

## THE COMPUTER CORNER

### No. 166: Where Did That Damn File Go?

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Ed Rate (AA9W) has come up with another good subject. Ed says:

*In my WIN XP, when I download something from the Internet, I get the download box with either the opportunity to save the download or execute the file. If my only option comes up to save the download, then the computer saves it and the download box disappears.*

*If I have not recorded the name of the download, my search routine will involve a lot of guessing. So, I begin to search everyplace in the computer to find where my computer has decided to hide the file! I have a download folder but I have never seen anything downloaded into it.*

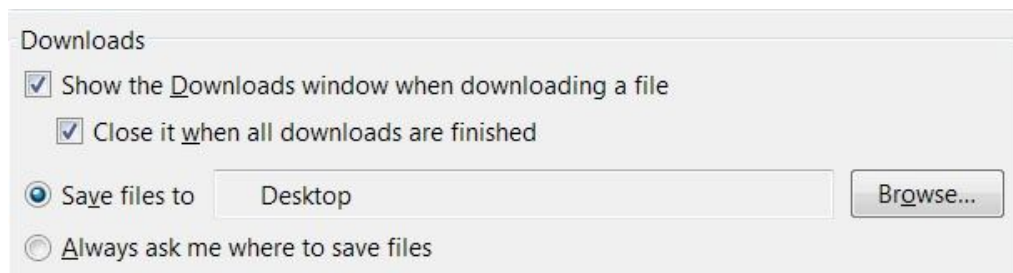
*I have downloads someplace that I have never found!*

Internet Explorer (IE) users have a problem. Apparently, there is no way to instruct IE to save files to some other folder than what Microsoft has decided is best for you. Here is what my Help file says:

*When you download files, Windows usually saves them in the Downloads folder, which is located under your user name in the Users folder on the drive where Windows is installed (for example C:\users\your name\downloads). When you are saving the file, you can choose to save it to a different folder. Some different types of files are saved to different folders by default. For example, if you right-click a picture on a webpage and then choose **Save Picture As** from the menu, the picture will be saved to the Pictures folder by default. If you're not sure where the file was saved, you can search for it from the Start menu.*

This, by the way, applies to IE9, so if you are not given the choice each time to save a file to a non-default folder, it might be wise to update your IE browser. This also shows yet another reason (among many) not to use IE as your standard browser. Rather, use Firefox. Read on.

Firefox users have absolutely no problem. In Firefox, click **Tools**, then **Options**, and make sure you are looking at the **General** tab. As you see below, there is a bulleted **Save files to** line that should be selected. Use the Browse button to select Desktop, as was done here. Click **OK** at the bottom of this panel and you are finished.



That really solves the problem! Everything is saved to the desktop and downloaded files are easily spotted among your usual desktop icons. Oh by the way, this also causes Firefox to suggest the Desktop when you right-click a picture on a webpage and choose Save Picture As from the menu. Slick! Happy Computing!