

## **Information Technology and Services Tip of the Week – Dec 12, 2005**

### **Cleaning the Cache**

As users browse the World Wide Web with Internet Explorer, files are stored in the Temporary Internet Files (or cache) folder. They contain Web page content that is stored on your hard disk for quick viewing. This cache permits Internet Explorer to download only the content that has changed since you last viewed a Web page, instead of downloading all the content for a page every time it is displayed. When most users had only dial-up connection to the Internet this could significantly speed up browsing. With higher speed connections this cached Web content becomes less important and **actually may lead to slower computer performance.**

To delete the files in the Temporary Internet Files folder, follow these steps:

1. Quit Internet Explorer and quit any instances of Windows Explorer (My Computer).
2. Click **Start**, click **Control Panel**, and then double-click **Internet Options**.
3. On the **General** tab, click **Delete Files** under **Temporary Internet Files**.
4. In the **Delete Files** dialog box, click to select the **Delete all offline content** check box, and then click **OK**.
5. Click **OK**.

If the Temporary Internet Files folder contains a significant amount of Web page content, this process may take several minutes to complete.