

What is a web browser?



A *web browser* is a program on your computer that allows you to access websites on the [internet](#).

The web is written in a computer language called HTML (HyperText Markup Language). Browsers translate this so that we can read it easily.

There are many browsers available. If you're using a Windows PC, your machine probably came with the browser Internet Explorer. If you are using an Apple Mac, you'll have been supplied with Safari. No matter which browser you're using, you'll find that they all do more or less the same job.

Here are the most popular browsers:

- **Internet Explorer (Microsoft)**
- **Safari (Apple)**
- **Firefox (Mozilla)**
- **Chrome (Google)**

Browsers' benefits and key features

- They're free to download.
- You can have more than one on your computer.
- They all work in a similar way.
- They allow users to explore websites anywhere on the internet.
- Can be personalised by allowing users to [add favourites](#) or [set a different home page](#) (the first page that you see when you open your browser).

Next steps

[What is Google Chrome?](#)

[Computer terms and internet jargon](#)

[Ten top tips for using the internet](#)

[A guide to internet security](#)

[What's new in Windows 10?](#)

We use cookies on this site to enhance your user experience

By clicking any link on this page you are giving your consent for us to set cookies. [More info](#)

OK, I agree

No, thanks

