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Internet Explorer 8 has Zoom Feature

As display technologies advance and the world begins to fully embrace accessibility on the web, the Zoom and High DPI experience of all browsers has become increasingly important. This is the first in a series of posts describing changes and improvements to Internet Explorer 8 to enable a more readable web on today's displays. In this post, we'll focus on enhancements to the Zoom user experience.

User Interface

The most common and visible method of zooming pages is by clicking on the zoom icon in the bottom right corner of the browser window:

Clicking on the magnifying glass toggles zoom between 100%, 125%, and 150%. Clicking on the down arrow to the right of the magnifying glass gives you more granular options for zooming:

You can access the same options as those illustrated above by clicking on 'Page' in the Command Bar, and then the 'Zoom' menu item.

Keyboard Shortcuts

Using keyboard shortcuts is probably the fastest way to zoom in and out on webpages you are reading.

- Increment zoom by 25% by hitting the **Control Key** and the **'Plus'** key together
- Decrement zoom by 25% by hitting the Control Key and the 'Minus' key together
- Set zoom to 100% by hitting the **Control Key** and the 'Zero' key together

When you use the keyboard shortcuts to increment and decrement zoom, you will also notice that the zoom value will snap to 100%. For example, let's say your zoom is set to 115%. If you hit the shortcut combination for zoom decrement twice, zoom will go from 115% to 100%, and then from 100% to 75%.

Mouse Wheel

You can also rapidly zoom in and out a webpage using a mouse wheel, if your mouse is equipped with one. While viewing a webpage, hold the **Control Key** while scrolling the **mouse wheel**. If you scroll the wheel away from you, the page will zoom in, and conversely, if you

scroll the wheel towards you, the page will zoom out. Each notch on the scroll wheel increments/decrements zoom by 5%.

Touch Gesture

I discuss how to use touch gestures to zoom farther down in the post, so keep reading!

Zoom Persistence

Internet Explorer 8 remembers your zoom choice across new tabs and new windows. For example, let's say you are viewing a web page and decide that 125% works better for you than your current zoom setting of 100%. Clicking the magnifying glass in the bottom right bumps your page up to 125% zoom. Internet Explorer 8 remembers this preference and opens up all future windows and tabs at 125%. In fact, any method of setting the zoom level as described above is remembered by Internet Explorer 8 until you change it again. Internet Explorer 7 had a different behavior – zoom was reset to the default value for all new windows and tabs. If you prefer that behavior you can adjust the setting:

- 1. 'Tools' in the Command Bar
- 2. 'Internet Options' menu item
- 3. 'Advanced' Tab

Check the option 'Reset zoom level for new windows and tabs' and then click 'Ok:

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