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FAST-MOVING COMPUTING



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StealthSurfer

If you don't want people to see your data, keep it in your pocket. That's the rationale behind StealthSurfer, a keychain-size USB minidrive and customized Netscape browser that promises to cover your tracks by storing all downloads, cookies, history, cache files, and traces of your Web travels on the removable drive. When you're done surfing, just unplug the drive. You can use it at public access sites such as Internet cafés, classrooms, or libraries. Or, if you don't want people at the office (or at home, as the case may be) checking up on your surfing habits, this pocket-size device will help keep your preferences private.



In addition to eliminating all traces of your Web travels from your notebook's hard drive, StealthSurfer can also transport and store nonstealthy files as well as Internet data. The device requires a password, providing an added layer of protection if the drive should get lost or stolen.

In our tests, StealthSurfer caused a minor drop in browsing performance, probably due to the fact that the flash drive has slower read and write speeds than a hard drive. What's really lacking in StealthSurfer, however, is a way to protect against viruses and Trojan horses as well as a way to shield you from websites that collect information about you through your IP address and persistent cookies. If you use StealthSurfer, you should augment it with Symantec's Internet Security or Zone Lab's Zone Alarm. Another alternative is to erase your tracks by using a browser such as Opera or a security utility such as Steganos Security Suite.

StealthSurfer is available in four models ranging in capacity from 64MB (\$70) to 512MB (\$299). We recommend buying one of the larger-capacity models so that you can add the additional utilities for greater privacy and security. - *Howard Millman*

Best Feature: Truly plug-and-play installation

Worst Feature: Limited security utilities

SPECS:

StealthSurfer

\$70

Weight: 1 ounce

Size: 2.3 x 1 x 0.3 in.

Specs: 64MB capacity; USB; custom Netscape browser included

www.stealthsurfer.biz

