

How to Get the Most out of Your Internet Browser!

Session Duration:

60-90 minutes

Subject:

Web Surfing
Internet Browsers

Materials Needed:

Laptop, tablet or mobile
device with internet
connection

Links to Resources:

- [Techboomers.com/p/introduction-to-the-internet](https://www.techboomers.com/p/introduction-to-the-internet)
- [Staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online](https://www.staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online)
- [Docs.google.com/document/d/1nb9vmScdG58vxAh4nIU1MidcEUnUMLA_3hHtRbYdpzE/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nb9vmScdG58vxAh4nIU1MidcEUnUMLA_3hHtRbYdpzE/edit?usp=sharing)

Contact:

Mark Glisson
mglisson@hooksettlibrary.org
603.485.6092

Anne Meyers
ameyers@hooksettlibrary.org
603.485.6092

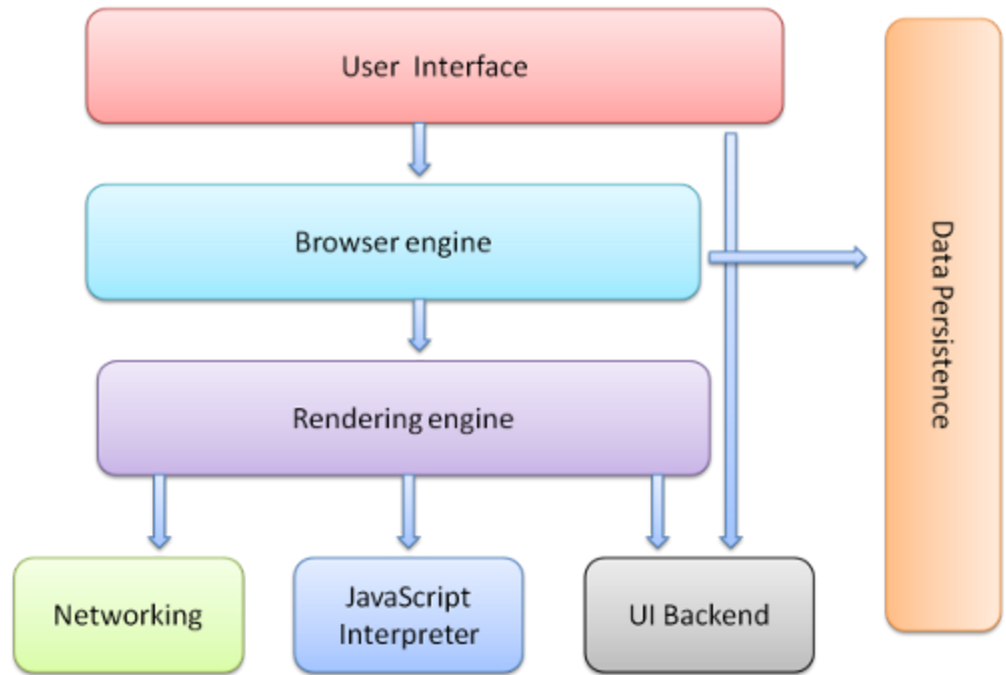


The World Wide Web is a vast network of data and other resources, organized by "websites" which in turn are connected by "hyperlinks", all of which are built on top of the global network of linked computers and servers. A "web browser", or an "Internet browser" (as it is sometimes called), is a specifically engineered program that enables you to connect to the World Wide Web. Web browsers often have other neat features, too, like "bookmarking" certain web pages, extensions or add-ons, mark-up tools, themes, and more. In this class we'll explore the top browsers, compare them to see which of them offer the best performance, security, privacy and customization, and how to get the most out of their functionality.

What's an internet browser?

"A 'web browser,' or an 'Internet browser' (as it is sometimes called), is basically a [computer or software] program that acts as your tour guide for the World Wide Web. It knows how to ask nicely for and get web pages from the server computers they're on, shows you the information and media that are on each web page, and takes you to wherever a hyperlink

leads when you click it.”¹



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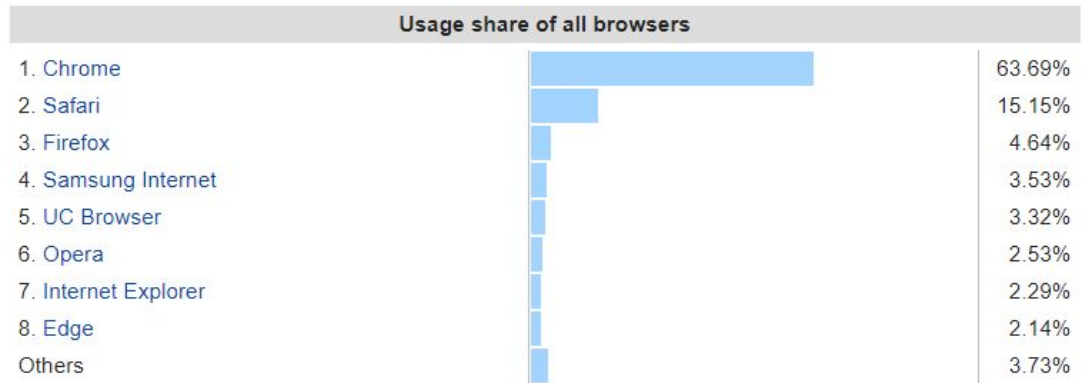
Common internet terms

- Techboomers.com/t/internet-glossary

Which browser should I use?

¹ Techboomers.com/t/web-browsers

² “**The user interface:** this includes the address bar, back/forward button, bookmarking menu, etc. Every part of the browser display except the window where you see the requested page. **The browser engine:** marshals actions between the UI and the rendering engine. **The rendering engine:** responsible for displaying requested content. For example, if the requested content is HTML, the rendering engine parses HTML and CSS, and displays the parsed content on the screen. **Networking:** for network calls such as HTTP requests, using different implementations for different platform behind a platform-independent interface. **UI backend:** used for drawing basic widgets like combo boxes and windows. This backend exposes a generic interface that is not platform specific. Underneath it uses operating system user interface methods. **JavaScript interpreter:** Used to parse and execute JavaScript code. **Data storage:** This is a persistence layer. The browser may need to save all sorts of data locally, such as cookies. Browsers also support storage mechanisms such as localStorage, IndexedDB, WebSQL and FileSystem.”--Garsiel, Tali, and Paul Irish. “How Browsers Work: Behind the Scenes of Modern Web Browsers - HTML5 Rocks.” HTML5 Rocks - A Resource for Open Web HTML5 Developers, www.html5rocks.com/en/tutorials/internals/howbrowserswork.



Web browser market share according to StatCounter for June 2019.^[27]

³

- Top Browsers compared > [Docs.google.com/document/d/1nb9vmScdG58vxAh4nIU1MidcEUnUMLA_3hHtRbYdpzE/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nb9vmScdG58vxAh4nIU1MidcEUnUMLA_3hHtRbYdpzE/edit?usp=sharing)

How to browse the internet safely?

- [Staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online](https://staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online)

Is Incognito mode really private?

- [Us.norton.com/internetsecurity-privacy-your-private-browser-is-not-so-private-after-all.html](https://us.norton.com/internetsecurity-privacy-your-private-browser-is-not-so-private-after-all.html)
- [Staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/managing-your-privacy/manage-privacy-settings](https://staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/managing-your-privacy/manage-privacy-settings)


Cool things you can do with browsers


- Save page as PDF file
 - [Digitaltrends.com/computing/how-to-save-a-webpage-as-a-pdf](https://digitaltrends.com/computing/how-to-save-a-webpage-as-a-pdf)
- Mark up a webpage with markup tools
 - Microsoft Edge

³ [En.wikipedia.org/wiki/Usage_share_of_web_browsers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Usage_share_of_web_browsers)

Mark up PDFs and e-books


Highlight text or add a note that you can refer to later.




To highlight text, select some and choose **Highlight**  and then pick a color.

To add a note, select some text and choose **Add a note**  and then either type or write your note.

- Have the webpage read out loud to you
 - Microsoft Edge


Have the web read out loud to you


Microsoft Edge can read PDFs, e-books, and even website content out loud to you. For e-books, click or tap anywhere on the page and select **Read aloud** .

For sites, right click and select **Read aloud**. Move to the **previous paragraph** , **pause** , or change the voice and speed by selecting **Voice Settings** .

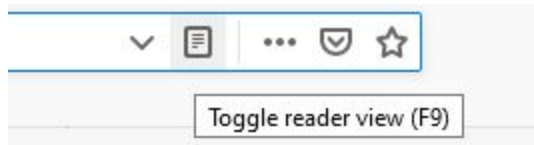
- Use your browser as a notepad
 - Chrome: Copy/Paste this code into your Chrome's address bar and then start typing away...
data:text/html, <body contenteditable style="font: 2rem/1.5 monospace;max-width:60rem;margin:0 auto;padding:4rem;">
- Declutter a webpage for easier reading
 - Microsoft Edge

Read without distractions

Select **Reading view**  for a cleaner, simpler view that makes reading easier.

To adjust the font size and page theme, click or tap anywhere on the page to show the reading bar and select **Text options** .

- Mozilla Firefox: Hit F9 to toggle on “reader view” mode...



- Cast your browser to an external monitor/tv
 - Google Chrome
[Support.google.com/chrome/answer/3228332?hl=en-GB](https://support.google.com/chrome/answer/3228332?hl=en-GB)
- Read PDF and EPUB docs
 - In File Explorer right-click on PDF doc/file and choose “Open with” and then Chrome or Edge to open doc/file, or simply drag and drop files into browser window
- Open photos/images
 - Drag and drop image files right on to any browser window and they will automatically open
- Use extensions/plugins to enhance browser features
 - [Chrome.google.com/webstore/category/extensions?hl=en-US](https://chrome.google.com/webstore/category/extensions?hl=en-US)
 - [Addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/?utm_source=discovery.addons.mozilla.org](https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/?utm_source=discovery.addons.mozilla.org)
 - Go to Microsoft Store app and search for extensions
 - [Safari-extensions.apple.com](https://safari-extensions.apple.com)

- Do math
 - Type any math equation into the address bar
- Sync bookmarks, history, extensions, etc., between browsers
 - [Pcmag.com/feature/360601/how-to-organize-and-sync-your-browser-bookmarks](https://www.pcmag.com/feature/360601/how-to-organize-and-sync-your-browser-bookmarks)
- Translate a webpage
 - [Wikihow.com/Translate-a-Web-Page](https://www.wikihow.com/Translate-a-Web-Page)
- More Microsoft Edge tips
 - [Microsoftedgetips.microsoft.com/en-us/1](https://www.microsoftedgetips.com/en-us/1)
- Others?