

Internet Web Browsers

WebPages are designed using codes which a web browser then deciphers. The browser turns the code into text and images that you view on the website. There are many different codes that can be used. One of the most popular, because of its simplicity, is HTML (hypertext mark-up language). Other common codes include JavaScript, VBScript and Perl .

If you use the internet you will have heard of web browsers such as Internet Explorer, Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox. I used Internet Explorer for exclusively many years. After trying a new web browser, I now find Internet Explorer slow to load, that webpage's take longer to show on the screen and that it crashes more than other browsers. Internet Explorer is pre loaded onto all Windows computers and is represented by a little blue e icon with a yellow ring. As Internet Explorer is pre-loaded into Windows computers many people do not realize that there are alternative browsers available.

Google Chrome is now my web browser of choice because it starts up quickly and webpage's load quickly. It has taken time to adjust to the different look of the screen but the improved functionality means I will not go back to Internet Explorer. Google Chrome is a web browser made by Google, the company that owns the search engine www.google.com. The address bar in Google Chrome is just like the Google search engine except it doesn't matter what page is loaded on the screen- if you type into the address bar it is always like being on the Google home page. As you start to type in the words you are searching for, it will suggest similar search phrases. This saves time as you can select the one you are after instead of having to type out the whole phrase you are searching for. Despite its increased speed, Google Chrome is not a perfect web browser and the level of security is not as high as that of Mozilla Firefox. If you are internet banking or purchasing online, in addition to recommending good general Internet Security such as AVG (available for \$105 at the Internet Centre) I also suggest you use Mozilla Firefox.

Mozilla Firefox is becoming an increasingly popular web browser with people who have experienced problems with Internet Explorer. The program Mozilla Firefox is slower to load than Google Chrome but websites load at a similar speed. Mozilla Firefox has better security and safety features compared to Internet Explorer. These include Private Browsing which is a mode that turns off the

browsing history, so people using the computer after you cannot see what you were looking up. The whole history can be cleared at any time. It has an anti-malware and anti-phishing which will help prevent your computer from accidentally contracting a virus. These features will also prevent you from visiting sites that are dangerous to your computer. Firefox works with your existing antivirus software so when you download a file your antivirus will automatically check it for you.

Mozilla Firefox can be downloaded from www.firefox.com Click on the Firefox Free Download button. A window will pop up asking whether you would like to save or run the file. Click run. It will download the file to the temporary internet files. After it downloads, the setup will run and Firefox will install. You will have to click next through the setup, but you won't need to change any settings. Once it has finished it will import your settings from Internet Explorer, including your favourites and homepages. It will then become your default browser. To open Firefox you will need to click on the icon of the orange fox on the blue globe.

Google chrome can be downloaded from www.google.com/chrome. Click on the Download Google Chrome button. Google Chrome will download and install once you accept the licence agreement. Once the installation has finished Google Chrome will load. To open Google Chrome the next time you must click the icon of a small blue dot with a red, green and yellow outline.

Firefox and Google Chrome are different to Internet Explorer but it doesn't take long to adjust to them. If you would like to try to a different web browser but are unsure how to do it, or if you would like a lesson on how to use a different web browser, drop in and see me in the Internet Centre in Main Street or call me on 6343 1720.