

## Safer, Faster, Better for Battery Power: Best Browsers

What's the best browser to use? That may be a trick question: it depends what you're looking for...

### Safer Browsing: Avoiding Spyware and Malware

The surprising answer to the question "what's the safest browser?" is Microsoft Edge\*. When you consider spyware, malware, and phishing attacks, Edge comes out on top. Below is a table from NSS Labs, who did the browser testing. \*Note: Edge is available only on Windows computers.

Browser Attack Type	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
Phishing, Spyware	Edge, 93% blocked	Chrome, 86%	Firefox, 85%
Malware	Edge, 99.3 % blocked	Chrome, 95.7%	Firefox, 81.9%

Note that none of the browsers has a 100% blockage rating, so you still need to be careful when browsing. None of the browsers offers a "cloak of immunity". Be careful when browsing, always.

### Faster Browsing: JavaScript and Downloads

If you feel like your internet browsing is always slow, maybe it's not your computer or your internet speed, it could be your browser. JavaScript is one of the computer languages used to create websites, especially crucial in dynamic websites that have a lot of user interaction, like shopping websites, search websites, and online forms sites. Downloads also can be affected by how the browser is coded, and some are more efficient at downloads than others.

Speed Test Type	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
Javascript Speed	Edge	Opera	Vivaldi
Download Speed	Opera	Edge	Internet Explorer

### Longer Browsing: Battery Drain Times

If your laptop or tablet seems to run down the battery too quickly, you may be surprised (like I was) to find that your browser may be a bit of a "battery hog".

Battery Usage	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Worst Place
Windows Computers	(Tie) Opera, Edge	Firefox	Chrome
Apple OS-X, iOS	Safari	Opera*	Chrome

\* Note that Edge browser is not available for Apple devices.

If you use Opera on a Windows computer or Safari on your Apple device, you will use up to 35% less battery power than using Chrome browser on your machine. If your laptop or tablet runs mostly on battery, it may be worth switching to Opera or Safari. When plugged in, go ahead and use Chrome, but maybe not when on battery!

-John Becker