Netscape Navigator 2

Netscape Navigator 2 was a proprietary web browser released by Netscape Communications Corporation as its flagship product. Versions were available for Microsoft Windows, Apple Macintosh, Linux, IRIX, HP-UX, AIX, Solaris, SunOS, and FreeBSD.

The browser introduced and improved a number of features and also added proprietary extensions to the HTML standard. Notably, Netscape 2 was the first browser to support JavaScript and animated gifs, two technologies still predominant on the web today.

Netscape Navigator 2	
Developer(s)	Netscape Communications Corporation
Initial release	September 18, 1995
Platform	Windows 3.1/95/NT Classic Mac OS 68K OS/2 Warp Linux 1.2, IRIX, HP-UX, AIX, Solaris, SunOS, FreeBSD
Type	Web browser

Screenshot

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Features

The browser introduced many new or improved features:

- Support for progressive JPEGs (previous versions supported only the baseline format)[1]
- Support for GIF89a (previous versions supported only GIF87a)[1]
- Support for client-side image maps (previous versions supported only server-side image maps)[2]
- Support for plugins (previous versions supported only helper applications)[3]
- Improved bookmark organization[4]
- Added support for FTP uploading[4]
- Added support for LiveScript (now known as JavaScript)[5]
- Added OLE support[5]
- Added support for HTML frames[5]
- Introduced Netscape Mail and Netscape News, an e-mail client and Usenet News reader, respectively[6]

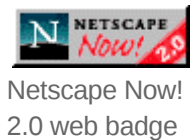## Netscape Now

To promote Netscape Navigator, Netscape developed the "Netscape Now" program. The program promoted the display of the "Netscape Now! 2.0" web badge on websites with newly supported features, including frames, live objects, Java applets, and JavaScript.[7][8]

Netscape Now!
2.0 web badge

Popular plugins

The support for plugins led to the development of a number of popular plugins to extend Navigator's functionality.

- Acrobat Amber - Released in early 1996 by Adobe Systems, it allowed for a pdf to be streamed.[9]
- Lightning Strike - Released by Inifinet, it offered non-standard real-time wavelet compression[10][11][12][13]
- RealAudio Player [14]
- MovieStar - Released by Intelligence at Large, it offered streaming of QuickTime videos (as there wasn't a QuickTime plugin yet)[15]
- Macromedia Shockwave[16]
- Netcloak[17]

Easter eggs

Netscape had several easter eggs. Navigator 2 featured verse 12:10 from The Book of Mozilla.

The bottom of "about:authors" read:

> All human actions are equivalent ... and ... all are on principle doomed ...
>
> — Jean-Paul Sartre, Being and Nothingness, Conclusion, sct. 2

References

1. Shafer, p. 5
2. Shafer, pp. 4-5
3. Shafer, pp.5-6
4. Shafer, p. 6
5. Shafer, p. 7
6. Shafer, p. 10
7. "NETSCAPE NOW PROGRAM" (https://web.archive.org/web/19961026040131/http://www3.netscape.com/comprod/mirror/netscape_now_program.html). Netscape Communications Corporation. 1996. Archived from the original (http://www3.netscape.com/comprod/mirror/netscape_now_program.html) on October 26, 1996. Retrieved 10 March 2012.
8. "NETSCAPE NOW QUALIFICATIONS" (https://web.archive.org/web/19961026040250/http://www3.netscape.com/comprod/mirror/qualifications.html). Netscape Communications Corporation. 1996. Archived from the original (http://www3.netscape.com/comprod/mirror/qualifications.html) on October 26, 1996. Retrieved 10 March 2012.

9. Shafer, pp. 71-72
10. https://web.archive.org/web/19970613234152/http://www.infinop.com/nhtml/lsinfo.shtml
11. McDonald, Glenn (Dec 2, 1996). "Image Compression Technology Optimized for Internet" (http://www.pcworld.com/article/6893/image_compression_technology_optimized_for_internet.html). *PCWorld*. Retrieved 2 March 2012.
12. Shafer, pp. 72-73
13. "Lightning Strike Netscape Plugins" (https://web.archive.org/web/19970613234329/http://www.infinop.com/nhtml/extvwr_pick.shtml). Infinop, Inc. 1997. Archived from the original (http://www.infinop.com/nhtml/extvwr_pick.shtml) on June 13, 1997. Retrieved 10 March 2012.
14. Shafer, pp. 75-79
15. Shafer, pp. 74-75
16. Shafer, pp. 79-82
17. Shafer, p. 197

Books

- Ernst, Warren (1996). *Essential Netscape Navigator 2.0*. Sams.net. ISBN 978-1-57521-065-0.
- James, Phil (1996). *Official Netscape Navigator 2.0 book : Windows edition : the definitive guide to the world's most popular Internet navigator* (https://archive.org/details/officialnetscape00jame) (1st ed.). Research Triangle Park, NC: Ventana. ISBN 978-1-56604-347-2.
- Hamilton, Dennis; Witherspoon, Craig; Witherspoon, Coletta (1996). *60 minute guide to Netscape 2*. Foster City, CA: IDG Books Worldwide. ISBN 978-0-7645-3008-1.
- Oliphant, Zan (1996). *Programming Netscape plug-ins / Zan Oliphant* (1st ed.). Indianapolis, Ind.: Sams Net. ISBN 978-1-57521-098-8.
- Shafer, Dan (1996). *JavaScript & Netscape wizardry* (https://archive.org/details/javascriptnetsca00shaf). Scottsdale, AZ: Coriolis Group Books. ISBN 1-883577-86-1.
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- Wickre, James Barnett ; edited by Karen (1996). *Guide to Netscape Navigator 2.0*. Emeryville, Calif.: Ziff-Davis Press. ISBN 978-1-56276-354-1.

External links

- Netscape Navigator 2 Plugins (http://www.mcs.csueastbay.edu/~grewe/CS3520/HTML/WWWBrowsing/htmlapps.htm)
- Netscape Navigator 2 Download (http://sillydog.org/narchive/full123.php)