

TIPS & TRICKS

DADE COUNTY TECHNOLOGY

Week of November 4, 2013

Google Search

In 1995, a 22-year-old Larry Page is considering Stanford, where 21-year-old Sergey Brin is assigned to show him around the campus. The following year, the two begin collaborating on a search engine called “BackRub” which operates on the Stanford servers for more than a year. In 1997, Google.com is registered in mid-September. The name is a play on the word “googol,” a mathematical term for the number represented by the numeral 1 followed by 100 zeroes.

The original idea behind BackRub (Google) was that the importance of web pages can be defined by how the pages link and backlink between one another. This was a new idea on “crawling” the web... and now... almost 20 years later Google.com is how most of the world searches the web.

Here’s a link to a graphical look at how Google works:

http://www.google.com/intl/en_us/insidesearch/howsearchworks/thestory/.

Below are some helpful things to know about searching with Google (some more for fun than anything else)...

Conversions

Type in **miles to kilometers** and Google will return the result that **1 mile = 1.60934 kilometers**. The result will appear in a conversion utility where you can alter the amount of units to be converted and also the type of units to convert between. You can also type a specific amount such as **6 miles in kilometers** and the result appears in the same conversion utility.

The conversion utility can handle distances, weights, amounts, currency, etc... Give it a try...

Equations

Typing in an equations such as **2+5** or **2 + 5** will bring up the result of **7** inside a calculator utility.

The equation calculator also understands order of operations, the use of parentheses, and mathematical terms like sine and cosine... for example... $(5*8)-(9/(\cos(3)))$ will return the result **49.0909779932**.

Tip Calculator

Simply type in a question like **what is tip for 92** and you will get tip information for \$92.00 at 15% for 1 person paying in a tip calculator where all three fields can be manipulated. Now... you probably won't have your laptop at the table with you but you can use this one on your mobile device.

Time and Date

Simply searching for **time** will return the current local time. To specify a particular location, add the city or zip code to the search, for example... **time 30165** or **time armuchee** will return the time and date for Rome, GA and Armuchee, GA respectively.

Movies

Want to know what movies are showing in your area? Type in **movies** followed by your zip code, for example... **movies 30752** and you'll get movies playing near Trenton, GA.

Weather

You can check local weather by typing **weather** and for a specific location by adding the zip code, for example... **weather 30752** will return the weather for Trenton, GA.

Sports Scores and Schedules

Typing in **alabama football** will show the latest game results (in real time) and also display a schedule for the season.

Tracking

Type in a tracking number and Google will try to track the package for you.

Definitions

Type **define** followed by a word and Google will give you a definition of the word, for example... **define googol** returns the following information: equivalent to ten raised to the power of a hundred (10^{100}). You also get the pronunciation for the word (in written form and a sound file demonstrating its pronunciation), information on the origin of the word, an option to translate the word into one of many different languages, and usage information for the word over time.

Spelling

Not sure exactly how to spell a word? Google has a built in spell checker that will let you know that you've misspelled the word. Google will show you the results for the word as it thinks you meant to spell it but also gives you an option to display results for how you spelt the word, for example... typing **define elepant** will try to show results for **elephant**... and also display a link asking if you want to "*Search for elepant.*"

Location

You can perform a location search on a particular business or type of business by typing the name or type of business followed by the city name or zip code, for example... typing **CVS 30752** will return information specific to the CVS in Trenton, GA. Typing **sticky fingers chattanooga** will return information specific to Sticky Finger locations in the Chattanooga, TN area. Typing **barbecue chattanooga** will return results about various barbecue restaurants in the Chattanooga, TN area.

Sunrise/Sunset

Typing **sunrise** or **sunset** will return the local time for sunrise or sunset. Adding a zip code or city name will return the information specific to the location searched for.

Addresses

Typing in an address will return a map displaying the location, for example... **251 melissa drive, trenton, ga** shows a map to my old house in Trenton. NOTE: Some locations will have a Street View which may be out of date. The Street View of this sample address shows the house from many years ago... the Image Date on the picture is July of 2007.

+ and - Operators

The + sign followed by a term tells Google to only display results that have the term present while the - sign followed by a term tells Google to display results that do not include the term, for example... searching for **elvis** returns results for Elvis Presley, Elvis Costello, etc... Searching for **elvis -presley** returns some images for Elvis Presley but the search results are for Elvis Duran, Elvis Mitchell, etc... Searching for **elvis +costello** returns search results for Elvis Costello. NOTE: the + and - sign should be followed by the word with no spaces between, for example... **elvis -presley** and not **elvis - presley**.

Site Search

You can narrow down your searches by defining particular sites you want to search, for

example... searching for **chris greene** returns results for chicago-based saxophonist, a professor of atomic theory at Purdue University, a tv anchor for AMTV, an actor, a center for the Denver Cutthroats hockey team, a doctor, etc... If you add a site reference to your search you can find our own tech specialist/football coach Chris Greene... **chris greene site:dadecountyschools.org**. This shows results for **chris** and **greene** on the dadecountyschools.org web site. If you want to see results where **chris** and **greene** are listed together as a first and last name, put quotes around them, for example... **"chris greene" site:dadecountyschools.org**. Without the quotes you will get hits like *Greene*, *Christopher* and a page that lists *Chance*, *Chris* and *Greene*, Jan on the same page.

Searching in the URL Field

If you have Chrome up and running you can just type your search term/s in the URL line (you know... where you would normally type www.google.com). Chrome will search Google and display results. NOTE: If you do the same in Internet Explorer, it searches Bing.com

Setting Reading Levels for Results

Search results can be set to display for different reading levels: Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, or All. Here is a link to a page that discusses this feature and also has a video tutorial... <https://support.google.com/websearch/answer/1095407?hl=en>.

Help Your Students Become Searchers

Check out http://www.google.com/intl/en_us/insidesearch/searcheducation/index.html to find Lesson Plans, Online Lessons, Live Trainings, etc... for becoming better web searchers. There is also a very neat section on this page called A Google A Day (<http://www.agoogleaday.com/#game=started>).

Happy Searching!!!

Please send any questions or comments about this installment of Tips & Tricks to technology@dadecs.org.