

Web browsers and Search Engines

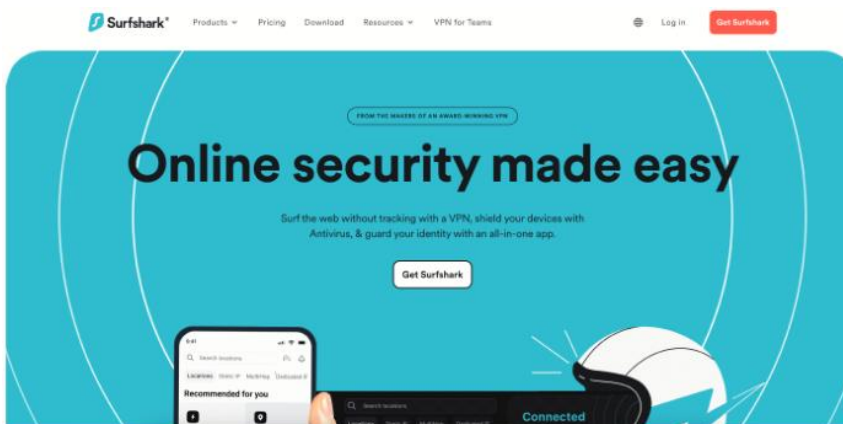
Although web browsers and search engines do work together, they are not the same thing. There are many differences between them, the key one being that a **web browser allows you to read this article** while a **search engine found this article on the internet**.

What is a web browser?

By definition, a web browser is a software application. It's one of the tools you use to access the internet. Many people assume that a web browser and a search engine are the same thing, but they're not.

To put it simply, a web browser is what allows you to see what you searched for. You're probably aware of some of the most popular **web browsers, including Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Safari, Microsoft Edge (formerly Internet Explorer), Brave and Tor**. Each has different features and provides different levels of security, making some browsers better than others in terms of convenience or privacy. How does a web browser work?

Let's say you know the address of the web page you want to visit. So, you type "www.surfshark.com" into the search bar on your browser. The browser's job is to use your internet connection and contact the web page. The web page sends the requested data, and your browser displays it. In our example, after you type in "www.surfshark.com", your browser will display Surf shark's main page, which will look something like this:



What is a search engine?

A search engine is a tool that helps you find the information you need using keywords and phrases. When you type your question into the address bar, it's not the browser that looks for the answer — it's the search engine.

Search engines have specific search algorithms. They use crawlers, indexing, and ranking to find and display the search results. Some search engines you may know are **Google, DuckDuckGo, Bing, and Yahoo**.


Google as a search engine

The Google search engine might be the most well-known on the World Wide Web (www.). The brand is so synonymous with search engines that in 2006, the Oxford

English Dictionary officially recognized “google” as a verb. “To google something” is widely understood to mean “search the internet.”

Google is heavily relied upon, but it might not be the best if you value your privacy. There are many other effective private search engine options out there, such as Bing, DuckDuckGo, Surf shark Search, and Yahoo.

Suppose you’ve been sticking with the same search engine for a while. In that case, you might want to make some comparisons and explore the different benefits. Some perks include search results that don’t track your personal information or the ability to customize results according to your country.



	Web browser	Search engine
How it interacts with information	Uses a search engine to find information	Needs a browser to be able to display information
How you use it	Use it to access and display web pages based on an exact URL	Search or filter information and display multiple results based on a keyword or phrase
Where it exists	Exists on your device	Exists on a server somewhere
How you access it	Must be installed on a device and needs an internet connection for access	Requires internet connection and can be accessed through a web browser
What it does with the results	Stores search history, cookies, and cache on the device	Doesn't store the results on your device
Examples	Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Edge, Opera, Brave, Tor Browser	Google, Bing, DuckDuckGo, Surfshark Search®, Yahoo, OneSearch, GiveWater

Examples of web browsers

Here are some examples of the most popular browsers:

Google Chrome

Google Chrome is a freeware web browser developed and released by Google in 2008, as of 2024, Google Chrome is the most popular browser, with a 65.69% market share.

Safari

Safari is a web browser developed and released by Apple in 2003. It's the default browser on Apple devices and has more than 970 million daily users.

Edge

Microsoft Edge is the default browser for Windows (replacing Internet Explorer in February 2023) and has approximately 280 million daily users.

Firefox

Mozilla Firefox is a free, open-source browser developed and released by Mozilla Foundation in 2004. With 155 million active users, it is among the most popular web browsers worldwide.

Examples of search engines

Google

Google Search, usually just called Google, is a search engine that accounts for approximately 91% of the global search engine market. Despite Google's data collection, it's still the go-to search engine for the majority of users because of its high-quality search results. The search engine giant handles 5.9 million searches per minute or 8.5 billion daily searches.

Bing

Microsoft Bing, simply referred to as Bing, is the second-most used search engine in the world. Even though it takes the No. 2 spot on the global search engine market, Bing only accounts for less than 4% of it.

Yahoo!

As of June 2024, Yahoo! Search takes up about 1.3% of the global search engine market and is the 4th most popular search engine. Yahoo!'s search results are powered by Microsoft Bing, so the two search engines provide similar results.

DuckDuckGo

DuckDuckGo is a search engine that stands out from its competitors for its position on online privacy. It is the 6th most-used search engine worldwide and handles about 3 billion searches per month.