

Browser Tips and Tricks - 2

Extensions - Extensions, also known as Add-Ons are small apps that operate within your browser to add functionality that isn't included in the browser itself. There are a large number of extensions available from the store for each browser although they are far more limited in Edge, which originally didn't allow them. A couple of very useful extensions are Adblock which blocks many ads on a site and a dictionary which defines a word for you with a double click. If you use an ad blocker you will get notices from many sites asking you to disable it on their site. The choice is yours.

Rearrange your bookmarks bar – Your bookmarks bar can be rearranged with a simple drag operation. Click and hold any item on your bookmarks bar and drag it to the desired location.

Import your bookmarks – If you decide to change browsers you can import your bookmarks from your old browser. In Chrome go to settings, bookmarks and import. Select the browser you want to import from. In Firefox click on the Library Icon, then click on Bookmarks, then click on Show All Bookmarks, from there Click Import and Backup, then select Import Data from Another Browser. In Edge go to the hub and select favorites, then click on the settings icon. From there find Import favorites and other info and then import from another browser.

Put a website on your desktop – To pin a website to your desktop for easy access resize your browser so that some part of the desktop is visible. Click and hold the website icon in the address bar and drag it to the desktop.

Use history to get back to a page you closed - If you closed a page within the last few days and need to get back to it you can use the History tools to see a list of closed pages that you have been to. In Firefox click the bookmarks icon and select History. In Chrome go to settings and select History. In Edge go to the Hub icon and select the history icon. If you pick a page and restore it, you will also have access to the pages that you opened before you got to that page and possibly pages you went to after.

Use your mouse to scroll – You can use the roller on your mouse to scroll up and down on a page.

Use F11 to go to full screen mode - Hitting the F11 key will toggle your browser in and out of full screen mode. This can be useful if you need to see a little bit more of the screen by hiding the address bar and title bar as well as the task bar. On a laptop you may have to hold down the function key to activate the F11 function.

Chrome sound control – The current version of Chrome now disables sound on web pages so you don't get blasted by a video or sound when you open a page. To allow sound on a page click the box in front of the address bar (usually 'secure') and from the popup menu go to sound and change from block to allow.

Stop sound in auto play Firefox – Firefox does not have a built in sound blocker so it requires an add on.

Sound blocking in Edge - Sound blocking is currently not available in edge.