



**westchester**  
LIBRARY SYSTEM

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# Browsers 4 You

WLS Cyber Smarts Series

# Agenda

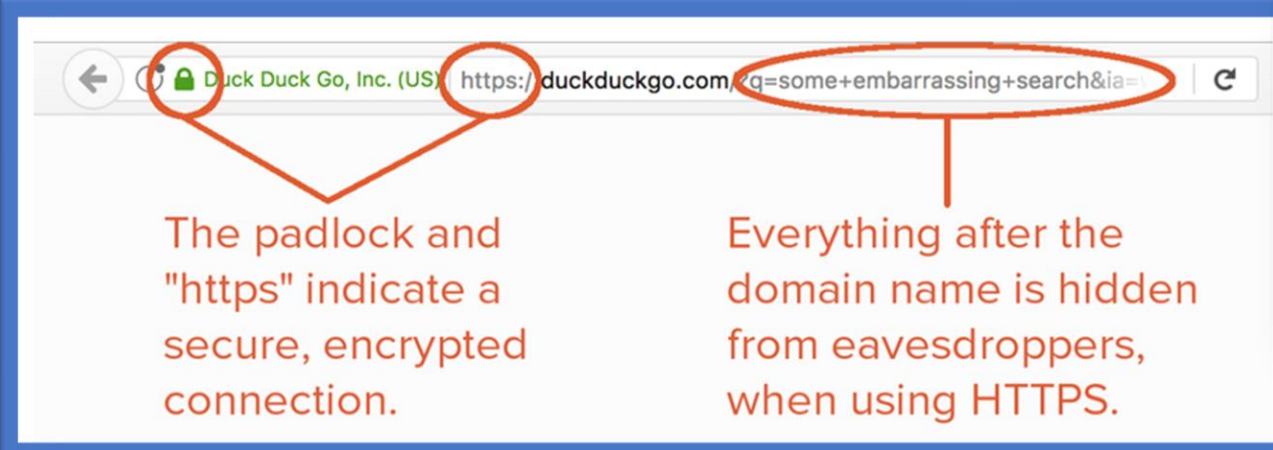
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In this workshop, you'll

- Find out what's new in four of the most common browsers used today
  - Chrome, Firefox, Edge, Opera
  - Safari, Brave, Vivaldi, Tor
- Learn to use tips and techniques for safety and streamlining
- See browser comparisons of each one's strengths
- Have options for browser + search tool

# Essential Terms

- Browser - software that lets users connect to the World Wide Web
- [How To Check Whether Your Web Connection's Secure](#)



The screenshot shows a browser address bar with the following text: "Duck Duck Go, Inc. (US) https://duckduckgo.com/?q=some+embarrassing+search&ia=".

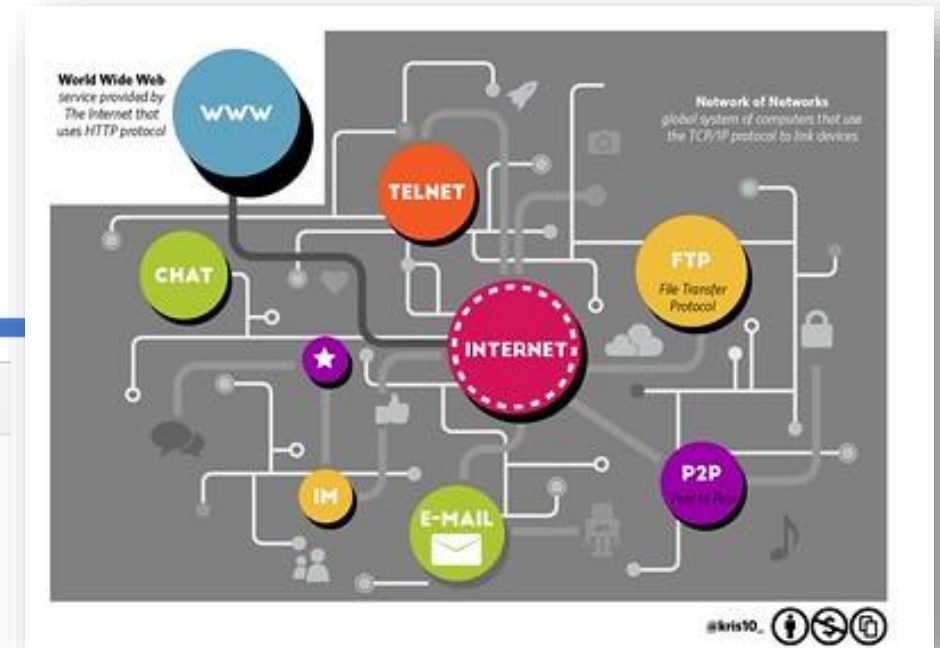
Annotations include:

- A red padlock icon on the left, circled in red.
- The text "https://" circled in red.
- The search query "q=some+embarrassing+search&ia=" circled in red.

Text below the annotations:

The padlock and "https" indicate a secure, encrypted connection.

Everything after the domain name is hidden from eavesdroppers, when using HTTPS.



# Essential Terms

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Security – protection from cybercrime

- Databases of safe sites
- Warnings about unsecure connections
- Content blockers

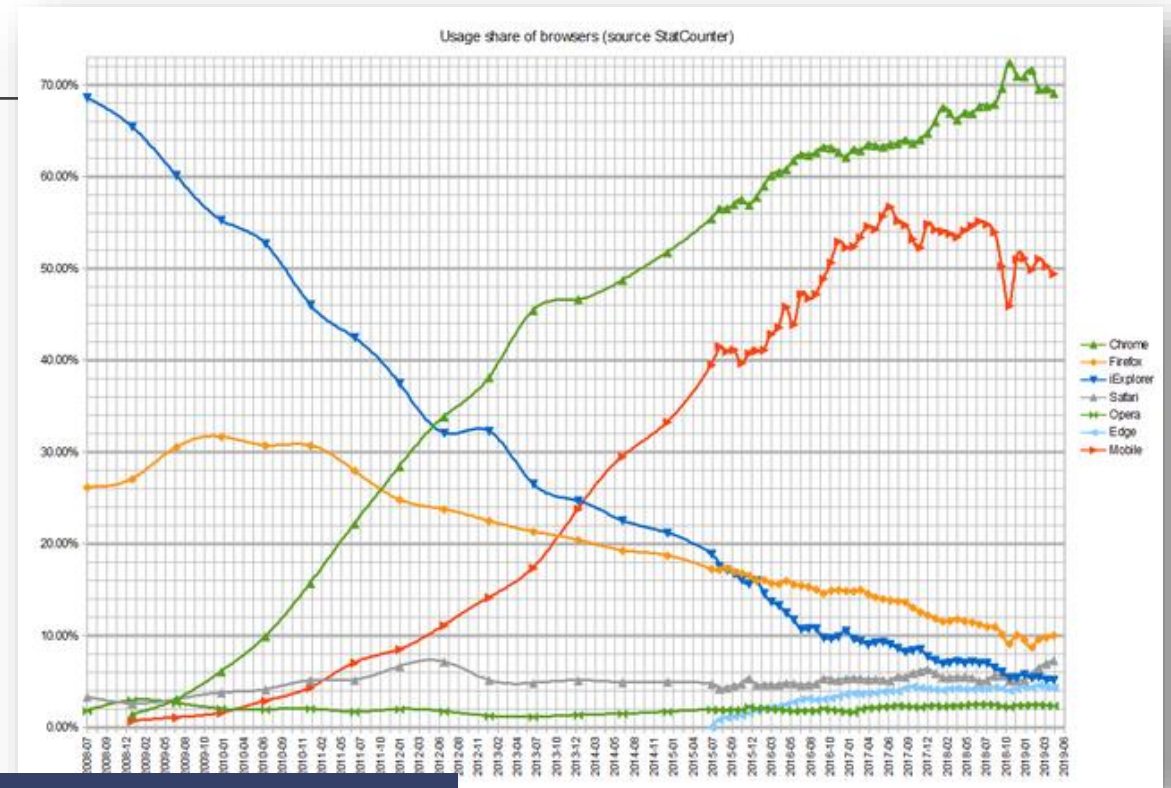


Privacy – what information is collected and how it's used

- Set by a browser company in a policy
- A user can choose privacy settings to limit information that's kept cookies and trackers

# Common Browsers

Browser	Market Share / Use
Chrome	68%
Edge	4%
Firefox	3.5%
Opera	2%
Safari*	16%
Others	5%
* Limited to Mac and iOS users	



The world has turned into desktop-minority. In the US, the majority, 78%, use both desktop and mobile to access the internet.

By StatCounter - OpenOffice Calc, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=89986636>



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# Common Browser Features

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- Search history
- Bookmarks to save frequently-used links
- Add-ons or extensions to expand capability
- Settings to customize use
- Private browsing option





# chrome

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## Pros

- Speedy performance
- Excellent library of add-ons
- Works on different platforms
- Lots of users, so it's easy to get help
- Safety Check
- Warns users when they attempt to visit a site flagged as potentially harmful

## Cons

- Can be resource-hungry
- Sharing data is profit motive

## New & Top Features

- Live caption option
- Built-in music controller in the menu bar
- Built-in screen casting of tab or desktop to TV or other device
- Topics, the proposed privacy solution won't retain gathered data more than 3 weeks



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## Pros

- Flexible
- Excellent security and privacy protection
- Easy to update and updates often
- Doesn't use much computer power

## Cons

- A bit slower than rivals
- Not as many add-ins as Chrome

## New & Top Features

- Shield icon in the toolbar glows when in use
- Active tab "floats" so it stands out
- In private browsing, *strict* cookie setting is always-on by default
- Responsive Mode
- Can add "tools" to the toolbar





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## Pros

- Very, very fast
- Clear privacy tools
- Good selection of add-ons
- Doesn't use much computer power
- Can save sites as apps
- Integrates with Windows OS

## Cons

- Windows **really** wants to be the default
- Wants to use location by default
- Integrates with Windows OS

## New & Top Features

- Can make collections of favorites
- Can make tabs vertical
- Read Aloud option
- Multilingual



# Opera

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## Pros

- Fast
- Lots of features
- Easy to access and understand tutorials

## Cons

- Not many users
- Larger learning curve

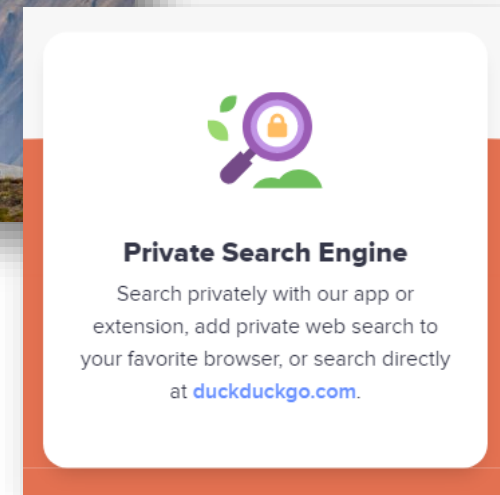
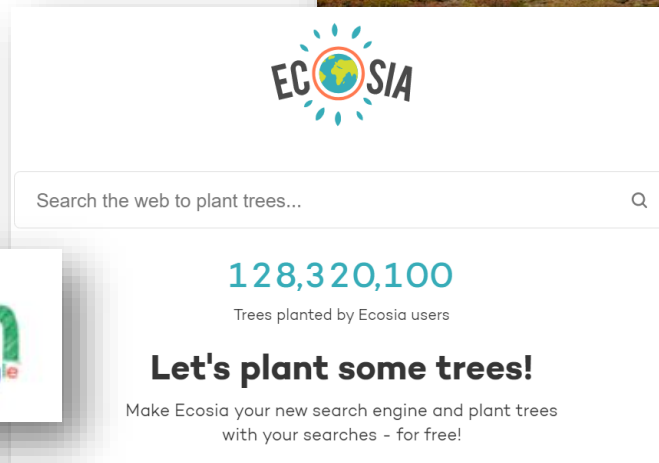
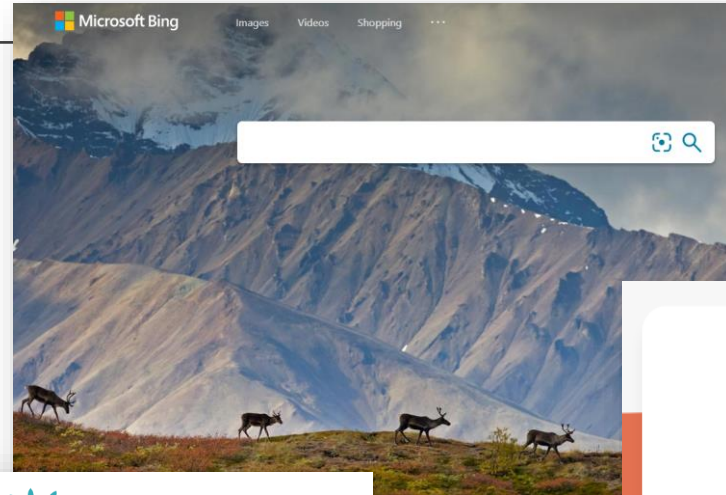
## New & Top Features

- Highlight in webpage look up/copy menu pops up
- Built-in VPN (turn on/off in settings)
- Can add messaging apps to sidebar
- Option to create multiple "workspaces" with different tabs and bookmarks for different purposes

# Browsers and search tools

You can use or change the default search tool that comes in your browser in Settings.

- DuckDuckGo (privacy)
- Ecosia (environment)
- KidZSearch (safe search)
- Bing (shopping credits)



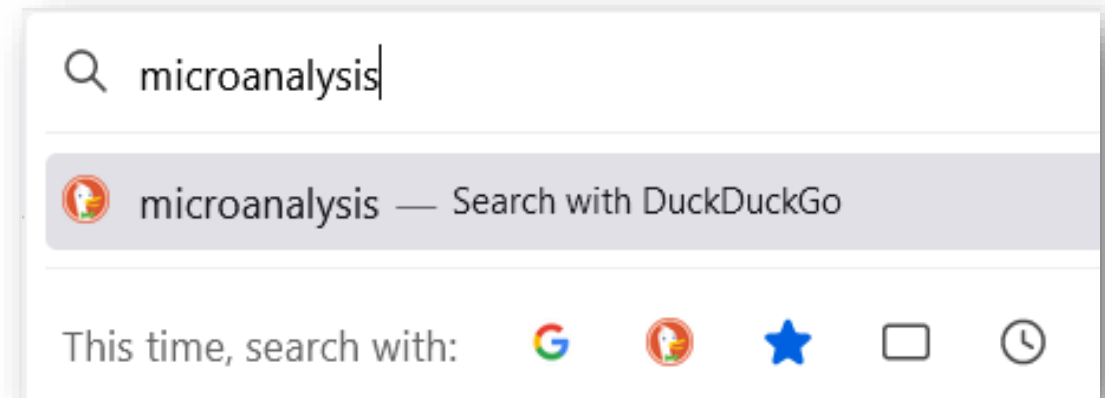
# Search tool setup

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## Settings

### > Search or Search Engine

- Choose or add search tools
- Set the default

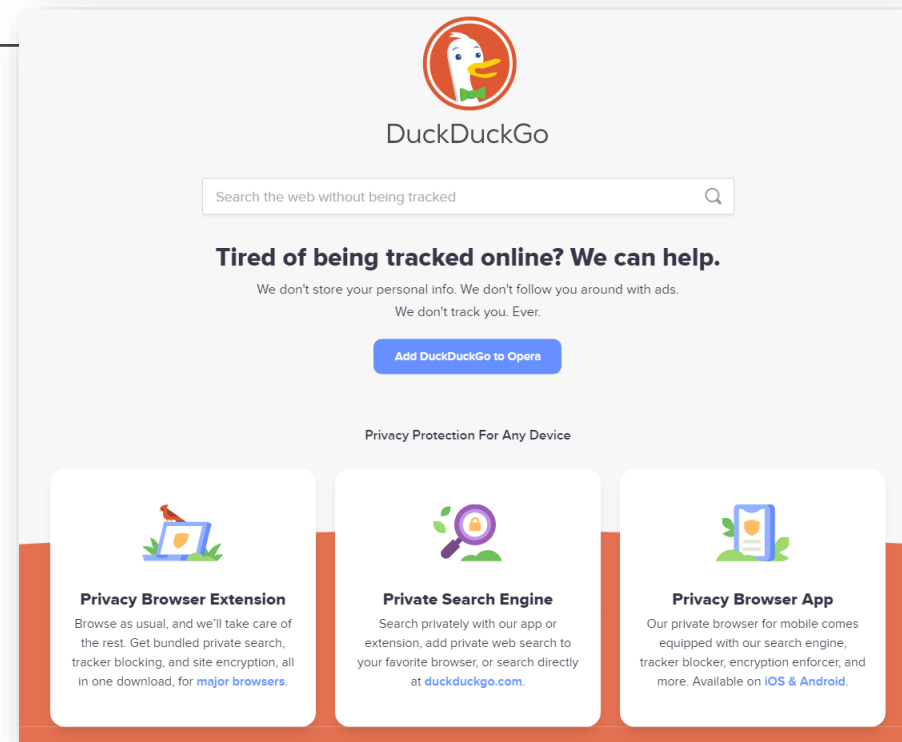


Firefox lets you set a default and have alternates easy to use

# Browsers on mobile

Use the default or add an app

- Chrome
- Firefox
- Opera
- DuckDuckGo
- Onion Browser Tor for iOS
- Orbot Tor connection for Android, to use with your existing browser



# Browser Security

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- Sign in
- Set up automatic updates
- Periodic maintenance
  - Restart
  - Clear history and cache
- Extensions
  - Read reviews and ratings before installing
  - Disable or remove extensions that you don't use
- If you don't use a password manager, use your browser to generate random passwords and save them
- Enable [HTTPS-only mode](#) if available

**Choose a default browser  
and learn its ins-and-outs**

# Browser Privacy Settings

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## Google Chrome

- Add Privacy Extensions (not available on Android)
  - [Cookie Autodelete](#)
  - [uBlock Origin](#)
  - [Privacy Badger](#)
  - [HTTPS Everywhere](#)
- Set Privacy and security > Cookies and other site data > Block third-party cookies

## Mozilla Firefox

- Set Preferences > Privacy & Security > Strict

## Apple Safari

- Turn on Intelligent Tracking Prevention
- Set Preferences > Privacy > Prevent cross-site tracking
- Add an adblocker extension
  - [AdBlock Plus](#)
  - [Ghostery Lite for Safari](#)



# The Big Balance

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**Security**

**Privacy**



**Convenience**

**Sharing**

# Must-dos and tips

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## Must-dos

- Update your browser often to keep it secure
- Use only HTTPS sites so all web browsing data is encrypted

## Tips

- Increase privacy by setting a different default search tool
- Use a password manager **and/or** smart password strategies and multifactor authentication
- Install and run a VPN (virtual private network) when on public wifi
- Enter a URL to find out if a website is down at <https://www.isitdownrightnow.com/>

# Links and resources

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## Resource Links

- [Wikipedia Web Browsers Article](#)
- [Ten Best Reviews Browser Comparison](#)
- [PC Magazine Chrome Features](#)
- [Edge Features](#)
- [Alternative Search Engines](#)

## Allison Midgley

- [Training@wlsmail.org](mailto:Training@wlsmail.org)