

PC Users Group

General Search Engine Info

www.bing.com Bing and Yahoo have now merged so if you search one, you get the same results from the other. Bing on the other hand is fancier and has more options. This has only been out a short time and already a contender for one of the most popular engines. It does a great job of returning great relevant links.

Bing has a great map area, and photo view.... But it is just now building the street level view. Large cities are done now, unknown when others will be posted.

Bing also has a great TRAVEL area. It searches many of the travel sites and returns a price chart on each site.

www.blekko.com This is a new site and still in beta testing right now. What is different here is the use of "slash tags" to make it work like a +/- . For example if you did a search and enter Microsoft/blogs --- It will show results of blogs from Microsoft. Reverse it and enter a search of Microsoft\blogs --- Now it will search Microsoft but NOT show anything about blogs. If you add (/date) it will put your results in date order.

This site reminds me of just a change on old search rules like putting the terms in Quotes to return results dealing with that exact term, or use of the minus key to delete items. Search on (bears -Teddy) will NOT show any results on Teddy Bears.

www.dogpile.com This is a good site if you search on different search engines often. What is different with this engine is when you search, in the background, this one shows you the results found from Google, Yahoo, Bing, and Ask at the same time. It also sorts the results by relevance. This might not be a pretty site but worth a look.

www.duckduckgo.com This site is clean and very businesslike to me. This is more for research type search, looking for white papers or reports, and I think a smaller results total on your hits. This will list business documents direct from the business, without slants. This is a good tool for fact-finding, doing conversions, making calculations, and so on.

www.google.com Google = Establishment! It is common now to use the name as a verb. It has become the gold standard of search engines. It is faster than most search engines because it maintains its vast database in house. Google uses a device called "spiders" to constantly searching the Net for new data. The spider will read a web page, determine what is real / relevant and rank the page.

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There is added tools one the left side of the search results page. You can change your search results by relevance – timeline – and other options. The goal of most webmasters is to get a search result listing on page one of Google! Nobody looks at who is on page 58! Also, pages listed on the far right or the ones with a tinted background are PAID listing. They buy that place.

www.deepdive.com This site is different... They charge you to use it. What they provide is a way to search academic & trade journals that are often shielded from the regular search engines. They deal mainly in PDF files and you get to D/L a complete article or report. If you need this service, here it is, just not for the average person.

www.archive.org With the speed that the Internet goes, many sites age and close rather fast. A lot of good information is lost when this happens. Archive tries to preserve as much as it can of old web sites / information. This is interesting to look back at different company sites. All you do is enter an address... for example ebay.com and click the time machine. Funny to see what the site looked like way back when.

www.scholar.google.com The special side of this engine is that it is used to search for scholarly articles, patent information, legal opinions, and legal journals. This is a great site if you are doing any type of research papers or looking for patient information.

www.ask.com The one claim to fame this site has is that instead of putting in search terms, you enter your search in the form of a question. Just type your search question out in plain English.

www.wolframalpha.com This is a fun site for me. Rather than searching a term and getting a website, this place gives information. It is listed as a computation engine. It does so much it is hard for me to describe. Best I can say is try it... open the site and then hit examples, and you will see a list of some of the areas of info offered. Try this one and see where you end up!

<http://www.wolframalpha.com/screencast/introducingwolframalpha.html>

This is a YouTube demo that will show you the power.....

Joe