

How to Access Facebook in Vietnam

www.viettan.org | www.facebook.com/vt4democracy | www.twitter.com/viettan

Note: the following methods do not guarantee your privacy and identification over the Internet. You can use these methods to not only access Facebook but also other firewalled websites in Vietnam.

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Circumvention methods are further explained on pages 19-20.

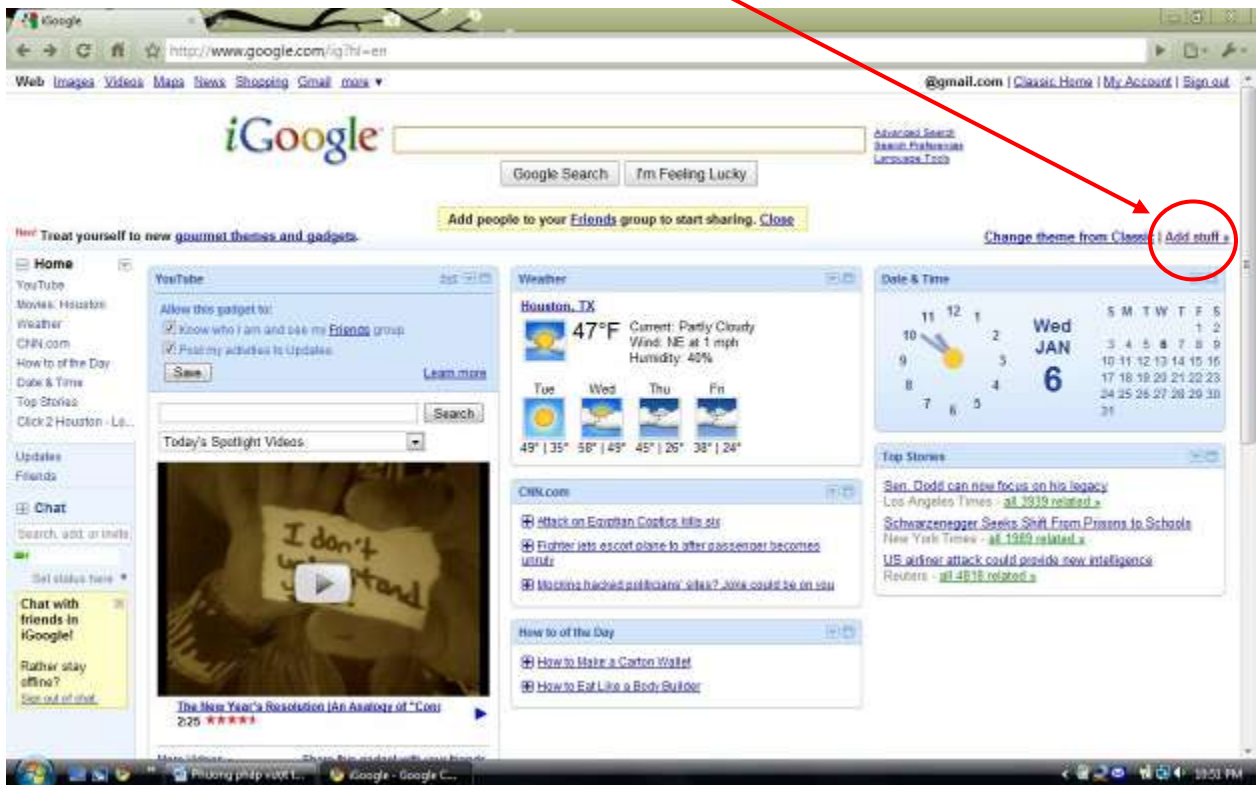
Utilize the “lite” versions of Facebook

Simply access Facebook through <http://lite.facebook.com> or <http://m.facebook.com> or <http://touch.facebook.com>

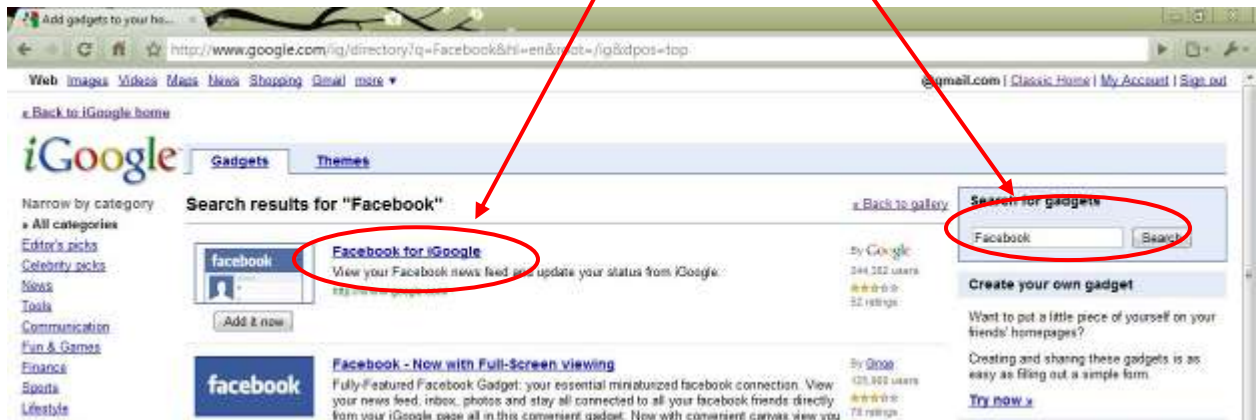
iGoogle

First go to www.igoogle.com. Then sign up using your normal email and password from an existing Google account such as Gmail, Youtube, or Google Calendar (create a new account if necessary).

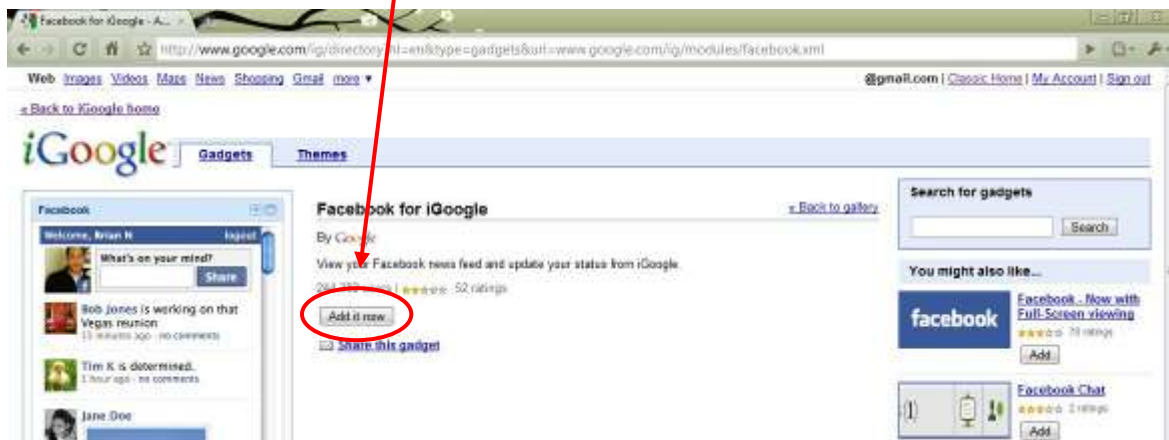
Once you signed into www.igoogle.com, Click on “Add stuff” (top right)



- Then type “Facebook” in the “Search” box (under “Search for gadgets”)
- Select and click “Facebook for iGoogle”



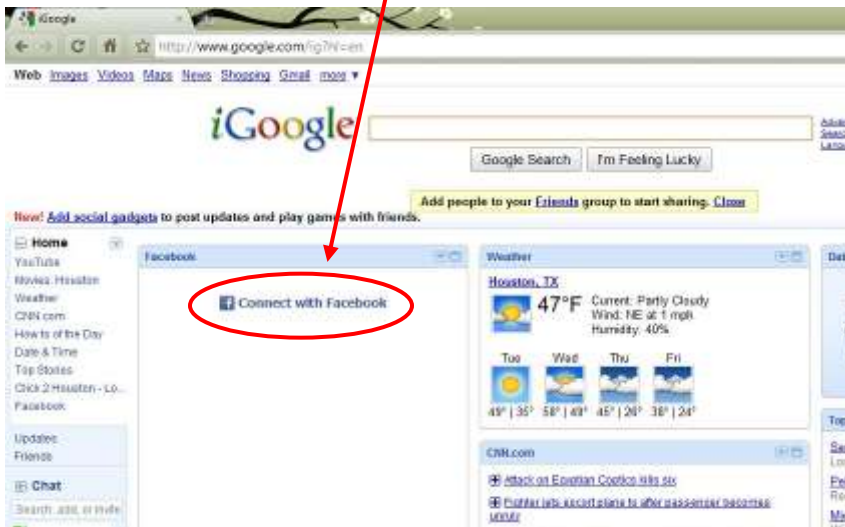
- Now click “Add it now”



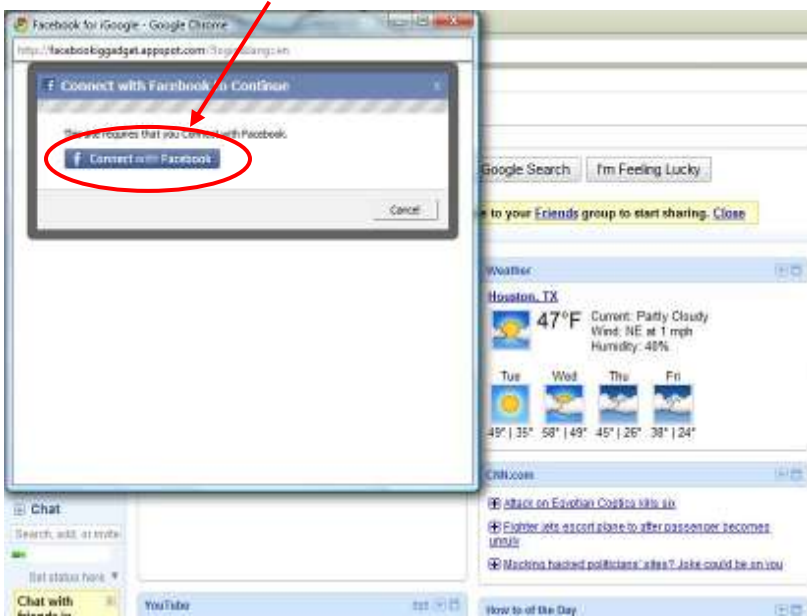
Once “Add it now” has been clicked, you have added a small Facebook gadget into your own iGoogle homepage.

When you return to iGoogle home page, you will see the “Connect with Facebook” link.

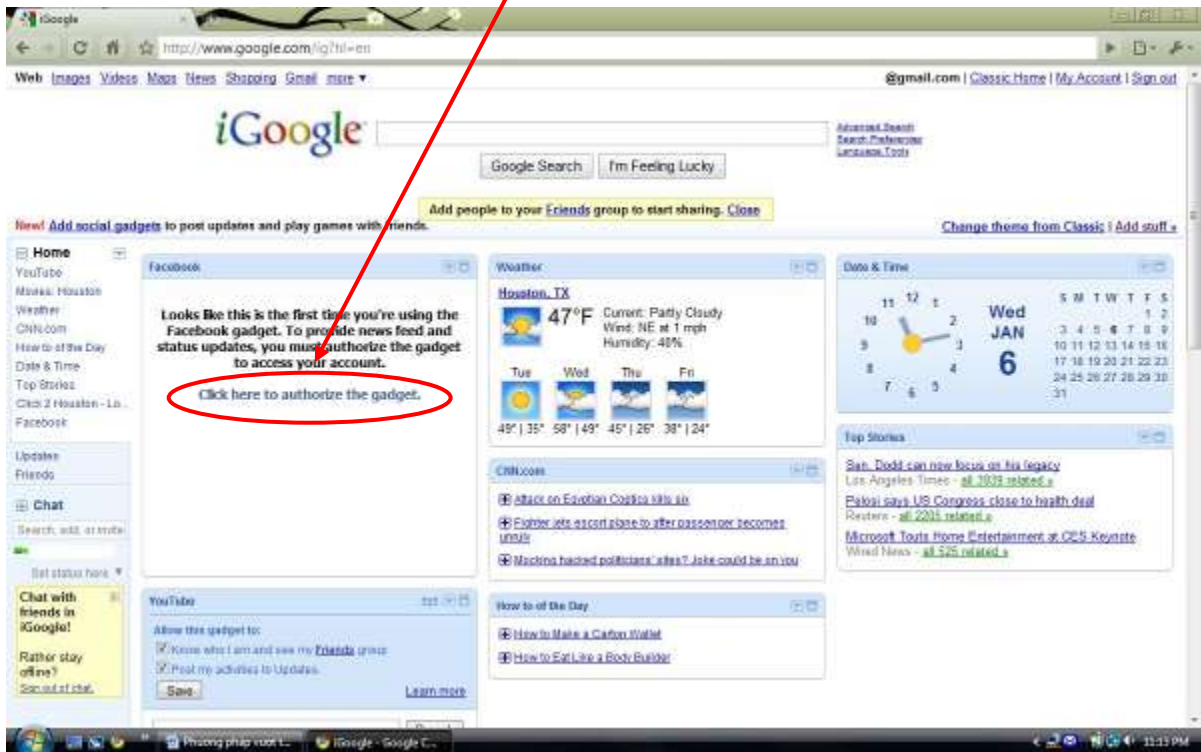
- Click on “Connect with Facebook”



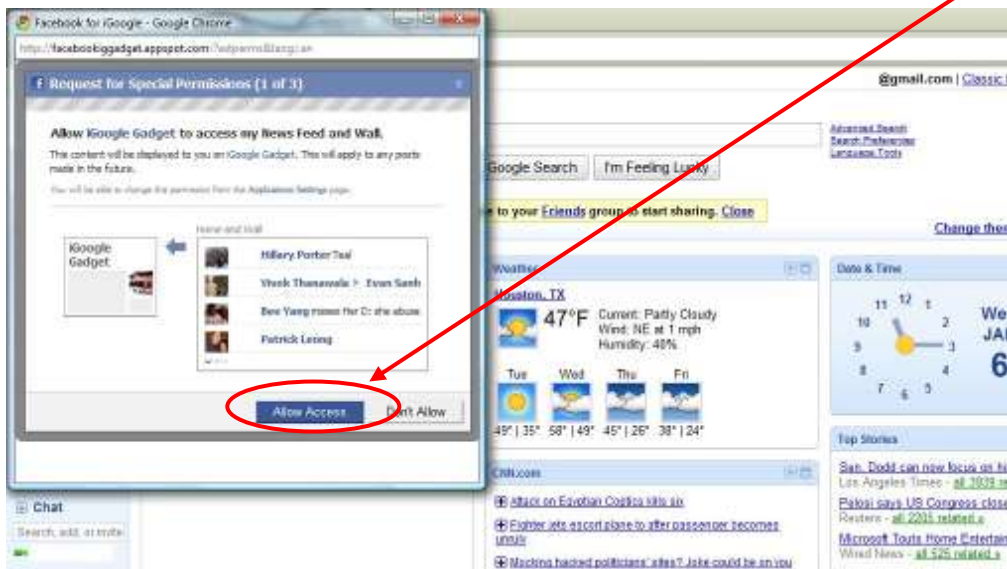
- There will be a pop-up asking you to connect to Facebook.
- Select “Connect to Facebook”



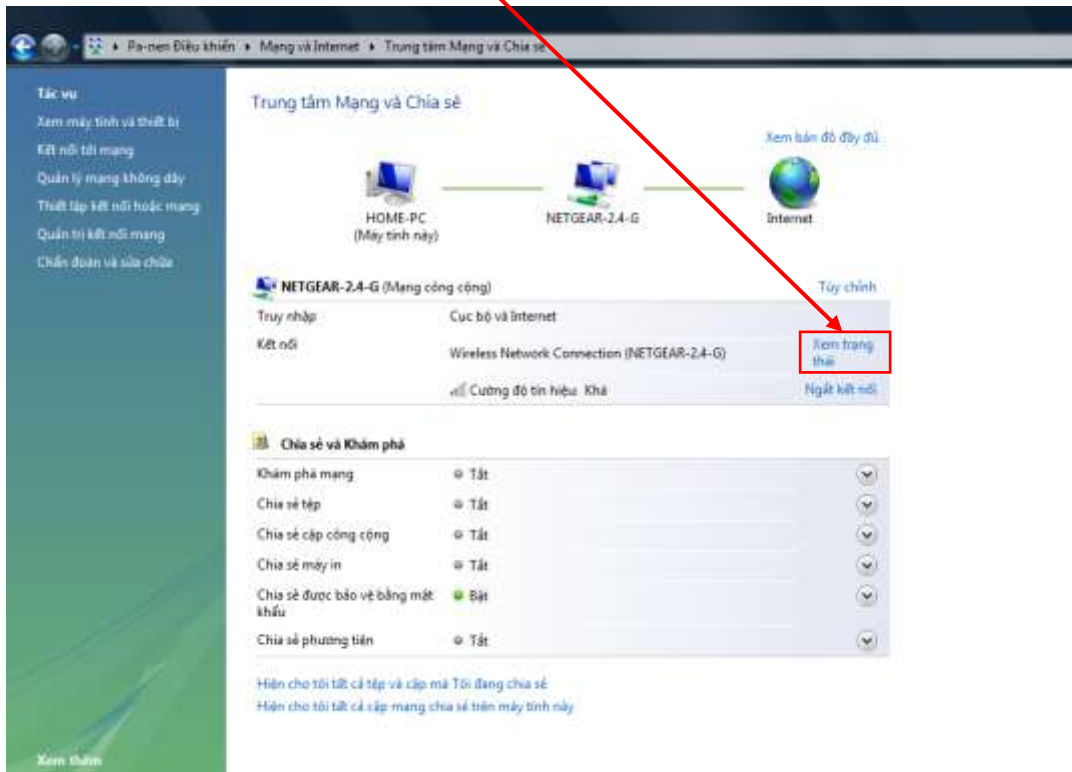
- Then click on “Click here to authorize the gadget”



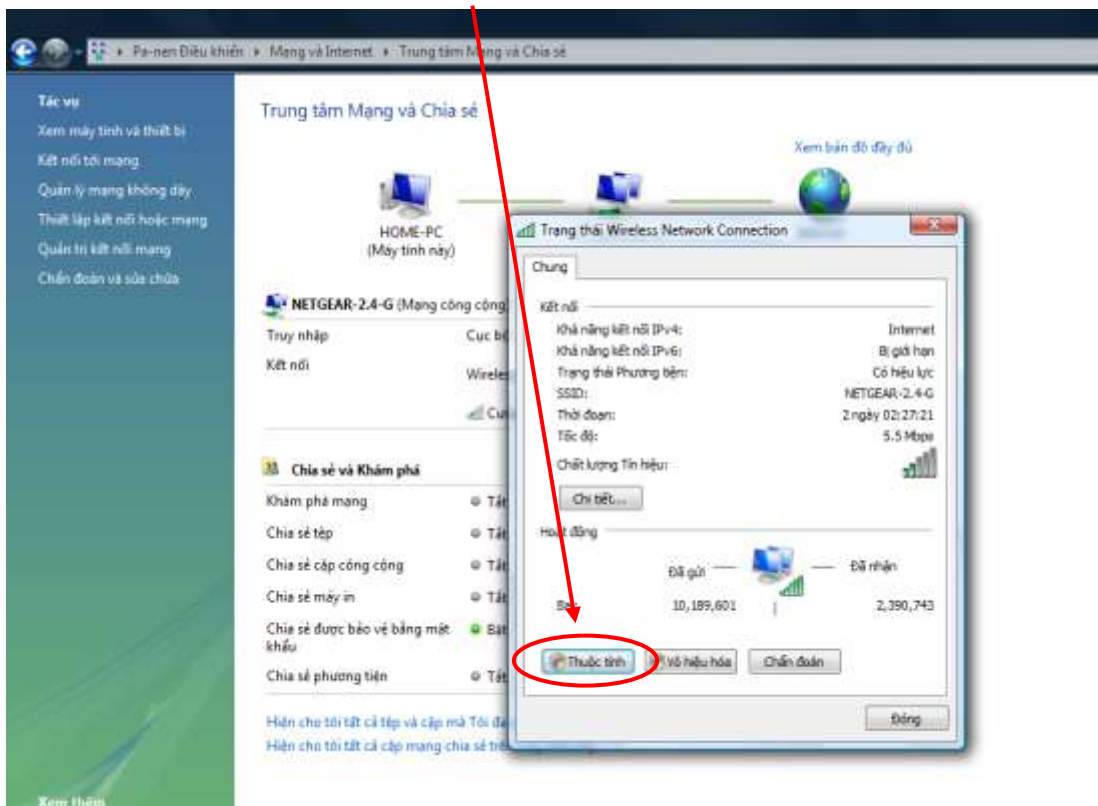
- A new window will appear, requesting access to Facebook. Click “Allow access”



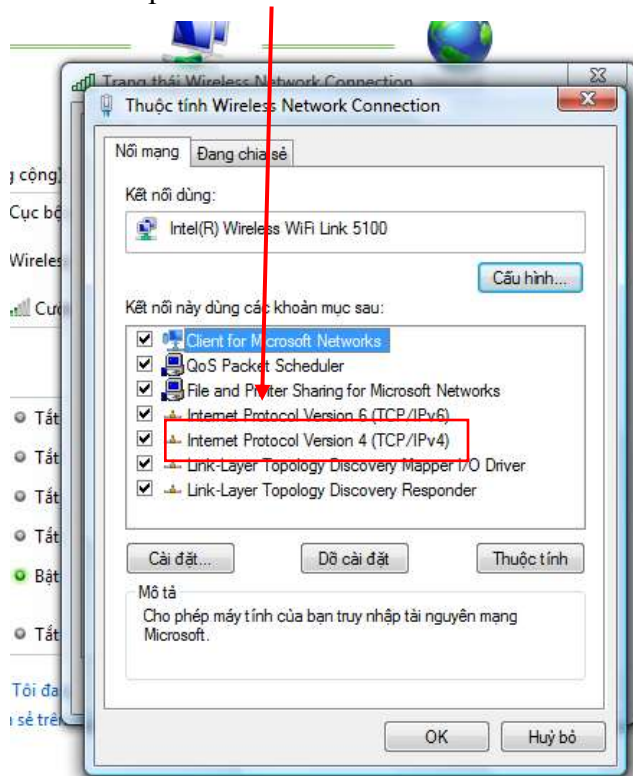
- Click "Current network" or "Network status"



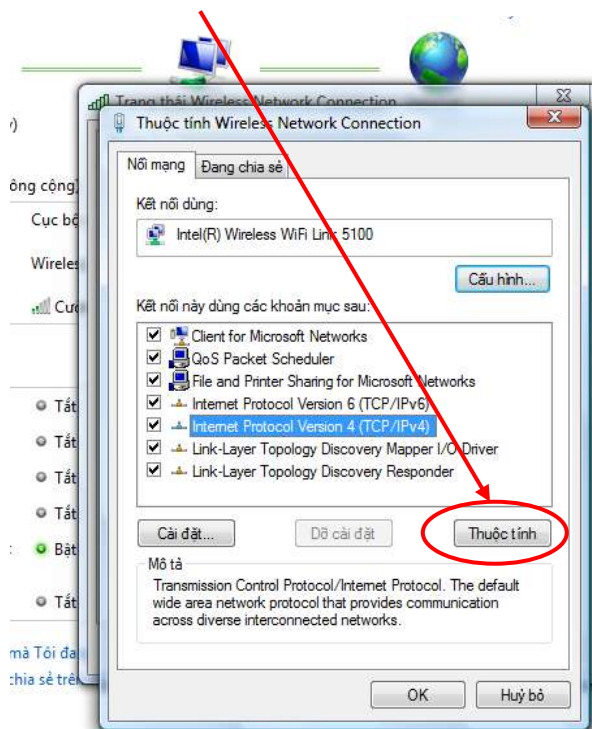
- On the new window, select "Properties"



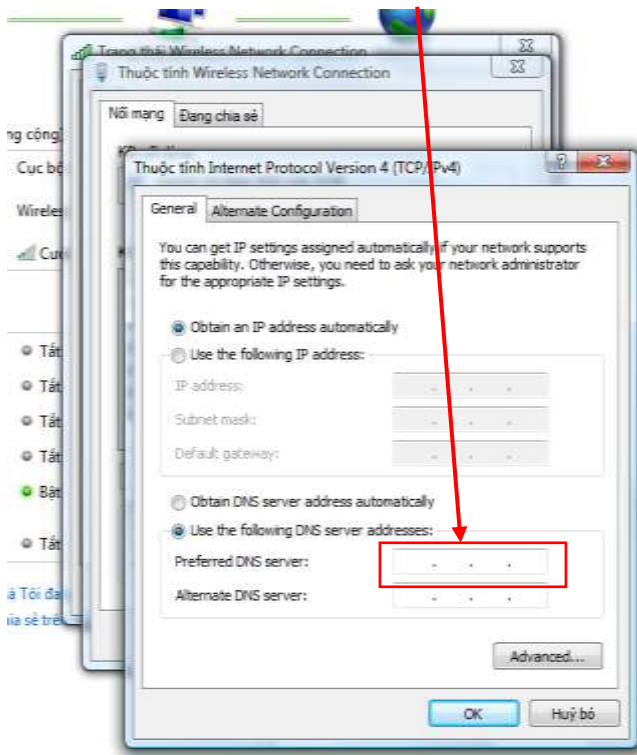
- Find "Internet protocol version 4" and click on that



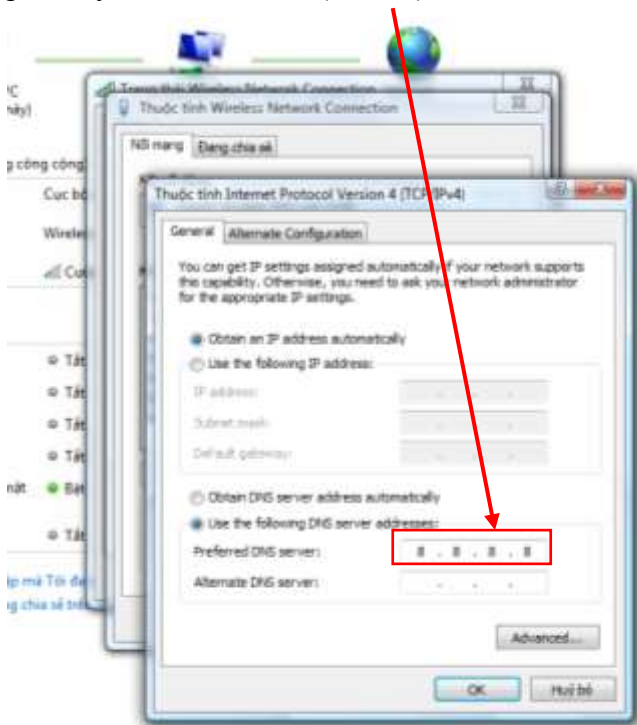
- Then click "Properties"



- Select "Use the following DNS server addresses"



- Then type in the DNS server that you want to alternate to. For instance, use Google's publicly-available DNS (8.8.8.8).

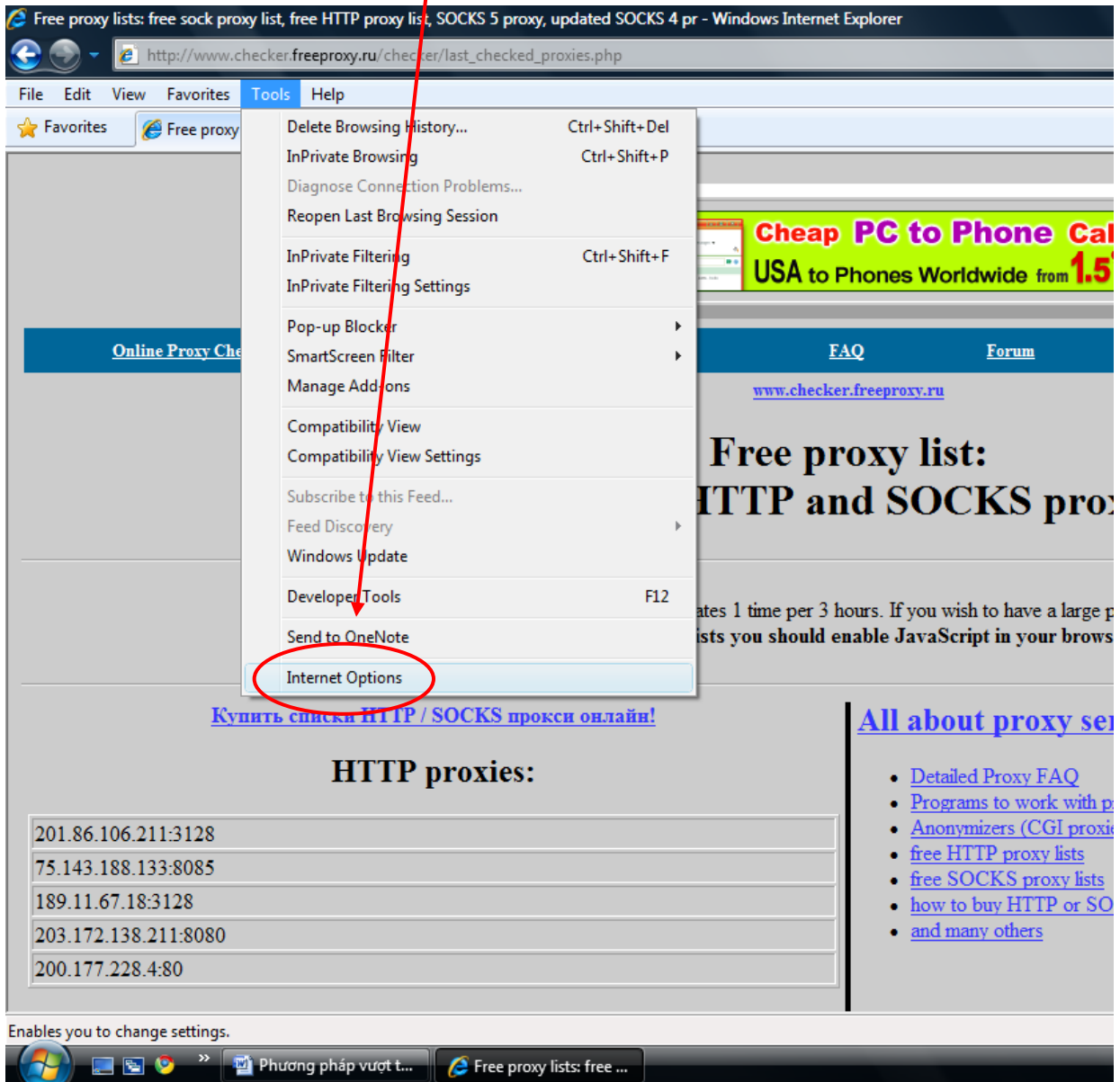


Once the alternate DNS server has been entered, your Internet browser will utilize this new DNS server. You will then be able to access Facebook.

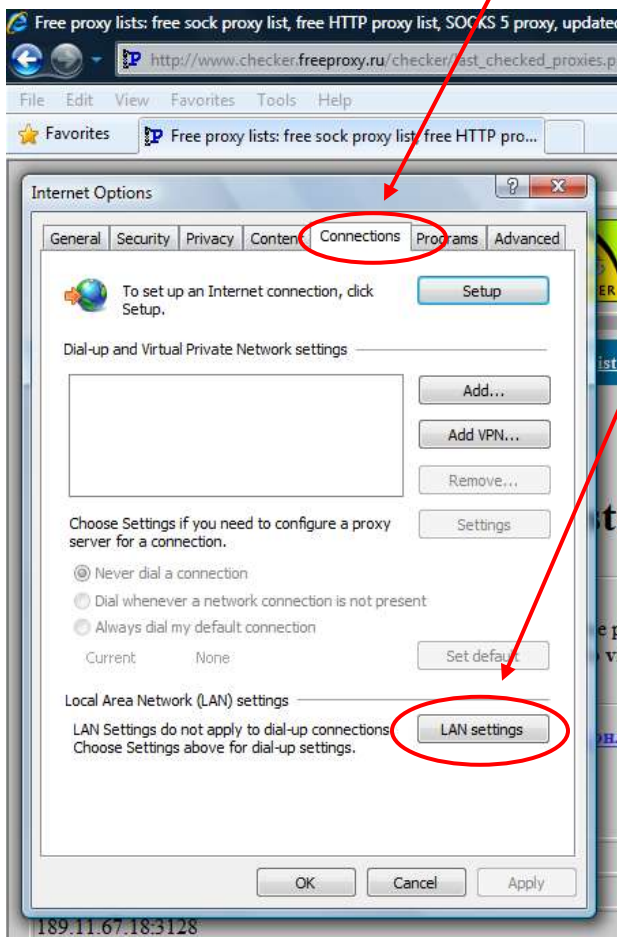
Proxies

There are many proxies that you can use to bypass Vietnam's government firewall. Just use Google to search and find a large number of them. This webpage for instance lists many free proxies: http://www.checker.freeproxy.ru/checker/last_checked_proxies.php.

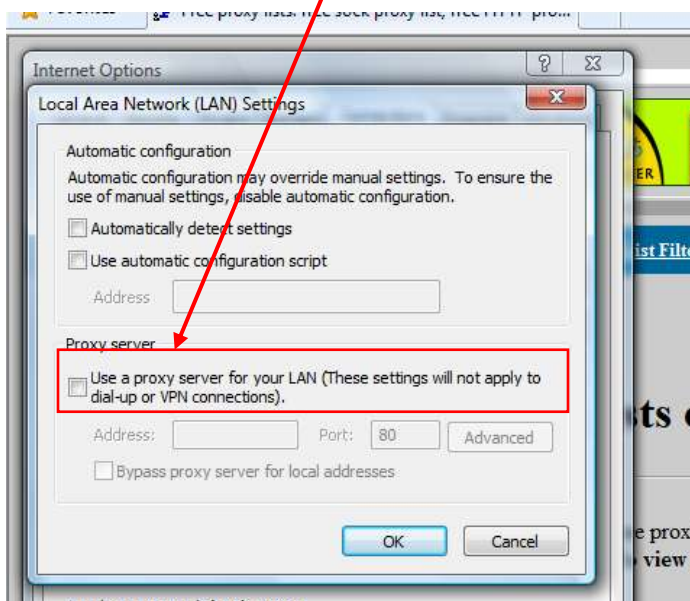
- Find a proxy address first
- Then open Internet Explorer
- Under "Tools", select "Internet options"



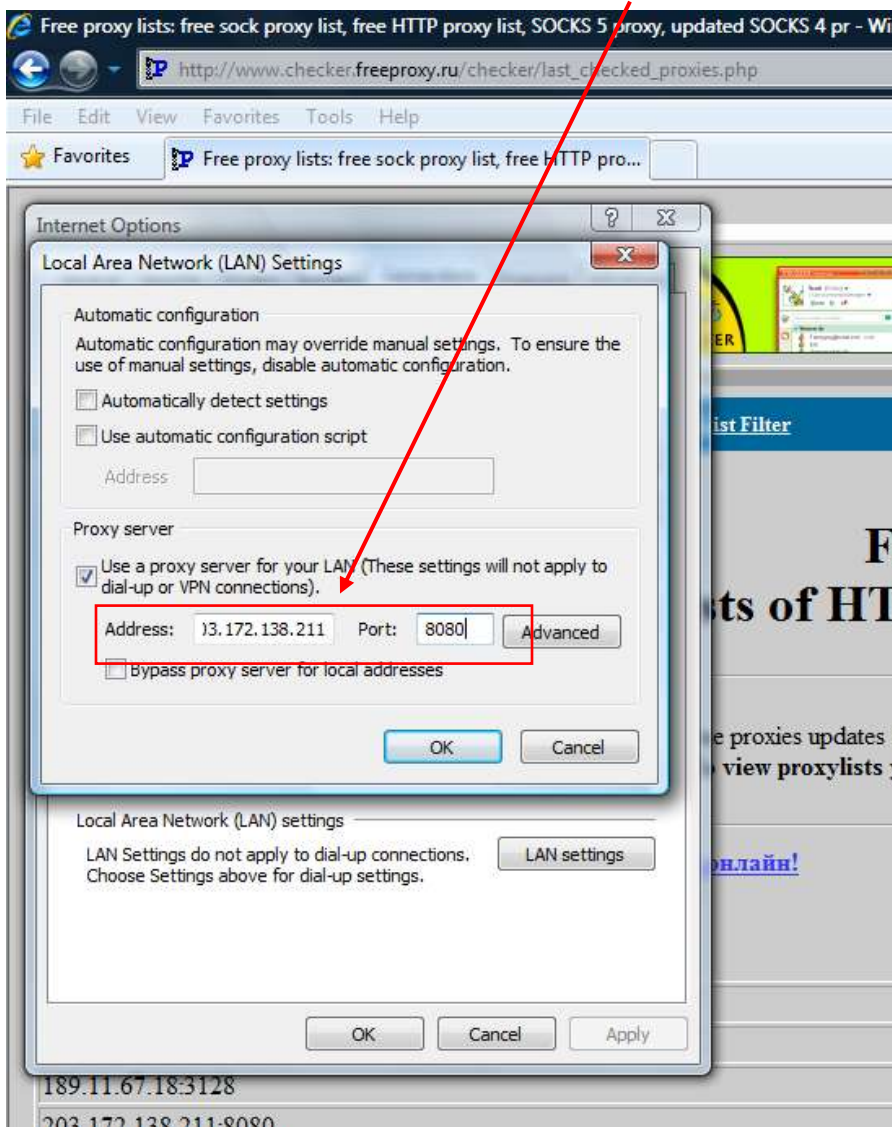
- On the new window, select "Connections", and then "LAN settings"



- Select "Use a proxy server for your LAN"



- Copy and Paste the proxy address into the "Address" box and the port information into "Port" box



After entering the proxy setting, all communication from your internet browser will be routed through this proxy (rather than using the government's proxy). You will observe a slower Internet speed using proxies, but that is normal. Sometimes some proxies don't work. Simply try different ones until you find a working one.

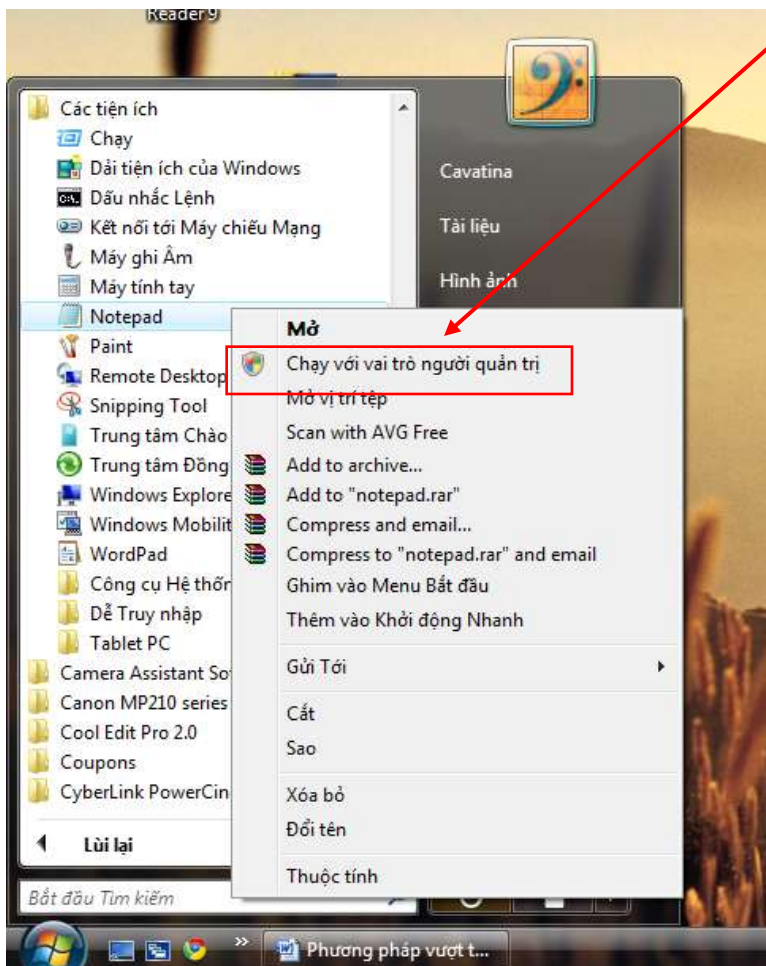
Changing your host file

Facebook's current IPs are:

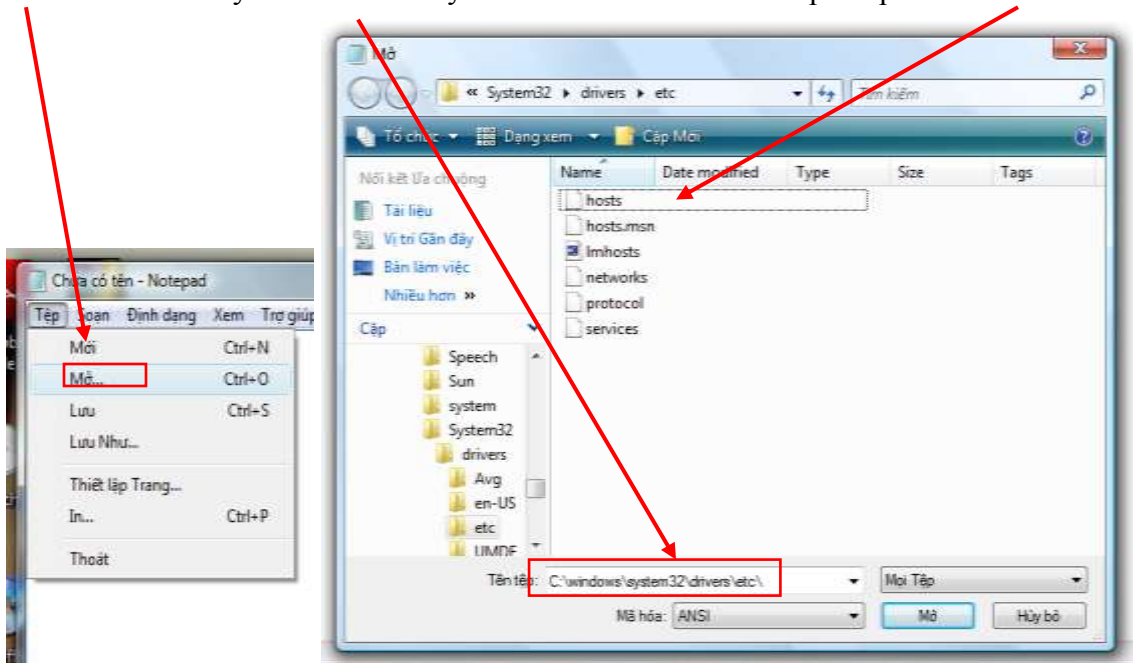
69.63.181.11 facebook.com
69.63.181.11 www.facebook.com
69.63.180.174 login.facebook.com
69.63.178.24 register.facebook.com
69.63.180.15 apps.facebook.com

You can set up your computer to automatically go to these IP entries as followed:

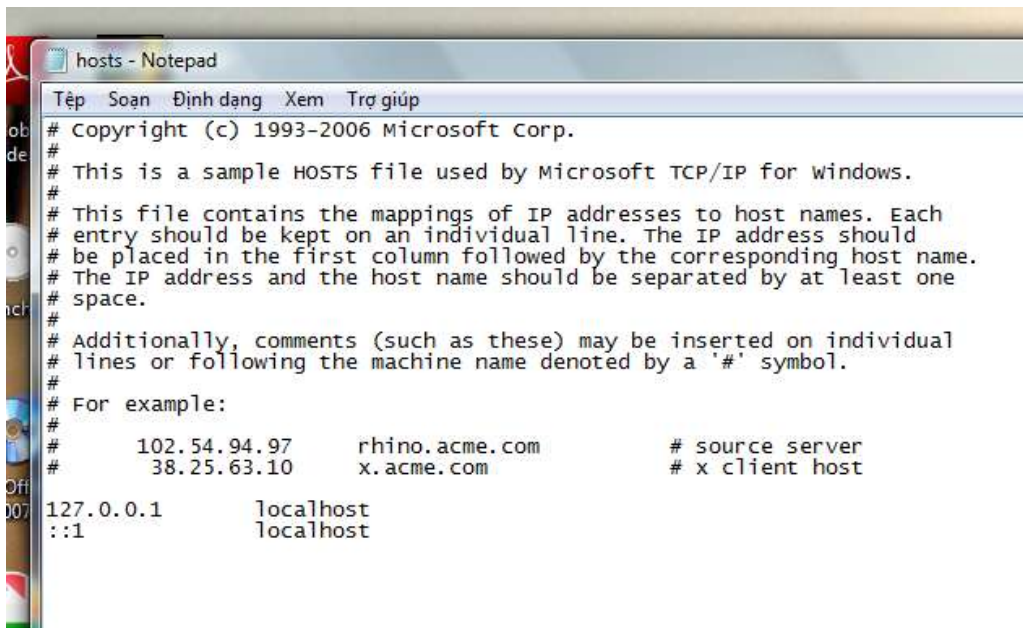
- Right click on "Notepad" in the start menu and select "Run as administrator"



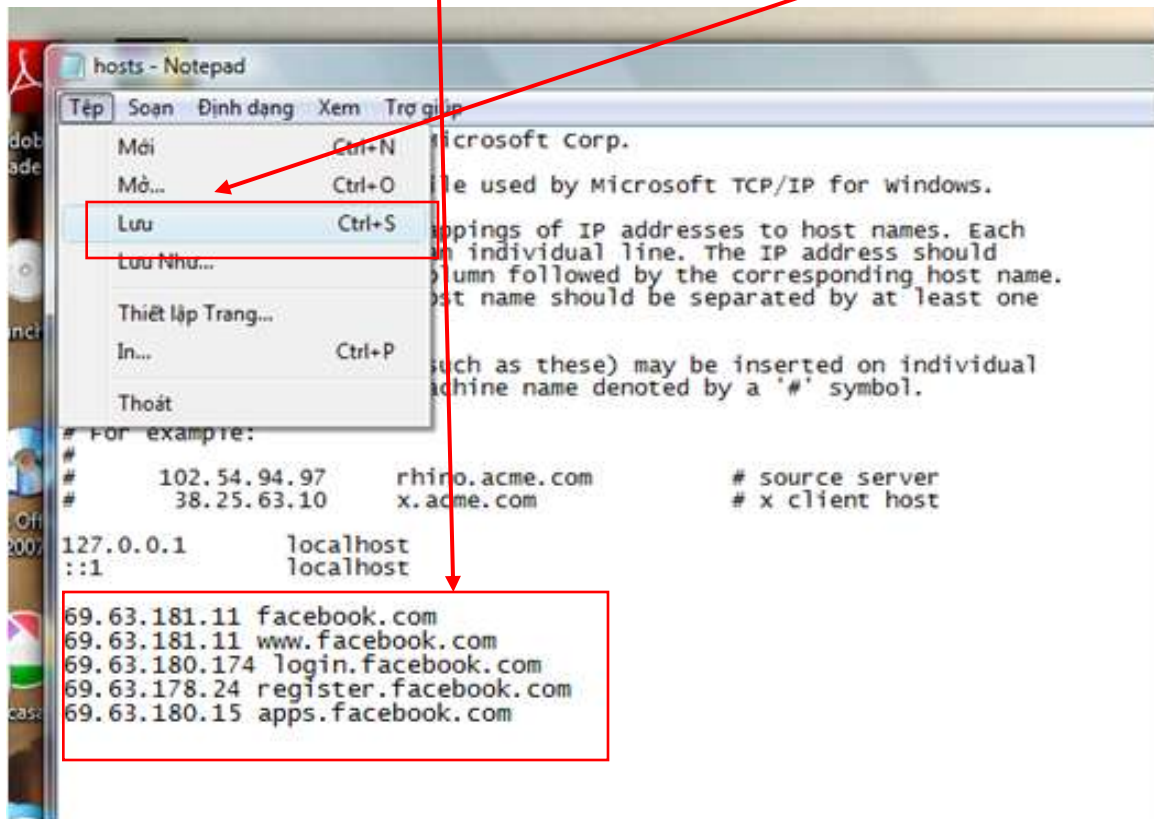
- Go to the directory “C:\windows\system32\drivers\etc” then open up the file "hosts"



- When opening this file, you will see a table listing a number of IP entries of different webpages



- Copy and Paste the above Facebook's IP entries into this file, and then click "Save"

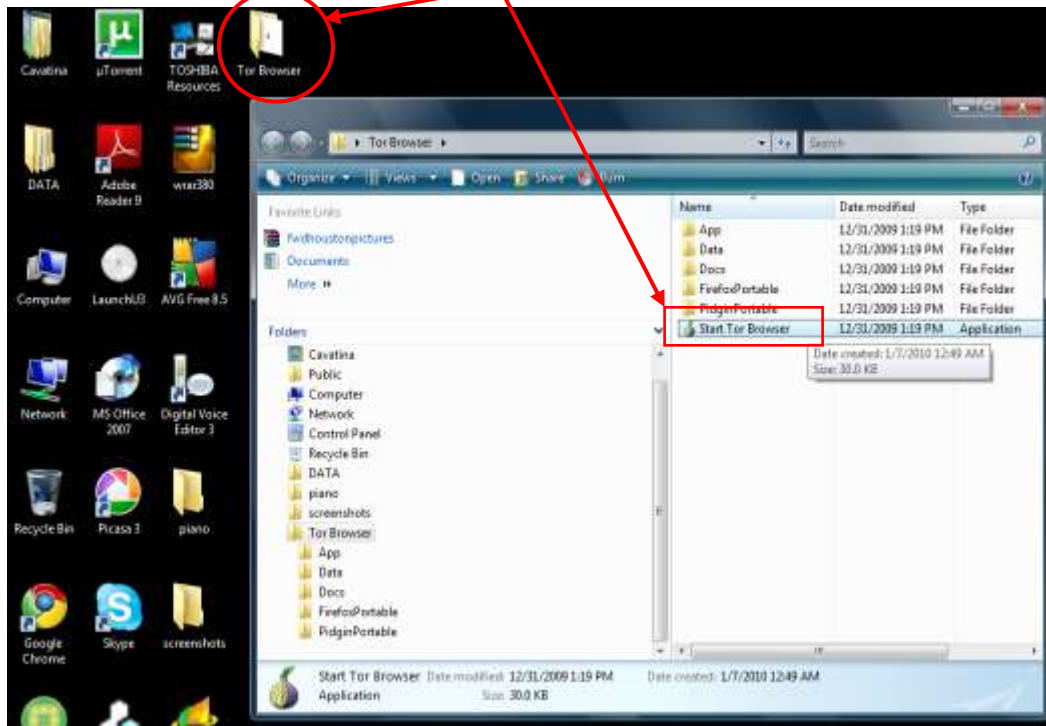


After restarting your internet browser, you should be able to go directly to Facebook.

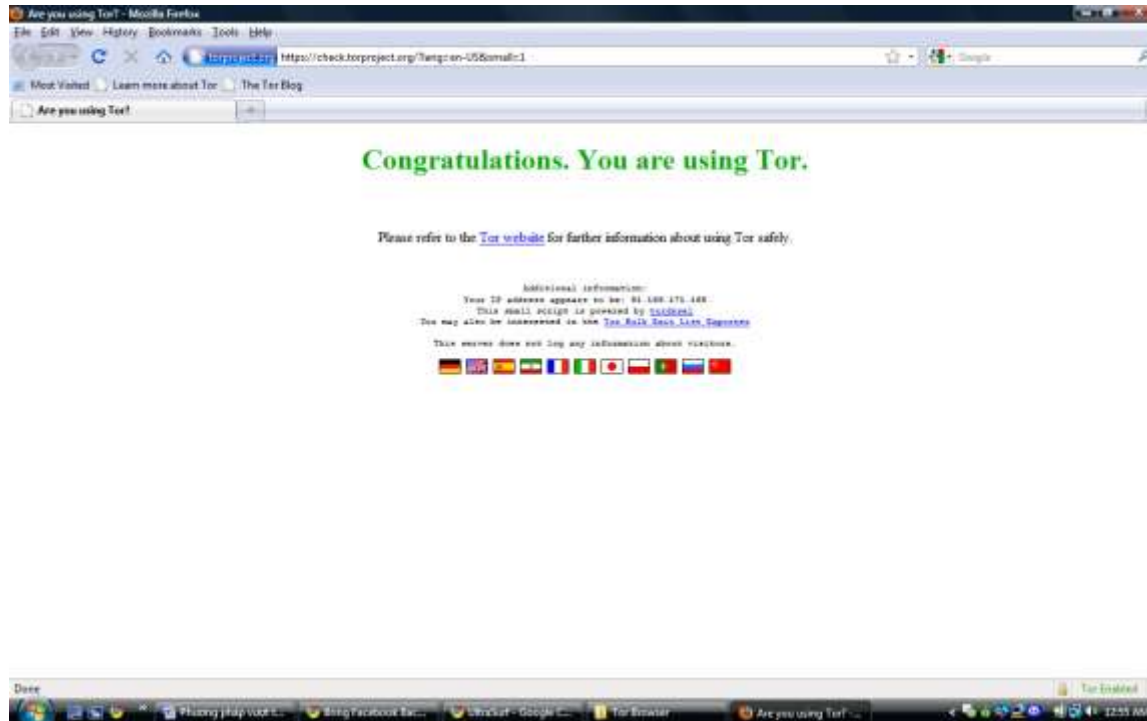
Using TOR or Ultrasurf

Download the free circumvention software TOR from: <http://www.torproject.org/easy-download.html.en>

Once you download the software, you should see a folder named “Tor browser”. In this folder, click on the application “Start Tor browser”. The program will automatically connect to the TOR network (and you will see the sign of an onion at the bottom right corner of the screen).

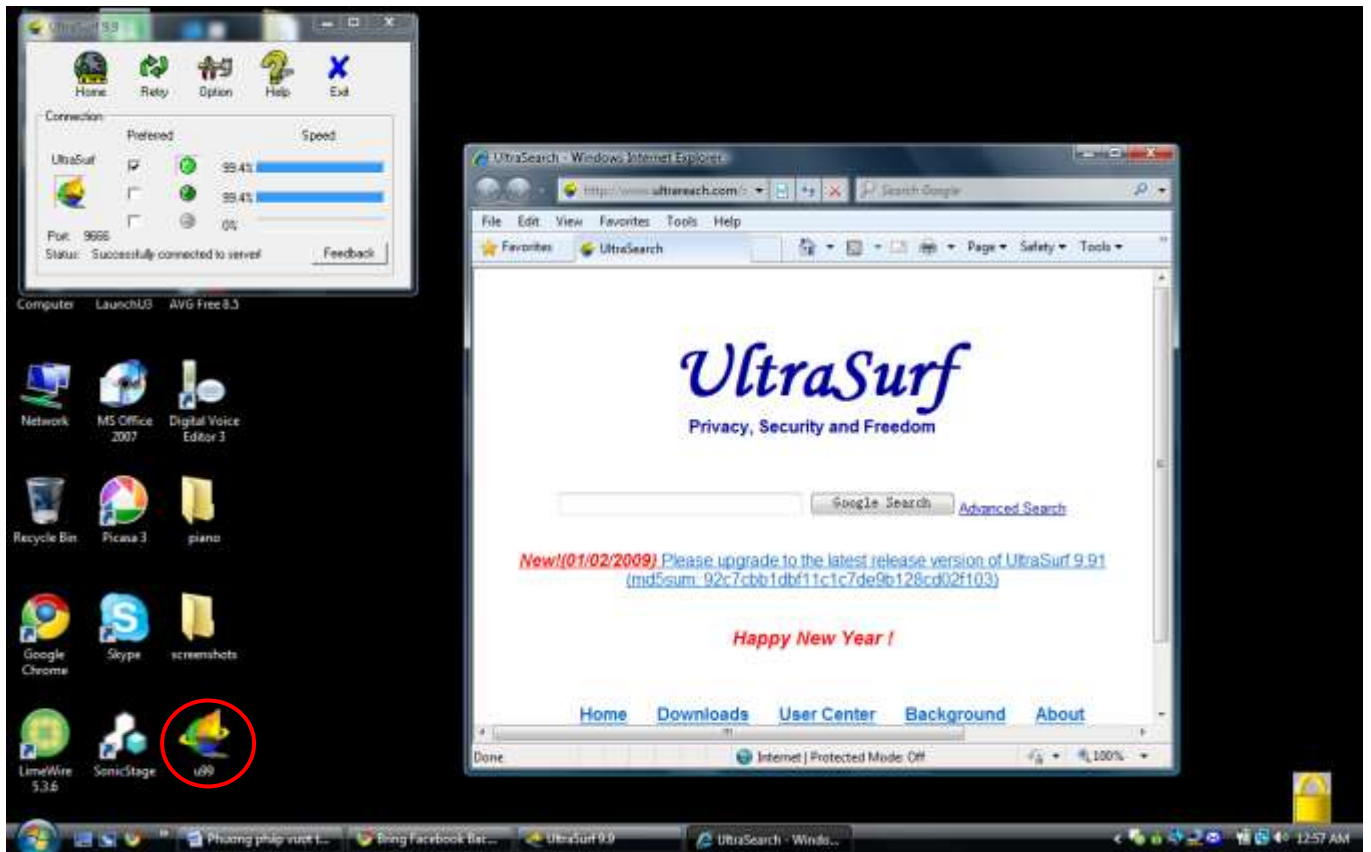


After that your browser will automatically open.



Ultrasurf is another similar circumvention software.

Download “Ultrasurf” for free at www.ultrareach.com. Once you start the program, an icon in form of a lock will appear at the bottom right corner of the screen indicating that you have successfully connected to the Ultrasurf proxy network, enabling you to connect to blocked websites.



Summary of how to access Facebook in Vietnam

Using the “lite” versions of Facebook

The easiest method to access Facebook in Vietnam is to use other Facebook website addresses. Simply access <http://lite.facebook.com> or <http://m.facebook.com> or <http://touch.facebook.com>

These are “lite” versions of Facebook that users can use to access Facebook.

However, since these are “lite” versions, some Facebook functionalities cannot be used, so you are somewhat limited to:

- Writing to Wall
- Posting pictures
- Joining forum and seeing Friends’ activities...

iGoogle

Through iGoogle (www.igoogle.com) users can access Facebook through a small Facebook gadget.

Alternate DNS server

The Vietnamese government has blocked Facebook by eliminating the Facebook IP entries from their DNS server. DNS servers store a list of all Internet addresses that you can access. Once they have removed Facebook from this list, your computer will not be able to find the IP addresses of Facebook.

To go around this obstacle, a different DNS server can be used. There are many free DNS servers. Google has made a free one available at 8.8.8.8.

Proxies

Proxies are servers on the internet that you can use to route your web requests through. Instead of going through the government of Vietnam’s network, you basically ask a third-party computer to get the information for you. When Facebook is inaccessible in Vietnam, simply set up your browser to use a proxy.

There are a lot of free proxies. Just Google for some. The following page lists a set of free proxies:

http://www.checker.freeproxy.ru/checker/last_checked_proxies.php.

Changing your host file

As mentioned above, the Vietnamese government has blocked Facebook by eliminating its IP entry in Vietnamese DNS server. However, if you know Facebook's IP addresses, you can instruct your computer to go directly there.

Facebook's IP entries are:

69.63.181.11 facebook.com
69.63.181.11 www.facebook.com
69.63.180.174 login.facebook.com
69.63.178.24 register.facebook.com
69.63.180.15 apps.facebook.com

Using TOR or Ultrasurf

Finally, you can use the firewall circumvention software TOR to access Facebook (or any other blocked web page). This software will use multiple servers outside Vietnam as a proxies.

This free software can be downloaded at <http://www.torproject.org/easy-download.html.en>

Since all Internet traffic will then be routed through different servers outside of Vietnam, you will experience reduced Internet speeds.

Alternatively, you can also use Ultrasurf which is freely available at www.ultrareach.com.

Conclusion

There are many techniques and software that enable you to access blocked websites in Vietnam.

The above mentioned methods are only a small portion of what is available. Please let us know which methods are effective (or ineffective) and whether we should include other methods in this guide.

To know more about the situation of Facebook being blocked in Vietnam, please visit our hub at <http://bringfacebookback.wordpress.com/>

Thank you for your attention and happy surfing!

