

What is a Browser?

Most popular ones!



A **“web browser”** is a program on your computer, laptop, iPad, or smart phone that allows you to visit websites. These icons show the most popular ones today, but there are many others (Brave, Vivaldi, Opera

- Apple products (Macs, iPads, and iPhones) default to the **Safari** browser, but you can download other browsers to any Apple device.
- Windows operating systems default to **Internet Explorer** (older) or **Edge** (newest), but also work well with **Chrome** or **Firefox**.

Can you have more than one browser on your computer or device?

Yes, no problem, and you probably should have a choice, because some websites can be quirky and only work well with a specific browser.

Where do you get another browser, besides the default one that came on your computer or device?

Apple users, search the App Store (<https://www.apple.com/ios/app-store/>). Windows and Android users, search the Play Store (<https://play.google.com/store/apps>).

What about security?

All of the top **browsers** (Edge, **Firefox**, Chrome and **Opera**) are reasonably **safe**. They all continue to improve their security. And they often share those security features with each other. Internet Explorer is the least secure of all.

Bottom line . . . All browsers track your online behavior and offer you ads of things you might like, based on where you browse, but those ads are no more invasive to your privacy than TV advertisements. Browsers are necessary tools in this digital world – no need to fear them, but you do need to understand them.