Why I’m a Big Fan of Personal Information Pages (PIPs)...
Or How I Can Go from Computer to Computer and Keep it All Customized

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What are PIPs?

- Personalized Information Pages or Personal Homepages, etc. are just what they sound like – a holding place for all your favourite online information.
- PIPs are different from websites in that they are only for personal use.
- Allows for a customized homepage no matter what computer is being used.
Why would I want a PIP?

- Easily move from one computer to another.
- Manage RSS feeds.
- Have my To-Do List on the screen all the time.
- Remote access to e-mail account.
- Have my major bookmarks accessible on every computer.
- Not have to worry about settings being changed by co-workers or students.
The Options Available

- Netvibes [http://www.netvibes.com](http://www.netvibes.com)
- Google Personal Homepage [http://www.google.ca/ig](http://www.google.ca/ig)
- Goowy [http://webserver001.goowy.com](http://webserver001.goowy.com)
- My Yahoo [http://my.yahoo.com](http://my.yahoo.com)
- Writely [http://www.writely.com](http://www.writely.com)
- Gritwire [http://www.gritwire.com](http://www.gritwire.com)
Why did I pick Google?

- While not the prettiest, still nice to look at.
- VERY high number of modules available.
- Connect to my gmail account (where I occasionally will forward my work email).
- Easy to add or take away modules.
- To-Do List possible on the same page as my most important Bookmarks.
- Instant link to online searching, a huge part of my job.
- Not blocked by firewalls.
How I got started

- Used my gmail account to set-up an account
- Used the “Add Content” feature to add modules.
In my opinion, the best features are…

- Monitoring Email (especially if away from my main computer)
- Bookmarks (but no more than a dozen)
- The To-Do List module
The fun features

- RSS feeds of collaborative work projects, news, recipes, cartoons, etc.
Conclusion

- It’s all about customization on multiple computers… something I previously thought impossible.
- If you need customized features on whatever computer you’re working on… but often change from computer to computer, a Personalized Information Page may be the ideal solution to your problem.