**HISTORY OF WEB BROWSERS**

* We all know the basic functionality of the browser it’s what connects you with everything on the web.
* Your browser allows you to shop online, watch videos, upload pictures, play games, and billions more.
* More technically though, the browser is a software application that retrieves and displays information from a server including web pages, text, images, videos, and other content. But that’s just the beginning.
* By understanding the history and backend of some major browsers including Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer , Firefox, and Opera, it’ll be easier to understand what goes into developing and testing a cross-compatible website.

**TIMELINE OF WEB BROWSERS**

There’s an entire history of web browsers. Before the web browsers which we knew today, there were the first browsers, which are no longer in use or have highly evolved.

* **1990** – The WorldWideWeb was the first browser ever created by W3C Director Tim Berners-Lee, then renamed Nexus to differentiate from the actual World Wide Web. Unlike today, this was the only browser and the only way to access the web.
* **1992** – Lynx was a texted-based browser that couldn’t display any graphic content.
* **1993** – Mosaic was the first browser to allow images embedded in text making it “the world’s first most popular browser”.
* **1994** – A noticeable improvement to Mosaic came Netscape Navigator.
* **1995** – Internet Explorer made its debut as Microsoft’s first web browser.
* **1996** – Opera started as a research project in 1994 that finally went public two years later. This was also arguably the beginning of the browser wars, mainly between IE 3 and Navigator 3 as Internet Explorer inched ahead with new capabilities.
* **2003** – Apple’s Safari browser was released specifically for Macintosh computers instead of Navigator.
* **2004** – Mozilla launched Firefox as Netscape Navigator faded out.
* **2007** – Mobile Safari was introduced as Apple’s mobile web browser and continues to dominate the iOS market.
* **2008** – Google Chrome appeared to soon take over the browser market.
* **2011** – Opera Mini was released to focus on the fast-growing mobile browser market.
* **2015** – Microsoft Edge was born to combat Google.

**CONCLUSION**

That competition comes in the form of frequent browser updates and version releases that you may notice today as each browser tries to one-up the other in speed, security, features, and design. For developers, many will try to program in a popular browser or a browser with a standard rendering engine so that the page is cross-compatible. For example, most people avoid developing in Internet Explorer since it’s known to be so problematic.