Abstract:

Ever heard of Browser Helper Objects, or BHOs? They're a quiet behind-the-scenes technology that could make your web surfing faster and convenient. Here are some BHO examples: Aureate/Radiate, Alexa, Flyswat, Gator, GetRight, Gozilla, RealDownload, and Yahoo Companion. There are many others.
Browser Helper Objects

There are many applications in the market which help people surf the internet or provide extensions to Web browser functionality. For example, Yahoo provides “Yahoo Companion” to provide single click access to many of its services. Google too provides “Google Bar” to extend their search functionality.

In general, these are called Browser Helper Objects (BHOs). There are many situations in which BHO’s can be used.

- Monitoring user’s web surfing habits
- Internet usage, market research and recording of shopping activity
- Providing personalized profiles for customized settings
- Developing custom Web browsers
- Customizing companion bars. Tool bars and menus in user’s web browser
- Providing surfer details regarding stocks, exchange rates, weather, sports etc in real time
- Providing information on various discount offers and other useful information
- Content handling for data with certain Mime types
- Auto form filling

Our competence

Mindfire has successfully developed browser plug-ins (or BHOs) for its clients. Some of the features of those plugins are:

- Monitoring surfing habits
- Monitoring surfer’s behaviour regarding online shopping like recording of committed and non-committed transactions, items the surfer purchases most etc
- Surfer’s interest area
- Managing user profiles
- Dialog based user login management
- Auto data upload in background without causing any disturbance in surfing
- Security using SSL and encryption algorithms
- Customized menus, status bars and toolbars
- Automated alerts
- Automated data downloads

Mindfire offers its development experience to build browser plug-ins. Apart from programming needs, Mindfire can help you through the entire life-cycle starting from Requirement identification, Feasibility analysis, Design and development, QA/Testing and final Release.
What will the user see?

Some possibilities for BHO front-ends are given on the following page. We will be happy to discuss your custom ideas and requirements.

Get your clickable icon in browser status bar. User can right click this icon for a shortcut menu and can do various things with a single click, like going to a particular web page on your web site, pulling some information or sending an alert etc.

Get customized companion bars made for your web site or business. These bars are like normal browser toolbars and stays with the user irrespective of the sites they are visiting. With a single click user can reach any particular web page of your web site. Plus this bar can be used to pull various kind of information and display it to the web surfer at regular intervals without disturbing him or taking him to a web page. This can also be used to send alerts, various discount offers, free offers, game scores, stock prices, weather information, up to date currency exchange rates or any kind of information that the user might be interested in.

The status bar of the web browser can also be customized and used to flash a particular information to a web surfer at regular interval of time. This don't require any extra space in the browser window and without creating any disturbance to user the messages will keep appearing on the status bar. The user if interested in an item can click on that and reach the web page on your site. This space can be used for displaying various kinds of information like discount offers, stock quotes, weather information, latest news headlines etc.
One can also get a self destructing popup window. Information can be pushed and displayed in a popup window which will appear whenever some new information or offers are available at server. Then this information will be popped up for the user to see. The user if interested, can click on this window and can directly reach the relevant web page.

**Conclusion**

Browser Helper Objects are a new and, for the most part, little known way to connect to Internet Explorer. You can modify the behaviour of your browser the way you want. You can tell Internet Explorer what to do and even eavesdrop on what Internet Explorer is doing at any time thus making your life easier while surfing !!