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Google Chrome

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CNET Editors' review

by: [Eddie Cho](#) on May 21, 2013

- **CNET Editors' Rating:**

Spectacular

- **Average User Rating:**

out of 2,989 votes

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Quick Specs

- Version:
29.0.1547.76
- File size:
766.48K
- Date added:
September 20, 2013
- Price:
Free
- Operating system:

Windows XP/Vista/7/8

Chrome is the lightweight flagship browser that originated from an open source project by Google called Chromium and Chromium OS. It is now one of the more widely used browsers thanks to a vast ecosystem of extensions and add-ons, a robust Javascript engine, and a rapid-release development cycle that keeps it on the competitive end of the curve.

Installation

Chrome's installation process is both straight-forward and self-sustaining. After downloading the installer, Chrome's installation process will launch with the standard practices of confirming system directories and a few click throughs. Google will also ask for your permission to anonymously collect usage stats, which can be opted out of.

The self sustenance comes from 'channels' ; Once you install the Chrome browser, Google will automatically roll out updates silently in the background and keep your software updated with the latest versions.

Interface

Chrome's overall UI has remained stable since version 1.0: a minimal two row window with tabs resting above the address bar (Omnibox), 3 browser controls (Back, Forward, Stop/Reload), a star-shaped toggle for bookmarking, and settings icon. Users coming from older browsers might have to get used to not having a dedicated File menu layout but we found ourselves getting quickly adjusted.

As you install extensions, active icons will appear to the right of the address bar, but beyond that Google maintains strict restrictions on adding visible add-ons. That means no toolbars or any undesired overlays, which at one point was a widespread standard practice. Despite the limited

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customiseable options, Chrome is minimalist for a reason, and that results in a clean browsing experience with maximum use of screen estate for websites.

Features and Support

In addition to tabbed browsing, Chrome can be used as simply or as complex as you want, thanks to an impressive number of built-in tools, modes, hotkey functions, and more.

One popular feature is, of course, Incognito mode: Chrome's response to Mozilla's Private Browsing feature. Incognito opens a new window that disables history recording, tracking cookies, and reduces the amount of traceable breadcrumbs from your usage. Contrary to popular belief, it does not mean you can freely browse the web for illegal use as your ISP can still see your traffic activity... so stay out of trouble.

Under the hood, Chrome has some awesome features that make it very developer friendly: hardware acceleration for rendering 3D CSS effects, Google's own NaCl (Native Client) that allows secure execution of C and C++ codes within the browser, and an in house JavaScript engine that improves load times with every release.

Pressing F12 will open a dev console that allows you to view web code and quickly identify elements simply by highlighting the mouse over each line. You can also add your own HTML and CSS codes to render a page with custom styling.

Chrome also allows Google users to sync their accounts, which comes with added benefits like restoring saved bookmarks and extensions in the cloud no matter what device you're on.

Performance

Chrome is fast. Really fast. As of version 27, Chrome is powered by Google's own V8 JavaScript engine that renders pages at speeds that have been setting a standard for modern browsers. In addition, Google has been on the forefront of implementing best practices for HTML5 standards and though it's also currently running the widely used open-source Webkit engine, Google has also announced plans to move to Blink in the near future.

Wrap up

Google has relentlessly set the standard for speed, stability and security and Chrome's numerous version updates, as many as there are, have continued to complement its minimalist friendly design. It's no surprise that its market share continues to rise, especially when combined with its mobile cousin on Android. Regardless of who's faster, whether its user adoption or Chrome's

own development team, Google's internet browser is one for the masses: casual user and developer alike.

More than just speed in Chrome:

We've detected that you need to upgrade or install Flash to view our library of thousands of tech videos. Installing Flash is fast, free, and easy! Simply follow the instructions from your browser, or [click here to install/upgrade the free Flash player](#).

Thanks,
The CNET TV Team

Publisher's Description

From [Google](#):

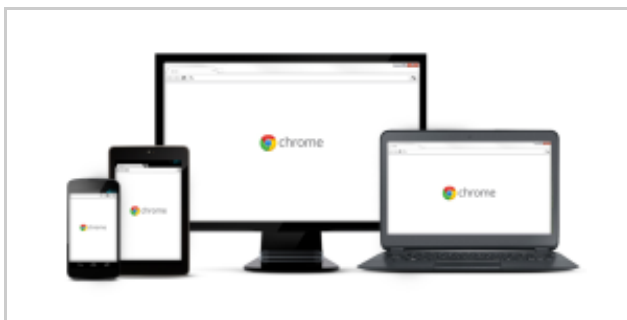


Google Chrome is a browser that combines a minimal design with sophisticated technology to make the Web faster, safer, and easier. Use one box for everything--type in the address bar and get suggestions for both search and Web pages.

Thumbnails of your top sites let you access your favorite pages instantly with lightning speed from any new tab. Desktop shortcuts allow you to launch your favorite Web apps straight from your desktop.


Google Chrome is in the [Web Browsers](#) category of the [Browsers](#) section.

What's new in this version: Version 29.0.1547.76 fixes Flash Player not working in Metro mode and other stability improvements.




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"Just a better way for google to push their advertizers."

September 19, 2013 | By [imsoco](#)

Version: Google Chrome 29.0.1547.66

Pros

It's new so it has to be better! There is no description on the download page, so it should be good. <https://www.google.com/intl/en/chrome/browser/beta.html>

Cons

On ebay, I searched a key cutting machine, then clicked on a category to search under, locksmiths. Chrome automatically sent me to a new tab it opened for a locksmith. I thought I had downloaded a virus and contacted ebay immediately. It turns out it was just a new advancement from google. I wonder how much that advertiser had to pay for that link? Their searches are no longer unbiased. Maybe they should change their name to greedle?

Summary

Either Greedle goes back to being google, or a new, unbiased, search engine will be needed.

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"Latest update slowed things considerably"

September 19, 2013 | By [Johnny S](#)

Version: Google Chrome 29.0.1547.66

Pros

Still a decent browser but its slowing down

Cons

Latest update seems to have bugs. I have experienced some web pages hanging because of Flash ads.

Summary

Like many browsers in the past, the more they get updated the more issues they have. This seems to have started with Chrome. It has some Flash bugs with some web sites and it loads much slower then before. Not sure why they moved around stuff on Google search page? But I guess its job security. Anyway, its still a good browser but I see hints of it becoming another bloated mess like Firefox. Please Google, don't end up like Mozilla with Firefox and fix one thing and break another.

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"Perfect browser"

September 18, 2013 | By [LexexN](#)

Version: Google Chrome 29.0.1547.66

Pros

It works fast, and the interface is very cute.

Cons

I had some problems working with Google Docs.

Summary

The best browser ever!

Reply to this review

Was this review helpful? (0) (0)

"The best browser"

September 8, 2013 | By [ginatl](#)

Version: Google Chrome 29.0.1547.66

Pros

The best/fastest browser on the market

Cons

Wish it was able to support better tab switching

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Was this review helpful? (0) (0)

"I like it fine."

September 6, 2013 | By [onewayfarer53](#)

Version: Google Chrome 29.0.1547.66

Pros

It is fast

Cons

I get frequent flash crashes

Summary

The flash crashes are a pain, but not debillatating

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Was this review helpful? (1) (0)

"Don't like Google Chrome at all"

September 4, 2013 | By [LuckyPhillTheLegend](#)

Version: Google Chrome 29.0.1547.66

Pros

I haven't a good word about this program

Cons

Don't bother even installing it - Mozilla Firefox is a much better browser

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Was this review helpful? (0) (2)

"STILL AMAZING!"

September 2, 2013 | By [tgmeow](#)

Version: Google Chrome 29.0.1547.62

Pros

- Speedy browser
- Compact UI
- Simple to use
- Love the web store!

Cons

- Memory usage is occasionally a problem, usually isn't

Summary

To those idiots who blame Google for installing malware on your computer-- READ THE CNET INSTALLER MORE CAREFULLY.

If you truly know what you are doing, you wouldn't have had all those "problems."

Chrome is one of the best browsers out there, and I swear, most of your "problems" with Chrome are your own faults.

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"chrome is no good"

August 31, 2013 | By [raodvr](#)

Version: Google Chrome 29.0.1547.62

Pros

better than many others

Cons

It never worked smoothly windows 8 blue which I am using
the user interface is very poor
inspite of being an expert python programmer I find difficult to set home pge of my
choice
it always opened in full screen mode I have to struggle always and some times un
successful. I like google and all its products and do not like ms internet explorer, but now
I forced go back to Iexplore very unfortunate

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Was this review helpful? (0) (1)

"CHROME GOOD BY"

August 31, 2013 | By [leonidasorf](#)

Version: Google Chrome 29.0.1547.62

Pros

Fast,good extensions,generely best BROWSER UNTIL THE LAST UPDATE.

Cons

First of all to memory use.

Second the browser make all kind of thinks alone.

The extensions come and go...new extensions come without been before there. ADBLOG its not working properly. A MEGA MESS.

IT seems YOU are not The ONER of your BROWSER.

GOOD-BY GOOGLE CHROME.

Summary

GO BACK TO FIREFOX AFTER ONE YEAR.

WE see!

Reply to this review

Was this review helpful? (0) (0)

"chrome use half of memory by opening 10 tabs"

August 30, 2013 | By [feelx123](#)

Version: Google Chrome 29.0.1547.62

Pros

chrome use half of memory by opening 10 tabs

Cons

chrome use half of memory by opening 10 tabs

Summary

chrome use half of memory by opening 10 tabs

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