

## Internet Browsers

Internet browsers are software programs that allow you to connect to the internet and view web pages. While there are many different browsers available from a wide range of companies, there are three main browsers currently in use: Microsoft's Internet Explorer (IE); Google's Chrome; and Mozilla's Firefox. All three of these browsers are available at no cost to download and install.



IE comes already installed on all computers that have a Windows operating system version. As Microsoft improves the program, they post new versions that can be downloaded to upgrade the version you currently have.

<http://www.microsoft.com>

Google's Chrome is available for download from Google's main web site. In my opinion, it works better than IE in most cases.

<http://www.google.com>

Mozilla's Firefox has become my favorite of the three browsers. When I was searching for a faster browser to play an on-line game that uses FlashPlayer, I found that this browser worked the best by far.

<http://www.firefox.com>

Plus, there are various other browsers available for purchase or also at no cost.

You can have multiple internet browsers installed and be able to use all of them for different activities, if you desire. You can even have a window (or more) from each browser open all at the same time. Some browsers are better for some activities than the others. Last year I installed the latest IE version, installed Chrome, and installed Firefox. I ended up deciding that I liked Firefox as my default browser. But there are still times that I use one of the other browsers.

When you install Chrome or Firefox, the install process will typically ask you if you want to copy your favorites (or bookmarks, depending on the program) from an existing browser. This is an easy way to pull over the favorites or bookmarks that you already have set up – and it will not change them in your original browser, so you are still able to use them when you use your old browser again.

No matter what browser(s) you choose to use on your computer, make sure to keep up with security patches. Failing to do so might leave your computer open to computer viruses.

Also, be sure to regularly clear out the temporary internet files to keep things running smoothly. Tips for how to do that can be found in our File Maintenance – Part 2 – Temp Files article, located in the Computer Corner link on our Home Life page.

#### About The Author

Marie Rice is the founder and editor of [PartOfTheWhole.com](http://PartOfTheWhole.com) - wellness for body, mind, and spirit. She enjoys helping others reach their goals. When she's not online, Marie's spending time with her family, gardening, doing crafts, or **most likely** – reading a book!

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