Refresh Your Browser!

Occasionally, after I've updated a client's web site, the client will call to say that they're still seeing the old content on their browser, and question whether the updates were ever done. My reply ... hit your "Refresh" button!

Sometimes your web browser will display an older version of a web page rather than the latest available version. That's because your browser, in the interest of speed, may load the page from the browser "cache" on your hard disk rather than from the web (a page is likely to be stored in your cache if you visited it recently).

Although this isn't much of an issue when you're browsing web sites that are not updated frequently, it can become a problem if you're visiting sites in which having the latest information is important, such as news sites or your personal start page. Fortunately, there's a simple solution to this: You can refresh the page, forcing your browser to download the latest version from the web.

To do so, click your web browser's "Refresh" button (in Netscape Navigator, click "Reload"). You can also use the following keyboard shortcuts:

- EarthLink 5.0 Browser: Press F5.
- Microsoft Internet Explorer: Press F5 (Win) or Command-R (Mac).
- Netscape Navigator: Press Ctrl-R (Win) or Command-R (Mac).