



Replace Chrome with Firefox

Difficulty: Technical ★☆☆

Social ☆☆☆

Time: 15 mins

Why not Chrome?

Google built its Chrome browser to spy on you – er, collect your data. Because search, maps, YouTube and Android apparently weren't enough? Anything you do in the Chrome browser, especially if you are logged in to Google while you use it, is fair game for Google in terms of data collection and mining. This used to be used to generate ad preferences: now it's used to train Google's AI. And their famous search engine is getting worse, burdened by LLM's and SEO.

You deserve to browse the web without being tracked. You also deserve an Internet where your everyday activities aren't used to differentiate between people, distribute harms, or train machines to identify people and displace labor. And it'd be nice to be able to find what you need online.

What are my options?

There are some great, stable, easy to use, privacy-centric browsers out there. Today we'll migrate to Firefox, which is made by the Mozilla Foundation, a US Foundation dedicated to privacy. This takes less than five minutes to do and is good practice for any other browser you may choose.

1. **Download the Browser:** Follow install instructions at <https://www.firefox.com/>
2. **Migrate bookmarks and passwords:** In Firefox, click File in the Menu bar and select Import From Another Browser... in the menu.
3. **Change your search engine:** Open Firefox, go to Preferences, and select DuckDuckGo as your default search engine
4. **Reinstall your favorite extensions** Whatever you had on Chrome is here: <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/extensions/>
5. **Change your system's Default Browser:** Instructions here: <https://support.mozilla.org/en-US/kb/make-firefox-your-default-browser>

For more details, check out <https://www.optoutproject.net/better-browsing/> or Mozilla's own instructions at <https://support.mozilla.org/en-US/kb/switching-chrome-firefox>

Browsers are a great opportunity to **Balkanize**, **Earmark**, and **Grow Alternatives**. It's useful to have several browsers on hand in addition to your primary service so that you can spread your traces. Or, to air-gap something data-hungry like Facebook or Google, you can only open it in one browser! Many are made by small companies trying something innovative. Check out:

- **DuckDuckGo**, based on Firefox, has a cute and handy way of clearing browser data;
- **Opera** or **Vivaldi**, has cool layouts and options for browsing
- **Orion**, by Kagi, is attempting a pay-for-search-and-privacy model
- Chrome-only sites deserve the open source, Google-free version, **Chromium**.