

Internet Browsers and Search Engines:

Members have been telling me that they are confused over what is an internet browser and is it the same as a search engine. Confusion occurs specifically between Google Chrome and Google search.

An internet browser is simply a software programme that [links](#) your computer to the internet. There are a number to choose from. The major ones are Microsoft Internet Explorer, Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Opera and Apple Safari. You can have any one or all of the browsers installed on your computer. But if you have more than one then one will become the default browser. This means that when you open an email or document with a link to a website then that website will open in the default browser.

If you have Windows Vista, 7 or 8 then Internet Explorer is included and will be the default browser.

For Vista it is version 9, for both Windows 7 and 8 (and 10) it is version 11. Windows 10 has both

Internet Explorer (version 11) and Microsoft Edge but Edge is the default browser. With Windows 10

Internet Explorer is hidden. The ultimate aim for Windows 10 is to remove Internet Explorer and use

Edge. Typing internet explorer into the search box will bring it up. Internet Explorer versions 9 and

10 are no longer supported on Windows 7 and 8. Safari will be the default browser on Apple devices.

If there is an update to the browser version than that update will be automatically installed when you are using the browser.

If you choose you can load one of the other browsers as well and make that one the default. There

are several ways of doing this. Usually if you open a different browser there should be a message

saying that this is not the default browser and do you want to make it so.

Answer yes or no to the

prompt. In the browser settings menu there will also be an option to make that browser the default.

A third way is to type in your computers search box "default Programs" and click on the word when

it comes up, then click on "set your default programs". A list of programs will appear. Click on the

browser of choice and then click on "set this program as default" then on "OK". This is also the

method of making any programme the default should you have more than one on your computer
eg. photo programmes.

If you have a Windows computer, it is suggested you don't use Apple Safari as your browser. Apple, I'm told, no longer support that browser on Windows. Safari is perfectly OK to use on Apple devices.

When you type (or say) a question into a search engine then that calls up the default browser with appropriate suggestions. So the search engine uses the browser but is not a browser itself. If you set your [home](#) page as Google or if you type google.com.au into your browser, then the Google page containing the Google search engine appears.

There are also a number of search engines. The major ones in Australia are Google, Bing or Yahoo.

Bing is the Microsoft search engine. Google is the most used search with 69% of the market in 2015, Bing had 12% and Yahoo 9%. If you use the search in Windows 10 that search uses Bing.

In conclusion, there are a number of internet browsers and you can use any browser you like and can have more than one installed on your computer. Likewise, there are a number of search engines and, likewise, you can use any search engine you like.