

A short guide to Web Browsers



What is a web browser?

- The program on your PC, tablet or phone that enables you to access and browse the world wide web.
- There are many options, all compete for your attention!
- How do you choose which one to use?

- I will cover some of the most popular.

Popular browsers



- Google Chrome – the most popular browser (currently)
- Safari – the most popular for Apple Mac and iOS
- Microsoft Edge – built into Windows 10
- Mozilla Firefox – a very flexible and customisable option
- Opera – the oldest entry on this list, known for innovative new features

- (Dis)honourable mention: Microsoft Internet Explorer – still going despite being end-of-life for four years!



Key browser features

- Ad blocking – some browsers now block some/most ads by default, others require an extension
- Extensions – customise your browser and its functionality, or add plug-ins for your favourite sites and apps, for example
- Sync – synchronise your favourites and settings between devices
- Download manager – handles multiple downloads at once, with pause/resume function
- Private browsing – hide your history from prying eyes
- All these features are supported by the top five browsers on my list



Which to use?

- Short answer: whichever you like!
- Longer answer: if you regularly use one company's products and services, it could be convenient to go with that company's browser.
 - For example: an iPhone and Mac user might use Safari to sync their settings across devices
 - Another example: if you use Gmail and/or android, Chrome might be the choice for you
- Nothing stops you from using multiple browsers. Perhaps for different tasks or on different devices, or just for fun!