

Web Browser Review

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WHICH IS THE RIGHT BROWSER FOR YOU?

Web Browser

- A web browser is a software application for retrieving, presenting, and traversing information resources on the World Wide Web (according to Wikipedia.org)

There are numerous web browsers out there, but which one is right for you? In this very first addition, we will try to help you with this task. We could bore you with all the technical features, but instead we will discuss some of the features and concentrate more on what you would like to know about. Let us first start with the names of these software applications.

Internet Explorer
Mozilla Firefox
Google's Chrome
Opera
Flock

The top one most of us have heard of because it is what comes with our computers. Now a good question to ask is; because the software application comes with the computer, isn't it the best? I would have to answer with a big no.

First thing we need to put aside is security. Usually this is the most important topic however, they all have built in pop-up blockers, anti-spyware, anti-virus, anti-phishing, clear history and private mode*. This is providing you have the latest versions of the web browsers listed above. Another important reason I am not going to delude you on this topic is because you should have a good anti-virus program that will also help you with the security of your computer.

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Web Browser Start Times

So if we are not going to talk about security, what else is there? Well, how about speed? According to one research company it takes:

	Firefox	Chrome	Explorer	Opera	Flock
Initial Start Time	14	8.1	8.5	7.1	20.2
Average Start Time	3.8	3.1	2.2	4.4	8
Navigation Time	6.4	7	7.4	7.3	8.3

All times are calculated in seconds. Initial start time is the very first time you start up your web browser on that computer. Average start time is any time you start the browser there after. Navigation time refers to the time between pages. Also, please keep in mind, all reports will have slightly different outcome based off of computer performance and internet performance.

So – as you can see, they differ in initial start time, but then they all (except Flock) level off to be about the same.

Technical Help/ Support

Next up is Technical help/ support. The interesting part is that only one of these companies offers telephone support. That company is Internet Explorer. However, the rest offer online support, tutorials, online help, user manual/, user guide/, FAQ's and a users forum.

	Firefox	Chrome	Explorer	Opera	Flock
Telephone Support	No	No	Yes	No	No
Email Support	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Online Support	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tutorials	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
User Manual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
FAQ's	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
User Forum	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Features

The last big thing we will look at is features. We did not test all of them for all of the features but here are some of the key ones.

	Firefox	Chrome	Explorer	Opera	Flock
Tabbed Browsing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Integrated Search Feature	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Automatics Updates	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Password Manager	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Parental Controls	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Add-ons	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Frequently Visited Web Pages List	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Summary

While compiling this list, you may have started to ask yourself; self, what is the big difference than? I can answer some of your questions with this – have you even heard of any of them other than Internet Explorer and possibly Mozilla Firefox? Probably not.

So the big question is which one is right for you? The usual answer I give is simple – try each of them and use them. In the case of web browsers, there is no real disadvantage to having more than one. On the current laptop I am using now to type this out, I have 4 of them installed; Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari and Google Chrome.

I use Mozilla Firefox the most, mostly out of personal preference. However, there are occasions when I am forced to use Internet Explorer. Some websites will not work correctly because the web designers cannot do certain “tricks” in other browsers. Tricks is referring to special pop-ups, logins, etc. When I want something done quick, I usually go into google’s chrome. It is simple and easy to use with very little frills. Kind of like the difference between yahoo’s home page and google’s; one has everything on it (yahoo) the other has nothing on it (google’s).

Overall—it truly is a personal preference.

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Cut out and save

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Here are some quick rankings from some other sites on the internet: They are listed from left to right, left being number 1, right being 5.

toptenreviews.com: Firefox, Chrome, Explorer, Opera and Safari

consumersearch.com: Firefox, Flock, Chrome, Opera, Internet Explorer.

Cnet.com: Firefox, Explorer, Opera, Safari and then Flock – Google's Chrome was not created as of their ranking.



Need help? Call The Computer Guy Joe Today!

Want to check the web browsers?

Mozilla Firefox—www.mozilla.com

Internet Explorer—www.microsoft.com

Google Chrome—www.google.com/chrome

Opera—www.opera.com

Flock—www.flock.com

Want more?

Apple Safari—www.apple.com/safari

Maxthon—www.maxthon.com

Avant—www.avantbrowser.com

Deepnet Explorer—www.deepnetexplorer.com

PhaseOut—www.phaseout.net