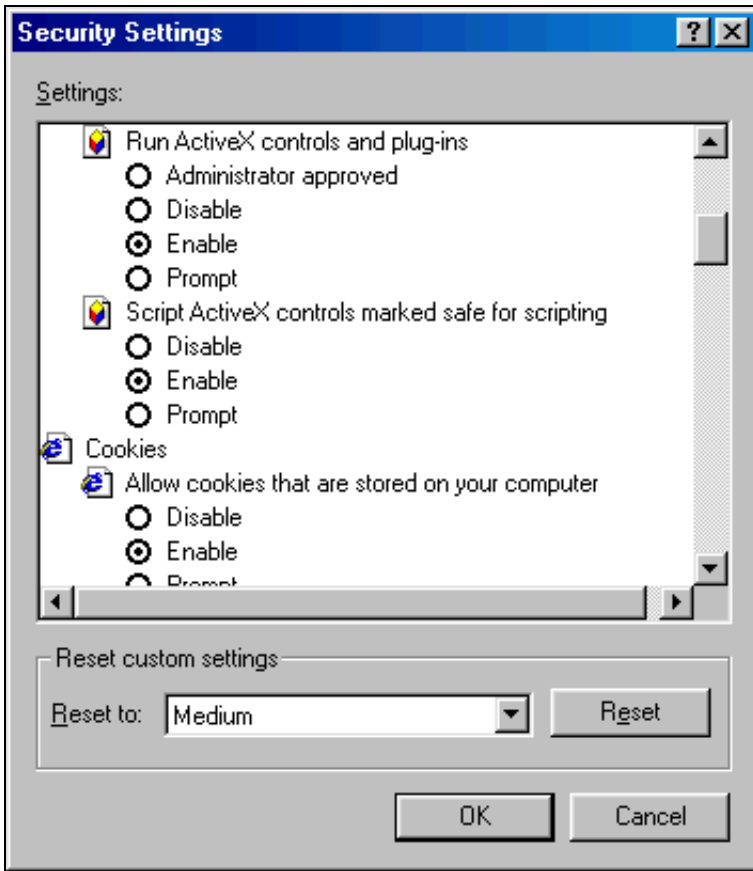 - ⦿ Enable
  - ○ Prompt
- Script ActiveX controls marked safe for scripting
  - ○ Disable
  - ⦿ Enable
  - ○ Prompt
- Cookies
  - Allow cookies that are stored on your computer
    - ○ Disable
    - ⦿ Enable
    - ○ Prompt

Reset custom settings

Reset to: Medium   [Reset]

[OK]   [Cancel]

Security Settings

Settings:

- Allow per-session cookies (not stored)
  - ○ Disable
  - ⦿ Enable
  - ○ Prompt
- Downloads
  - File download
    - ○ Disable
    - ⦿ Enable
  - Font download
    - ○ Disable
    - ⦿ Enable
    - ○ Prompt
- Java
  - Java permissions

Reset custom settings

Reset to: Medium   [Reset]

[OK]   [Cancel]

Notice that we would change **Java permissions** to **Medium safety**.
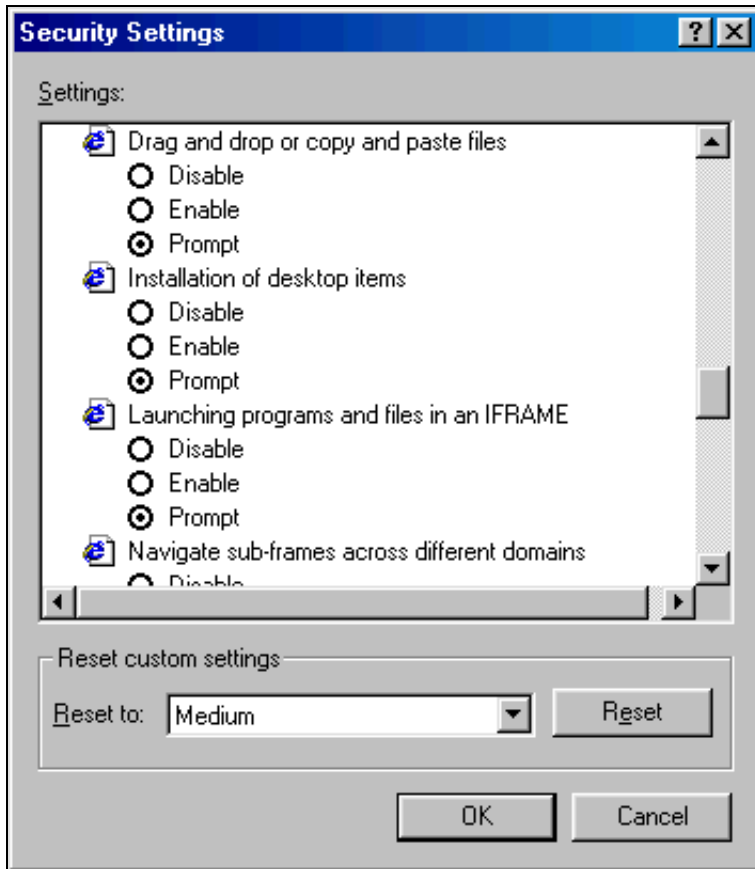
For security reasons, it is important that you change **Drag and drop or copy and paste files** to **Prompt**.

Security Settings ? X

Settings:

- Navigate sub-frames across different domains
  - ○ Disable
  - ● Enable
  - ○ Prompt
- Software channel permissions
  - ○ High safety
  - ○ Low safety
  - ● Medium safety
- Submit nonencrypted form data
  - ○ Disable
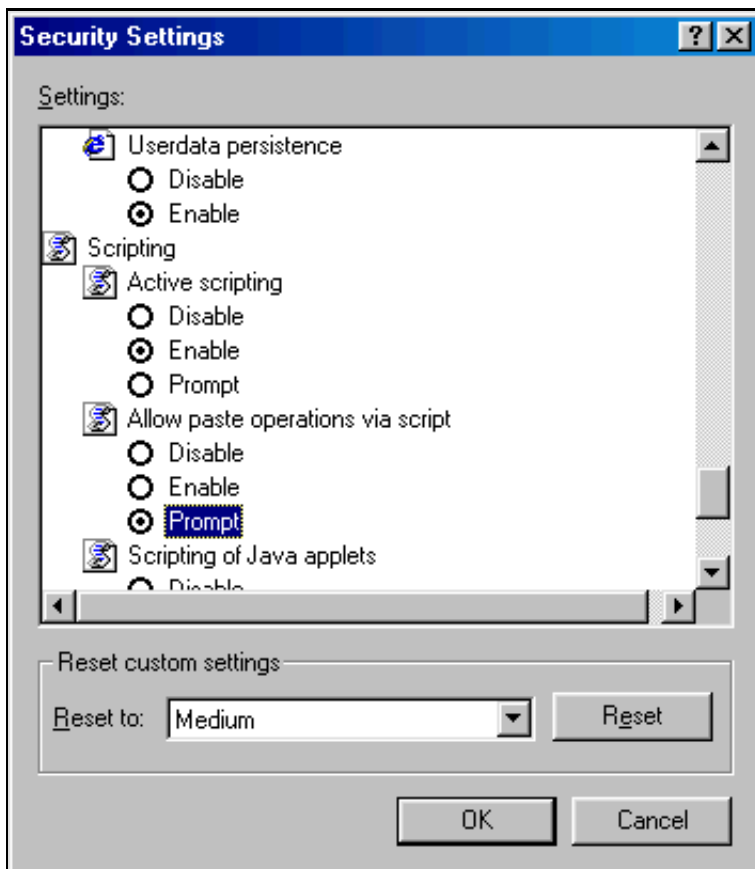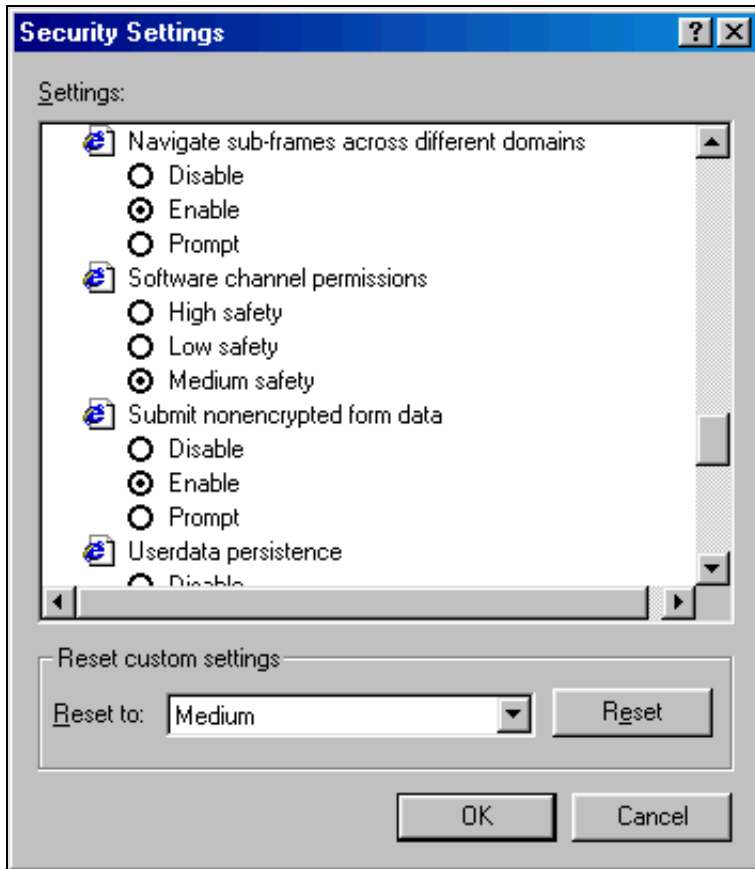 - ● Enable
  - ○ Prompt
- Userdata persistence
  - ○ Disable

Reset custom settings

Reset to: Medium ▼   Reset

OK   Cancel

Security Settings ? X

Settings:

- Userdata persistence
  - ○ Disable
  - ● Enable
- Scripting
  - Active scripting
    - ○ Disable
    - ● Enable
    - ○ Prompt
  - Allow paste operations via script
    - ○ Disable
    - ○ Enable
    - ● Prompt
  - Scripting of Java applets
    - ○ Disable

Reset custom settings

Reset to: Medium ▼   Reset

OK   Cancel

For security reasons, it is important that you change **Allow paste operations via script** to **Prompt**.
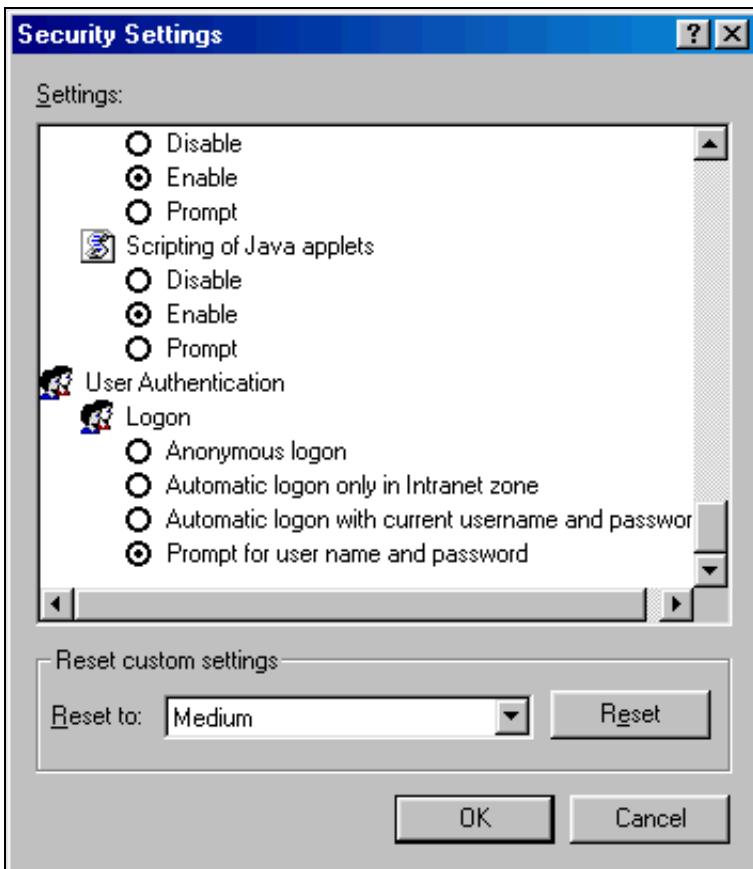
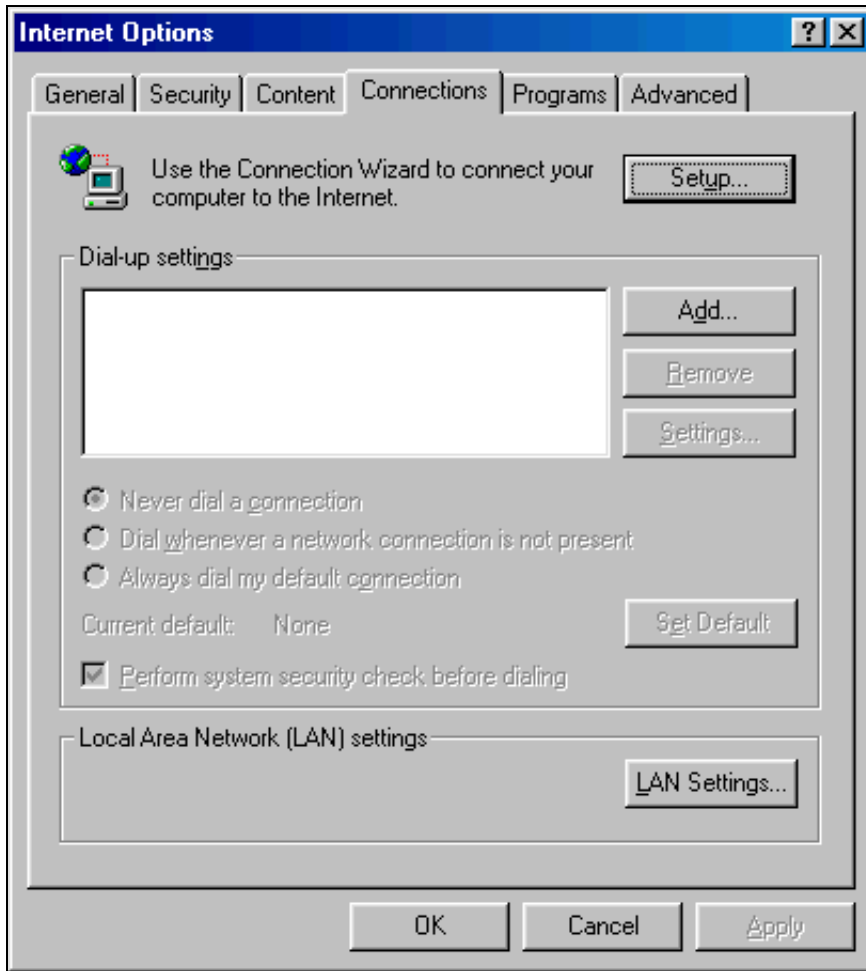Click **OK**. Click **Yes** if it asks you if you want to change security settings for this zone.
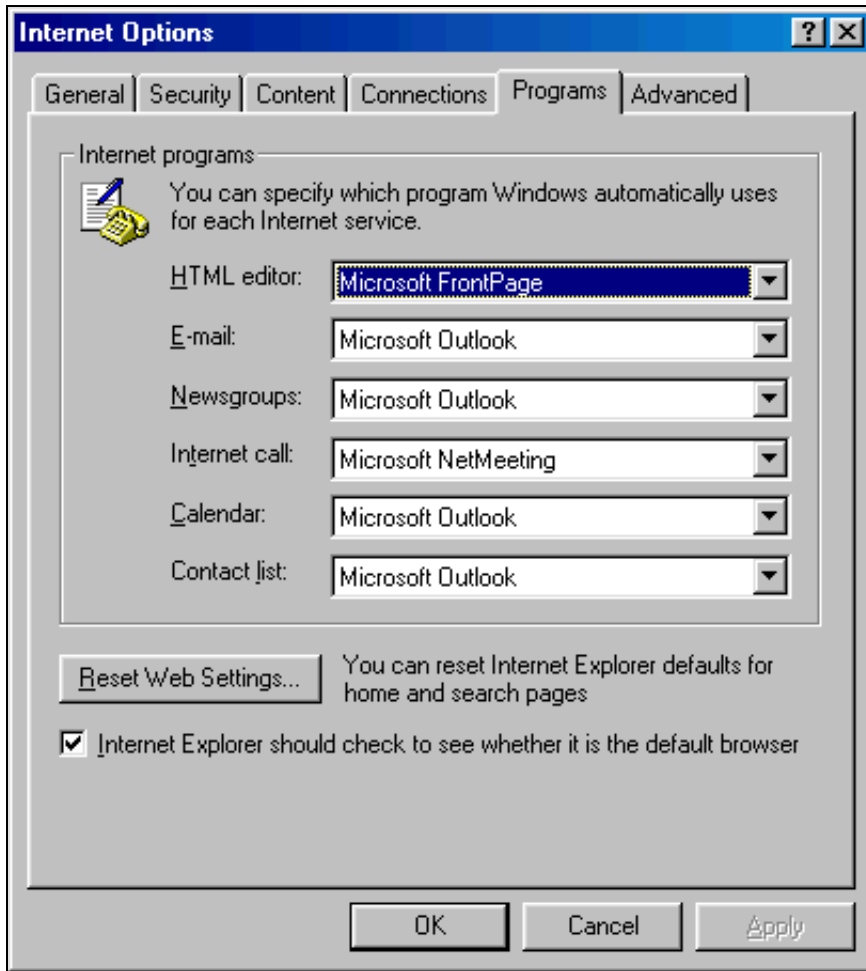
Click on the **Content** tab.

Click on the **Connections** tab.

Click on the **Programs** tab.

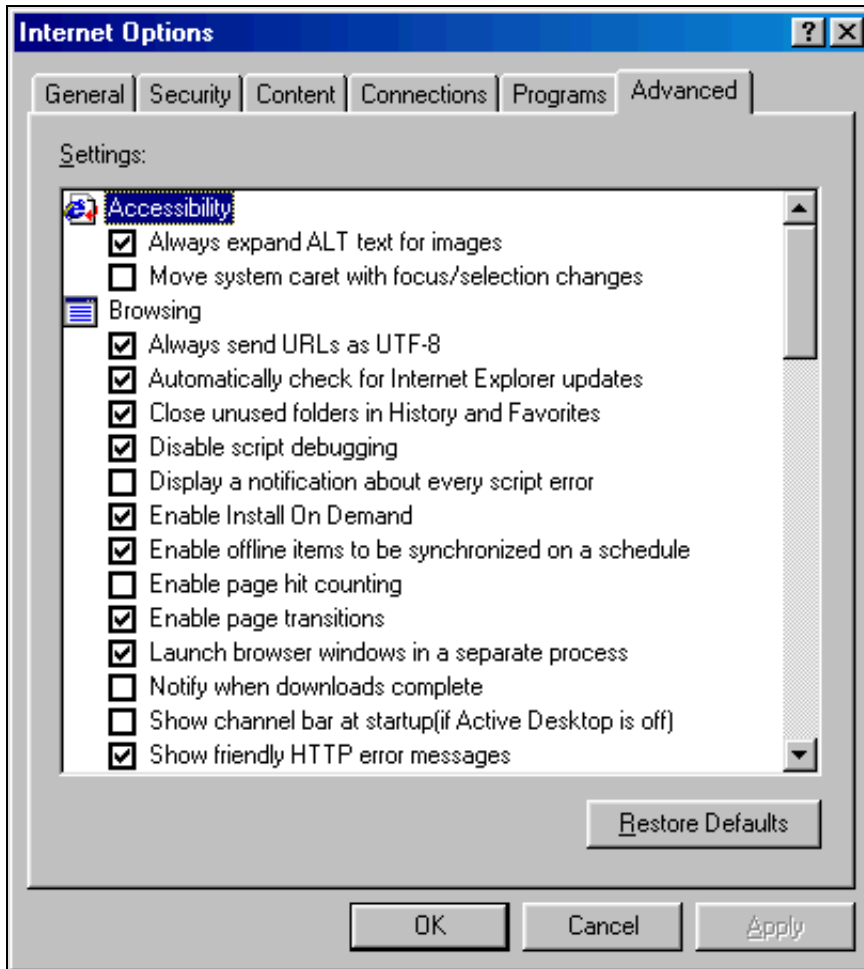For computers using Microsoft Office, make sure that the following associations exist under Internet programs:

- **E-mail**, **Newsgroups**, **Calendar**, and **Contact list** = "Microsoft Outlook"
- **Internet call** = "Microsoft NetMeeting"
- **HTML editor** = "Microsoft FrontPage"

For computers that do not use Microsoft Office, make sure that the following associations exist under Internet programs:

- **HTML editor** = "Windows Notepad"
- **E-mail** = "Outlook Express" or "Hotmail"
- **Newsgroups** = "Outlook Express"
- **Internet call** = "Microsoft NetMeeting"
- **Calendar** = blank
- **Contact list** = "Address book"

Note that if you develop Web pages, you will probably want another program under **HTML editor**. For instance, we use a combination of Dreamweaver and HomeSite. However, IE does a poor job of recognizing other HTML editors on your computer and inserting them into the list. You can manually insert others into this list, but that involves changing the registry. Instructions about this can be found at Allaire's Web site.

Click on the **Advanced** tab.

Internet Options   ? ✕

| General | Security | Content | Connections | Programs | Advanced |

Settings:

Accessibility
  ☑ Always expand ALT text for images
  ☐ Move system caret with focus/selection changes
Browsing
  ☑ Always send URLs as UTF-8
  ☑ Automatically check for Internet Explorer updates
  ☑ Close unused folders in History and Favorites
  ☑ Disable script debugging
  ☐ Display a notification about every script error
  ☑ Enable Install On Demand
  ☑ Enable offline items to be synchronized on a schedule
  ☐ Enable page hit counting
  ☑ Enable page transitions
  ☑ Launch browser windows in a separate process
  ☐ Notify when downloads complete
  ☐ Show channel bar at startup(if Active Desktop is off)
  ☑ Show friendly HTTP error messages

Restore Defaults

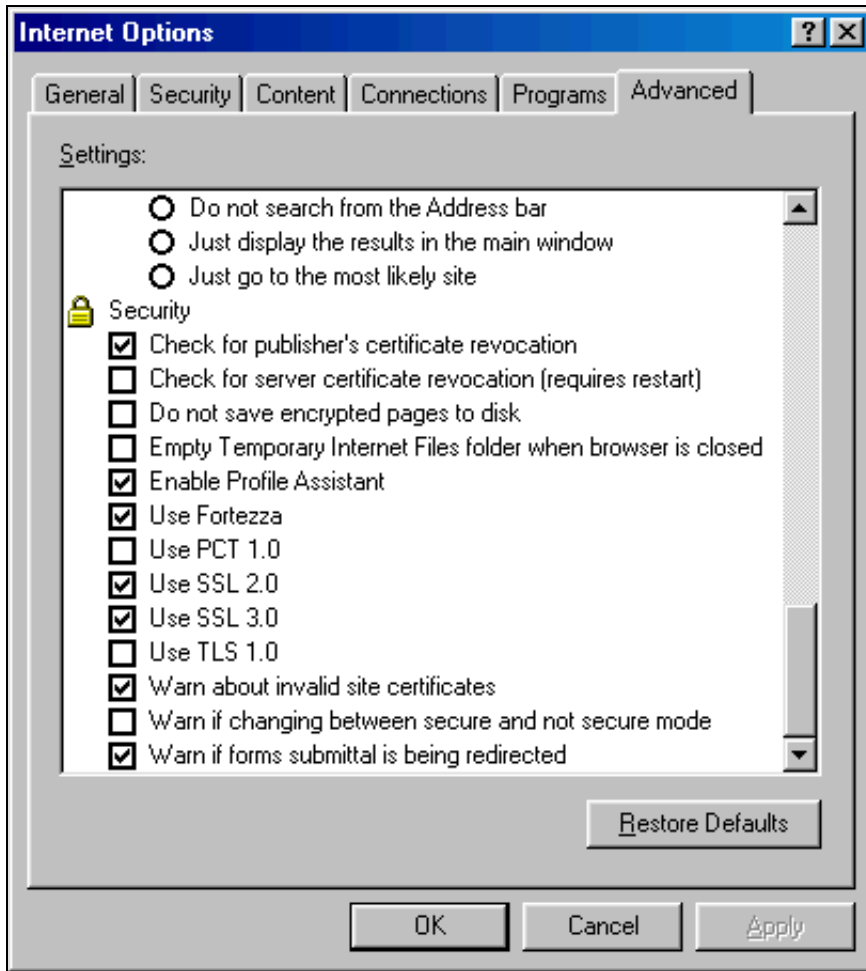OK   Cancel   Apply

You may want to check **Show friendly URLs**. We would recommend unchecking **Show Go button in Address bar**, although some people really like this. Although it's not shown in the above picture, we strongly recommend unchecking **Use smooth scrolling**. It amazes me that **Use smooth scrolling** is on by default - most people hate that so-called feature!

Internet Options

General | Security | Content | Connections | Programs | Advanced

Settings:

- ☐ Java logging enabled
- ☑ JIT compiler for virtual machine enabled (requires restart)
- Multimedia
  - ☐ Always show Internet Explorer Radio bar
  - ☑ Play animations
  - ☑ Play sounds
  - ☑ Play videos
  - ☐ Show image download placeholders
  - ☑ Show pictures
  - ☑ Smart image dithering
- Printing
  - ☐ Print background colors and images
- Search from the Address bar
  - When searching
    - ⦿ Display results, and go to the most likely site
    - ○ Do not search from the Address bar
    - ○ Just display the results in the main window

Restore Defaults

OK | Cancel | Apply

For security, I would check **Check for publisher's certificate revocation**. And, although it's not shown in the picture above, you should also check **Check for server certificate revocation**. Actually, it boggles my mind that these are unchecked by default - these are pretty important things to know about a secure server!

Click **OK**.

Now you need to set the buttons that appear on the IE toolbar. Right-click on the toolbar by one of the buttons, so that the contextual menu appears, as below:
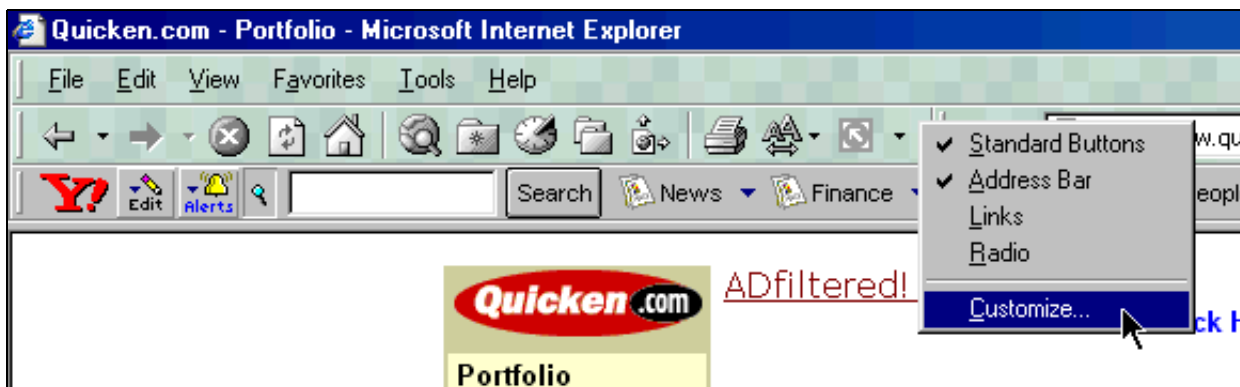
Choose **Customize ...**
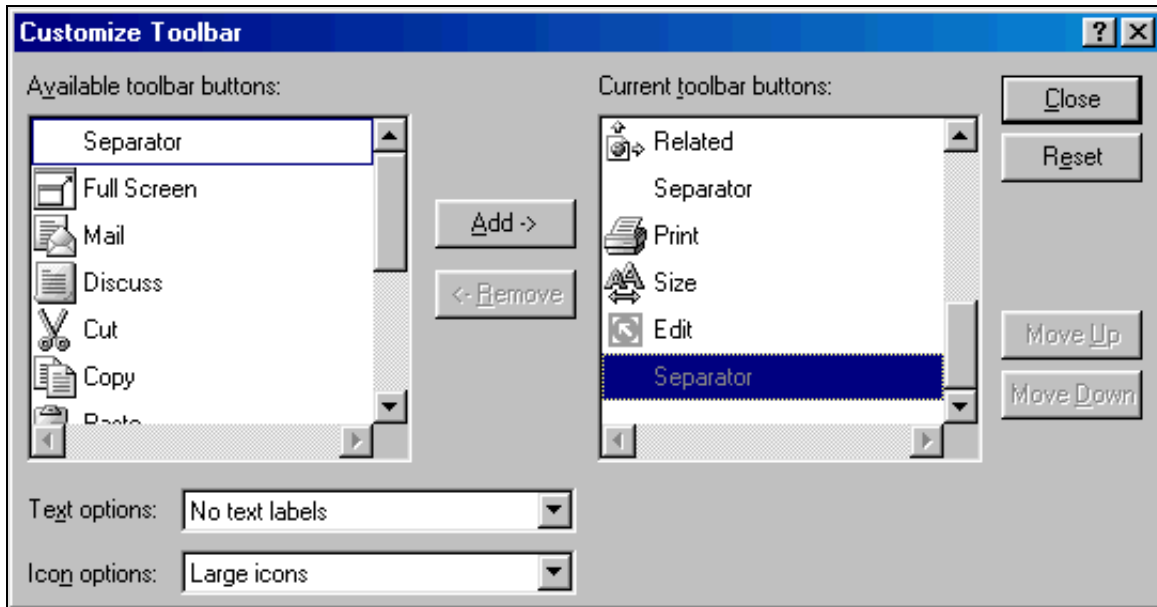
For **Text options**, you may want to choose **Selective text on right**, although we use **No text labels**. As for **Current toolbar buttons**, I would remove **Mail**, **Full Screen**, and **Discuss, and** add Size and Folders.

That's it - you have now configured Internet Explorer 5!