Web browsers

Web browsers — used to visit websites by most modern devices.

Google Chrome

Simple nameGoogle’s browser.

How to spot itA round red, yellow, and green icon with a blue center.

Where you see itAndroid phones and Chromebooks. You can also get it on Windows, Mac, iPhone, and iPad.

Why people use it: It works on nearly every kind of device and is the world’s most-used browser.

Apple Safari

Simple nameApple’s browser.

How to spot itA blue compass with a red needle.

Where you see itIt comes on iPhone, iPad, and Mac.

Why people use it: It is already built into Apple devices and fits naturally with them.

Microsoft Edge

Simple nameMicrosoft’s browser.

How to spot itA blue-and-green wave that looks like a lowercase “e.”

Where you see itIt comes on Windows computers. You can also get it on Mac, iPhone, iPad, and Android.

Why people use it: It is ready to use when you get a Windows computer.

Mozilla Firefox

Simple nameMozilla’s browser.

How to spot itAn orange fox curled around a blue and purple globe.

Where you see itYou can get it on Windows, Mac, Android, iPhone, and iPad.

Why people use it: It is made by the nonprofit Mozilla Foundation and is known for privacy controls.

Brave

Simple nameBrave's browser.

How to spot itAn orange lion head.

Where you see itYou download it yourself on Windows, Mac, Android, iPhone, and iPad.

Why it made the list: It blocks ads and trackers on its own, which means fewer scam pop-ups — a real plus for staying safe.

Which one should you use?

For everyday use, the simplest answer is usually the browser that came with your device. All five can visit the same everyday websites.

iPhone or iPad

Safari is the easy choice because it is already there.

Windows computer

Edge is already included. Chrome is also a familiar choice if you already use Google services.

Android phone

Chrome is the usual choice.

Want a different choice?

Firefox works on all the common devices and is a solid choice for people who value privacy controls.

A browser is the program you use to visit websites. The four big ones are Edge (built into Windows), Safari (built into Apple devices), Chrome (on almost everything), and Firefox (the independent one, made by a nonprofit).

What is a cookie, really?

A cookie is a little note a website leaves on your device so it can remember you. That is how a site keeps you signed in, remembers what was in your shopping cart, or recalls your language. Most cookies are harmless helpers.

Why do sites ask about cookies?

Privacy laws now make websites ask your permission. You will see buttons like Accept, Accept all, or Reject.

How to clear cookies in each browser

Clearing cookies signs you out of most websites — email, Facebook, shopping sites. Make sure you know your passwords first (see our Passwords guide). Browsers move their buttons around sometimes, but the word to look for is always Privacy.

- Chrome: Press Ctrl + Shift + Delete together. Check Cookies and other site data, choose a time range, and click Clear data. On a phone: the three dots → Settings → Privacy and security → Delete browsing data.
- Edge: Press Ctrl + Shift + Delete together. Check Cookies and other site data and click Clear now. Or go the long way: the three dots → Settings → Privacy, search, and services → Clear browsing data → Choose what to clear.
- Firefox: Press Ctrl + Shift + Delete together. Or: the menu button (three lines) → Settings → Privacy & Security, scroll to Cookies and Site Data, and click Clear Data.
- Safari on a Mac: Click Safari in the very top menu, then Settings → Privacy → Manage Website Data → Remove All.
- Safari on an iPhone or iPad: Open the Settings app, go to Apps → Safari → Clear History and Website Data. (On older iPhones it is just Settings → Safari.)

Each browser in a nutshell

- Edge — best if you use Windows. Already installed, nothing to download. Senior-friendly standout: it can read a page aloud to you. Good tip: press Ctrl + T for a new tab.
- Chrome — best if you use several devices. Works on Windows, Mac, Android, and iPhone, and can carry your bookmarks everywhere. Good tip: accidentally closed a tab? Press Ctrl + Shift + T to bring it back.

- Firefox — best if privacy matters to you. Made by a nonprofit, not an ad company. It blocks many trackers automatically. Good tip: press Ctrl + D to bookmark the page you are on.
- Safari — best if you use Apple. Already on every iPhone, iPad, and Mac, and uses less battery. Good tip: Reader view (the little page icon in the address bar) strips a messy article down to clean, big text.

Everyday tricks that work in all four

1. New tab: Ctrl + T (Command + T on a Mac).
2. Bigger text: hold Ctrl and press the + key. Hold Ctrl and press 0 to go back to normal.
3. Bookmark a page: Ctrl + D, so you can find it again later.
4. Private window: each browser has one (called InPrivate, Incognito, or Private). It does not save your history on that device — handy on a shared computer. It does not make you invisible on the internet.

What each browser blocks for you automatically

You do not have to turn anything on: Edge blocks many trackers by default, Firefox blocks trackers and sneaky fingerprinting by default, and Safari blocks cross-site tracking by default. Chrome keeps third-party cookies on by default — that is why Chrome users see the most cookie pop-ups.

When to call Sean instead

- A website keeps signing you out or acting strangely no matter what you do.
- You see scary pop-ups saying your computer is infected — do not call the number on the screen.
- You want help moving your bookmarks and passwords to a new browser.
- You are not sure which browser is on your device, or whether you should switch.

Call Sean at (813) 770-6082.

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