

Searching for browsing history has been deleted

Just like other data on a computer, your browser history will be saved as a file. Clearing your browser history simply deletes these files from your hard drive. If using file recovery measures (eg Recuva software), it is possible to recover your browser history after being deleted.

Here, How To Geek has taken a look at ways to find your deleted browsing history list and how to prevent others from finding your browsing history.

View browsing history deleted on Google account

After pressing Ctrl + H and selecting to clear all browsing history in Chrome browser, you suddenly realize that there are quite a few important pages that have not yet saved the bookmark. I tried to delete all browsing data, press Ctrl + F5, turn off and restart Chrome browser when trying to use this method and still see the history of the websites I have visited.

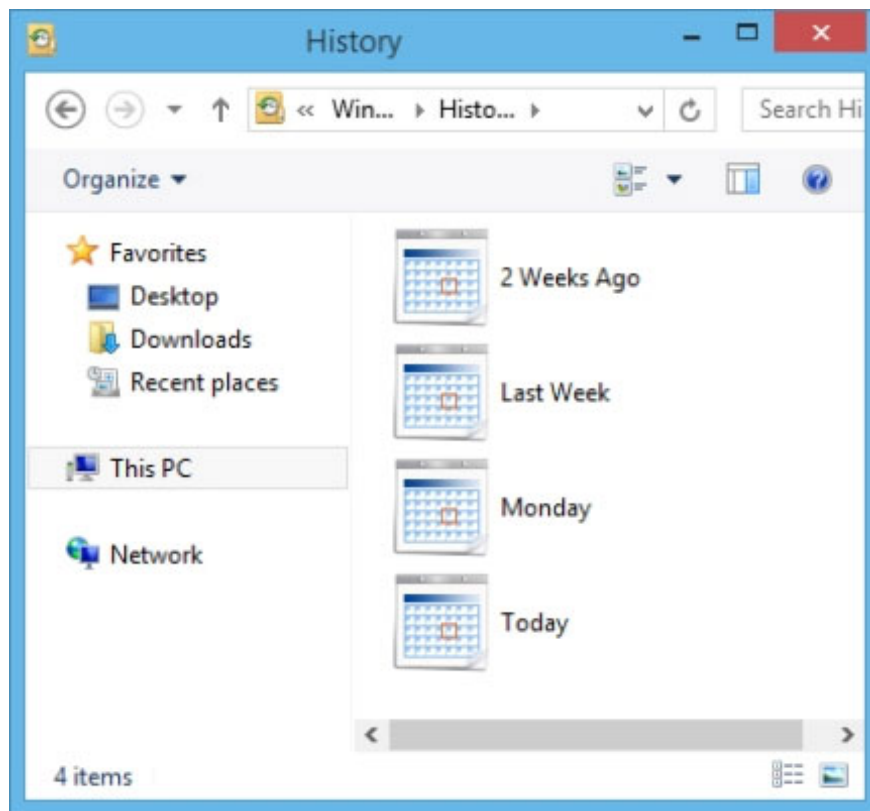
The method is quite simple, but you must log in to your Google account on Chrome before:

Then visit the <https://myactivity.google.com/myactivity> link, log in to the Google account that is logged in Chrome. Here you will get all the activities on your Chrome browser, including browsing history. This data can only be viewed by you (or someone who knows your account).

Therefore, you can now clear your browsing history in the browser so others don't know what you do when surfing the web, but still can find it when you need your Google account.

Recover deleted files

Just like other data on a computer, your browser history will be saved as a file. Clearing your browser history simply deletes these files from your hard drive. If using file recovery measures (eg *Recuva software*) , it is possible to recover your browser history after being deleted. You only need to know the location of the browser history.



Browser history files will be saved in the following locations:

Internet Explorer: C: UsersAdministrator [user name] AppDataLocalMicrosoftWindowsHistory

Mozilla Firefox: C: UsersAdministrator [user name] AppDataRoamingMozillaFirefoxProfiles

Google Chrome: C: UsersAdministrator [user name] AppDataLocalGoogleChromeUser DataDefault

You only need to replace it with the name of the Windows account you are using. Then, use the recovery software to recover these files. When browsing these directories, you should turn on the hidden file display mode of Windows.

If you use a solid-state hard drive, you will not be able to recover the information this way, because when deleting the data, the solid-state drive always erases the bits that were written to the hard drive completely. On a mechanical hard drive (*which does not completely erase the data but only marks the permission to overwrite the deleted data area*), it is also difficult to recover in this way if you have a lot of new data. is overwritten with data areas marked deleted.

See DNS cache (DNS Cache)

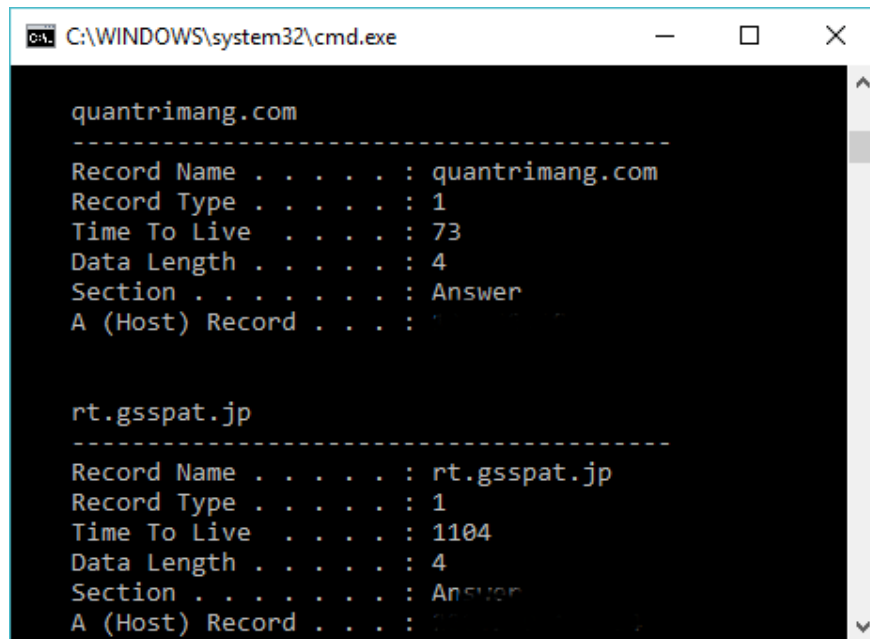
Your computer will use DNS servers to resolve the domain name (*eg TipsMake.com.vn*) into an IP address (*for example: 123.30.174.152*) . When accessing, your request will be saved in DNS memory. Even if you delete browser history, DNS caching will not be affected.

To find out which addresses are saved in the clipboard, open **Command Prompt** on Windows by pressing the **Windows + R** key and enter " *cmd* " and press **Enter** .

On the Command Prompt window, type the following statement:

```
ipconfig / displaydns
```

As you can see in the picture below, the DNS cache reveals that the writer has just accessed *TipsMake.com.vn*.



```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe

quantrimang.com
-----
Record Name . . . . . : quantrimang.com
Record Type . . . . . : 1
Time To Live . . . . . : 73
Data Length . . . . . : 4
Section . . . . . : Answer
A (Host) Record . . . . :

rt.gsspat.jp
-----
Record Name . . . . . : rt.gsspat.jp
Record Type . . . . . : 1
Time To Live . . . . . : 1104
Data Length . . . . . : 4
Section . . . . . : Answer
A (Host) Record . . . . :
```

This measure also has some disadvantages. First of all, not only the browser but many other software will also trigger requests for IP addresses for domain names: online games, chat software, email software, application update process . otherwise, any application accessing the Internet will activate DNS, create a very long list when running `ipconfig / displaydns`, including many web addresses that your browser does not access. updated.



```
Record Name . . . . . : googlehosted.l.googleusercontent.com
Record Type . . . . . : 1
Time To Live . . . . . : 293
Data Length . . . . . : 4
Section . . . . . : Answer
A (Host) Record . . . . : 74.125.239.42

plus.google.com
-----
Record Name . . . . . : plus.google.com
Record Type . . . . . : 1
Time To Live . . . . . : 293
Data Length . . . . . : 4
Section . . . . . : Answer
A (Host) Record . . . . : 74.125.239.38
```

For example, in the image above, even if the user only accesses `gmail.com` (*when the DNS cache is still available*), the computer will still make connections to some other addresses belonging to Google.

The second disadvantage of this approach is that this list will only contain the domain names and IP addresses you have connected, but it does not reveal the specific content of each page viewed.

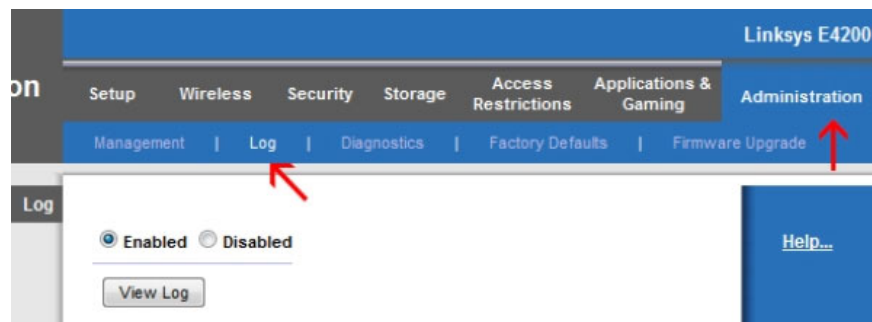
So, how to completely remove DNS cache? Very simple, run the following command in *Command Prompt*:

ipconfig / flushdns

See the *log* of the router / modem

Some *router* models allow you to record all information coming and going through your Internet connection. On most routers available in the market, this feature is turned off by default.

For example, on some Linksys routers, simply access the router's address (*192.168.0.1* or *192.168.1.1*) and access the **Administration / Log** entry.



Then, turn on the Log feature by selecting **Enabled** . Once you have enabled this feature, you can see all connections made, including connecting from one computer to an off-net server and vice versa.

Since any connection will be saved to this address, your tracking notes will have a lot of information and will become very long within just a few minutes.

To protect yourself from this invasion, you need to check carefully to see if your router has a Log feature, and whether or not this feature is turned off. You should also change the password for the router to increase security.

Misunderstandings about recovering browser history

On the web there is a lot of information about how to recover browsing history, and some of the ways offered seem to be very convincing. However, the *How To Geek test* has shown that these practices are completely useless.

- Use the System Restore feature of Windows

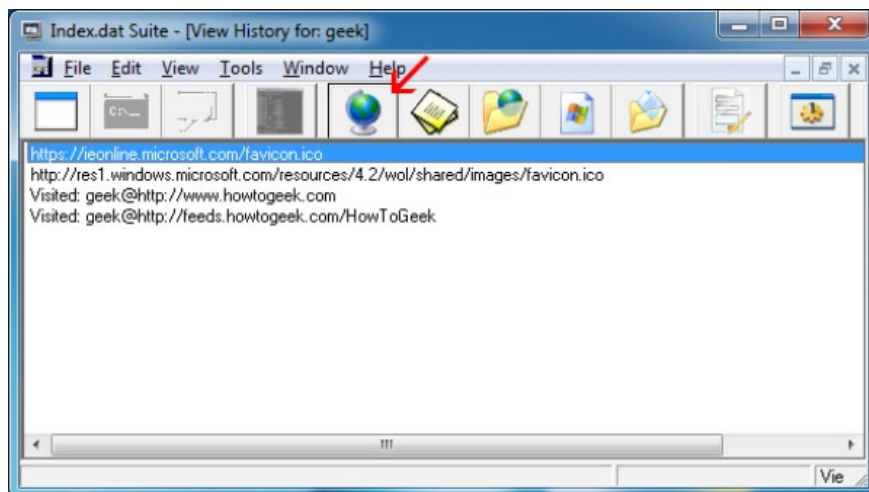
On all three widely used browsers (*Internet Explorer*, *Firefox* and *Chrome*) , *How To Geek* editors have browsed some websites and created a restore point (*Create a Restore Point*) for Windows. Then they delete the browsing history and proceed to restore the device to the recovery point mentioned above.

As a result, neither **Internet Explorer** , **Firefox** and **Chrome** regained their old browsing history. Many websites and forums offer this solution, but the fact is that if you do it this way you will spend a lot of time in a completely useless way.

- Use **index.dat** file

There are many websites that offer solutions to search for files called "index.dat" and use 3rd party software to read this file. Previously, browsers often used index.dat files to store information about the web browsing process.

The problem is that all new browsers no longer use index.dat files. The last browser to use this file is **Internet Explorer 9**. Therefore, *How To Geek* experimented with Internet Explorer 9.



Using an *Index.dat Suite* software, *How To Geek* editors opened *Internet Explorer 9*'s *index.dat* file and discovered web browsing history on the browser. However, after you perform the feature to delete browsing data in *Internet Explorer 9*, the data inside the *index.dat* will also be erased.

The only way to recover web surfing data from the *index.dat* file on *Internet Explorer 9* is to back up the file before you can delete the browsing data on *Internet Explorer*. Once you delete your browsing data and make sure that the file has not been backed up, you can rest assured that others cannot find your browsing history through *index.dat*.

Is the surfing procedure really anonymous?

Thus, in all measures to recover browsing data after deleting the browser data, others can still view your browsing history if it can recover deleted data files from hard drive or if you have set the track record feature (*Log*) on the router. Viewing DNS caching will only help review the domains that have been visited, but does not reveal which pages you have viewed on this domain.

If you want to surf the web in a completely anonymous way, you can use the *Tor* anonymous protocol or use VPN networks - a security solution used by many corporations.

See more:

1. Fake IP, IP change software, best anonymous surfing
2. How to make the browser always start in incognito mode
3. Instructions for "stealth" completely on Facebook

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