

Internet Browser

WHY I TURNED CHROME

© Darry D Eggleston, DarryD@darryd.com

Click on the blue, underlined text to go to its linked reference.¹



According to *Fortune* magazine (“Chrome browser grows 10% in April,” by Seth Weintraub, May 3, 2010, <http://tinyurl.com/2aue2ac>), “Google’s Chrome internet browser grew 10% in April, 2010. Chrome’s growth comes at the expense of Internet Explorer, which dropped to under 60% for the first time since it crushed Netscape in the 90’s.”

There are three things that I want from my Internet browser when I go to the web. I want speed, reliability, and ease of use.

God gives me 24 hours every day, and — if the increasing number of obituaries pages in *The Tampa Tribune* are any indication — I’m running short on days.

Speed became increasingly important to me after reading *Time* magazine report (September 28, 2009, p. 15) which said it took a South African company 2 hours, 7 minutes to download data using the nation’s leading Internet Service Provider. That was an hour longer than it took a carrier pigeon to transport the same data over the 50 miles between the source of the data and the company.

Sometime back, I became disenchanted with Internet Explorer even though I had upgraded to the latest version. During peak hours (8–10 pm EST), it was often slower than the old dial-up. When I opened several sites, using its tabs, if one site failed, the quickest fix was exiting the program and opening it again — after I recorded (either mentally or physically) the websites I had open and why I was at those sites. Finally, I had to use the F11 key more and more frequently so that I could see more of the webpage and less of Internet Explorer.

Since I’m running 32-bit Windows 7 on an Intel Core i7 CPU at 2.67 GHz on a Dell XPS9000 with 8 Gb of RAM that should not be the case.

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I had already switched from RoadRunner's cable system to Verizon's FiOS. (FiOS is a bundled communications (Internet, telephone, and TV) service, operating over a fiber-optic communications network, that is presently offered in some areas of the United States by Verizon Communications.)

Repeated, controlled tests by myself and technicians I trust demonstrated the superiority of FiOS over cable.

At this point, Internet Explorer seemed to be holding me back from achieving the old Army motto, "Be all you can be."

I decided to try Google's Chrome.

Downloading Google Chrome could not be easier.

For Chrome, go to <http://www.google.com/chrome?hl=en&brand=CHMI> and click on the large, blue "Download Google Chrome" button.

It offers to import any Favorites you've created in Internet Explorer. However, Chrome calls them Bookmarks just like the old Netscape did.

When running, I compare Google to Internet Explorer as a sprinter to a marathon runner.

The viewable working space was another consideration. While I didn't start out with this expectation, once I compared the browsers, it became evident that it must be considered. The more viewable area on the web, the less scrolling required.

On websites, Internet Explorer loses one-third of the screen to MenuBars and ToolBars (**Figure 1**).

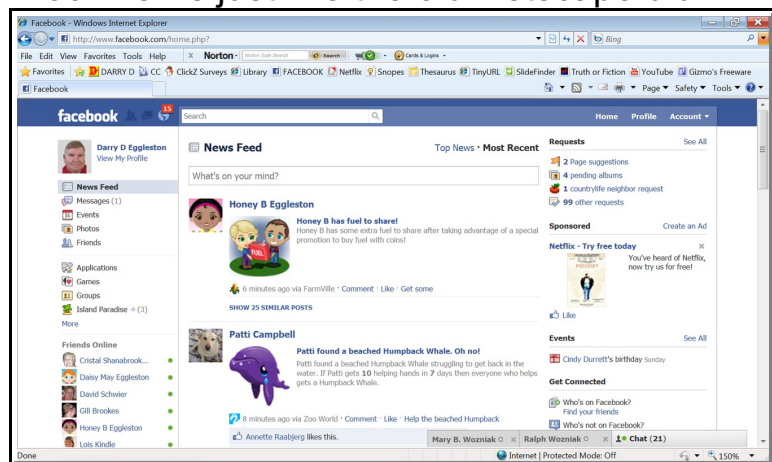


Figure 1

Chrome shows only the essentials (**Figure 2**).

If I changed, I wanted to ensure Chrome would actually offer me more than Internet Explorer was offering now. So I used a site-to-site comparison between the two browsers. I'm sharing those sites so you can run your own comparison.

The websites I used for the comparisons were:

1. My website < <http://DarryD.com> >, then click the "Cruising" option, then open to view "Roatan Slideshow." (This tested the ability to go three layers deep into a website I know to be safe and play a PowerPoint show.)
2. Signing into Facebook < <http://Facebook.com> >, selecting FarmVille, and then opening my farm. This tested the ability to sign in, maneuver to FarmVille, and display a very complicated farm. (This is as close as I come to playing video games.)
3. Doing a Google search < <http://Google.com> > for "IFAS Florida yards and neighborhoods"; clicking on the University of Florida's "9 Friendly Florida Yard Principles;" copying that data; and pasting into an already opened WordPerfect. (This emulates the bulk of the work I do: research and sharing.)

In each test, I opened the Websites in that order with all three websites opened sequentially, and staying open at the same time. (The tests would have been concluded earlier if Internet Explorer had not locked up twice trying to get to my farm on FarmVille.)

As for reliability, Google had no problems with my FarmVille farm or my Zoo World zoo, both on Facebook.

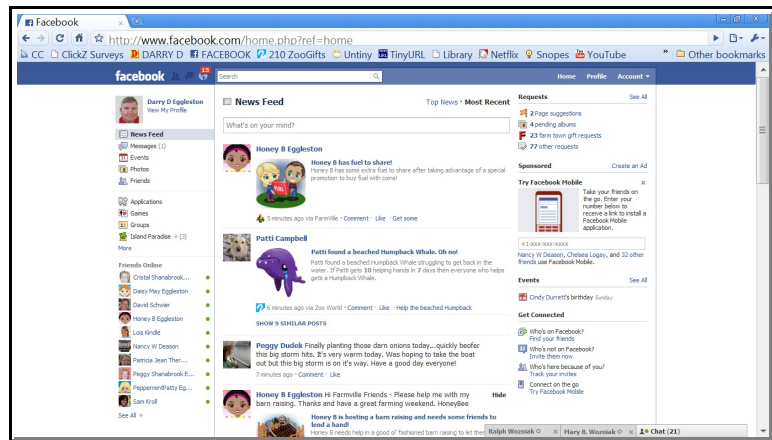


Figure 2

I selected my farm (**Figure 3**) for the reliability test because it's very complicated and takes awhile to load.

If you are registered with Facebook, you can view my farm at <http://tinyurl.com/l6ac5w>.



Figure 3 — Darry D's Farm

As for speed, Internet Explorer would reach the pages after pausing to think about each command, and locked up too frequently.

Google Chrome got there like a hungry hound after a fox, and was ready to chase ten other website foxes upon my slightest command.

As for ease of operation, Google was the easiest to learn because there are no frills. Rather than the MenuBar featured in Internet Explorer, Chrome uses drop-down menus on the right side at the top of the screen for its tools (**Figure 4**).

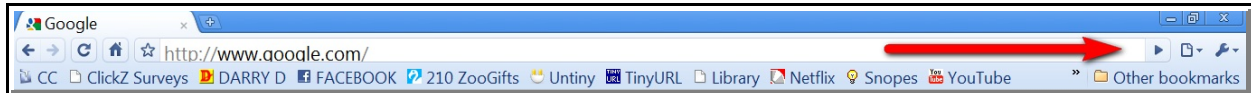


Figure 4 — Chrome's Tools

Videos and written lessons abound about Internet Explorer; but, there are many, many complaints on blogs and on authoritative Websites.

Google Chrome is so intuitive that I haven't even looked for lessons.

Google Chrome is not perfect, but neither am I. Until I can find something better, this is as close to the Holy Grail of web browsing that I'm going to find.

So I changed to Google Chrome, and I'm not looking back. It meets the three requirements that I have, and as long as it does, I'm Chrome.

What color is your web?