

# Cobourg Internet

Newsletter to Customers

## November #10

*Customer Only page*

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[www.cobourginternet.com/webnewsletters.htm](http://www.cobourginternet.com/webnewsletters.htm) Bookmark it so you can come back at other times.

## Web design technique - Changes

When the Internet was first thought of, you had to type words to get a response. No mouse, no pictures and very slow. Then Windows (and Macs) and a browser were invented. HTML was also invented to create web pages. HTML means Hyper Text Markup language - in plain language this means computer language to use with links. This was approx 1993 - not that long ago! This included many but not all of the features used today. (By the way, web standards are set by *W3C The World Wide Web Consortium* - and believe it or not, Microsoft is moving towards using the standards instead of going their own way).

As pictures and graphics became more popular, tables were used to hold items in place and to set white spaces. But this lacked sophisticated ways to manage sizing, spaces, layouts, borders etc. Then CSS (Cascaded style sheets) were introduced which allowed much better control.

Most Cobourg Internet sites use a mix of tables and CSS to control layout but now the Internet world is moving to using CSS exclusively (almost no tables used) and software used to create web pages (like Dreamweaver) will soon no longer be available with tools to allow tables to be used for layout. [There's a new word I learned: "deprecate" - in techno-jargon it means "still works but no longer the standard"].

So bit by bit, Cobourg Internet sites are being converted to using current CSS techniques. This is mostly started when new pages are needed but many old pages are also being converted. Since this is a maintenance item and not strictly necessary, there is no charge to customers. You may notice that pages have cleaner borders and better control of white spaces plus there is less difference between viewing in Firefox compared to Internet Explorer and less difference Mac to Windows. But mostly you will not notice any difference. Once converted, many updates will require less work and pages will usually come up a little faster.

## Control Spam yourself

I usually recommend that spam can be best controlled by a combination of Spam Assassin to kill the worst offenders then boxtrapper to catch the rest. But if you get mail from a lot of different people or systems (e.g. newsletters) you may find yourself checking boxtrapper online a lot and that can be a nuisance. Another option is to use Spam Assassin by itself. Let it kill the worst but also tag the *possible* spams with **\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*** in the subject. Then when they arrive in your Outlook inbox, divert them to a spam box. To do this, ask me to set up Spam Assassin, then in Outlook, create a Spam folder (e.g. new folder called Spam - not needed if you already have one) then go to *Tools* then *Rules and Alerts*. Then *create a new rule*. Under step one, select *start from a blank rule* and click *check messages when they arrive*. Click *next*. Put a check mark in *with specific words in the subject*. In step 2, click *specific words*. In the box

*specify words or phrases to search for in the subject, type \*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*. Click Add then OK. Then click next and put a check mark in move it to the specified folder. In step 2, click specified. Choose the Spam folder to use. Click next then finish then OK. Now all the spam identified by Spam Assassin will go to your Spam folder and stay there until you either rescue it or delete it. Note that this is separate to the Junk Mail filter that Outlook has. Also note that, once I enable it, Spam Assassin works on ALL email accounts on your site - box-trapper is enabled for individual email accounts.*

## **Domains "Whois"**

If you want to know the status of a domain or to see if a domain is available, you go to a "whois" service. The one I find to be best, simplest and fast is this one: [www.whois-search.com/whois/](http://www.whois-search.com/whois/) Enter your own domain (e.g. cobourginternet.com - no www or http), and you can see when it expires - and possibly more info.

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