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July 19, 2010
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What Is The Difference Between Web Browsers?

A browser is a piece of software that allows you to access the World Wide Web (Internet). With Explorer free on your computer, why bother with a second product? Browsers have been around as long as the Web. Some of you might remember Mosaic from 1993, which later became Netscape Navigator and was the browser of choice for most people at that time. Microsoft, when it eventually caught on to the fact that the Internet was what people wanted on their computer, hit back by giving away Internet Explorer. IE, by the way, wasn't developed by Microsoft; they bought it from a company called Spyglass.

***Internet Explorer** is like the vanilla browser. It's the standard that other browsers have to beat or else why would anyone use something that was worse than they already had?

***Firefox** is typically more secure than Explorer. It is less likely to be targeted by hackers. Firefox also uses fewer resources on your computer to get the job done than Explorer. It also starts and loads pages faster than Explorer. And, of course, Firefox is better at following Web standards than Explorer.

***Google's Chrome** is really a big JavaScript engine and could very easily, run services and applications as if they were desktop applications. As a user, I like the fact that I can type anything in the address bar and Google searches for it.

***Safari** was originally a Mac browser. Apple, with its iPod and iPhone, has a reputation for being cool and easy-to-use, their browser is the same. It displays your 12 top sites in visual curve, which look s great. And you can move the thumbnails around.

***Opera** is worth trying for two reasons, firstly it is very fast, and secondly it turns up on hand-held devices. So it might be worth using the same browser on your laptop as on your mobile phone. It also has torrent technology built in for downloading films and TV programs etc.

Did I come to a conclusion about which one I liked the best? Not really, but here's my advice. Use Internet Explorer because you're going to find it on every other PC you use. Use Firefox because it's safe and full of features. Use Chrome because it could have applications in the future. Use Safari because it is looks so cool. Use Opera because it's the same browser you have on your phone. This was just a few of the hundreds of browsers to choose from but the most popular.

Next Issue: What are cookies and temporary internet files?

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