

WEEK TWO

INTERNET BROWSERS

A Web browser is actually a software application that runs on your Internet-connected computer. It allows you to view Web pages, as well as use other content and technologies such as video and graphics files. Some browsers support only text while others support graphics and animation.

Present browsers are fully-functional software suites that can interpret and display Hypertext Markup Language (HTML). Web and applications like JavaScript. Many browsers offer plug-ins which extends the capabilities of a browser so it can display multimedia information (sound and video). Some browser can also be used to perform tasks such as videoconferencing; design of web pages and adding security features to formatted documents.

Features of Main Web Browser Windows

- Most major web browsers have the same features as the other:-
- Back and forward buttons to go back to the previous resource and forward respectively.
- A refresh or reload button to reload the current resource.
- A stop button to cancel loading the resource. In some browsers, the stop button is merged with the reload button.
- A home button to return to the user's home page.
- An address bar to input the Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) of the desired resource and display it.
- A search bar to input terms into a search engine. In some browsers, the search bar is merged with the address bar.
- A status bar to display progress in loading the resource and also the URI of links when the cursor hovers over them, and page zooming capability.

Address Bar. A browser shows the web address (also called a URL). In our example it is <http://www.microsoft.com/>. To go to a different page, you type an address in the address bar and then press Enter

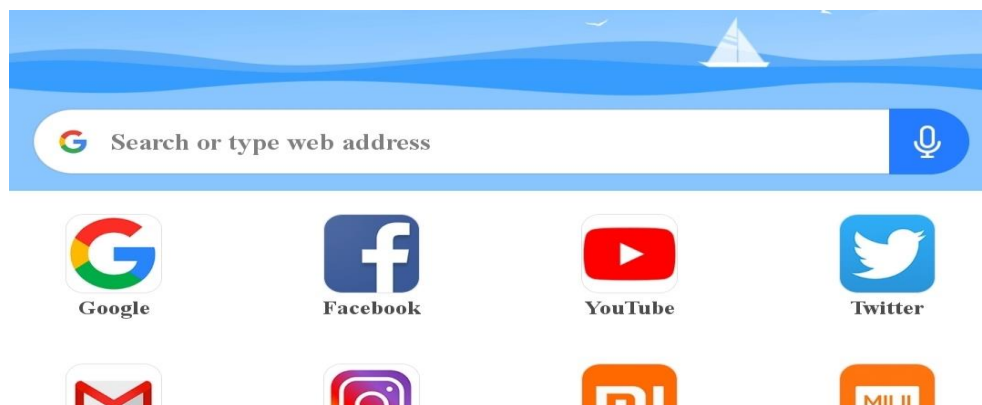


Diagram of an address bar

(b)**Back and Front Buttons:** Sometime when you click on a link; you might want to go back to the previous page. You can do so by clicking the back button. To follow the link again you click the front button.



Diagram of Back and Front Button

The **search button** is used to give a command for the browser to search for topic related to the information you are looking for. When there is a freeze or lack of connectivity you use the **refresh button** to restart the searching process all over again.

How do web browser work?

Web browsers are used to have easy access to the World Wide Web. Browsers are able to display Web pages largely in part to an underlying Web protocol called Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP). HTTP defines how messages are formatted and transmitted, and what actions Web servers and browsers should take in response to various commands. It is what allows Web clients and Web servers to communicate with each other. When you enter a Web address (URL) in your browser, this actually sends an HTTP command to the Web server directing it to fetch and transmit the requested Web page and display the information in your browser. All Web servers serving Web sites and pages support the HTTP protocol.

Example: The URL to information about JAMB examination is:

<http://www.jambng.com/>

Once you enter the URL "<http://www.jambng.com/exams>" into your address line, the browser breaks that Web address down into three distinct parts.

The Protocol: "http"

The server name: "www.jambng.com"

The file name, which follows the server name: "exams"

In order for your browser to actually connect to the Web server to retrieve the information you request, it communicates with a name server to translate the server name into an IP address. Your Web browser is then able to connect to the Web server at the resolved IP address. Once your browser has connected to the Web server using HTTP, the browser then

reads the Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), the authoring language used to create documents on the World Wide Web, and the data is then displayed in your Web browser

Internet Main Browsers

The following are the most commonly used main internet browsers:

- a) Microsoft Internet Explorer
- b) Mozilla Firefox.
- c) Google Chrome
- d) Apple Safari
- e) Opera.

(a) Microsoft Internet Explorer Web Browser

Microsoft's Internet Explorer (IE) is currently considered the dominant browser. It offers instant access to e-mail and advanced security standards. It supports Windows operating software.

(b) Mozilla Firefox Web Browser

Mozilla Firefox is a free, open source, cross-platform. It was developed by the Mozilla Corp. and hundreds of volunteers. Firefox supports a variety of operating systems such as Windows, Mac, Linux, and others.

(c) Google Chrome Web Browser

Google Chrome is a Web browser designed for Windows systems. Google technology makes browsing faster, safer, and easier on Windows-based personal computers.

(d) Opera Web Browser

Opera is an international Web browser, developed in Norway. It is available for all versions of Windows operating system. It also supports image, audio, video formats and voice technology.

(e) Netscape Web Browser

The first commercial Web browser was Netscape. It supports all Windows versions. The Netscape browser offers integrated pop-up controls, tabbed browsing features, and a password manager. The most interesting and unique feature is that it permits users to switch between Firefox and Internet Explorer.

However, there are other internet browsers. They include AOL Explore, Green Browser, Swiftfox, Lunarscape 5, ucbrowser and Konqueror.

Internet Services

In the early days people just used the internet to search for information. Presently internet is a constantly evolving tool that not only contains an amazing variety of information, but also provides new ways of accessing interacting and connection with people.

(a) Find information

The internet contains a vast amount of information far more, than even the world's largest libraries. It has information in any field of human endeavour. Reference sources, such as dictionaries and encyclopaedias, Historical documents and classic literature are also readily available. With the use of the search engine program topics of interest from any field of human endeavour can be searched in the internet.

(b)Communicate.

An electronic mail is a system used for sending and receiving messages online. Such messages could be text, graphics or otherwise to be sent or received through the internet. For anyone to be able to send or receive an e-mail, he or she must have an email address.

(c)Instant messaging (IM)

It allows you to have a real-time conversation with another person or a group of persons. When you send an instant message, the message is immediately visible-to all participants. Unlike e-mail, all participants have to be online (connected to the Internet) and in front of their computers at the same time.

(d)Share

You can upload (copy) pictures from your digital camera to a photo-sharing website. Invited friends and family members can then visit the website to view your photo albums.

(e)Shop

Companies use the internet for electronic commerce. E-commerce is the act of doing business over the internet. The web is the world's biggest shopping mall. You can purchase products like books, music, toys, clothing, electronics, and much more at the websites of major retailers (usually a credit card is required). You can also buy and sell used terns through websites that use auction-style bidding.

f) Play

You can play games of any type on the web, often against other players no matter where they are in the world. Many games are free, and you can download others for a fee. You can also listen to Internet radio stations, watch movie clips, and download or purchase music, videos, and even some TV shows.

(g) Telephoning: A service known as Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) allows individuals to make phone calls over the internet. Lower cost services (some of them free) often transfer calls via personal computers equipped with microphones and speakers instead of the lad: oral telephone handset. One example is Skype.

(h) Social Networking. It refers to online services that allow people to interact with each other and stay connected with friends and family. Some examples include Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter.

(i) **Web Log.** “Blog” is a short form for Web Log. It is a type of web site with news articles or random thoughts. This is usually updated frequently. Sites like blogger.com allow you to create and edit your own blog for free.

(j) **Podcast.** With podcast, you can subscribe to a series of audio or video files that will automatically be downloaded to your computer. The files can then be played on the computer or an MP3 player.

(k) **Telnet:** It enables a user to interactively access a remote computer.

(l) **File Transfer Protocol (FTP).** It is used to download files from an internet site to a user’s computer. The FTF application is often automatically invoked when a user downloads an updated version of a piece of software.

Chapter Summary

The internet is defined as a network which comprises of millions of computers belonging to different networks connected together.

They communicate with one another via a variety of language known as protocols

Examples of internet main browsers are: Microsoft Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, Apple Safari Opera, and Netscape.

Web browsers have the following features: address bar, back and front buttons, refresh button, stop button, browse button and search buttons

Services provided by the internet are finding information, electronic mail, instant messages (chat) e-commerce, telephoning, blog, podcast, telnet, ftp etc.

CLASSROOM EXERCISE

1. In your own terms define Internet Browser.
2. State three features of an Internet Browser.
3. List four examples of Internet Browser.
4. Briefly explain the following internet services i. Finding Information ii. Communication iii. Instant Messaging.