

End Note



Prizes in Every Box

If you're still using Internet Explorer as your browser and you haven't yet cracked a molar grimacing over the adware or viruses, it might be time to get out before you do. There are now about 655 good reasons to switch to Opera 9, a free Web browser from Oslo, Norway, that's been around more than 10 years. Faster and safer than IE, it has tabbed browsing; you can bookmark sessions; it works on Windows, Macs, Linux, and cell phones; and the latest version has a prize in every box. Actually, 650+ prizes called widgets. (Download your copy at www.opera.com.)

If you remember widgets as imaginary products in blue-book exams, be assured, the Opera widgets are real. Wikipedia defines a Web Widget as "a portable chunk of code that can be installed and executed within any separate HTML-based Web page." They're also called gadgets, snippets, and flakes.

Opera widgets are clocks, calculators, games, and some of the handiest tools you can imagine. If you have Opera, you can download them in seconds from the widgets.opera.com page. When the widget appears, try it, and then click to keep it or not. You can keep it on top, behind other running pages/programs, or close it when you're done.

There are all kinds of clocks. Big Ben chimes, can be silent, or can be reduced to a black-and-white line drawing. There are many analog clock faces and digital ones, like the Berlin clock on this page. Calculators of all types are available—even a nicely designed abacus that adds, divides, multiplies, and does roots. There are news sources, games, and two digital photography sources of note—Flickr and Digital Photo of the day. Little tools for checking the page rank of the site you're looking at, HTML color charts, a great Google Query builder, unit converters, password generators, security risks, and so on and on. The current list grows daily. ■

