



Chinamans Hat,
Oahu

Browser options abound. . .

We did a bit of browser browsing in August. We all know, and love?, Google or Firefox. Microsoft Edge is taking some time to catch on, but have you heard of Opera? What about Torch or Vivaldi? Unless you track the tech sites and ezines you probably haven't heard about the last two. Not to worry, we're not going to waste time talking about them because our focus here is on Brave.

Brave is making a name for itself as a privacy-focused web browser. It has built-in ad blockers and trackers and recently released an update to integrate Dashlane, 1Password and LastPass password managers.

Co-created by Brendan Eich and Brian Bondy. Mr. Eich is the creator of JavaScript, helped create Mozilla and, briefly he was CEO of Mozilla Corp. until social ideological differences with the Board and a number of employees and outside groups, caused him to step down in 2014 under pressure.

On January 20, 2016, the company released developer versions of its open-source Brave web browser, which blocked ads and trackers and included a micropayments system to offer users a choice between viewing selected ads or paying websites not to display them.

On the desktop, Brave loads pages twice as fast as Chrome and Firefox, the No. 1 and No. 3 browsers in the world as ranked by analytics vendor Net Applications. On a smartphone, Brave loads pages up to eight times faster than Chrome (Android) or Safari (iOS). (*Computerworld* 7/24/18). More on speed later.



Ed. Note: I started using Brave the Monday after our August Saturday meeting. Installation was super quick. Once installed I was presented with a window that offered to Import Favorites from Chrome, Firefox and Edge. Since I don't have Firefox the other two were imported with no difficulty. Brave is built on the open source platform Chromium, so importing from Chrome was seamless.

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On startup I could set a specific page, or set of pages, to whatever URL I wanted. I, of course, chose Bing.com as my Home page and primary search engine.

You can learn much more about Brave by visiting www.brave.com. I'll just mention a few of their features for you. Not in boring detail but enough to pique your interest (I hope).

F The Appearance option lets one set the color, theme, font size and other changes to your preference.

F You can Sync Brave with all your other devices, i.e. tablet, Smartphone, etc.

F Shields is the feature that lets you block trackers and ads; scripts; cross-site cookies and device recognition.

F The Home page gives a cumulative list of the number of:

Ad and Trackers blocked;

HTTPS Upgrades, and

Estimated time saved.

Along with a professional photo as the background.

The Home page also lists icons of the most recently visited sites. A quick click gets you to the one you choose. Ex:



F Brave Rewards: “Brave Rewards lets you anonymously support the sites you visit. With Brave Rewards, your browser tallies the attention you spend on the sites you visit and divides up a monthly BAT contribution among sites based on your attention. Nobody will know which sites you visit or support — including us here at Brave Software.”

What is BAT? - “BAT stands for Basic Attention Token. It is a utility token based on the Ethereum technology that can also be used as a unit of account between advertisers, publishers, and users within Brave Rewards. The token is not a digital currency, security or a commodity.”

“Brave's big pitch to users is that it blocks ads and trackers cold. But the company acknowledges that blocking ads starves websites and content creators. So Brave has come with an interesting approach to making money. You can sign up for their Brave Rewards program, where you earn BAT tokens for viewing ads that Brave has inserted instead of the ads the websites are naturally displaying. When you sign up for Brave Rewards you have the option of giving a portion of the ad revenue from the ads Brave is showing you to the websites you enjoy the most. You also earn tokens for yourself which you can then use to "tip" websites of your choice.” and, “...if you don't sign up for Brave Rewards, then you don't have to worry about this system, and you can still surf the web without any tracking or ads showing up on the pages you surf to. Bert G. Farkas c/net.com 12/28/18.

I opted-in to the Rewards program and would get a dialog box asking of (this site) could show content. I could click on allow or Block and the box disappeared with no ad being shown.

For brevity's sake, I suggest you visit the website to learn more about this feature. For a list of the 11 best browsers for Windows, visit <https://fossbytes.com/best-web-browsers-for-pc/>

Re: the speed of Brave—the secret is that Brave blocks all the 3rd party ads and links from the site you visit and inserts its own, but only if you allow it. With the ad and trackers blocker the download size is significantly reduced. This is a simplistic description of what happens, but it works.

I did notice another benefit of ad and tracker blocking. I use Wise Care 365, an optimization application, that offers to clean out excessive and unnecessary files. After a day of surfing using Chrome the amount was normally of the 700+ MB size. If I waited a day or two to clean the mess it accumulates to well over 1 GB.

Using Brave the daily amount is in the two-digit range. If I don't clean it and wait a day, or two, the amount barely reaches 200 MB. So, there's that. Clean up time is faster and less chance of a useful file being wiped.



If you want to keep abreast with what's being done to combat malware, hackers and cybercriminals, check out and subscribe to <https://www.2-spyware.com/> They issue ezines on a regular basis. Here's a samble from their 8/29/19 issue.

Avast and French authorities delete Retadup malware from 850,000 PCs

One of the French police force divisions National Gendarmerie announced today the demise of Retadup malware that was operated by cybercriminals for more than two years. The self-replicating worm and a Monero miner, which was monitored by a security research team from Avast, managed to establish a wide botnet all over the world, and the number of infections grew. Full article here: <https://tinyurl.com/yy2wzyzt>

Aloha and Safe Surfing,

Jim

Genesis of The TUG

Established in 1988 after The Retired Officer's Association (TROA) conference held in Honolulu.

Previous members coordinated all the IT communications, registrations, tours and activities via old IBM and Commodore personal computers; 14KB dial-up modem connections and many working hours to accomplish this unique multi-faceted operation.

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The IFA or **Internationale Funkausstellung Berlin** (International radio exhibition Berlin, a.k.a. 'Berlin Radio Show') is one of the oldest industrial exhibitions in Germany.

Between 1924 and 1939 it was an annual event, but from 1950 it was held every other year until 2005. Since then it has become an annual event again, held in September. Today it is one of world's leading trade shows for consumer electronics and home appliances. IFA 2019 takes place from 6 September to 11 September, in Berlin.

Since a trip to Berlin isn't on my bucket list, I did an online "virtual trip" and picked a few items that look pretty interesting. See images on next page.

1.8" Portable SSD Premium Edition Experience fastest backup in a small format!

With the external SSD Premium Edition by Intenso you can save data like photos or videos in the shortest time possible. Thanks to the USB 3.0 interface, even large amounts of data can be transferred with up to 320 MB/s.

Either at home or on the road, the SSD is always the perfect companion. Thanks to its compact size, it fits into every pocket. Unlike traditional hard disks, SSDs are based on flash and are therefore shock-resistant and silent. Additionally, the data is protected by a high-quality and robust metal housing in anthracite. Amateur photographers and videographers will be amazed by the external SSD, as their memory-intensive data can be secured quickly and reliably.

The Intenso Memory Safe offers maximum security for all your personal data.

Featuring certified AES 256-bit hardware encryption, the external hard drive encrypts all data stored on the device. An individually selected PIN code of 4 to 12 digits ensures that your personal data is protected against third-party access even if the hard drive is lost.

The PIN code is entered, deleted or changed exclusively using the key pad integrated into the hard drive. Both the on-board encryption chip and applied algorithm are FIPS 140-2 certified and consequently meet the latest state-of-the-art security standard. Even if the hard drive is removed from its enclosure, the data remains protected against third-party access.

Memory Safe is a high-performance external USB 3.0 hard drive that enables PIN-protected storage of all personal data on one single hard drive. Such benefits make the Memory Safe the perfect choice for mobile use, whether business-related or private.

At IFA, XYZprinting will commercially launch its most affordable and easy-to-use 3D printer line to date – the da Vinci Mini w, and its colorful child-friendly counterpart, the da Vinci miniMaker.

Featuring auto-calibration, auto-loading filament and embedded wi-fi capabilities, the Mini series is 30% smaller than XYZprinting's popular da Vinci Junior range while maintaining the same build volume at 15x15x15cm

StreamR brings the portable enjoyment of a Bluetooth speaker with the added bonus of smart features and digital radio, enriching your listening experience even more.

Take your favorite DAB+ radio stations with you wherever you go, ask Alexa for assistance and enjoy audio from multiple sources, all in a portable package that doesn't sacrifice sound quality.

One-Touch Alexa StreamR is one of the only portable Bluetooth speakers on the market that offers access to the Alexa voice service. The onboard microphone connects to the Pure Home

App on your mobile device via Bluetooth, which connects to Alexa using Wi-Fi or mobile data, bringing the convenience of the virtual assistant with you no matter the location.

From weather forecasts, to calendar scheduling and everything in between, enjoy Alexa on the move along with Bluetooth, digital radio and aux-in connectivity.

Every step and every heartbeat counts, with the ACME SW301 GPS Smartwatch!

Thanks to the integrated active GPS, you can check your location or track the exact route of your run or walk without having to carry your smartphone with you. After synchronization of the two devices, all data is available in the app.

The Smartwatch lets you explore your surroundings more closely and measure air pressure, altitude, and temperature. In addition, the watch has a high-precision heart rate monitor and various sports modes that record the results of your workout precisely and easily and thus improve your sports program. In addition, the watch notifies you of incoming calls and messages, emails, or other notifications you receive on your smartphone. In addition, you can set your own memories in the clock, not to forget to drink more water or to move more. All this information is clearly visible on the color screen, which is easy to operate thanks to the touch-sensitive surface and the side-mounted digital knob.

Led lamp with quick-charge. Compatible with all smartphones with Qi technology Stylish design Easy use with touch buttons Adjustable arm and shade of LED lamp Turn on and dim with touch buttons Intelligent timing for turn off 3 light modes: natural light, cold white light, warm yellow light LED light with a long lifetime up to 30 000 hours Power supply: DC 230V~ 50 Hz, 5 V/2 A, 7 W

Have fun in virtual Berlin...auf wiedersehen, meine Freunde, *Lou, and in spirit, Pooky*



Profound thought
on Evil

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

**“WHEN I DESPAIR, I REMEMBER
THAT ALL THROUGH HISTORY
THE WAY OF TRUTH AND LOVE
HAS ALWAYS WON. THERE HAVE
BEEN TYRANTS AND MURDERERS
AND FOR A TIME THEY SEEM
INVINCIBLE, BUT IN THE END,
THEY ALWAYS FALL—THINK OF
IT, ALWAYS.”**

MAHATMA GANDHI

I came across this quote from Gandhi and found it so appropriate to the aftermath of 9/11.

The person who posted this must have had the same thought since he/she labeled it September 11, 2001, even though Mahatma Gandhi was long since gone from this earth before that date.

Gandhi’s statement is so visionary and true.

So, as long as we *keep the faith*, especially through the bad times, we’ll overcome the bad guys.

www.the-tug.org

Visit our website for contact information, current and past newsletters and more.

