

Browser History

Learn how to manage your browser history and keep your browsing information secure.

1. Your Browser History

Browser history contains a lot of different pieces of information about your online activities. This includes the following:

- URLs of sites you have visited
- Browsing history
- Active logins (can be automatic or ones you specify in the web browser)
- Cookies
- Cache files
- Search history
- Downloads
- Autocomplete information for forms you've filled out
- Site preferences

Browser history has benefits and can remember useful things about sites you frequently visit, help pages load faster, auto populate searches, and give you a way to retrace your steps online.

However, browser history can pose security risks, can give sites a way to track you, and can be dangerous to have available on something like a public computer.

2. Ways to Manage Your Browser History

It is recommended that you clear out and delete your browser history about once a month.

Here are some reasons to consider deleting your browser history:

- You are using a public computer
- You want to disrupt trackers and protect your privacy
- Websites are loading slowly or having bugs. Browser history caches are snapshots of webpages from a certain time. When sites update, it can cause your cache files to get out of date and lead to issues with loading a site
- You changed your login credentials. Browser history and cookies can cause you to have problems authenticating your changed login credentials

Here are some things to keep in mind when managing your browser history:

- Remember to delete browser history on your computer, your phone and other devices you use, such as a tablet on a regular basis!
- Be sure to search for the directions you need depending on your devices and browser of choice
- You can also consider using a private or incognito browser to prevent any browsing history data from being saved and stored. This is worth doing if you are using a public or shared computer

3. Setting Up A Maintenance Schedule

First, make a list of the browsers you use and the devices you use. This could include web browsers, your phone, tablets and other devices.

Next, look up how to delete browser history for the things you have listed. Use this space to write the steps, if you'd like a reminder later.

Finally, schedule a reminder to delete and clear out your browser history about once a month.