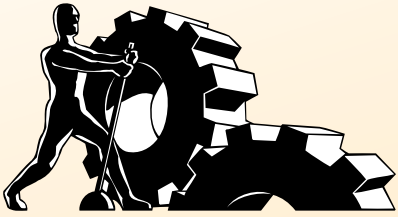


Check for Updates

Make sure you have the latest information!



TidBITS Publishing Inc.

Take Control of

v1.0

Safari 5

Sharon Zardetto

\$10

[Help](#)

[Catalog](#)

[Feedback](#)

[Blog](#)

[Order Print Copy](#)

Click here to buy the full 136-page "Take Control of Safari 5" for only \$10!

Table of Contents

For details about what's new in Safari 5, see [What's New in Safari 5](#), shortly ahead. For a more detailed look at the overall ebook, read [Safari 5 Quick Start](#).

Read Me First	3
Introduction	9
Safari 5 Quick Start.....	10
Customize Your Safari Environment.....	12
Navigate to and within Web Sites	21
Manage Your Top Sites	33
Handle Multiple Pages with Tabs	38
Tune Out Page Clutter with Reader.....	47
Set Up and Use Bookmarks	53
Retrace Your Steps through History	74
Know Your Search Options	83
Use AutoFill for Forms and Passwords	93
Track Your Downloads	99
Scan Site Highlights with RSS Feeds.....	103
Expand Safari's Capabilities with Extensions	114
Appendix A: Update to Safari 5.....	125
Appendix B: Trackpad Gestures in Safari.....	128
Appendix C: Create a Web-Clip Widget	130
About This Book.....	132
Copyright and Fine Print.....	135
Featured Titles.....	136

Read Me First

Welcome to *Take Control of Safari 5*, version 1.0, published in November 2010, by TidBITS Publishing Inc. This book was written by Sharon Zardetto and edited by Tonya Engst, with an assist from Michael E. Cohen.

This book shows you how to make the most of Safari 5, a deceptively powerful Web browser with features you may have never even tried.

Copyright © 2010, Sharon Zardetto. All rights reserved.

If you have an ebook version of this title, please note that if you want to share it with a friend, we ask that you do so as you would a physical book: “lend” it for a quick look, but ask your friend to buy a new copy to read it more carefully or to keep it for reference.

Discounted [classroom and Mac user group copies](#) are also available.

UPDATES AND MORE

You can access extras related to this book on the Web (use the link in [Ebook Extras](#), near the end of the book; it’s available only to purchasers). On the ebook’s Take Control Extras page, you can:

- Download any available new version of the ebook for free, or purchase any subsequent edition at a discount.
- Download various formats, including PDF and—usually—EPUB and Mobipocket. (Learn about reading this ebook on handheld devices at <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/device-advice>.)
- Read postings to the ebook’s blog. These may include new information and tips, as well as links to author interviews. At the top of the blog, you can also see any update plans for the ebook.
- Get a discount when you order a print copy of the ebook.

BASICS

There are only a few basic items you need to know to make your “reading experience” smoother:

- **Menu references:** The general “shorthand” description to refer to choosing something from a menu is, for instance, File > Open. Occasionally a command’s name changes partially to match its context; I describe these commands with an obvious placeholder such as File > Sync *TheDevice*.
- **Path names:** The route you take to a file on your hard drive, whether by looking through columns in a window or by double-clicking your way through folders, is the file’s *path*, and there’s a standard “syntax” for referring to these paths.

The disk’s name is always the first thing in a path; we assume the disk is always there, so we don’t include its name, but we preserve the slash that would separate it from the next item. So, *HardDrive/System/Library* becomes */System/Library*.

A path to something in a user’s home directory starts with the drive’s name, followed by *Users* and then the user’s name. The convention, however, is to replace those first three items with ~ (tilde), so *HardDrive/Users/Miriam/Library* becomes simply *~/Library*. (You’ve probably noticed by now that path text is formatted in special type.)

- **System Preferences:** To work with System Preferences, choose System Preferences from the Apple (🍏) menu and in the window that opens, click the icon for the settings you want to adjust. I describe this procedure simply as, for instance, “Open the Parental Controls preference pane” or “In System Preferences, open Parental Controls.”
- **Safari Preferences:** Applications have their own preferences, separate from System Preferences. In Safari, choose Safari > Preferences (Command-Comma), then access a specific type of preference—such as General, Bookmarks, or RSS—by clicking its icon at the top of the Preferences window. Sometimes I refer to a Safari preference pane as “Safari’s General preferences” or “the Bookmarks pane of Safari’s preferences.”

- **Contextual menus:** When I refer to accessing a contextual menu, I usually write “Control-click [whatever] for the contextual menu...”. This is a little ironic since I never Control-click—my main computer is a laptop, and I use a two-finger tap for a contextual menu. You might do the same, or you may be using a mouse that’s programmed to open a contextual menu with a right-click. Whenever you read “Control-click” or “right-click,” use whatever method you like to open a contextual menu.

WHAT’S NEW IN SAFARI 5

As happened with Safari 4, many of Safari 5’s new features are background improvements—such as increased page-loading speed—that can enhance your browsing experience but don’t require any action (or learning) on your part. And, from a user’s point of view, Safari 5 is so similar to its predecessor that you can transition to it with neither fuss nor muss.

Yet Safari 5 does offer new features that, if not revolutionary, are evolutionary in Safari’s development.

What’s “new”? Sometimes “new” is in the eye of the user. The features described here were introduced in Safari 5, but some (notably absent: Reader and Extensions) were also added to the Safari 4.1 update, released at the same time as Safari 5 for users of Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger. So, if you worked with Safari 4.1 before moving to Safari 5, some items won’t be entirely new to you. In some places in this book, when I say “new in Safari 5,” the feature may also have been incorporated into Safari 4.1.

The invisible new features:

- **The Nitro Engine:** One day guys will run out of ways to describe souped-up engines: turbo-charged, super-charged, nitro... *whatever!* Safari 5’s under-the-hood browsing power is called the “Nitro Engine,” and it is supposed to provide a 30 percent increase over Safari 4’s page-loading speed. We can assume that our mileage will vary.
- **Prefetching and caching:** Yes, it sounds like a Letterman “Stupid Pet Trick,” but “prefetching” is a clever way to increase your perceived page-loading speed as you go from one page to another.

While you're looking at one page, Safari scans it for links and looks up the *DNS entry* (the actual location of a page) for each, in case you click one. Improved *caching* (storing the pages you visit) should get you back to a previous location more quickly than in Safari 4.

- **New HTML support:** This isn't exactly invisible, since it's all about *seeing* content on a page, but neither is it something you control or tweak. It just *is*—as long as Web pages use it. There's support for new, cutting-edge HTML5 features for typography, video, and graphics (transitions, gallery options, and virtual-reality viewing). Check out the mouth-watering examples at <http://www.apple.com/html5/>. These samples are proof that the Web can be an incredibly visually rich place without Flash, but until other browsers also fully support these standards, you might not be able to enjoy anything *except* examples.

The visible new major features:

The main new features in Safari 5 are:

- **Reader:** By far my favorite new feature, Reader lets you see the main article on a Web page, relegating annoying ads and other distracting material to a darkened background. “Read” all about it in [Tune Out Page Clutter with Reader](#).
- **Extensions:** Yess! I know so many people who opt for Firefox or Chrome as their main browser solely because previous versions of Safari didn't provide for “extensions”: add-ons that tweak Safari's capabilities. Learn how to add extensions with [Expand Safari's Capabilities with Extensions](#).
- **Choice of search engine:** While the search field still defaults to Google, you can change the default to Bing or Yahoo, and you can easily switch from one to another at any point in a search. Get the details from [Know Your Search Options](#).

Other new features:

Safari 5 has many small improvements, some of which are subtle and therefore all the more pleasant to run across, such as:

- **For the address field:** A more wide-ranging suggestion list for the address field and the return of the blue progress bar, described in [Use the Address Field](#).

- **For the toolbar:** You can [Define “Permanent” Buttons for Narrow Windows](#) to keep your most important buttons on the toolbar.
- **For Top Sites:** New buttons at the top of the Top Sites window ([Manage Your Top Sites](#)) and another option for adding something to that gallery ([Add a Page to Top Sites](#)).
- **For tabs:** In the little-things-mean-a-lot department, there’s finally a way to reopen an accidentally closed tab, described in [Reopen Recently Closed Windows or Tabs](#).

WHAT’S NEW IN THIS EDITION

The last edition of this book was all about Safari 4, and now here we are in Safari 5. So, of course, all the links in [What’s New in Safari 5](#) (the previous topic) point you to new material.

But this edition is almost 50 percent bigger not just because of the new-feature coverage, but also because I’ve expanded some topics considerably, and added some that weren’t in the previous version:

- **When there are many ways to do something:** There are many ways to do the same (or very similar) things in Safari, whether it’s creating tabs or scrolling the window contents. I’ve added some new information and tables to cover multi-option procedures so you can more easily see the choices and decide what works best for you:
 - ◇ [Table 3: Keyboard Shortcuts for Moving between Windows, Tabs, and Recent Pages](#)
 - ◇ [Scroll the Safari Window](#)
 - ◇ [Appendix B: Trackpad Gestures in Safari](#)

On a related issue, many items hide amazing multi-purpose functionality, as proved by [Use the Back and Forward Buttons and Menus and Tabs, Tabs, Everywhere](#).

- **More about preferences:** So many preferences, so little time! Sometimes it’s easier for someone to walk you through what’s-probably-best-for-you preference settings and then you can tweak them later to match your needs. I’ve expanded [Set Your RSS Preferences](#) and [Define Your History Range](#) with more info, and

I've added [Set Your Tab Preferences](#) and [Set Your Bookmark Preferences](#).

- **More general information:** A little background information never hurts, and it usually helps, so I've added [C is for Cookie](#) and [Safari's Page Cache](#), as well as expanded the basic information in:
 - ◇ [Reload a Page](#)
 - ◇ [Cancel a Page Load](#)
 - ◇ [Utilize the Downloads Window](#)

Introduction

Why do you need a book about Safari? You've been using Safari for what seems like eons, and you're doing just fine.

But you don't have to settle for "fine." In all likelihood, Safari does far more than you've been asking it to, and those things you *have* been doing with it you can do more quickly, elegantly, and efficiently when you know Safari's ins and outs. I can vouch for that because when Safari 4's beta version was released, I vowed to finally, *finally*, explore Safari thoroughly, in order to find the best way to organize bookmarks, give it another chance as an RSS reader, learn about tab options instead of using them in the most obvious way—oh, and deal with the pesky issue of having dismissed the offer to save a password for a site and never again being asked to do so.

So, when Safari 5 was released, practically under the radar because of the contemporaneous release of the iPhone 4, I was all set to probe the existing features for subtle changes, as well as explore the major new ones (Reader and Safari extensions).

Because I've devoted so much time to this, you don't have to! You won't have to learn bits and pieces from various sources, experiment on your own, or click your way through the not-exceptionally-helpful Help system to put together disconnected tidbits of information.

Whether you have been using Safari 5 for a while or are about to upgrade to it, this book is for you. No matter how you use Safari—for lightweight general surfing, or middleweight targeted browsing with (a probably disorganized pile of) bookmarks—this book will take you to the heavyweight division, with toned tabs, a buffed bookmarks bar, ad-free main-article reading, total control over RSS feeds, and more.

Safari 5 Quick Start

The material in this book is the least linear of any Mac book I've ever written: there are few interdependencies among the topics, so you can start with any one that piques your interest or is likely to answer the burning questions you have about using Safari—whether they're of longstanding duration or specifically about Safari 5. Luckily, ebook links lend themselves to just that sort of approach!

On the other hand, if you don't want to accidentally miss anything, just follow the advice given to Alice: "Begin at the beginning and go on till you come to the end: then stop."

Download and install Safari 5:

- If you haven't moved to Safari 5 yet, read [Appendix A: Update to Safari 5](#). The appendix shows you how easy it is to do so, and it discusses the system requirements for the upgrade.

Check out Safari 5's new features:

- If you want to hit the highlights of new features, use the links in [What's New in Safari 5](#). The two major new features are covered in [Tune Out Page Clutter with Reader](#) and [Expand Safari's Capabilities with Extensions](#).

Customize your experience:

- From top (the toolbar) to bottom (the status bar), you can tweak Safari's looks and basic behavior—see [Customize Your Safari Environment](#). For more advanced customization, find out how to [Organize the Bookmarks Bar](#) and how to [Expand Safari's Capabilities with Extensions](#).
- Set your Safari preferences. Its various preference panes are covered in their topic areas, such as:
 - ◇ [Define Font Parameters](#)
 - ◇ [Set Your Tab Preferences](#)
 - ◇ [Override a Page's Default Window-Opening Settings](#)
 - ◇ [Know Your Link-Opening Options](#)
 - ◇ [Set Your Bookmark Preferences](#)

- ◇ [Define Your History Range](#)
- ◇ [C is for Cookie](#)
- ◇ [Turn on AutoFill Sources](#)
- ◇ [Set the Download Preferences](#)
- ◇ [Set Your RSS Preferences](#)
- ◇ [Install Extensions](#)

Learn key browsing techniques:

- You know the basics, but you can learn their details in:
 - ◇ [Navigate to and within Web Sites](#)
 - ◇ [Track Your Downloads](#)
 - ◇ [Use AutoFill for Forms and Passwords](#)
 - ◇ [Scan Site Highlights with RSS Feeds](#)
- See how you can read an “article” without ads distracting you or having to click from one page to the next when it’s split across several pages in [Tune Out Page Clutter with Reader](#).
- Juggle multiple sites with finesse by learning how to [Handle Multiple Pages with Window Tabs](#).
- Read about the differences in the ways your previously visited Web sites are stored automatically or manually in [Go Back to Where You’ve Been](#). Explore the details for each of the methods in [Manage Your Top Sites](#), [Set Up and Use Bookmarks](#), and [Retrace Your Steps through History](#).
- Protect your privacy: [Store and Edit Your Passwords](#), and learn about [Stealth Browsing](#) and how to [Erase Your Tracks with the Reset Command](#).
- Optimize your search techniques in various areas with:
 - ◇ [Use the Web Search Field](#)
 - ◇ [Search within a Page](#)
 - ◇ [Search Your History and Bookmarks](#)

Customize Your Safari Environment

From top (the toolbar and bookmarks bar) to bottom (the status bar), and several things in between (such as starting pages), you have some choices as to how Safari's window looks and behaves. In this chapter, I show you the most important ways to customize Safari when you start using it. I cover many other customization options throughout this ebook.

DO BASIC SETUP FOR THE "BARS"

The top of the Safari window has, directly beneath its title bar, the toolbar, tabs (in the "tab bar"), and the bookmarks bar; at the bottom of the window is the lowly status bar (**Figure 1**).



Figure 1: The top "bars" don't look separate, but different areas provide different functionality. From top to bottom: the title bar, the toolbar, the bookmarks bar, the tab bar, and the status bar.

You can make the bars come and go pretty much as you please (you can't hide the tab bar when the window has tabs): use the Hide/Show commands in the View menu (**Figure 2**). On a big screen, there's no

Navigate to and within Web Sites

In life, the journey may be the reward, but when you're surfing the Web, it's the destination that counts. In this section, I explain how to get there quickly and move among various "theres" with a minimum of effort.

USE THE ADDRESS FIELD

Typing a *URL* (Universal Resource Locator, a Web site's "address") into Safari's address field and pressing Return takes you directly to that page. But if you've been to the site previously, you won't have to type the entire URL because of Safari's "smart address field."

The smart address field can jump to a conclusion if you type *any part* of a page's:

- **URL:** The page's address, such as <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/snow-leopard-fonts>.
- **Title:** This is what appears in the Safari window's title bar, based on the Web designer's name for the page. The page at <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/snow-leopard-fonts> has the title "Take Control of Fonts in Snow Leopard."
- **Name:** If you've saved a bookmark for a page, the name you gave to the bookmark is also a candidate for the smart address field.

If Safari recognizes what you're typing in the address field, it completes the name of the most likely match (**Figure 6**), so all you have to do is hit Return to go to the suggested page.

In older versions of Safari (until Safari 4.1) the text you entered in this field had to match the *beginning* of a suggested URL (disregarding the <http://www>. prefix.) So, typing [apple](#) could suggest [apple.com](#) and [applepie.com](#), but not [OneBadApple.com](#). Now, if you type [apple](#) in the address field, Safari can not only suggest the OneBadApple site because "apple" is included in the name, but also offer any page in your

Manage Your Top Sites

Safari is Big Brother-ish in a good way: it keeps track of where you've been, and how often and how recently you've been there, and cleverly calculates a Top Sites list stripped of such distractions as sign-in pages and multiple pages from the same site.

The presentation of Top Sites can be deceiving: more than just eye candy, it provides a way to scan multiple, identifiable thumbnails in an instant; you'll wish you could view your bookmarks and history in the same way—if only it could display more than two dozen items.

VIEW YOUR TOP SITES

See your Top Sites by choosing View > Top Sites (Command-Option-1) or by clicking the Top Sites button in the toolbar or bookmarks bar. The sites are displayed in a curved gallery of thumbnails; any page whose content has changed since you last visited is flagged with a can't-miss white star on a blue background (**Figure 10**). Go to a page by clicking its thumbnail; it expands to fill the screen, but is slightly dimmed until it's updated from the site.

***No Top Sites button?** Add the button to the toolbar through the Customize Toolbar command (described in [The Toolbar](#)) or to the bookmarks bar through Safari's Bookmark preference pane (select *Include Top Sites*).*

Safari 5 added buttons at the top of the Top Sites screen (also shown in **Figure 10**) that let you flip between Top Sites and a special History view—but it's not special in a *good* way! While the Top Sites screen shows you the calculated “these are the places you're likely to want to revisit” pages, this History view shows *everything* in your browsing history, in a giant-thumbnail view with no text list beneath it; this makes it very difficult to scan through more than the most recent pages. You're better off viewing your history in the Bookmarks window, as described in [Retrace Your Steps through History](#). The Search History field on the Top Sites and this History screen show results in

Handle Multiple Pages with Tabs

I'm always surprised at the number of users who disdain to use tabs because they assume the feature is a useless add-on. But window tabs are possibly the best thing since sliced bread; come to think of it, they're sort of like sliced window.

Tabs let you keep multiple Web pages open in a single window; this is especially useful on a laptop with limited screen real estate, but it keeps window-juggling to a minimum on any screen. And, tabs provide a convenient organizational tool: you can, for instance, have several windows open, each with a subset of related Web pages in tabs, when you're researching a topic—whether the topic is global warming or which wireless Bluetooth speaker you should order from Amazon.com.

SET YOUR TAB PREFERENCES

Whether you've been using tabs all along, or are about to explore their usefulness, set up your tab preferences. If you have no personal preferences, start with my recommendations for the options:

1. Choose Safari > Preferences and click the Tabs button.
2. From the Open Pages in Tabs Instead of Windows menu, choose Automatically. This option, new in Safari 5, is detailed in [Override a Page's Default Window-Opening Settings](#), ahead in this chapter.
3. Check the Command-Click Opens a Link in a New Tab option. Enter the twenty-first century if you haven't yet; this is *the* standard for opening tabs. (See [Tabs, Tabs, Everywhere](#) to learn how this setting affects more than just links.)
4. Uncheck the When a New Tab or Window Opens, Make It Active checkbox. One of the advantages of tabs is that you can Command-click a dozen links on the page you're reading, lining up a bunch of tabbed pages that you can then read, without having to move back

Tune Out Page Clutter with Reader

Reader is my favorite new feature in Safari 5. It lets you easily read the main text on a Web site by consigning surrounding text, buttons, menus and—*especially* and—ads to a dark oblivion behind a special reading window. In addition, it uses an easy-to-read font with good line spacing, no matter what fonts the page’s designer chose to impress you. As an extra bonus, it grabs all the text of an “article” into a single reading window, even when it’s spread across several pages. Perfect for not only reading, but for printing or emailing, too.

LEARN READER BASICS

Before you learn how to use Reader, you should understand that it doesn’t work on *every* Web page. The page must have what can be considered a main “article,” something that’s identified by Safari as such, based on the background Web page code and the length of the text. (There’s no code that’s specific to Reader; it looks at the standard HTML coding of a page.) So, if you go to something like the home page of Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page) or the New York Times (<http://www.nytimes.com/>), you won’t be able to use Reader, because those pages are a conglomerate of short pieces, none of which qualify as a main article. But, as soon as you click a link to read one of the stories “blurbed” on the top page, you can use Reader. (Amusingly enough, I’ve yet to find a single place on Apple’s Web site that Reader can use!)

How can you tell when Reader’s available? You’ll see a Reader button in the address field (**Figure 16**)—you can’t miss it!

Set Up and Use Bookmarks

Bookmarks are, at heart, simple things: pointers to pages you want to revisit. But their flexibility—the different ways you can store and access them, how they interact with tabs—make them far from simple tools.

I used to keep very few bookmarks on my bookmarks bar, and most of the rest in what amounted to a big pile (nothing in folders or subfolders), with little or no renaming of my bookmarks from their default, often long-winded, titles. I bookmarked a lot of sites, yet rarely used the bookmarks to go back to them because the lack of organization made it too much of a bother—I wound googling to find them again.

Once I started exploring bookmark options and discovered their versatility and power, however, I was converted—and now I'm proselytizing. Knowing how convenient bookmarks have made my browsing has encouraged me to become, and stay, organized—a philosophy I have yet to apply to my closets. Naming a bookmark and putting it in a certain folder when I first save it has become second nature to me in a very short time. (I still have a catch-all bookmark folder for when I'm in a hurry or don't know exactly where something should go—just like I have a junk drawer in the kitchen. And in the dining room. And in almost every other room.)

SET YOUR BOOKMARK PREFERENCES

The Safari Preferences window has an entire pane devoted to Bookmarks (**Figure 19**), and two bookmark-related settings in the RSS pane.

Retrace Your Steps through History

You certainly don't remember all the places you've been on the Web, but Safari does, and it provides a myriad of ways for you to return to almost any site you've ever visited. Maybe you want to return to page that you clicked away from ten links ago (and then jump back to that tenth page); perhaps you want to return to a blog you read last month but didn't bookmark for easy reference. Or maybe you just closed a multi-tabbed window and want it all back. Safari can help you with those situations, and others.

Your overall browsing history is tracked by a series of bookmarks—one for every page you view (yes, every *page*, not every *site!*). These history bookmarks are divided into subsets for each day and are available from the History menu and its submenus, as well as from within the Bookmarks window through the History collection.

There is also a more ephemeral, and very convenient, history recorded for each window and tab you work in.

History bookmarks? *What's the difference between the bookmarks you create and history bookmarks? Just that you create your own bookmarks for pages to which you'd like to return, and put them in various easy-to-access places, while Safari automatically bookmarks every single page you visit and puts them in the History collection.*

DEFINE YOUR HISTORY RANGE

Set the limit for how long your history lasts with the Remove History Items menu in the General pane of Safari Preferences (**Figure 27**). In the absence of any choice between the too-short one-month option and the perhaps too-long one-year option—four to six months would feel about right!—I suggest you choose After One Year.

Know Your Search Options

Safari offers three distinct types of searching: across the vast Web, within the currently displayed Web page, and through the titles and content of the pages in your history and bookmarks collections.

USE THE WEB SEARCH FIELD

Safari has long used Google as its built-in Web search engine of choice: the search field in the toolbar searched through Google. With the Apple-Google honeymoon apparently over, we now have two additional choices for the search field: Yahoo and Bing.

Although Google is still the default choice, you can change it either in the General pane of Safari's Preferences or from the Safari window's toolbar (**Figure 30**).

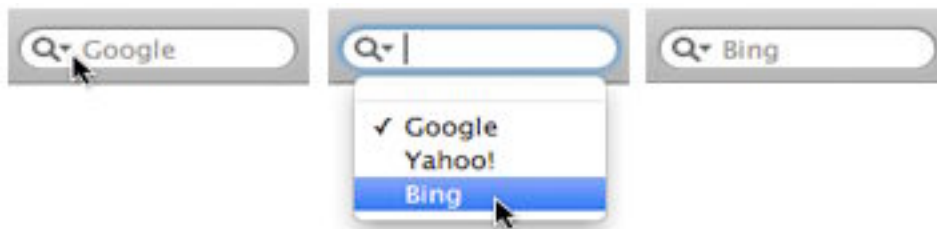


Figure 30: An inactive search field shows the name of the current search engine; it also lists previous search terms if you haven't cleared them (as shown in **Figure 31**). You can easily switch to another search engine by choosing it from the search field's menu.

To use the search field, just type in it and then either press Return to start the search, or select something from the suggestion list that appears. You can activate the field for typing by clicking in it or with Command-Option-F.

Use AutoFill for Forms and Passwords

Safari's AutoFill feature helps fill in the blanks on Web pages—for forms and even user name and password information. It uses information from the sources you've allowed, and it can fill in fields on a Web page one at a time or in one fell swoop.

TURN ON AUTOFILL SOURCES

Safari can gather form-filling information from three sources, but you have to tell it which ones it's allowed to use:

1. Open Safari Preferences and click AutoFill (**Figure 35**).

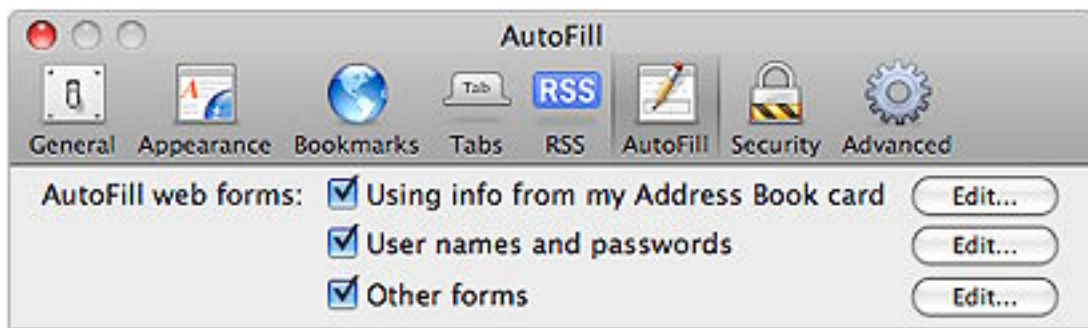


Figure 35: The Edit buttons in AutoFill are somewhat misleading: only the first lets you edit information, by opening your card in Address Book. The other two open lists for which your only editing option is deleting entries.

2. For the most complete AutoFill behavior, check all the choices:
 - **Using info from my Address Book card:** Your “me” card in Address Book can store the frequently asked-for basics of name, address, phone, and email.

This card should have been automatically created as part of your Mac OS X setup. Look in Address Book (it's in your Applications folder) for a card with your name on it, and a small white-on-gray “me” stamp in the lower left corner of your account icon at the top of the card. If there's no “me” card, make a new card, fill

Track Your Downloads

Most of us don't give a second thought to downloads: click a link, download, perhaps have the download auto-open, and move on. A little attention to the details, however, never hurts—and might help.

SET THE DOWNLOAD PREFERENCES

There are three download-related items in the General pane of Safari Preferences (**Figure 37**).

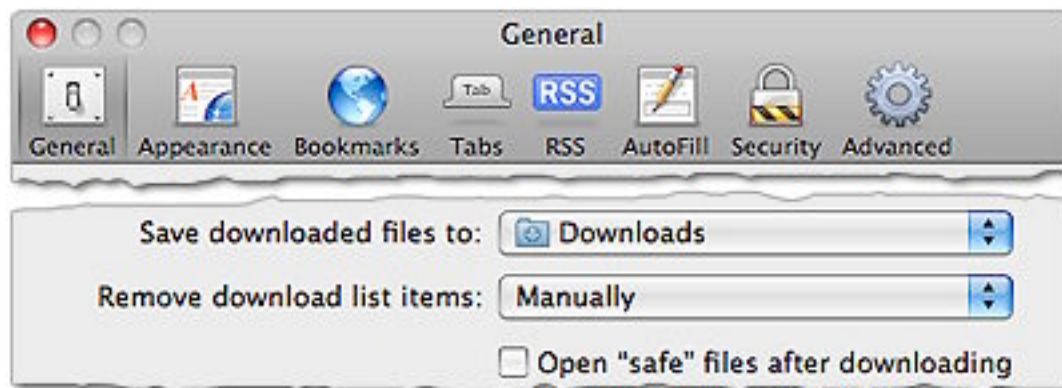


Figure 37: Default (and also the recommended) settings for download-related items in Safari Preferences.

These options are best left at their defaults:

- **Save downloaded files to:** The default Downloads folder is the logical place; the only reason to change the download location is to prevent the commingling of Web downloads and email attachments from Apple Mail, both of which use this folder as a default—but I recommend changing Mail's download folder instead. (Do you think of email attachments as “downloads”?)

Tip: Keep your Downloads folder in the Dock. It bounces once when a download is complete—a nice little alert—and you can use the folder's Grid view to see downloaded items conveniently if you sort it by Date Added. (Control-click the Downloads Dock icon for its contextual menu, and choose Grid; open the contextual menu again, and choose Date Added.)

Scan Site Highlights with RSS Feeds

An *RSS* (“Really Simple Syndication”) feed lets you check out a Web site’s contents the way you might scan newspaper headlines, quickly deciding which information you want to read in depth—if the site’s designer has included RSS capabilities.

Most RSS feeds offer the first few lines or a hand-tooled synopsis of an item, with a Read More link to get you to the full version; some include the full text of each article. In both cases, however, you get a series of text-based items without the rest of the Web site, with its graphics, buttons, and links (and ads).

In Safari, you can view RSS feeds whenever you’re on a site that offers them, or you can store your favorite sources as bookmarks so you can return to them for frequent updates.

You can also use Apple Mail to handle RSS feeds, and there are several utilities—called “readers”—that offer different, and often better, ways to juggle hundreds of feeds, if you are so inclined.

RSS reader vs. Reader: Thanks, Apple, for muddying the Safari-terminology water! A “reader” with a lowercase R is what you use to view RSS feeds. But “Reader” with a capital R is Safari 5’s new Reader feature (see [Tune Out Page Clutter with Reader](#)).

SET YOUR RSS PREFERENCES

Safari offers many preference settings for handling RSS feeds. The RSS pane of Safari’s preferences starts with the Default RSS reader pop-up menu, which changes based on which readers you have available (**Figure 40**). It always includes Safari and Mail; in addition, it lists any other readers on your Mac. (It seems that Safari can find them almost anywhere on your drive; the readers shown in the figure were all still in my Downloads folder!)

Expand Safari's Capabilities with Extensions

Extensions are small programs that extend Safari's functionality by adding missing features or improving existing ones. The addition could be as tiny as adding a Reload button to the toolbar (if you don't like using the one inside the address field). Or, it could be much larger, and more useful: blocking annoying ads from appearing, letting you navigate from one link to another on a page using just the keyboard, providing previews of Web pages on a Google results page—or adding an entire bar at the top of the Safari window to display a news feed or Twitter messages. The extensions feature, long demanded by many users, was introduced in Safari 5.0.1.

Apple's Extensions Gallery is the official hub for Safari extensions, but others are available directly from developers.

INSTALL EXTENSIONS

You can download and install extensions both from Apple's Extensions Gallery and from developers' Web sites. What's the difference? A layer of security. Extensions in the Gallery get a signed digital certificate from Apple, which ensures that any updates come from the original developer. Also, through a practice called "sandboxing," Gallery extensions are designed so that they can interact only with Safari, and can't talk to your operating system or secretly give information to Web sites (some extensions are *supposed* to provide Web sites with information—but not secretly).

Safari's extensions capability is turned on by default, but to make sure you have it turned on:

1. In Safari, choose Safari > Preferences and click the Extensions button.
2. Click the Off/On button to On if necessary.

Appendix A: Update to Safari 5

Updating from Safari 4 to Safari 5 is a cinch, but you must meet the basic system requirements—which means if you’re using Mac OS X 10.4 .x Tiger, you must stay with Safari 4. If you’re using 10.5.x Leopard or 10.6.x Snow Leopard, you may have to update your operating system software to the minimum version that supports Safari 5.

And, Safari itself must be updated at intervals: the initial release of Safari 5 was updated to version 5.0.1 within weeks, and you need at least that version in order to use extensions.

Automatic software updating is controlled by the Software Update preference pane, where you can set how often the Mac checks for updates and whether downloading them happens automatically or waits for your approval. So, depending on your settings, your Mac may have already guided you through the download, and even the installation, of your required system updates and Safari 5.

If your settings are such that you manually check for and download updates (and you’ve avoided some of them), this section tells you how to upgrade to Safari 5.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

The minimum system-version requirements for Safari 5 are:

- Snow Leopard: 10.6.2
- Leopard: 10.5.8

Check your current system version by choosing Apple () > About This Mac; the version number appears in the About window.

The Mac won’t install Safari 5 unless your system software is updated to accommodate it. If you’re behind the curve on your version of Mac OS X, set aside a goodly chunk of time for updating: the combination

Appendix B: Trackpad Gestures in Safari

I moved up to a new MacBook Pro with the latest gesture-enabled trackpad features at about the same time Safari 5 came out, and I was looking forward to a swipe-gesture method of moving from one tab to another. So far, that's still not possible. But there are many other trackpad gestures that you can use in Safari; they're noted in their topic areas throughout this book, and rounded up here.

The trackpad gestures that are available to you depends on which laptop model you have. Check the Trackpad preferences in System Preferences to see if you have, for instance, three-finger swiping available and to turn on (or off) the various trackpad capabilities. (You have a Magic Trackpad? It has all the capabilities mentioned here, but they still must be enabled in Trackpad preferences.)

- **Scroll the window:** As with all other windows on your Mac, you can use a two-finger swipe to scroll vertically. Recent-model trackpads, with “inertial scrolling,” keep the window scrolling, finally slowing it to a stop, after your fingers are off the trackpad. (This is particularly handy when you're looking through the thumbnails in the Bookmarks window.)
- **Increase/decrease the size of the window contents:** When you pinch your fingers apart or together, you won't see a smooth change in size as you do on the iPad, iPhone, or iPod touch; you'll get the same step-up or step-down in size as when you choose View > Zoom In (Command-plus) or Zoom Out (Command-minus). And, as with those commands, the Zoom Text Only setting—described in [Supersize Me](#)—affects whether images change size, too.
- **Move to the previous or next page:** You can use three-finger swipes instead of clicking the Back and Forward buttons (detailed in [Move between Windows, Tabs, or Recent Pages](#)). A left swipe is Back/Previous and a right swipe is Forward/Next; the Back or Forward button highlights as you swipe.

Appendix C: Create a Web-Clip Widget

If you use Dashboard a lot, you'll find it convenient to have a Web page snippet, or "clip," as a widget for quick reference, whether it's tomorrow's weather, today's stocks, or something like a joke-of-the-day. (Don't use Dashboard? Don't know what it is? It's an application, on your Dock by default but also in your Applications folder, that displays a bunch of tiny applications, called *widgets*, that do everything from tracking the weather to checking what's in your local movie theaters to—of course—letting you play games.)

To create a widget from part of a Web page:

1. Go to the Web page you want to clip.
2. Choose File > Open in Dashboard, or click the Open in Dashboard button if it's on your toolbar.

The Web page dims and a large bright patch follows your cursor around (**Figure 54**).

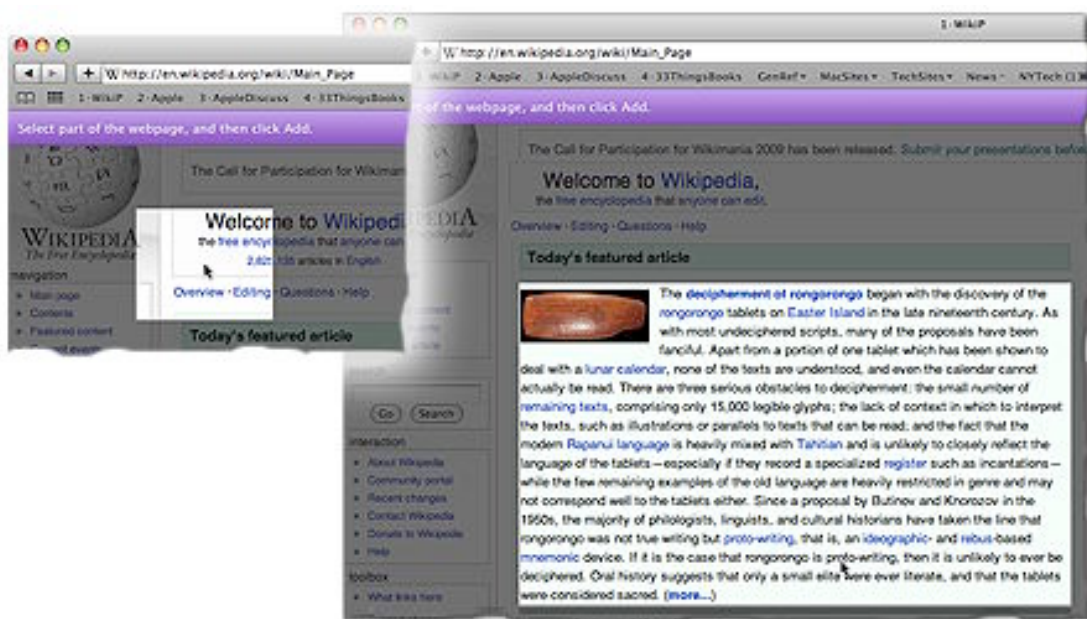


Figure 54: When you're in "clip" mode (left), a white rectangle follows the cursor and snaps to an article's size when you pass over it (right).

About This Book

Thank you for purchasing this Take Control book. We hope you find it both useful and enjoyable to read. We welcome your comments at tc-comments@tidbits.com.

EBOOK EXTRAS

You can [access extras related to this ebook](#) on the Web. Once you're on the ebook's Take Control Extras page, you can:

- Download any available new version of the ebook for free, or buy a subsequent edition at a discount.
- Download various formats, including PDF and—usually—EPUB and Mobipocket. (Learn about reading this ebook on handheld devices at <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/device-advice>.)
- Read postings to the ebook's blog. These may include new information and tips, as well as links to author interviews. At the top of the blog, you can also see any update plans for the ebook.
- Get a discount when you order a print copy of the ebook.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

It's hard to believe that I've been writing about computers since before the Mac was born. There were personal computers before the Mac? Ah, yes, my first: the Timex-Sinclair with its 2K of RAM (that's *not* a typo, and it was a thrill when the 16K RAM pack became available) and cassette-tape storage. Good old days? Not by a long shot!

But I've been writing about the Mac since it arrived on the scene—hundreds of print articles, twenty or so (paper) books, and now electronic-based dissemination of Mac info—and haven't tired of it yet (and I tend to become bored rather easily). We generally have about three times as many computers in the house as people, along with such necessities as a Time Capsule, an iPad, iPod touches, and so on—and are at this point eagerly awaiting the Verizon iPhones.

In addition to a university-professor husband whose Macophilia rivals my own, I have two grown sons occasionally back in the all-too-briefly emptied nest due to the vicissitudes of the economy and job market—although I’m not sure how at one point they coordinated moving back the exact same *week*. We live in New Jersey, just a few miles outside of Manhattan (a statement I add for the comfort of my New-York-born-and-raised husband—and you should understand that when we say “New York” around here, it means New York City, not the state).

AUTHOR’S ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

If I say “thanks, as usual” that doesn’t diminish the gratitude. So, thanks, as usual, to Tonya Engst for her direction and editing. And her friendship.

Thanks also to Michael E. Cohen—I don’t know what the E stands for (I keep forgetting to ask)—for his round of editing. I hope he enjoyed the new collaboration as much as I did. How can you not love an editor who muses in a margin note: *I wonder if the One Ring was Sauron’s horcrux?*

Thanks also to Dr. Peter Chan—who won’t be reading this since he’s a Windows guy—for putting my wrist back together so I could type.

SHAMELESS PLUG

My other current Take Control book is *Take Control of Fonts in Snow Leopard*. Drips and drabs of useful information go into my blogs <http://mactipster.wordpress.com/>, and <http://ipadpunditry.wordpress.com/>. What little is left of my life can be followed on Twitter, where I’m cleverly known as SharonZardetto.

ABOUT THE PUBLISHER

Publishers Adam and Tonya Engst have been creating Apple-related content since they started the online newsletter *TidBITS*, in 1990. In *TidBITS*, you can find the latest Apple news, plus read reviews, opinions, and more (<http://www.tidbits.com/>).

Adam and Tonya are known in the Apple world as writers, editors, and speakers. They are also parents to Tristan, who thinks ebooks about clipper ships and castles would be cool.



PRODUCTION CREDITS

Take Control logo: Jeff Tolbert

Cover design: Jon Hersh

Editing support: Michael E. Cohen

Production assistance: Morgen Jahnke

Editor in Chief: Tonya Engst

Publisher: Adam Engst

Copyright and Fine Print

Take Control of Safari 5

ISBN: 978-1-61542-095-7

Copyright © Sharon Zardetto, 2010. All rights reserved.

TidBITS Publishing Inc.

50 Hickory Road

Ithaca, NY 14850 USA

<http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/>

Take Control electronic books help readers regain a measure of control in an oftentimes out-of-control universe. Take Control ebooks also streamline the publication process so that information about quickly changing technical topics can be published while it's still relevant and accurate.

This electronic book doesn't use copy protection because copy protection makes life harder for everyone. So we ask a favor of our readers. If you want to share your copy of this ebook with a friend, please do so as you would a physical book, meaning that if your friend uses it regularly, he or she should buy a copy. Your support makes it possible for future Take Control ebooks to hit the Internet long before you'd find the same information in a printed book. Plus, if you buy the ebook, you're entitled to any free updates that become available.

Although the author and TidBITS Publishing Inc. have made a reasonable effort to ensure the accuracy of the information herein, they assume no responsibility for errors or omissions. The information in this ebook is distributed "As Is," without warranty of any kind. Neither TidBITS Publishing Inc. nor the author shall be liable to any person or entity for any special, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages, including without limitation lost revenues or lost profits, that may result (or that are alleged to result) from the use of these materials. In other words, use this information at your own risk.

Many of the designations used to distinguish products and services are claimed as trademarks or service marks. Any trademarks, service marks, product names, or named features that appear in this title are assumed to be the property of their respective owners. All product names and services are used in an editorial fashion only, with no intention of infringement of the trademark. No such use, or the use of any trade name, is meant to convey endorsement or other affiliation with this title.

This title is an independent publication and has not been authorized, sponsored, or otherwise approved by Apple Inc. Because of the nature of this title, it uses terms that are trademarks or registered trademarks of Apple Inc.; to view a complete list of the trademarks and the registered trademarks of Apple Inc., you can visit <http://www.apple.com/legal/trademark/appletmlist.html>.

Featured Titles

Click any book title below or [visit our Web catalog](#) to add more ebooks to your Take Control collection!

Take Control of Apple Mail in Snow Leopard (Joe Kissell): Go under the hood with the new (and old) features in Apple Mail 4. Joe gets you going and helps you get the most out of Mail. \$15

Take Control of Easy Mac Backups (Joe Kissell): Devise a rock-solid backup strategy so you can restore quickly and completely, no matter what the catastrophe. \$10

Take Control of Exploring and Customizing Snow Leopard (Matt Neuburg): Learn how to customize your Mac's interface, navigate quickly around your disk, and use special features like a pro. \$15

Take Control of Fonts in Snow Leopard (Sharon Zardetto): Install, organize, and use fonts with ease, whether you're working in one of Apple's programs, Microsoft Word, or Adobe's Creative Suite. \$15

Take Control of iTunes 10: The FAQ (Kirk McElhearn): This FAQ-style ebook helps you wrap iTunes around your little finger and enjoy your media more. \$10

Take Control of MobileMe (Joe Kissell): This ebook helps you make the most of the oodles of features provided by a \$99-per-year MobileMe subscription. \$10

Take Control of Passwords in Mac OS X (Joe Kissell): Create and manage strong passwords that keep your data safe without taxing your memory! \$10

Take Control of Upgrading to Snow Leopard (Joe Kissell): Friendly, expert steps help you to avoid trouble, understand what's going on, and recover from any problems that might arise. \$10

Take Control of Users & Accounts in Snow Leopard (Kirk McElhearn): Find straightforward explanations of how to create, manage, and work with—and among—user accounts. \$10