

Chapter Six

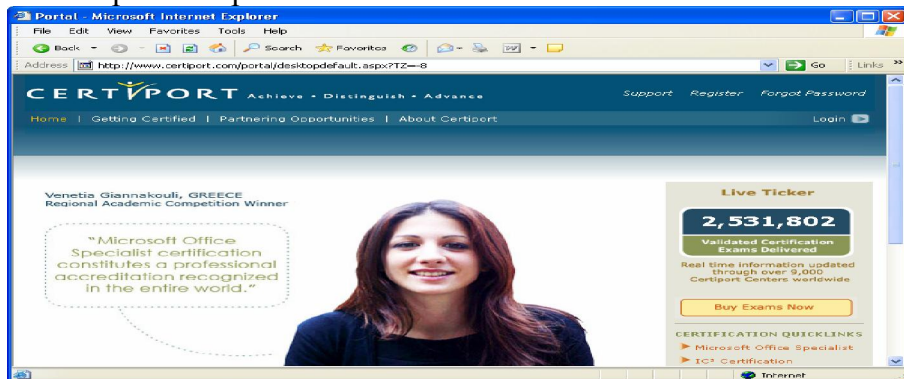
Web Browsers

6-1 What is a web browser

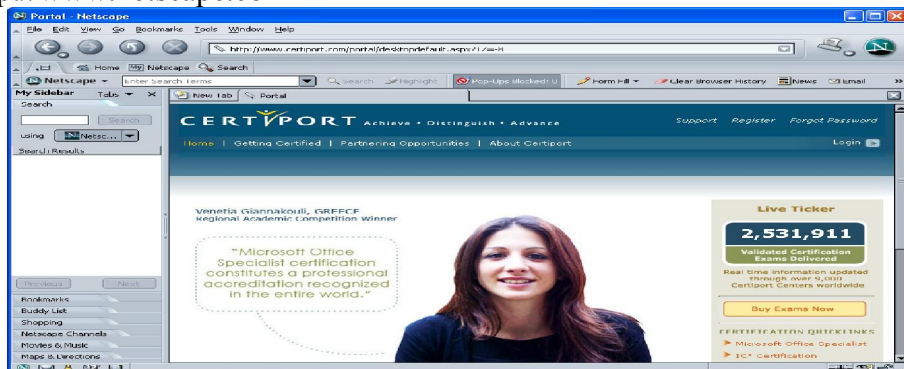
To access web documents, you need a software program called a web browser.

As with many other types of software, there are many World Wide Web browsers. Web browsers are interactive access programs utilized to see data on the web with graphical interfaces to display pictures, text and animations. Additionally, applications viewed through browsers become “point and click” applications. Some of the popular web browsers include:

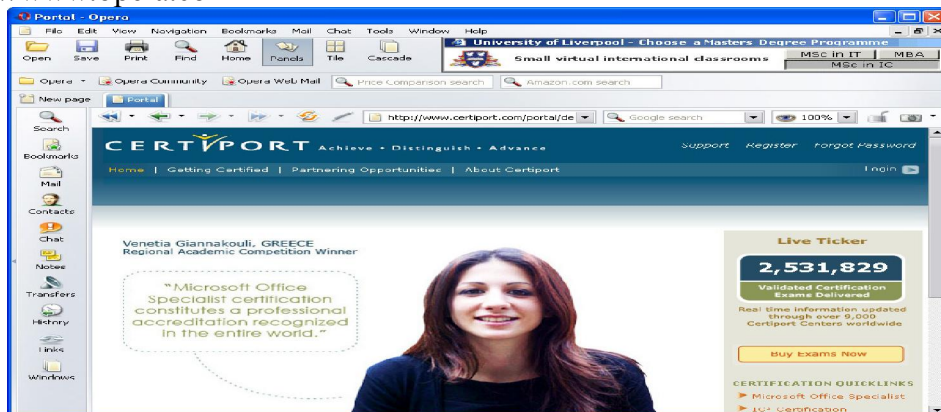
Microsoft Internet Explorer <http://www.microsoft.com/ie/>



Netscape <http://www.netscape.com>




Opera <http://www.opera.com>



6-2 Using a web browser

In order to go online to the Internet, you need to have a web browser installed on your system. Every machine that comes with Windows installed also has Internet Explorer installed. To start Internet Explorer, use one of the following methods:

- 1- Click on Start, All Programs, and then Internet Explorer.
- 2- Double-click on the icon  on the desktop.
- 3- Click on the icon on the Quick Launch toolbar.

Once the web browser starts, the first page you should see is the home page. The default setting for Internet Explorer is www.msn.com but this can be changed to a different web page

6-3 Identifying secure sites

When you visit a web site that requests information from you via an online form, there is the possibility that the information can be intercepted and used for undesirable purposes. You could use a handle or code name or alias name without providing your personal information if you want to prevent the web site from knowing your real name.

service for mail purposes; providing your actual e-mail address could result in you receiving numerous unsolicited e-mail. Another example is when you are making an online purchase using your credit card, the card information could be stolen and used for illegal purposes.

On the Internet one uses encrypted transfer for online transactions where your private information needs to be protected. Basically, Internet security boils down to three issues:

- 1- Be sure that the e-commerce web site you are visiting really belongs to the company it says it does.
- 2-Will the information you submit be “captured” enrooted by other parties to use for other illicit Purposes.
- 3-Will the e-commerce company itself use your information for other purposes than just the current e-commerce transaction?

6-4 Looking at E- Commerce and Encryption

The encryption process in an e-commerce transaction is illustrated in the following . Once you have added the products that you want to buy to your shopping cart and selected to “check out”, the web server will typically send you a page with a form to capture your personal information. This is done over a secure connection (SSL - <https://>). Behind the scenes, the server has sent the page and a public key.

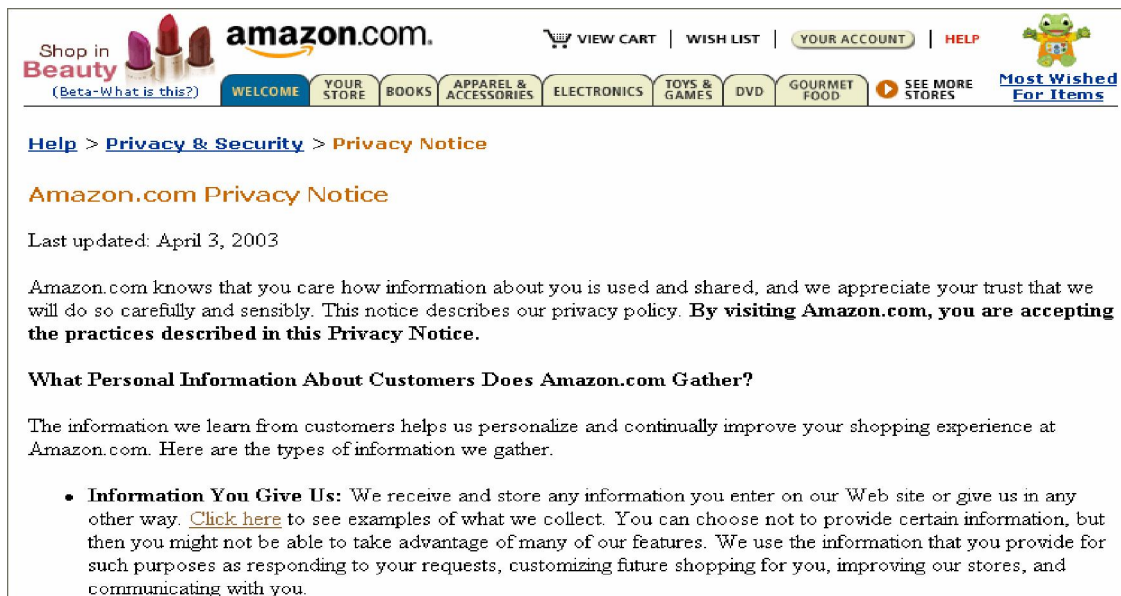
Once you complete the form and submit it, your browser will first encrypt the form information using the public key. If the order form containing your personal information and credit card data were intercepted at this point, it would be meaningless because you need the private key to decrypt the information. The e-commerce web server will then use its matching private key to decrypt the form information so that the company can process your order.

6-5 Understanding privacy policy statements

Once an organization or company has captured your information using a secure connection, there is still another concern : will the company use your information for purposes other than for the purchase you made?

Most reputable companies recognize this concern. They want to ensure that you will continue to be a customer. So they promise to protect the privacy of your information and restrict its use. The company's privacy policy is usually available on their web site, and should provide you information about what they plan to do with any information they capture about you.

Be sure to read this privacy statement prior to filling out any forms on that web site. If you are sure you want to proceed, consider using an alternate e-mail address such as one from a web-based e-mail program instead of the one you may use for other personal mail.



The screenshot shows the Amazon.com website header with navigation links like 'Shop in Beauty', 'VIEW CART', 'WISH LIST', 'YOUR ACCOUNT', and 'HELP'. Below the header is a breadcrumb trail: 'Help > Privacy & Security > Privacy Notice'. The main heading is 'Amazon.com Privacy Notice', followed by the date 'Last updated: April 3, 2003'. The text states: 'Amazon.com knows that you care how information about you is used and shared, and we appreciate your trust that we will do so carefully and sensibly. This notice describes our privacy policy. **By visiting Amazon.com, you are accepting the practices described in this Privacy Notice.**' A section titled 'What Personal Information About Customers Does Amazon.com Gather?' follows, with the text: 'The information we learn from customers helps us personalize and continually improve your shopping experience at Amazon.com. Here are the types of information we gather.' A bulleted list under 'Information You Give Us' explains that Amazon receives and stores information entered on the website or provided in other ways, and that users can choose not to provide certain information, though this might limit their ability to use some features. The list also mentions that the information is used for responding to requests, customizing future shopping, improving stores, and communicating.

6-6 Subscribing to a newsgroup

A newsgroup is a public Internet messaging service. It covers nearly 100,000+ forums. A newsgroup forum is similar to a list in that each forum is dedicated to a specific topic. A newsgroup forum differs from a list in that you do not automatically receive all posts — you actually have to go to the forum and read the posts. A newsgroup may also be called a bulletin board as it provides a common area for people to post or read information. You do need special software, called a newsgroup reader, to read the posts. Most e-mail programs will also include a newsgroup reader.

There is a hierarchical convention for naming forums and subforums. For example, comp.security.miscellaneous is a subforum of the security topic and deals with miscellaneous security issues. The security topic is part of the main topic which covers all forums related to computer topics. There are ten main Usenet topics:

Alt Collection of newsgroups
Sci Scientific research groups
Biz Business related subjects
Soc Social issues groups

News	Usenet newsgroup
Talk	Controversial topics
Rec	Hobby, recreational groups
Humanities	Art discussion groups
Comp	Computer-related groups
Misc	Groups that do not belong to any of the above.

As with e-mail, you need an account with a Newsgroup server (that uses Network News Transfer Protocol or NNTP). Your ISP will typically include a newsgroup account when you sign up. Usually the ISP will only have a subset of the 40,000 newsgroup forums available on their newsgroup server.