

History and Evolution of the Browser

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Abstract. Summary of our paper (70-250 words)

1 Introduction

2 History

2.1 The first browsers

The first browser for the web was also an invention of the founder of the web, Tim Berners-Lee. The browser was called *WorldWideWeb* and was introduced to the world in the year 1990. A few years later, in 1994, the Browser was renamed *Nexus*. The browser *WorldWideWeb* was, a part of the fact that it was the first browser, also the first HTML editor. To view pictures you had to follow the link of the picture, download it and open it on the computer. Another browser with an different name but a similar functionality was *Lynx*, which was published 1992 by Thomas Dickey.

2.2 First graphical browsers

When the Web was published Tim Berners-Lee wanted his invention to succeed. To ensure the success he knew he needed more people to get interested. He needed as many developers as possible to work on web based projects, so there is a constant flow of new content, and he needed the general public to get occupied with the web to make it a long lasting success. For that reason Tim Berners-Lee helped many project that tried to produce new graphical based browsers. In the year 1992 many browser were invented by students as small projects with exactly that goal, were *ViolaWWW* or otherwise called *Viola* was one of the most prominent and *Erwise* was one of the lesser known graphical browsers. But not long after *Viola* came a new competitor. This new browser was *Mosaic*.

2.3 Mosaic

In January 1993 *Mosaic* was published for free and its distribution numbers skyrocketed. Marc Andreessen and Eric Bina, the developers of the *Mosaic* browser, constructed the browser with the intention that a broader audience could use the World Wide Web. That was only possible when the team of NCSA engineers would make their browser accessable for other systems than Unix. Andreessen and Bina, together with some of their NCSA associates, worked on the versions for Mac and PC which came out in late spring of the same year. With this the user numbers of *Mosaic* rose even higher, with 5000 downloads per month. After the graduation of Marc Andreessen and Eric Bina they met James H. Clark, the founde of Silicon Graphics, and discussed how to make the Web commercialisable. That set the starting point for an new Browser called *Netscape*. So Andreessen and Bina left NCSA, with some of their colleagues, in 1994 and settled down in Silicon Valley. After the 2 left the NCSA assigned all commercial rights for *Mosaic* to Spyglass, Inc. Spyglass licensed their technology to many other companies, including Microsoft. In the year 1997 the NCSA discontinued the support for the *Mosaic*, shifting their research focus to other developments projects. The last release for the *Mosaic* browser dates back to August 1997.

2.4 Netscape

2.5 Important Personalities

3 Evolution

3.1 Patches

HTML

Cookies

CSS

SSL

Java

Scripting

SVG

3.2 Features

History

Incognito mode

Bookmark

Browser Addons

Tabs ?

Browser Cache

4 Browsers nowadays (compared)

5 Future of the Browser

6 Evaluation

7 Summery/Conclusion