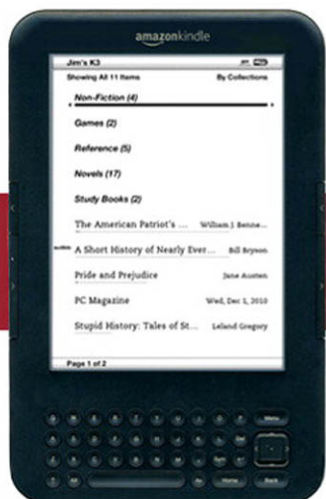


Using Kindle™



Covers
Kindle
for PC

Your Guide to
All Things Kindle
and Kindle DX

Fourth Edition

QUE

Jim Cheshire

Using Kindle™: Your Guide to All Things Kindle and Kindle DX

Jim Cheshire

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Table of Contents

Acknowledgments

Dedication

About the Author

Welcome to the Kindle

Chapter 1: Getting Started with the Kindle

The Amazing Kindle

The Kindle's Unique Features

The Kindle Home Screen

Sorting and Filtering the Home Screen

Items Available on the Home Screen Menu

Configuring Your Settings

Registration

Device Name

Wi-Fi Settings

Device Info

Voice Guide

Device Email

Device Password

Device Time

Annotations Backup

Popular Highlights

Social Networks

Personal Info

Kindle Version

Chapter 2: Reading Content

Reading on the Kindle

Keyboard Shortcuts While Reading

Using the Progress Indicator

Using Whispersync

Using the Reader Menu

Using the Dictionary

Using Bookmarks, Notes, Clippings, and Highlights

Kindle Bookmarks

Using Notes

Clippings

Highlights

Using Text-to-Speech

Reading Books on Kindle for PC

The Kindle for PC Home Screen

Downloading Books to Kindle for PC

Chapter 3: Finding Content

Using Amazon's Kindle Store

Accessing the Kindle Store

The Kindle and Digital Rights Management (DRM)

Finding Books from Other Sources

Project Gutenberg

manybooks.net

MobileRead

Planet eBook

Baen Free Library

Feedbooks

Fictionwise

FreeTechBooks

Other Sources

Creating Your Own Kindle Content

Address Book

Shopping Lists

Your Medications

Your Travel Itinerary

Study Notes

Meeting Notes

Inventory List

Using Search on the Kindle

Chapter 4: Managing Your Kindle Content

Using Archived Items

Using Amazon's Your Media Library

Using Amazon's Manage Your Kindle

Your Kindle(s)

Your Computer and Other Mobile Device(s)

Your Kindle-Approved Email List

Your Personal Document Charge Limit

Your Default 1-Click Payment Method

Your Country

Your Active Kindle Subscriptions

Open Orders

Your Orders

Your Individual Charges

Transferring Files To and From Your Kindle

Organizing Kindle Content

Using Collections

Using Calibre

Editing Metadata

Converting eBooks with Calibre

Transferring Books with Calibre

Chapter 5: Internet and Email on the Kindle

Web Browser Basics

Navigating the Web on Your Kindle

Web Browser Settings

Using the Kindle on the Web

Reading Blogs on the Kindle

Reading News on the Kindle

Checking Movies and Show Times

Checking Flight Status and Airport Information

Accessing Traffic Information

Find Recipes

Browse and Bid on eBay Auctions

Manage Your Netflix Movie Queue

Social Networking on the Kindle

Email on the Kindle

Google Gmail

Windows Live Mail (Hotmail)

Yahoo! Mail

Chapter 6: Games and Multimedia on the Kindle

Games on the Kindle

Playing Music

Listening to Audio Books

Listening to Podcasts

Taking Screenshots

Chapter 7: Kindle Resources and Accessories

Amazon's Kindle Page: www.kindle.com

Kindle Nation Daily: kindlenationblog.blogspot.com

Blog Kindle: www.blogkindle.com

The Kindle Chronicles: www.thekindlechronicles.com

Booksprung: booksprung.com

Kindle Accessories

Kindle Lighted Leather Cover

DecalGirl Kindle Skins

Kindle FAQs

Chapter 8: Kindle FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions About the Kindle

Are Kindle books the same as the hardcover or paperback versions?

Why doesn't the Kindle have a backlight?

Why does the screen flash when I turn pages?

How long should the battery last between charges?

Can someone else buy a Kindle book for me as a gift?

I received a Kindle as a gift, but it's registered in that person's name. Can I fix that?

Can I create folders to organize my content?

Can I take screenshots on my Kindle screen to post on a blog, a web page, or to send to someone?

What happens if I delete a book from my Kindle?

Is it true I need a credit card issued in the United States to buy content from Amazon's Kindle store?

Do I need a computer to use a Kindle?

Do I have to pay for wireless service to use Whispernet on the Kindle?

Can I read a Kindle book I bought from Amazon on my computer? What about a book I downloaded from somewhere else on the Internet?

If a book is not currently available in Kindle format, is there a way I can request that it be made available?

Can I be notified when a book is made available in Kindle format?

Is there any way I can create my own Kindle books from a paper book that I've purchased?

Should I turn off wireless when I'm not using it?

How should I clean the Kindle screen?

How should I clean the Kindle?

Should I charge my Kindle after each use?

What if my family has more than one Kindle?

Can I use my Kindle outside the United States while traveling?

Is there a way to see page numbers on a Kindle? What if I need to provide a page number reference for a Kindle book citation?

Can I share a book I bought with another Kindle user?

Is it possible for a Kindle screen to get burn-in so that artifacts of a previous screen are permanently left on the screen?

If I have purchased a traditional book from Amazon, can I get a Kindle version free?

Is it possible to zoom in on images if they appear too small?

Does Amazon ever add new features to the Kindle?

Is it true that I must have wireless access to Whispernet to read Kindle content?

I've heard that the Kindle cannot read PDF files. Is that true?

Acknowledgments

This book would not have been possible were it not for the excellent folks at Que Publishing. I'd especially like to thank Loretta Yates (who got me hooked on the Kindle in the first place and

provided guidance and incredible support throughout this project), Seth Kerney, Kevin Howard, and Jovana San Nicolas-Shirley, all of whom helped me to make this book the best and most comprehensive Kindle resource available.

Dedication

This book is dedicated to my Mom and Dad. Thanks for teaching me about the wonder of reading and for kindling my passion for wonderful stories.

About the Author

Jim Cheshire is a computer professional and author and has published numerous bestselling books on Web design and application development. Jim has been featured in technical publications, such as *PC Magazine* and *MSDN Magazine*, and currently works at Microsoft on the ASP.NET and IIS teams.

Jim was an early adopter of the Kindle and currently owns three Kindles. He is an avid reader and spends at least a few hours every day with his Kindle.

Jim lives in Texas with his wife and two children.

Welcome to the Kindle

In November 2007, Amazon unveiled the Kindle to the world. Within a short amount of time, it became clear that Amazon had a huge hit on its hands. The Kindle sold out within a short amount of time, and for many months thereafter, Amazon had a tough time fulfilling orders for the new device. The huge demand for Kindles caught Amazon (and just about everyone else) completely by surprise.

Not everyone was pleased with Amazon's first version of the Kindle, though. Some reviewers made fun of its angular appearance, and more still complained about the page turning buttons that were easily pressed accidentally. The Kindle community was wildly defensive of the original Kindle's button placement, but if you handed one to someone unfamiliar with the device, moments later you'd discover your place in your book would be lost due to unintended page turns.

There were a few other complaints Amazon wanted to address in its first Kindle, and it did just that in February 2009 when it released the second generation Kindle. In October 2009, Amazon began shipping the Kindle internationally and added the capability to use Whispernet (the Kindle's wireless service) in countries other than the United States.

In May 2009, Amazon announced the Kindle DX. In addition to all the Kindle's features, the Kindle DX sports a larger screen (9.7" versus the Kindle's 6" screen), and an accelerometer that makes it possible to view larger images in landscape mode by simply rotating the Kindle 90 degrees. (The Kindle can also rotate its screen, but you have to do so manually.) The original Kindle DX was followed by the second-generation DX in early 2010.

NOTE

The Kindle DX does not have international wireless capability. Only the Kindle with a 6-inch display is available for international use.

In middle of 2010, Amazon released the third-generation Kindles, the third-generation Kindle DX (commonly called the Kindle DX Graphite) and the third-generation 6-inch Kindle. The third generation offered a few tweaks to the hardware. The page turn buttons were made smaller and are now the only buttons on the side of the Kindle's bezel. The 5-way controller (now referred to as simply the 5-way) was changed from a joystick style to a more familiar d-pad style. Other minor changes were made to the buttons on the Kindle. The third generations also sport a higher-contrast electronic ink screen using the new Pearl screen from E Ink Corporation, a display that gives the third-generation Kindles a 50% higher contrast than previous Kindles. Following are several other improvements in the third-generation Kindles:

- A faster processor for a snappier user interface.
- Upgraded power management and a bigger battery, thereby increasing battery life between charges.
- A Wi-Fi adapter for connectivity via wireless access points.
- Internal memory was doubled to 4GB.
- A smaller and lighter frame.

Perhaps the most popular change in the third-generation Kindle is the price tag. Amazon offers two versions of the 6-inch Kindle, one that is Wi-Fi only and is priced at \$139 and one that includes Wi-Fi and a 3G modem (called Free 3G by Amazon) that connects via AT&T's cellular network, priced at \$189.

NOTE

After Barnes and Noble released the nook e-book reader, Amazon dropped the price of the second-generation Kindle to \$189. However, it was previously priced from \$259 to \$359 dollars and enjoyed the lower price for only a short period before the third generation released.

This book consists entirely of information that is useful to all Kindle users. (However, if you're an owner of the first Kindle version, you should read my book *Decoding the Kindle* instead of this book.)

In this book, you learn how to make the most of the Internet features in the Kindle. Not only do you learn how to use your Kindle for email with all the major email service providers, but you also learn how to use the Kindle's Internet access to do many other useful things.

Following are just a few of the things you can learn how to do with your Kindle:

- Check movies, show times, and even order tickets!

-
- Check flight status, airport delays, and gate information.
 - Access traffic information and locate traffic hot spots.
 - Find food and drink recipes complete with shopping lists.
 - Bid on eBay auctions.
 - Participate in social networks such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Bebo, and MySpace.
 - View and manage your Netflix movie queue.

My publisher and I worked hard to ensure this book is the most comprehensive and useful guide available for the Kindle. After you read this book, you will feel more comfortable using every aspect of your Kindle. You can also discover the amazing versatility of the Kindle as you uncover a wide assortment of uses other than just reading content. It's my sincere hope that reading this book kindles your love for this amazing device just as writing it did for me!

Chapter 1

Getting Started with the Kindle

Electronic book (e-book) readers are nothing new; e-book readers have been around for nearly a decade. The first e-book reader (the Rocket eBook) used a black-and-white LCD screen and could hold a whopping 10 books. (You could get the Pro version and increase storage to an incredible 40 books.) A third-generation Kindle can hold 3,500 books, newspapers, magazines, and blogs!

The Amazing Kindle

When most people first hear about the Kindle, they picture a device that is attractive only to people who love tech gadgets. However, as it turns out, the Kindle is much more attractive to readers than it is to people who love tech toys. The E Ink screen makes reading on the Kindle similar to reading a paper book and enables reading without eye fatigue, even in bright sunlight. Kindle can display 16 shades of gray so that images look crisp and detailed. However, color is not an option with current E Ink technology.

Now look at some of Kindle's unique features.

The Kindle's Unique Features

The Kindle has several unique features that set it apart from other e-book readers.

- Because the Kindle is made by Amazon, you automatically have access to the largest e-book catalog in the world. At the time of this writing, Amazon has approximately 751,000 books in the Kindle Store, and more are added all the time. You also have access to magazines, newspapers, and blogs.
- The Kindle enables you to listen to audio books purchased from Audible, and the Kindle actually has a speaker, so you can listen to audio without plugging in headphones. (A headphone jack is provided for private listening.)

-
- The Kindle has a Text-to-Speech feature that reads a book to you using a computer-generated voice, provided the publisher of the book allows it.
 - The Kindle carries no reliance on any particular computer architecture. The Sony Reader requires a Windows computer to transfer files because the software that the Sony Reader uses can run only on a Windows computer. (There are workarounds for Mac users, but the most common one is to install Windows on the Mac.)
 - Wireless access via Amazon's Whispernet enables you to access the Kindle Store directly from the Kindle device and permits you to access Wikipedia (an online encyclopedia) and other websites. You can even check your email on the Kindle and do many other powerful and wonderful things on the Internet.
 - The Whispersync feature automatically synchronizes your reading content across multiple Kindles, or even between your Kindle and an iPhone, an iPod touch, Kindle for PC or Kindle for Mac, and Kindle for Blackberry.
 - The Kindle has native PDF support so that you can read your Adobe Reader documents without conversion.

Amazon's Whispernet service uses either Wi-Fi or high-speed cellular networks. If using 3G, you get broadband speeds on the Kindle, but the exact speed of your connection can vary dramatically depending on signal quality.

TIP

Only Free 3G Kindles can access Whispernet via 3G cellular networks. To find out if your Kindle has 3G capability, go to the Home screen and press Menu. Select Settings and check the Network Capability field in the Device Info section.

When connecting via 3G, depending on the cell service in your area, you might not always get broadband speed on your Kindle. When browsing the Kindle Store and downloading books and other Kindle content, you aren't affected too much by slower Whispernet speeds simply because the amount of data you download is limited. However, when you begin browsing websites and using Kindle's Internet connectivity to check email, you notice a fairly dramatic difference between a good Whispernet connection and one that's less than optimal. To get the best speeds from Whispernet, you need to be in an area with good 3G reception or in an area with access to a Wi-Fi access point.

→ For more information on accessing the Internet and email with the Kindle, see Chapter 5, "Internet and Email on the Kindle."

TIP

You don't have to sign a contract, perform any setup, or pay access fees to AT&T to use Amazon's Whispernet service over the 3G network. When you get your Kindle, it works automatically.

You can check for access to the 3G network in your area using the Kindle Coverage Tool available from client0.cellmaps.com/tabs.html#cellmaps_na_tab.

Although most of Kindle's unique features are easy to discover, getting the most from them isn't always intuitive. Sometimes it helps to have someone show you the details that can help you get the most from your Kindle. With that in mind, now examine the basic Kindle experience and how you can make the most of it.

The Kindle Home Screen

The Kindle Home screen is at the heart of the Kindle reading experience. All the content on your Kindle is available here. You can access the Home screen at any time by pressing the Home key on the Kindle keyboard.

Figure 1.1 shows the Home screen for my Kindle.

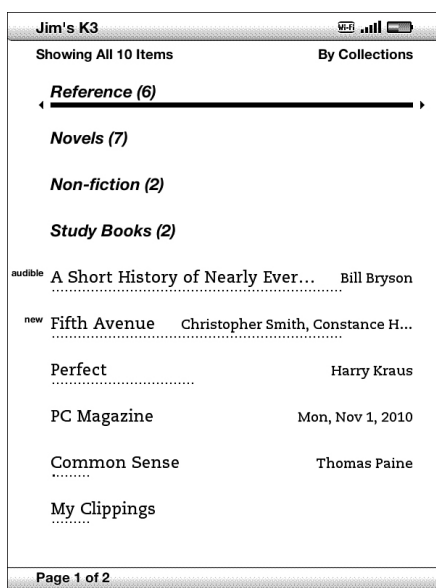


Figure 1.1

The Kindle Home screen.

NOTE

Kindle content can be books, magazines, newspapers, blogs, audio books, podcasts, and clippings. The Kindle uses the term *subscriptions* to refer to newspapers, magazines, and blogs.

The title of each item appears in the left column. The right column contains the author's name for book and audio book listings and the date of issue for newspapers, blogs, and magazines. If a

title is too long to display, the Kindle displays ellipses at the end of the title name. If you want to see more information about an item on your Home screen, use the 5-way in the lower-right corner of your Kindle to underline the item you are interested in, and then press the 5-way to the right. You see an expanded view of the item along with common tasks, as shown in Figure 1.2.

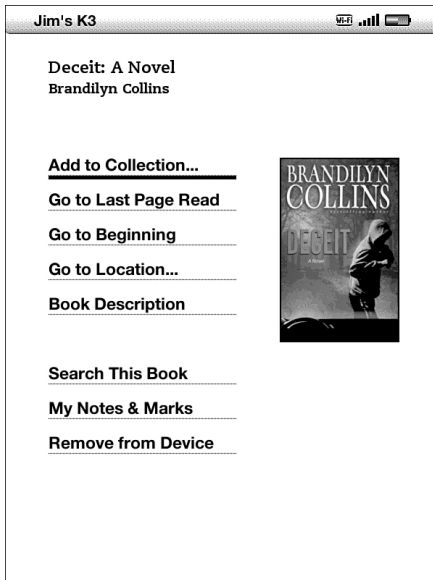


Figure 1.2

Book description screen.

TIP

If the title or author of a book is incorrect or if you'd like to change them for any reason, you easily can, as discussed in Chapter 4, "Using Calibre."

The Home screen may also contain one or more *collections*. A collection categorizes books. In Figure 1.1, four collections are shown: Reference, Novels, Nonfiction, and Study Books. Collections display in bold and italic text, and the number of books in each collection displays to the right of the collection name.

→ For more information on using collections, see "Using Collections," in Chapter 4.

While on the Home screen, you can delete an item from your Kindle by moving the cursor to the item and pressing the 5-way to the left. Books you've purchased from the Kindle Store display a Remove from Device option, and subscription items and books you transferred to the Kindle display a Delete option. Deleting an item provides you with a confirmation dialog, but selecting Remove from Device immediately removes the item from the device. You need to use Archived Items to move the item back to your Kindle.

CAUTION

If you delete an item that was not obtained from the Kindle Store, it will be permanently removed. You must have a copy of the item saved elsewhere if you want to add it back to your Kindle.

The label **New** appears next to an item that hasn't been opened and is less than 24-hours old, and **Sample** displays next to book samples downloaded from Amazon's Kindle Store. Your Kindle also supports audio books from www.Audible.com, and audio books display an Audible label to the right of the title. (In Figure 1.1, the first title on my Home screen, *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, is an Audible book, and Audible appears to the left of the book's name.) Games can display an **Active** label, and finally, any subscription content you've chosen to keep using the **Keep This Issue** feature shows a **Keep** label to the left of the item.

TIP

You can also use audio books from sites such as audiobooks.org or any other site that provides audio books in MP3 format or in a format that can be converted to MP3. Audio books downloaded from these sources will not be labeled as Audible books on your Kindle.

Under the title is a progress bar for the item. This progress bar uses dots to indicate the relative length of the item, and your current position is indicated by bold dots.

TIP

The Kindle also displays a progress bar (called the *location bar*) while you read an item. The location bar that's visible while you're reading has a percentage indicator that shows your reading progress and an indicator of how much you've read during your current reading session.

Sorting and Filtering the Home Screen

By default, the Home screen shows the newest items or recently opened items first, assuming you haven't defined any collections.

To change the sort order of the Home screen, press up on the 5-way until the **Sort Options** are highlighted (the top line of the Home screen), and then press the 5-way to the right. You can sort by **Most Recent First** (the default), **Title**, **Author**, or **Collections**. To change the sort option, move the 5-way to the desired sort option, and then press the 5-way to select it.

TIP

The Collections sort option appears grayed out if you haven't created any collections.

→ For more information on using collections, see “Using Collections,” in Chapter 4.

If you choose to sort by Title, you can press any letter to easily jump to titles that start with that letter. If you sort by Author, you can use the same method to jump to titles by a particular author. Simply enter the first letter of the title or author, and press the 5-way to go to items beginning with that letter.

TIP

Jumping to a title or author whose name begins with a particular letter isn't a filtering function. In other words, it doesn't limit the items that display on the Home screen. It's simply a convenient way to quickly jump to a particular title.

The last item listed on the Kindle Home screen is Archived Items, which provides access to all the books you've purchased from Amazon's Kindle Store but have removed from your Kindle. (Subscription content is not included.)

→ For more information on using Archived Items, see “Using Archived Items,” in Chapter 4.

TIP

You can easily go to any page of your Home screen by entering the desired page number and then pressing the 5-way. Holding the Alt key enables you to use the top row on the keyboard as a number row. For example, to jump to page 3 of the Home screen, press Alt-E on the Kindle keyboard and then press the 5-way.

Items Available on the Home Screen Menu

The Home screen menu, shown in Figure 1.3, is accessible by pressing the Menu button while on your Kindle's Home screen. Think of the Home screen menu as the main menu for the Kindle.

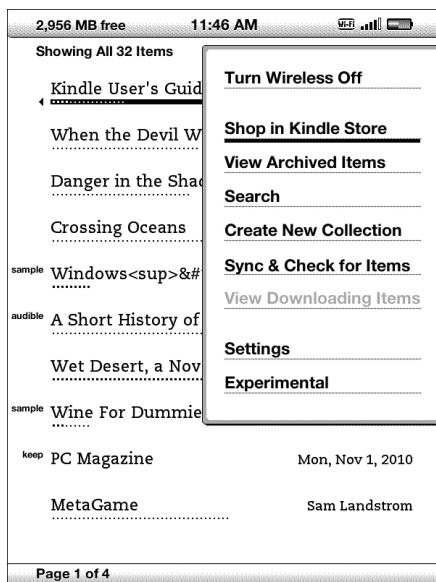


Figure 1.3

Home screen menu.

The following items are available on the Home screen menu:

- **Turn Wireless Off:** Selecting this turns Wireless (3G and Wi-Fi) off. When Wireless is off, this menu item changes to Turn Wireless On.
- **Shop in Kindle Store:** Selecting this takes you to the Kindle Store, provided you have access to Amazon's Whispernet. The Kindle notifies you if wireless is turned off and asks if you would like to turn it on.
→ For more information on using the Kindle Store, see “Using Amazon's Kindle Store,” in Chapter 3.
- **View Archived Items:** This item shows books purchased from the Kindle Store that are not currently on your Kindle. Selecting this item performs the same function as selecting Archived Items from the Home screen.
- **Search:** Selecting this takes you to the Search screen where you can search items on your Kindle, the Kindle Store, the dictionary, Google, Wikipedia, or the Web.
→ For more information on using the Kindle’s Search feature, see “Using Search on the Kindle,” in Chapter 3.
- **Create New Collection:** Enables you to create a new collection to organize the content on your Kindle.
- **Sync and Check for Items:** Selecting this synchronizes your Kindle with Amazon's servers. Subscription content and converted documents that haven't been transferred to your Kindle are downloaded. The Kindle also synchronizes your current location within your books so that you can resume reading on another Kindle, on your iPhone or iPod touch, on the Kindle for PC or Kindle for Mac, or on Kindle for Blackberry.

TIP

As you are reading, the Kindle periodically syncs to the furthest page read.

- **View Downloading Items:** This item displays a list of items currently downloading to your device. If no items are downloading, this menu item appears grayed out.
- **Settings:** This item displays the Kindle Settings and Device Information screen.
 - For more information on the Kindle Settings and Device Information screen, see "Configuring Your Settings," later in this chapter.
- **Experimental:** The Experimental menu contains items the Kindle's developers are working on. These are extra features that might or might not remain on the Kindle. At the time of this writing, the items on this menu are Web Browser, Play MP3, and Text-to-Speech.
 - For more information on using the Web Browser on the Kindle, see "Browsing the Web on the Kindle," in Chapter 5.
 - For more information on playing MP3s on the Kindle, see "Playing Music," in Chapter 6.
 - For more information on Text-to-Speech, see "Using Text-to-Speech," in Chapter 2.

Configuring Your Settings

As mentioned earlier, you can access settings for your Kindle by selecting Settings from the Home screen menu. The Kindle displays page 1 of the Settings screen, as shown in Figure 1.4.

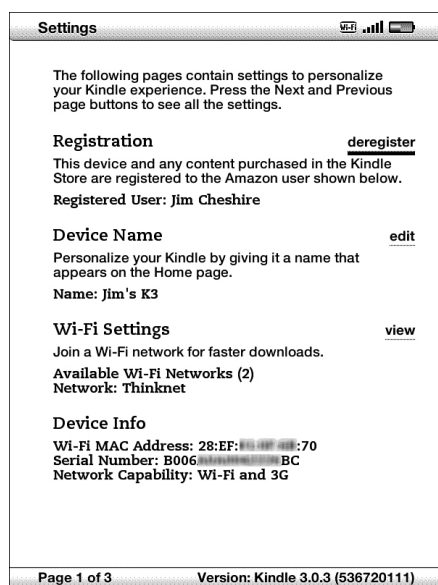


Figure 1.4

Page 1 of the Settings screen.

NOTE

Depending on how your Kindle is currently configured, your Device Settings screen may not match exactly with what is shown in Figure 1.4 and you may have fewer pages of Settings screens.

There are three pages of Settings screens on the Kindle. The sections available on the Settings screens are described next.

Registration

The Registration section displays the name on the Amazon account to which the Kindle is registered. Your registration connects the Kindle to your Amazon account so that you can purchase books on the Kindle using the credit card on file with Amazon.

You can register as many Kindles as you want to one Amazon account, and up to six of those Kindles can share content with the exception of subscription content. In other words, if you and your spouse both have a Kindle registered to the same Amazon account, and you purchase a great book you want your spouse to read, you can send that book to your spouse's Kindle using Your Media Library on Amazon's website without paying for it a second time.

TIP

If you'd like to change the account your Kindle is registered to, select Deregister in the Registration section. You can then register the Kindle to a different Amazon account.

You can also deregister a Kindle on Amazon's Manage Your Kindle page.

→ For more information on using the Manage Your Kindle page, see “Using Amazon's 'Manage Your Kindle,’” in Chapter 4.

If your Kindle is ever stolen or lost, make sure you deregister it immediately using the Amazon website to prevent unauthorized purchases on the device.

Device Name

By default, your Kindle's device name is derived from the account name to which it is registered. If you prefer, you can personalize your Kindle by changing the device name. If you have multiple Kindles registered to your account, you need to give each a descriptive name so that you can easily identify them when using Amazon's website.

Select Edit Name in the Device Name section, and enter a name for your Kindle. The name you choose displays on the top-left corner of the Home screen. Amazon also uses this name when

you browse the Kindle Store on your computer or when you use other Kindle pages on Amazon's website.

Wi-Fi Settings

The Wi-Fi Settings section enables you to join a Wi-Fi network or forget a Wi-Fi network that you've joined previously. It also displays the number of available Wi-Fi networks if any are in range, and if you have joined a Wi-Fi network, it displays the name of that network.

Device Info

The Device Info section shows your Kindle's Wi-Fi card's MAC address (a unique number associated with the network card in your Kindle), the serial number of your device, and the network capability (either Wi-Fi or Wi-Fi and 3G) of your Kindle.

Press Next Page to go to the second page of the Settings screen. The following sections are available on the second page.

Voice Guide

When turned on, Voice Guide provides audible prompts as you navigate the menus and screens on your Kindle. Voice Guide is off by default. To enable Voice Guide, select Turn On.

Device Email

The Device Email section shows you the Kindle email address associated with your Kindle. This is the email address you can use when you want to email documents for conversion directly to your Kindle. You can change your Kindle email address by using the Manage Your Kindle page on Amazon's website.

Device Password

The Device Password option enables you to set a password for your Kindle. If you turn on this feature, you are required to enter a password when turning on your Kindle or when waking your Kindle from sleep mode.

Device Time

The Device Time section enables you to set the clock on your Kindle. If your Kindle has 3G connectivity, the time is set automatically using AT&T's cellular network. However, you can choose to set it manually.

Annotations Backup

This section enables you to control whether your Kindle synchronizes annotations, collections, and your reading location of your Kindle content. By default, Annotations Backup is turned on.

Popular Highlights

By default, your Kindle content contains an indicator showing sections highlighted often by others in the Kindle community. If you prefer not to see these indicators, you can turn off Popular Highlights.

The following two sections are available on page 3 of the Settings screens.

Social Networks

Your Kindle enables you to share your notes and highlights with your friends and family using Twitter and Facebook. To share notes and highlights, you must first link your Kindle to the desired social network. The Social Networks section enables you to link and unlink your Kindle to a social network.

Personal Info

The Personal Info section displays any personal information you've entered. You might choose to enter your contact information or a personal message.

The information that you enter here is displayed on the Settings screen.

Kindle Version

A version number for your Kindle's software is located at the bottom of each Settings screen. Amazon updates the Kindle's internal software from time to time, and when it does, your version number changes to reflect the new software version.

Your Kindle automatically downloads any Kindle updates that Amazon makes available. You can then update your Kindle by navigating to any of the Settings screens, pressing Menu, and then selecting Update Your Kindle from the menu. If there isn't an update available, the Update Your Kindle menu item is disabled.

NOTE

The Kindle displays free memory, the current time, network status, and the current battery level at the top of the screen when any of Kindle's menus are active, as shown in Figure 1.5. This is a convenient way to check the time while reading, the quality of your Whispernet or Wi-Fi signal, or your battery's level.

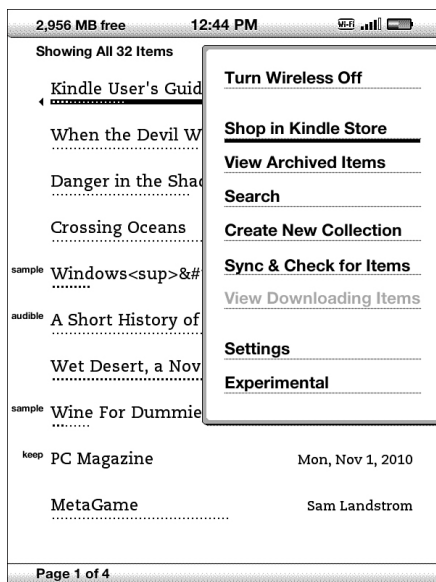


Figure 1.5

Free memory, time, and network and battery status.

Now that you've had a chance to peruse the basic operation of the Home screen and see some of the settings available to you on your Kindle, it's a great time to look at the details of the Kindle reading experience. In the next chapter, you learn not only the basics of reading on the Kindle, but also how to take advantage of bookmarks, notes, clippings, and much more.

Chapter 2

Reading Content

Although the Kindle offers a wealth of features other than the capability to read books, magazines, newspapers, and blogs, its primary use is as an electronic reading device. Reading content seems like such a simple concept, but the Kindle has plenty of hard-to-find features that can make reading more enjoyable. This chapter covers these features.

Reading on the Kindle

When you select an item from the Home screen, the Kindle switches to the Reader screen. When an item is first opened on the Kindle, you might or might not be taken to the first page. (For example, many books open on the first page of Chapter 1 instead of the cover page.) The Kindle saves your last location for each item, so if you open an item that you've opened in the past, you are automatically taken to the place where you were when you last finished reading the item. Using the Whispersync feature, the Kindle can open a book on the same page that you were reading on another Kindle, on your computer, or other device using the Kindle application.

NOTE

As of this writing, Amazon has a Kindle application for the PC, Mac, Windows Phone, Blackberry, iPhone, iPod touch, iPad, and Android.

→ For more information on using Whispersync, see “Using Whispersync,” later in this chapter.

While reading, you navigate from page to page using the Next Page and Prev Page buttons on the side of the Kindle. When you change pages, you notice a slight delay and the screen flashes. This is perfectly normal and a byproduct of the use of E Ink for the Kindle display. The screen flashing is actually not a requirement for E Ink, but the Kindle flashes to make sure there aren't any remnants of the previous page that might make the screen look "dirty."

NOTE

The Kindle sometimes updates only parts of the screen instead of updating the entire display. (For example, when you turn the page in a book, the bar at the top of the screen is not refreshed.) Because of this, parts of the screen might display artifacts that look smudged or dirty. It's normal for the Kindle display to do this, and it usually clears up when you turn the page. However, if you find that a particular part of the display remains dirty even after turning the page, you can press Alt+G on the keyboard to refresh the entire display.

NOTE

You can zoom in on images while reading by moving the cursor to the image and pressing on the 5-way. To restore your view to normal, press the 5-way again.

Keyboard Shortcuts While Reading

While reading, you can use several keyboard shortcuts.

- **Alt+Home:** This undocumented keyboard shortcut takes you to the Amazon Kindle Store. If wireless is turned off, the Kindle prompts you to turn it on. This is actually available from any screen, not just while reading.
- **Alt+B:** Adds a bookmark at the current location. If a bookmark already exists at the current location, pressing Alt+B removes it. A bookmarked page has a dog-eared corner in the top right of the screen. For more information on bookmarks, see “Using Bookmarks, Notes, Clippings, and Highlights,” later in this chapter.
- **AA:** Enables you to change the type size while reading content. You can choose from eight sizes. When you select a type size, the text of your content changes in real-time so that you can more easily determine which size of type works best for you. You can

also change the typeface, line spacing, number of words per line, screen rotation, and text-to-speech settings by clicking the AA button.

NOTE

Changing the type size affects only Kindle content and content in the Web browser. The size of the type in menus, the Home screen, and so on is not affected.

- **Letter Key or Space:** Opens a search box, enabling you to search your Kindle content or search for items on the Internet. For more information on using the Search feature, see “Using Search on the Kindle,” in Chapter 3.
- **Shift+Sym:** Toggles the Text-to-Speech function of the Kindle. While Text-to-Speech is activated, you can toggle it on and off, control the reading speed, and change the speaking voice by pressing the AA button and choosing the appropriate item from the menu dialog that appears. For more information on using Text-to-Speech, see “Using Text-to-Speech,” later in this chapter.

Using the Progress Indicator

Unlike traditional reading content, the Kindle doesn't use page numbers. Instead, it uses *location numbers*. While reading a book, the progress indicator displays at the bottom of the screen. Using a progress bar, it shows your current location within the book.

TIP

When reading PDF files, your Kindle uses actual page numbers instead of location numbers.

The Kindle shows the total number of locations in the current book on the right edge of the progress indicator. On the left edge of the progress indicator, it displays a percentage indicator showing how much of the book you've read. Notes, highlights, and bookmarks appear as dots on the progress indicator.

A downward-facing triangle on the progress indicator marks the start position of your current reading session. You can use this indicator to determine how much you've read during your current session.

TIP

While reading a book, if you want to move quickly to a note, highlight, or bookmark, select the My Notes and Marks item from the Reader menu. See the next section for more details on using the Reader menu.

Using Whispersync

Whispersync enables you to stop reading on one device and pick up reading on the same page on another device. You can use Whispersync to sync reading on one or more Kindle devices with

your reading location on the Kindle application on another device. You can find the Kindle application for your device by going to www.kindle.com.

NOTE

Whispersync is only available for books purchased from the Kindle Store.

As long as you have wireless turned on and are connected to Whispernet, the Kindle automatically keeps track of the farthest page you've read. If you stop reading on one Kindle and pick up reading the same book on another Kindle, you can select Sync to Furthest Page Read from the Reader menu. If you have read to a later location in the book on another device, the Kindle notifies you and gives you the option of going to the furthest read location. Whispersync also synchronizes bookmarks, notes, and highlights.

Whispersync is not without problems. If you read a book that doesn't lend itself well to linear reading (such as a cookbook), Whispersync isn't helpful because it always syncs to the *furthest* page read, not the page you are currently reading on any one device. Whispersync is also not configurable. Amazon gives you the option to disable it for your Amazon account on the Manage Your Kindle web page, but you can't choose to disable it only for particular books or only specific devices.

TIP

To turn Whispersync on or off for your Amazon account, visit the Manage Your Kindle page at www.amazon.com/manageyourkindle. Scroll to the bottom of the page, and click the Manage Synchronization Between Devices link.

Using the Reader Menu

The Reader menu makes it easy to jump to specific parts of a book or other Kindle content. It also contains menu items for adding bookmarks, accessing your notes, and so on.

TIP

While you are reading, you can press up on the 5-way to move the cursor from the last line of text to the first line of text or press down on the 5-way to move the cursor from the last line of text to the first line of text. However, menus don't provide this convenience. If you want to move the cursor from the first item on a menu to the last item, you have to repeatedly press down on the 5-way.

To access the Reader menu, click Menu while reading.

The first item on the Reader menu is the Turn Wireless On if wireless is currently off or Turn Wireless Off if wireless is currently on. You find this menu item available on most of the Kindle's menus, so you can easily turn wireless on and off.

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