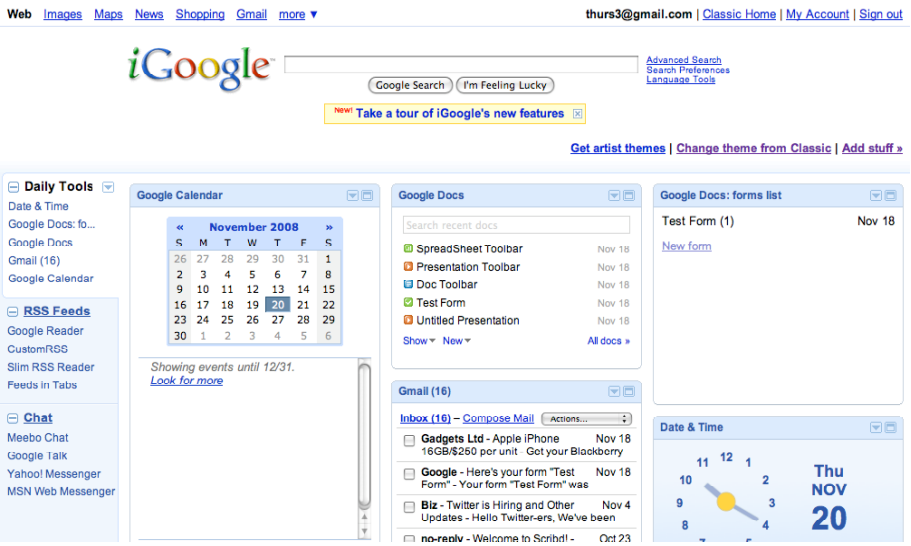
What is an iGoogle Personalized Homepage?

iGoogle allows you to arrange your "perfect" home page. You can put just about anything on it and access it from any computer connected to the Internet. Your iGoogle page allows you complete access and preview of Google's Gmail, calendar, customized RSS feeds, and third-party add-in gadgets.



Why Use it?

- Organize large amounts of information in one place
- Arrange information by tabs based on genre or preference
- Accessible from any computer connected to the web
- Work on files anywhere, any time , from any computer
- Get quick feedback from multiple people – simultaneously and asynchronously

Creating an iGoogle Account

In order to use iGoogle you will need to register for a Google account. If you already have one through Gmail then you can use the same login. If you do not have a Gmail account you may want to consider signing up for one so you can also use the Gmail and Calendar feature within Google. Otherwise you can just sign up for a Google account with an email address of your choice and a password. This type of account does not provide the use of Gmail.

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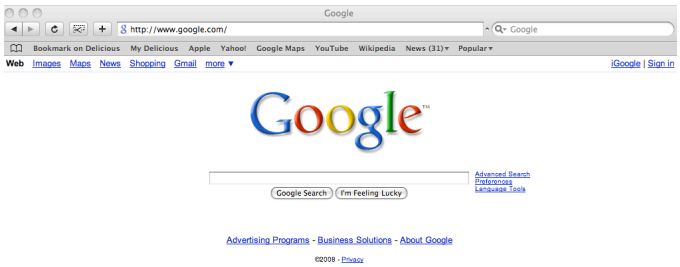
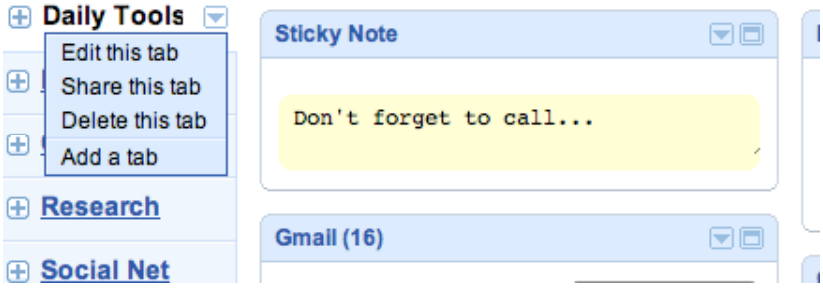
1. Go to http://www.google.com/. In the upper left-hand corner, there should be a link that says iGoogle".

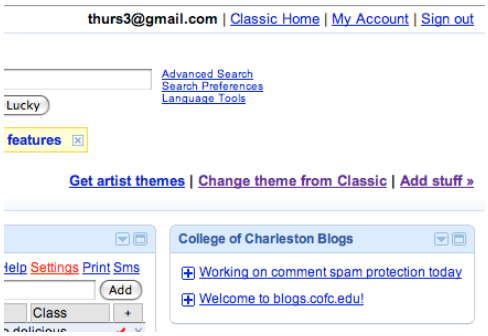


2. Click on the link and login using your Gmail account.

3. Once you are logged in you will see various different boxes (i.e. news, weather, horoscope, etc). You can move your page contents by dragging the boxes around to wherever you like on the page.

4. On the left of your screen, click on the drop down arrow to select **"Add a Tab"**. You can click it, give it a name, and decide whether to check or uncheck the "I'm feeling lucky" box.





5. On the top right of your screen, click **"Add Stuff".** This will take you to a page where you can search for add-ons in different categories.

6. **Search for gadgets**. For instance, "News". Various items will appear. If you want "BBC News", click on the link. This allows you to view information about it, as well as a screenshot. If, after viewing, you want to add it to your page, click the button that says "**Add it now**".

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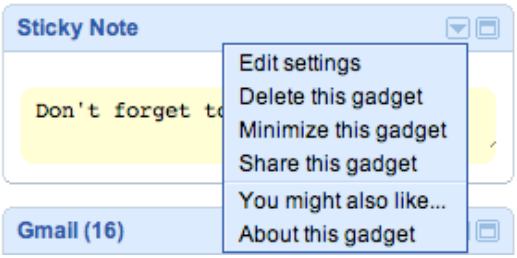
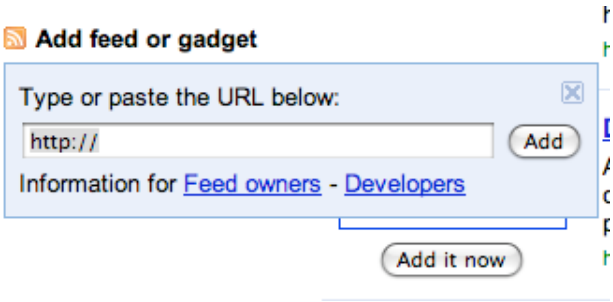


7. You can always remove a gadget **by clicking the dropdown arrow** and selecting **delete this gadget**.

Tips

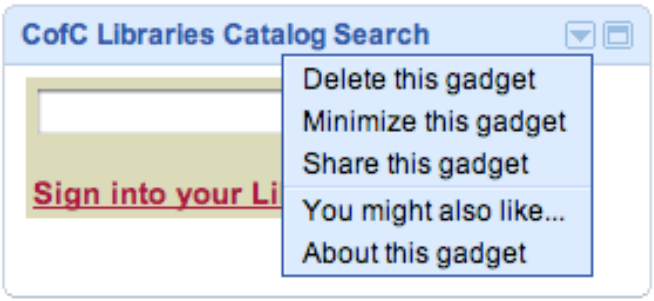
- Most of the time when you type in a name for your tab, it will automatically add content, depending on the tab's name. Uncheck the "I'm feeling lucky" box if you'd rather start from scratch and add your own gadgets.

- Use the "Add stuff" page wisely. The search bar at the top let's you find stuff to add to your page. You can click the "Add feed or gadget" link on the lower left of your screen to add a link of your own. This allows you to add an RSS feed of a site or blog that you like that you wouldn't be able to find in the search results.



- A fairly new feature is **Themes**. The link is on the right side of the page, next to **Add Stuff**. When you click on this, it will come up with a box with several different themes to choose from. Click on the one you like and save it. You can then enter your zip code/hometown, and it will make the theme and colors change according to the time of day.

- You can also share gadgets. Click on the drop down arrow and select “Share this gadget”. You can email the gadget or select the “Copy and paste link”.



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Useful Widgets

Communication

- Skype: http://www.google.com/ig/adde?moduleurl=http://yourjovi.googlepages.com/skype.xml&source=imag
- Meebo: http://www.google.com/ig/adde?moduleurl=http://mortalkombat4.googlepages.com/meebo.xml&source=imag

Organization

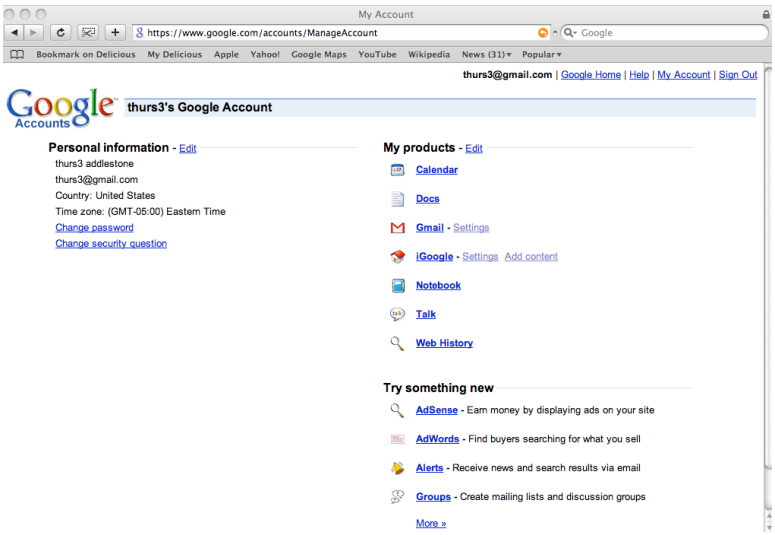
- Hyperlinks list: http://www.google.com/ig/adde?moduleurl=http://randyscott777.googlepages.com/Hyperlinks.xml&source=imag

Research:

- MIT: http://www.google.com/ig/adde?moduleurl=http://libraries.mit.edu/gadgets/mit-libraries.xml&source=imag

My Account

From your iGoogle page click on "My Account" located in the top right corner to change your personal information or see what other services are available.



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