
FAMILY TREE MAKER ONLINE

A Guide to Installing and Getting Started



WELCOME TO FAMILY TREE MAKER ONLINE!

We at the Banner Blue Division of Brøderbund Software, Inc. are dedicated to giving our customers the easiest, most powerful, and most convenient way to research their family history. For this reason, we have created Family Tree Maker Online, a Web site on the Internet where you can access valuable genealogical resources to speed your research, get expert answers to your Family Tree Maker and genealogy questions, share tips, tricks, and success stories with other users, help develop future versions of Family Tree Maker, and stay informed about Family Tree Maker and other products. In this booklet, you will find information about the following topics:

- The World Wide Web and Internet
- Installing and setting up a Web browser with Family Tree Maker
- Going to and using the Family Tree Maker Online Web site

If you are new to the Internet, some of this vocabulary may be confusing, so we've also provided a glossary in the back of this booklet.

THE BASICS

To access the Family Tree Maker Online Web site by clicking a button in your Family Tree Maker software, you will need a modem and one of the following:

- An America Online account with version 2.5 software (provided free on your Family Tree Maker CD-ROM, with 10 hours of access time for new users).
- Netscape Personal Edition version 2.0 or later and Internet access.

Family Tree Maker Online's one-button access currently only works with these America Online and Netscape Web browsers, although we are working to create compatibility with other Web browsers, too. Of course, if you have a different Web browser and Internet access, you can still go to the Family Tree Maker Online Web site — just not with one-button access through Family Tree Maker. The URL is <http://www.familytreemaker.com>.

Don't just visit the Family Tree Maker Online Web site once, because over time we will add many new features and services to make your family research easier and more enjoyable. You will be able to use them without having to buy a new version of Family Tree Maker or even change anything on your computer. You'll want to come back again and again to take advantage of all that Family Tree Maker Online has to offer.

More About the Internet and the World Wide Web

The Internet is made up of interconnected computers from all over the world. It was created by the United States government and universities as a method of communicating and sharing research-related information, such as medical databases. It grew to include businesses, and in recent years, has exploded in popularity among the general population. With the Internet, you can now find almost anything, from famous paintings to Italian recipes.

The World Wide Web is a graphical interface for certain parts of the Internet. Using software called a “Web browser,” you can jump from one Internet location (“Web site”) to another by clicking buttons. In addition, the Web allows you to view information on screen, so you don’t necessarily have to download files and view or read them while you are off-line.

When you use a Web browser to go to the Family Tree Maker Online Web site, you will also be able to go to any other Web site. As a note of caution, remember that the World Wide Web is a public place. In non-Family Tree Maker Web sites, you may come across information that you don’t agree with or don’t want to see. It is generally easy to avoid these Web sites because their titles give good clues about their contents. In addition, you can ask your local software retailer about software that can block various kinds of information.

INSTALLING AND SETTING UP A WEB BROWSER

When you install your new version of Family Tree Maker, it will help you set up your connection to the Family Tree Maker Online Web site by checking to see if you already have either America Online or Netscape installed.

America Online is a commercial online service that provides a Web browser and access to the Internet. America Online subscribers pay a monthly usage fee, although new customers get 10 free hours during their first month. You can stop or start service with America Online in any given month.

Netscape is Web browsing software that is available in most retail software stores. The one you want is “Netscape Personal Edition.” The difference between using Netscape and America Online is that with Netscape, you must sign up with an Internet service provider, just like you would sign up with a long-distance telephone service.

If you already have either of these applications installed, you will have the option of connecting the **Online** button to one of them. This will allow you to go to the Family Tree Maker Online Web site at the click of a button.

If you do not have either of these applications installed, but you are installing Family Tree Maker from a CD-ROM, you may install the free copy of America Online from the Family Tree Maker CD-ROM and then connect it to the **Online** button in Family Tree Maker.

GETTING STARTED

Once your Web browser and Internet service provider software are hooked up correctly, the fun begins!

To go to Family Tree Maker Online:

1. Start your Family Tree Maker software if it is not already running. In addition, be sure your modem is on and is connected to your phone line.

Each modem is different, but there are probably lights to indicate that it is on.

2. Click the **Online** toolbar button.

Alternatively, from the **View** menu, select **Online**.

Your Web browser opens, and if your modem has a speaker, you will probably hear some dialing and beeping noises. If you are using America Online as a new customer, you will need to enter some information and create a password. Then, after a few moments, the Family Tree Maker Online home page will appear on your screen. Follow the instructions on screen and have fun exploring the world of your family history. If you aren't sure how to use a particular feature of Family Tree Maker Online, check for instructions online.

How Family Tree Maker Online and Your Family Tree Maker Software Interact

When you open Family Tree Maker Online, your Family Tree Maker software does not shut down, but is still running in the background. This means that you can press **Alt+Tab** and go work in it again while Family Tree Maker Online is still running. Family Tree Maker Online and your Web browser will not shut down when you go back into Family Tree Maker. When you want to return to Family Tree Maker Online, just click the **Online** toolbar button again.

However, if you use an Internet service provider that charges you an hourly fee, you probably won't want to open Family Tree Maker Online and then let it run while you do work in Family Tree Maker that can be done off-line — that could be expensive! It's probably best to open Family Tree Maker Online, find the information you want, and then close it down by exiting your Web browser. When you exit your Web browser (by selecting the **File** menu and then clicking **Exit**), Family Tree Maker will reappear.

Navigating Between Web Pages and Using Your Browser

When you first start Family Tree Maker Online, you will be at the Family Tree Maker Online home page. This is the main Web page for our Web site. You can think of it as a table of contents, because it contains links to each of the main sections of Family Tree Maker Online.

To move from one section of Family Tree Maker Online to another, click on the colored, underlined text on the screen. Sometimes there are also buttons that you can click. If you want to return to the home page, you can click the **Home** button at any time. Your Web browser may also have buttons such as **Back** and **Forward**. You can use these buttons to retrace your steps.

Because you navigate by clicking links, you won't need to work with your Web browser software very much. The most important thing to know about your Web browser is how to close it when you are finished so that you don't incur unnecessary phone or Internet service provider charges. You can do this by selecting **Exit** from the Web browser's **File** menu. Your Web browser may also let you create "bookmarks," so you can jump directly to your favorite Web pages in Family Tree Maker Online. Of course, each Web browser works slightly differently, so the best way to learn about it is to use its Help system.

CHANGING YOUR ONLINE SETUP

If you install a new Web browser or move your current Web browser to a different location, Family Tree Maker must know about it. To tell Family Tree Maker, you need to re-install it so it can auto-detect your new online configuration. Simply follow the appropriate set of installation instructions in Chapter 1 of your Family Tree Maker User's Guide. Your existing Family Files will not be changed in any way.

GLOSSARY

Home page The main or introductory page of a Web site. You can think of it as a table of contents.

Internet A network of computers from all over the world. It allows individuals, companies, and universities to share information.

Internet service provider A company that has a connection to the Internet and sells connection time to individuals. Choosing an Internet service provider to use with your modem and Web browser is similar to choosing a long-distance phone service for your telephone.

Link Text or graphics that you click to go to a different section of a Web site.

Modem A device that allows your computer to send and receive information over the telephone lines. It can either be a component inside your computer or a small box that sits outside of your computer.

URL This acronym stands for Universal Resource Locator. It is the unique address for each Web site on the Internet. The Family Tree Maker Web site has a unique URL, just like your home has a unique street address.

Web browser Software that allows you to view the information in the World Wide Web.

Web page One section of a Web site. It may contain text that you can read, links to other Web pages, pictures to look at, files to download, or other types of information.

Web site A section of the Internet organized by a specific individual or group. It contains information related to a particular topic.

World Wide Web The part of the Internet that has a graphical interface. You use it mainly by clicking links, instead of typing commands.