

# Comparison of lightweight web browsers

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A **lightweight web browser** is a web browser that sacrifices some of the features of a mainstream web browser in order to reduce the consumption of system resources, and especially to minimize the memory footprint.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup>

The tables below compare lightweight web browsers. Several of them use a common layout engine, but each has a unique combination of features and a potential niche. The minimal user interface in surf, for example, does not have tabs.<sup>[4]</sup> whereas xombrero can be driven with vi-like keyboard commands.<sup>[5]</sup>

Four of the browsers compared—Lynx, w3m, Links, and ELinks—are designed for text mode, and can function in a terminal emulator. Links 2 has both a text-based user interface and a graphical user interface. w3m is, in addition to being a web browser, also a terminal pager.<sup>[6]</sup>

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## Overview

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Browser	Developers	Development status	Engine	Programming languages	Software license	Latest stable release
<b>Arora</b>	Benjamin C. Meyer et al. <sup>[7]</sup>	Discontinued	<u>QtWebKit</u> <sup>[8]</sup>	<u>C++</u>	<u>GPL</u>	0.11.0 <sup>[9]</sup> (27 September 2010) <span>[±]</span> ( <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/Arora&amp;action=edit">https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/Arora&amp;action=edit</a> )
<b>Dillo</b>	Jorge Arellano Cid et al.	Active	Dillo	<u>C</u> , <u>C++</u>	<u>GPLv3</u>	3.0.5 <sup>[10]</sup> (30 June 2015) <span>[±]</span> ( <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/Dillo&amp;action=edit">https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/Dillo&amp;action=edit</a> )
<b>ELinks</b>	Petr Baudiš, Jonas Fonseca, et al.	Active	Links	<u>C</u> , <u>C++</u>	<u>GPLv2</u>	0.11.7 <sup>[11]</sup> (22 August 2009) <span>[±]</span> ( <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/ELinks&amp;action=edit">https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/ELinks&amp;action=edit</a> )
<b>K-Meleon</b>	Christophe Thibault et al.	Active	<u>Gecko</u>	<u>C++</u>	<u>GPL</u>	75.1 (September 19, 2015 <sup>[12]</sup> ) <span>[±]</span> ( <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/K-Meleon&amp;action=edit">https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/K-Meleon&amp;action=edit</a> )
<b>Links</b>	Mikuláš Patočka, Twibright Labs, et al.	Active	Links	<u>C</u>	<u>GPLv2+</u>	2.16 <sup>[13]</sup> (11 May 2018) <span>[±]</span> ( <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/Links&amp;action=edit">https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/Links&amp;action=edit</a> )
<b>Lynx</b>	Lou Montulli, Thomas Dickey, et al.	Active	<u>libwww</u> derivative	<u>C</u> (ISO C)	<u>GPLv2</u>	2.8.8rel.2 <sup>[14]</sup> <sup>[15]</sup> (9 March 2014) <span>[±]</span> ( <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/Lynx&amp;action=edit">https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/Lynx&amp;action=edit</a> )
<b>Midori</b>	Christian Dywan et al.	Active	<u>WebKitGTK+</u>	<u>Vala</u> , <u>C</u>	<u>LGPL v2.1+</u>	None <span>[±]</span> ( <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/Midori&amp;action=edit">https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/Midori&amp;action=edit</a> )
<b>NetSurf</b>	John-Mark Bell, Michael Drake, et al. <sup>[16]</sup>	Active	NetSurf	<u>C</u> (ANSI C)	<u>GPLv2</u>	3.7 <sup>[17]</sup> (16 October 2017) <span>[±]</span> ( <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/NetSurf&amp;action=edit">https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/NetSurf&amp;action=edit</a> )
<b>Otter Browser</b>	Michał Dutkiewicz <sup>[18]</sup>	Active	<u>QtWebKit</u> / <u>QtWebEngine</u>	<u>C++</u>	<u>GPL</u>	0.9.95-RC5 (4 February 2018 <sup>[19]</sup> ) <span>[±]</span> ( <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/Otter_Browser&amp;action=edit">https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/Otter_Browser&amp;action=edit</a> )
<b>QtWeb</b>	LogicWare; LSoft Technologies <sup>[20]</sup>	Unmaintained	<u>QtWebKit</u>	<u>C++</u>	<u>GPL</u>	3.8.5 <sup>[21]</sup> (9 September 2013) <span>[±]</span> ( <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/QtWeb&amp;action=edit">https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/QtWeb&amp;action=edit</a> )
<b>Falkon (QupZilla)</b>	David Rosca	Active	<u>QtWebKit</u> / <u>QtWebEngine</u>	<u>C++</u>	<u>GPLv3</u>	3.0.1 (8 May 2018 <sup>[22]</sup> ) <span>[±]</span> ( <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/Falkon&amp;action=edit">https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/Falkon&amp;action=edit</a> )
<b>qutebrowser</b>	Florian Bruhin et al.	Active <sup>[23]</sup>	<u>QtWebKit</u> / <u>QtWebEngine</u> <sup>[24]</sup>	<u>Python3</u>	<u>GPLv3</u>	?
<b>rekonq</b>	Andrea Diamantini et al.	Unmaintained	<u>QtWebKit</u> <sup>[8]</sup>	<u>C++</u>	<u>GPLv3</u>	2.4.2 <sup>[25]</sup> <sup>[26]</sup> (12 January 2014) <span>[±]</span> ( <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/rekonq&amp;action=edit">https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/rekonq&amp;action=edit</a> )
<b>surf</b>	Christoph Lohmann et al.	Active	<u>WebKitGTK+</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>MIT License</u>	2.0 (28 March 2017 <sup>[27]</sup> ) <span>[±]</span> ( <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/surf_(web_browser)&amp;action=edit">https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/surf_(web_browser)&amp;action=edit</a> )
<b>uzbl</b>	Dieter Plaetinck et al.	Active	<u>WebKitGTK+</u>	<u>C</u> , <u>Python</u>	<u>GPLv3</u>	0.9.1 (October 27, 2016 <sup>[28]</sup> ) <span>[±]</span> ( <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/Uzbl&amp;action=edit">https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/Uzbl&amp;action=edit</a> )
<b>vimb</b>	Daniel Carl et al.	Active	<u>WebKitGTK+</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>GPLv3</u>	3.1.0 (March 27, 2018 <sup>[29]</sup> ) <span>[±]</span> ( <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/Vimb&amp;action=edit">https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/Vimb&amp;action=edit</a> )
<b>w3m</b>	Akinori Ito et al.	Unmaintained	w3m	<u>C</u>	<u>MIT License</u>	<b>Original version</b> 0.5.3 <sup>[30]</sup> / 15 January 2011 <b>Tatsuya Kinoshita version</b> v0.5.3+git20180125 <sup>[31]</sup> / 25 January 2018
<b>WebPositive</b>	Andrea Anzani, Ryan Leavengood, et al.	Active	<u>HaikuWebkit</u>	<u>C++</u>	<u>MIT License</u>	1.1-alpha (15 November 2013) <span>[±]</span> ( <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/WebPositive&amp;action=edit">https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/WebPositive&amp;action=edit</a> )
<b>xombrero</b>	Marco Peerboom et al.	Discontinued	<u>WebKitGTK+</u>	<u>C</u> , <u>JavaScript</u>	<u>ISC license</u>	1.6.4 <sup>[32]</sup> (17 February 2015) <span>[±]</span> ( <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/xombrero&amp;action=edit">https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/xombrero&amp;action=edit</a> )

## Operating system support

Browser	<u>BSD</u>	<u>Haiku</u>	<u>Linux</u>	<u>macOS</u>	<u>OpenIndiana</u>	<u>OS/2</u>	<u>QNX</u>	<u>RISC OS</u>	<u>Windows</u>
<u>Arora</u>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>[33]</sup>	Yes	No	No	Yes
<u>Dillo</u>	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>[34]</sup>	No	No	Yes <sup>[34]</sup>	Cygwin <sup>[34][35]</sup>
<u>ELinks</u>	Yes <sup>[36]</sup>	?	Yes <sup>[36]</sup>	Yes <sup>[36]</sup>	Yes <sup>[36]</sup>	Yes <sup>[36]</sup>	No <sup>[36]</sup>	Dropped <sup>[36]</sup>	?
<u>K-Meleon</u>	<u>Wine</u>	No	<u>Wine</u> <sup>[37]</sup>	<u>Wine</u>	No	No	No	No	Yes
<u>Links</u>	Unofficial	No	Yes	Unofficial	?	Yes	No	No	Yes
<u>Lynx</u>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>[38][39]</sup>	Yes
<u>Midori</u>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Unofficial <sup>[i]</sup>	No	No	No	Yes
<u>NetSurf</u>	Yes <sup>[40]</sup>	Yes <sup>[ii]</sup>	Yes <sup>[40]</sup>	Yes <sup>[40]</sup>	Yes <sup>[40]</sup>	No	?	Yes <sup>[42]</sup>	Yes
<u>Otter Browser</u>	Yes <sup>[43]</sup>	Unofficial <sup>[44]</sup>	Yes <sup>[43]</sup>	Yes <sup>[43]</sup>	No	No	No	No	Yes
<u>QtWeb</u>	Yes	Unofficial <sup>[45]</sup>	Yes	Yes	Unofficial <sup>[iii]</sup>	No	No	No	Yes
<u>Falkon (QupZilla)</u>	Dropped <sup>[46][47]</sup>	Dropped <sup>[46][47]</sup>	Yes <sup>[46][47]</sup>	Dropped <sup>[46][47]</sup>	No	Dropped <sup>[46][47]</sup>	No	No	Pre-release <sup>[46][47]</sup>
<u>rekonq</u>	Yes	No	Yes	No	Unofficial <sup>[iii]</sup>	No	No	No	Inactive <sup>[iv]</sup>
<u>surf</u>	Yes	No	Yes	?	?	?	?	No	No
<u>vimb</u>	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	?	?	?	No	Yes
<u>w3m</u>	Unofficial	Unofficial	Unofficial	Unofficial	Unofficial	Inactive	No	No	Cygwin
<u>WebPositive</u>	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
<u>xombrero</u>	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes

Notes

- i. Must be built from source code with a Vala compiler.<sup>[33]</sup>
- ii. A binary for NetSurf v2.0 for Haiku is available. For v2.1 and higher, one must build it from source.<sup>[41]</sup>
- iii. Must be built from source code; requires a compatible version of Qt.
- iv. rekonq v1.1 for Windows was published in September 2012. As of June 2014, it is the only published version for Windows.<sup>[48]</sup>

Features

Test scores reflect the version of the browser engine in use. Generally, a lower score indicates an older version of the browser engine.

Browser	Image formats		Advanced		Test scores		Plug-in APIs	
	<u>GIF</u> , <u>JPEG</u> , <u>PNG</u>	<u>WebP</u>	<u>JavaScript</u>	<u>Frames</u>	<u>Acid3</u>	<u>HTML5test</u>	<u>Netscape</u>	<u>Pepper</u>
<u>Arora</u>	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	<u>100/100</u> <sup>[i]</sup>	359/550 <sup>[49]</sup>	No <sup>[ii]</sup>	No
<u>Dillo</u>	Yes	No	No	Partial	N/A <sup>[iii]</sup>	N/A <sup>[iii]</sup>	No	No
<u>ELinks</u>	No	No	Partial <sup>[iv]</sup>	Partial	N/A <sup>[iii]</sup>	N/A <sup>[iii]</sup>	No	No
<u>K-Meleon</u>	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	<u>100/100</u> <sup>[i]</sup>	416/555 <sup>[51]</sup>	Partial <sup>[52]</sup>	No
<u>Links</u>	Yes <sup>[v]</sup>	No	Partial	Partial	N/A <sup>[iii]</sup>	N/A <sup>[iii]</sup>	No	No
<u>Lynx</u>	No	No	No	Partial	N/A <sup>[iii]</sup>	N/A <sup>[iii]</sup>	No	No
<u>Midori</u>	Yes	Yes <sup>[vi]</sup>	Yes	Yes	<u>100/100</u>	325/555 <sup>[54]</sup>	Yes	Yes
<u>NetSurf</u>	Yes <sup>[55]</sup>	Yes	No	Yes	N/A <sup>[iii]</sup>	N/A <sup>[iii]</sup>	No <sup>[56]</sup>	No
<u>Otter Browser</u>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	<u>100/100</u>	370/550 <sup>[57]</sup>	Yes	No
<u>QtWeb</u>	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	<u>100/100</u> <sup>[i][vii]</sup>	234/550 <sup>[58]</sup>	No <sup>[ii]</sup>	No
<u>Falkon (QupZilla)</u>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	<u>100/100</u> <sup>[i]</sup>	497/550 <sup>[59]</sup>	Partial	Partial
<u>qutebrowser</u>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	<u>99/100</u>	497/550	No	No
<u>rekonq</u>	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	<u>100/100</u> <sup>[i]</sup>	385/555 <sup>[60]</sup>	No <sup>[ii]</sup>	Partial <sup>[61]</sup>
<u>surf</u>	Yes	Yes <sup>[vi]</sup>	Yes	Yes	<u>100/100</u> <sup>[i]</sup>	385/500 <sup>[62]</sup>	Yes	?
<u>vimb</u>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	<u>98/100</u> <sup>[i]</sup>	405/500 <sup>[63]</sup>	No	No
<u>w3m</u>	Yes <sup>[64]</sup>	No	Partial	Yes	N/A <sup>[iii]</sup>	N/A <sup>[iii]</sup>	No	No
<u>WebPositive</u>	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	<u>96/100</u> <sup>[i]</sup>	253/500 <sup>[65]</sup>	No	No
<u>xombrero</u>	Yes	Yes <sup>[vi]</sup>	Yes	Yes	<u>100/100</u>	385/500 <sup>[66]</sup>	Yes	?

Notes

- i. Some tests take too much time to complete.

- ii. NPAPI is ported to QtWebKit, but is not implemented in this browser.
- iii. The test requires JavaScript, which is not sufficiently supported by this browser.
- iv. ELinks implements Mozilla's SpiderMonkey JavaScript engine.<sup>[50]</sup>
- v. Only Links 2 supports graphics.
- vi. WebP is supported via the WebKitGTK+ browser engine.<sup>[53]</sup>
- vii. The final state does not match the reference rendering.

## See also

- Comparison of web browsers
- List of web browsers for Unix and Unix-like operating systems

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