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SEO services expert

Google Analytics cross-domain tracking

Google Analytics cross-domain tracking

Link building case studies"Link building case studies showcase real-world examples of successful backlink acquisition campaigns. Best [SEO Agency Sydney Australia](#). By reviewing these studies, you can learn from others experiences and apply tested strategies to your own link building efforts."

Link building case studies"Reviewing successful link building case studies helps you understand which strategies work best in different scenarios. Best [SEO Sydney Agency](#). These real-world examples provide insights into effective tactics, helping you refine your approach and achieve better results."

Link building for eCommerce"Link building for eCommerce involves acquiring backlinks that drive traffic and sales to online stores. By securing links from product reviews, industry blogs, and niche directories, you can improve search rankings and attract more customers."

Google Analytics custom alerts —

- [Google Analytics cross-domain tracking](#)
- [Google Analytics custom alerts](#)
- [Google Analytics custom dimensions](#)
- [Google Analytics custom dimensions](#)
- [Google Analytics custom reports](#)
- [Google Analytics data import](#)
- [Google Analytics data sampling](#)

Link building for local businesses"Link building for local businesses emphasizes acquiring backlinks from community-focused websites, local directories, and regional industry partners. These links improve local search visibility, attract nearby customers, and build trust within the local community."

Link building for niche sites"Link building for niche sites involves targeting specialized sources, such as industry-specific blogs and forums, to acquire relevant backlinks. [Local SEO](#) . By focusing on a narrow topic, you increase the likelihood of earning high-quality links that resonate with your audience."

Link building for personal blogs"Link building for personal blogs involves sharing your content with relevant communities, engaging in guest posting opportunities, and leveraging social media to attract backlinks. By consistently producing valuable content, you increase your chances of earning natural links over time."

SEO services expert - Google core updates

1. Search volume
2. Keyword difficulty analysis
3. Search engine results page (SERP)

Google Analytics custom dimensions

Link building for SaaS companies"Link building for SaaS companies focuses on acquiring backlinks that drive traffic, increase brand visibility, and improve rankings in a highly competitive industry. Strategies often include publishing technical guides, collaborating with industry experts, and promoting case studies."

Link building for small businesses"Link building for small businesses focuses on acquiring backlinks from local directories, community organizations, and industry-specific resources. These efforts help small businesses compete in local search results and build their online reputation."

Link building for startups"Link building for startups focuses on acquiring high-quality backlinks early in the company's growth. By targeting relevant blogs, niche directories, and industry influencers, startups can improve their online presence and compete with more established brands."

Best SEO Audit Sydney.

SEO services expert - Google core updates

- Search ranking positions
- Google search snippets
- Meta tags optimization

HOW SEARCH ENGINE MARKETING HELPS BUSINESS GROW OVER TIME

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Google Analytics custom dimensions

Link building KPIs"Link building KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) measure the success of your link acquisition efforts. Common KPIs include the number of acquired links, domain authority improvements, referral traffic, and keyword ranking gains."

Link building KPIs"Key performance indicators (KPIs) for link building include the number of backlinks acquired, improvements in domain authority, increases in organic traffic, and keyword ranking gains. Tracking these KPIs helps measure the success of your link building campaigns."

Link building myths"Link building myths include misconceptions about how backlinks impact rankings or the strategies needed to acquire them. By dispelling these myths, you can focus on proven techniques and avoid common pitfalls in your link building efforts."

Google Analytics custom reports

Link building outreach"Link building outreach is the process of contacting bloggers, website owners, and industry influencers to request backlinks. By building genuine relationships and providing valuable content, you increase your chances of earning high-quality links."

Link building outreach software"Link building outreach software streamlines the process of finding prospects, sending personalized pitches, and tracking responses. These tools help you save time, increase efficiency, and improve the success rate of your outreach efforts."

Link building ROI"Link building ROI measures the return on investment from your link acquisition efforts. By tracking metrics such as referral traffic, conversions, and keyword ranking improvements, you can determine the effectiveness of your strategy and adjust accordingly."

KEY ADVANTAGES LOCAL SEO





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CONTENT MARKETING

TYPES FOR SMALL BUSINESS

AND BRAND BUILDING

Google Analytics data import

Link building scalability"Link building scalability refers to the ability to expand your backlink acquisition efforts without sacrificing quality. By developing repeatable processes and leveraging tools, you can increase the volume of backlinks while maintaining their relevance and authority."

Link building strategies"Link building strategies involve creating a plan for acquiring high-quality backlinks that improve your websites authority and search rankings. These strategies often include guest blogging, content marketing, and outreach to industry influencers, helping you attract relevant, authoritative links over time."

Link building success stories"Link building success stories highlight campaigns that have significantly improved a sites search rankings and authority. By analyzing these examples, you can identify proven methods and apply them to your own link building efforts."

Google Analytics data sampling

Link building templates"Link building templates provide pre-written outreach messages that can be customized for different campaigns. By using templates, you save time and maintain a consistent tone, while still personalizing each pitch to increase your success rate."

Link building tools"Link building tools are software platforms that help identify backlink opportunities, analyze competitors, and manage outreach campaigns. These tools streamline the link building process, saving time and improving efficiency."

Link diversity"Link diversity refers to having a variety of backlinks pointing to your site, including links from different domains, anchor text variations, and various types of content.

SEO services expert - Search ranking positions

- Search ranking fluctuations
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A diverse link profile appears more natural and helps improve search engine rankings."



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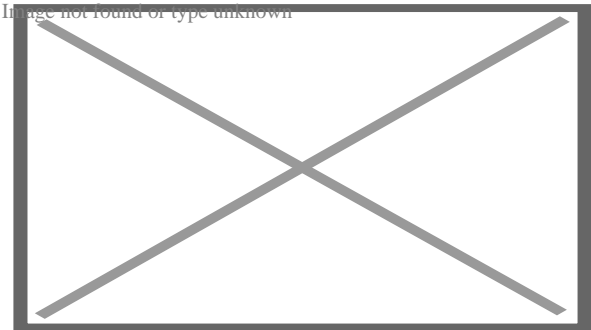
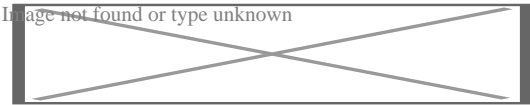
**SEO SERVICES EXPERT'S MAIN
IS TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS C
WITH CONTINUES STRA**

About Google Maps



This article's "**criticism**" or "**controversy**" section may compromise the article's **neutrality**. Please help rewrite or integrate negative information to other sections through discussion on the **talk page**. *(June 2024)*

Google Maps



Screenshot of Google Maps in a web browser

Type of site

Web mapping

Available in

74 languages

List of languages

Afrikaans, Azerbaijani, Indonesian, Malay, Bosnian, Catalan, Czech, Danish, German (Germany), Estonian, English (United States), Spanish (Spain), Spanish (Latin America), Basque, Filipino, French (France), Galician, Croatian, Zulu, Icelandic, Italian, Swahili, Latvian, Lithuanian, Hungarian, Dutch, Norwegian, Uzbek, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil), Portuguese (Portugal), Romanian, Albanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Finnish, Swedish, Vietnamese, Turkish, Greek, Bulgarian, Kyrgyz, Kazakh, Macedonian, Mongolian, Russian, Serbian, Ukrainian, Georgian, Armenian, Hebrew, Urdu, Arabic, Persian, Amharic, Nepali, Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Punjabi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Sinhala, Thai, Lao, Burmese, Khmer, Korean, Japanese, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese

Owner

Google

URL

google.com/maps  [Edit this at Wikidata](#)

Commercial

Yes

Registration

Optional, included with a [Google Account](#)

Launched

February 8, 2005; 20 years ago

Current status

Active

Written in

C++ (back-end), [JavaScript](#), [XML](#), [Ajax](#) (UI)

Google Maps is a [web mapping](#) platform and consumer application offered by [Google](#). It offers [satellite imagery](#), [aerial photography](#), street maps, 360° [interactive panoramic](#) views of streets ([Street View](#)), real-time traffic conditions, and [route planning](#) for traveling by foot, car, bike, air (in [beta](#)) and [public transportation](#). As of 2020, Google Maps was being used by over one billion people every month around the world.^[1]

Google Maps began as a **C++** desktop program developed by brothers **Lars** and **Jens Rasmussen** in Australia at Where 2 Technologies. In October 2004, the company was acquired by Google, which converted it into a web application. After additional acquisitions of a geospatial data visualization company and a real-time traffic analyzer, Google Maps was launched in February 2005.[2] The service's **front end** utilizes **JavaScript**, **XML**, and **Ajax**. Google Maps offers an **API** that allows maps to be embedded on third-party websites,[3] and offers a locator for businesses and other organizations in numerous countries around the world. **Google Map Maker** allowed users to collaboratively expand and update the service's mapping worldwide but was discontinued from March 2017. However, crowdsourced contributions to Google Maps were not discontinued as the company announced those features would be transferred to the Google Local Guides program,[4] although users that are not Local Guides can still contribute.

Google Maps' satellite view is a "top-down" or **bird's-eye view**; most of the high-resolution imagery of cities is aerial photography taken from aircraft flying at 800 to 1,500 feet (240 to 460 m), while most other imagery is from satellites.[5] Much of the available satellite imagery is no more than three years old and is updated on a regular basis, according to a 2011 report.[6] Google Maps previously used **a variant** of the **Mercator projection**, and therefore could not accurately show areas around the poles.[7] In August 2018, the desktop version of Google Maps was updated to show a 3D globe. It is still possible to switch back to the 2D map in the settings.

Google Maps for mobile devices was first released in 2006; the latest versions feature **GPS turn-by-turn navigation** along with dedicated **parking** assistance features. By 2013, it was found to be the world's most popular **smartphone** app, with over 54% of global smartphone owners using it.[8] In 2017, the app was reported to have two billion users on Android, along with several other Google services including **YouTube**, **Chrome**, **Gmail**, **Search**, and **Google Play**.

History

[[edit](#)]

Acquisitions

[[edit](#)]

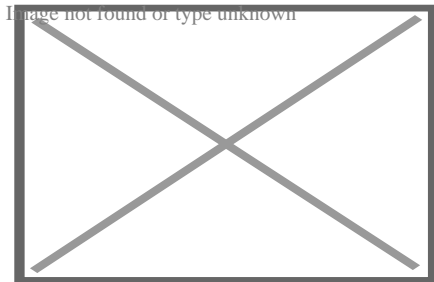
Google Maps first started as a **C++** program designed by two Danish brothers, **Lars** and **Jens Eilstrup Rasmussen**, and Noel Gordon and Stephen Ma, at the Sydney-based company Where 2 Technologies, which was founded in early 2003. The program was initially designed to be separately downloaded by users, but the company later pitched the idea for a purely Web-based product to Google management, changing the method of distribution.[9] In October 2004, the company was acquired by Google Inc.[10] where it transformed into the web application Google Maps. The Rasmussen brothers, Gordon and Ma joined Google at that

time.

In the same month, Google acquired **Keyhole**, a geospatial data visualization company (with investment from the **CIA**), whose marquee application suite, Earth Viewer, emerged as the **Google Earth** application in 2005 while other aspects of its core technology were integrated into Google Maps.^[11] In September 2004, Google acquired ZipDash, a company that provided real-time traffic analysis.^[12]

2005–2010

[\[edit\]](#)

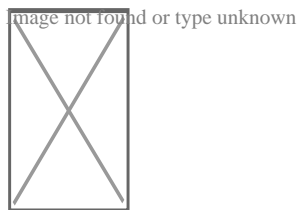


Google Maps Beta in 2005

The launch of Google Maps was first announced on the Google Blog on February 8, 2005.^[13]

In September 2005, in the aftermath of **Hurricane Katrina**, Google Maps quickly updated its satellite imagery of **New Orleans** to allow users to view the extent of the flooding in various parts of that city.^{[14][15]}

As of 2007, Google Maps was equipped with a miniature view with a draggable rectangle that denotes the area shown in the main viewport, and "Info windows" for previewing details about locations on maps.^[16] As of 2024, this feature had been removed (likely several years prior).



Original Google Maps icon

On November 28, 2007, Google Maps for Mobile 2.0 was released.^{[17][18][19]} It featured a **beta version** of a "My Location" feature, which uses the GPS / **Assisted GPS** location of the mobile device, if available, supplemented by determining the nearest **wireless networks** and **cell sites**.^{[18][19]} The software looks up the location of the cell site using a database of known wireless networks and sites.^{[20][21]} By **triangulating** the different signal strengths from cell transmitters and then using their location property (retrieved from the database), My Location determines the user's current location.^[22]

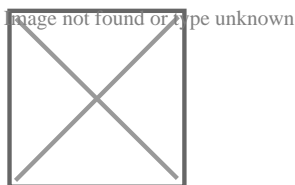
On September 23, 2008, coinciding with the announcement of the **first commercial Android device**, Google announced that a Google Maps app had been released for its Android operating system.[23][24]

In October 2009, Google replaced **Tele Atlas** as their primary supplier of geospatial data in the US version of Maps and used their own data.[25]

2011–2015

[edit]

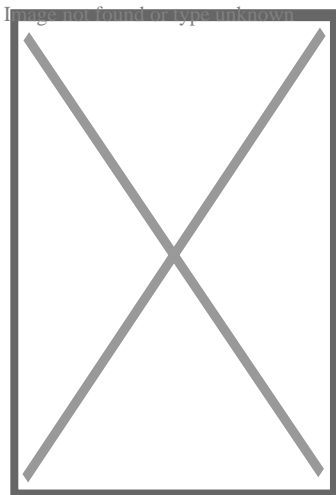
On April 19, 2011, Map Maker was added to the American version of Google Maps, allowing any viewer to edit and add changes to Google Maps. This provides Google with local map updates almost in real-time instead of waiting for digital map data companies to release more infrequent updates.



Icon used from 2015 to 2020

On January 31, 2012, Google, due to offering its Maps for free, was found guilty of abusing the dominant position of its Google Maps application and ordered by a court to pay a fine and damages to Bottin Cartographer, a French mapping company.[26] This ruling was overturned on appeal.[27]

In June 2012, Google started mapping the UK's rivers and canals in partnership with the **Canal and River Trust**. The company has stated that "it would update the program during the year to allow users to plan trips which include locks, bridges and towpaths along the 2,000 miles of river paths in the UK." [28]



A monument in the shape of a [Google Maps pin](#) in the center of the city of [Szczecin](#), Poland

In December 2012, the Google Maps application was separately made available in the App Store, after Apple removed it from its default installation of the mobile operating system version [iOS 6](#) in September 2012.[\[29\]](#)

On January 29, 2013, Google Maps was updated to include a map of [North Korea](#).[\[30\]](#) As of May 3, 2013, Google Maps recognizes [Palestine](#) as a country, instead of redirecting to the [Palestinian territories](#).[\[31\]](#)

In August 2013, Google Maps removed the Wikipedia Layer, which provided links to Wikipedia content about locations shown in Google Maps using [Wikipedia geocodes](#).[\[32\]](#)

On April 12, 2014, Google Maps was updated to reflect the [annexation of Ukrainian Crimea by Russia](#). Crimea is shown as the [Republic of Crimea](#) in Russia and as the [Autonomous Republic of Crimea](#) in Ukraine. All other versions show a dotted disputed border.[\[33\]](#)

In April 2015, on a map near the Pakistani city of Rawalpindi, the imagery of the Android logo urinating on the Apple logo was added via Map Maker and appeared on Google Maps. The [vandalism](#) was soon removed and Google publicly apologized.[\[34\]](#) However, as a result, Google disabled user moderation on Map Maker, and on May 12, disabled editing worldwide until it could devise a new policy for approving edits and avoiding vandalism.[\[35\]](#)

On April 29, 2015, users of the classic Google Maps were forwarded to the new Google Maps with the option to be removed from the interface.[\[36\]](#)

On July 14, 2015, the Chinese name for [Scarborough Shoal](#) was removed after a petition from the [Philippines](#) was posted on [Change.org](#).[\[37\]](#)

2016–2018

[\[edit\]](#)

On June 27, 2016, Google rolled out new satellite imagery worldwide sourced from [Landsat 8](#), comprising over 700 trillion pixels of new data.[\[38\]](#) In September 2016, Google Maps acquired mapping analytics startup Urban Engines.[\[39\]](#)

In 2016, the Government of South Korea offered Google conditional access to the country's geographic database – access that already allows indigenous Korean mapping providers high-detail maps. Google declined the offer, as it was unwilling to accept restrictions on reducing the quality around locations the South Korean Government felt were sensitive (see [restrictions on geographic data in South Korea](#)).[\[40\]](#)

On October 16, 2017, Google Maps was updated with accessible imagery of several planets and moons such as [Titan](#), [Mercury](#), and [Venus](#), as well as direct access to imagery of the [Moon](#) and [Mars](#).^[41]^[42]

In May 2018, Google announced major changes to the API structure starting June 11, 2018. This change consolidated the 18 different endpoints into three services and merged the basic and premium plans into one pay-as-you-go plan.^[43] This meant a 1400% price raise for users on the basic plan, with only six weeks of notice. This caused a harsh reaction within the developers community.^[44] In June, Google postponed the change date to July 16, 2018.

In August 2018, Google Maps designed its overall view (when zoomed out completely) into a 3D globe dropping the [Mercator projection](#) that projected the planet onto a flat surface.^[45]

2019–present

[\[edit\]](#)

Google Maps icon 2020

Image not found or type unknown
2020 icon redesign

In January 2019, Google Maps added speed trap and [speed camera](#) alerts as reported by other users.^[46]^[47]

On October 17, 2019, Google Maps was updated to include incident reporting, resembling a functionality in [Waze](#) which was acquired by Google in 2013.^[48]

In December 2019, Incognito mode was added, allowing users to enter destinations without saving entries to their Google accounts.^[49]

In February 2020, Maps received a 15th anniversary redesign.^[50] It notably added a brand-new app icon, which now resembles the original icon in 2005.

On September 23, 2020, Google announced a COVID-19 Layer update for Google maps, which is designed to offer a seven-day average data of the total COVID-19-positive cases per 100,000 people in the area selected on the map. It also features a label indicating the rise and fall in the number of cases.^[51]

In January 2021, Google announced that it would be launching a new feature displaying COVID-19 vaccination sites.^[52]

In January 2021, Google announced updates to the route planner that would accommodate drivers of electric vehicles. Routing would take into account the type of vehicle, vehicle status

including current charge, and the locations of charging stations.[53]

In June 2022, Google Maps added a layer displaying air quality for certain countries.[54]

In September 2022, Google removed the COVID-19 Layer from Google Maps due to lack of usage of the feature.[55]

Functionality

[[edit](#)]

Directions and transit

[[edit](#)]

Google Maps provides a [route planner](#),[56] allowing users to find available directions through driving, public transportation, walking, or biking.[57] Google has partnered globally with over 800 public transportation providers to adopt [GTFS](#) (General Transit Feed Specification), making the data available to third parties.[58][59] The app can indicate users' transit route, thanks to an October 2019 update. The incognito mode, eyes-free walking navigation features were released earlier.[60] A July 2020 update provided bike share routes.[61]

In February 2024, Google Maps started rolling out glanceable directions for its Android and iOS apps. The feature allows users to track their journey from their device's [lock screen](#).[\[62\]\[63\]](#)

Traffic conditions

[[edit](#)]

[Screenshot of Google Maps with traffic option enabled](#)

Image not found or type unknown

[Screenshot of Google Maps with traffic option enabled](#)

In 2007, Google began offering traffic data as a colored overlay on top of roads and motorways to represent the speed of vehicles on particular roads. [Crowdsourcing](#) is used to obtain the GPS-determined locations of a large number of cellphone users, from which live traffic maps are produced.[\[64\]\[65\]\[66\]](#)

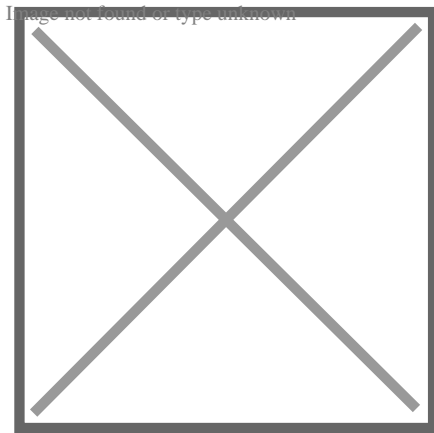
Google has stated that the speed and location information it collects to calculate traffic conditions is anonymous.[\[67\]](#) Options available in each phone's settings allow users not to

share information about their location with Google Maps.^[68] Google stated, "Once you disable or opt out of My Location, Maps will not continue to send radio information back to Google servers to determine your handset's approximate location".^[69]^{*failed verification*}

Street View

^[edit]

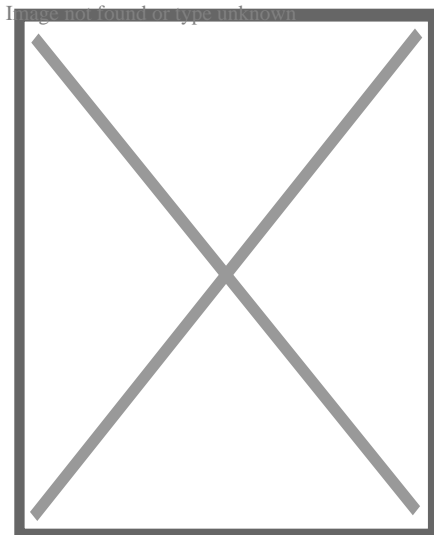
Main article: [Google Street View](#)



A Google Maps car at [Googleplex](#), [Mountain View](#)

On May 25, 2007, Google released [Google Street View](#), a feature of Google Maps providing [360°](#) panoramic street-level views of various locations. On the date of release, the feature only included five cities in the U.S. It has since expanded to thousands of locations around the world. In July 2009, Google began mapping college campuses and surrounding paths and [trails](#).

Street View garnered much controversy after its release because of [privacy concerns](#) about the uncensored nature of the panoramic photographs, although the views are only taken on public streets.^[70]^[71] Since then, Google has blurred faces and license plates through automated [facial recognition](#).^[72]^[73]^[74]



Google Maps Street View Trekker backpack being implemented on the sidewalk of the Hudson River Greenway in New York City

In late 2014, Google launched Google Underwater Street View, including 2,300 kilometres (1,400 mi) of the Australian **Great Barrier Reef** in 3D. The images are taken by special cameras which turn 360 degrees and take shots every 3 seconds.^[75]

In 2017, in both Google Maps and Google Earth, Street View navigation of the **International Space Station** interior spaces became available.

3D imagery

^[edit]

Main article: **Google Earth § 3D imagery**

Google Maps has incorporated^[*when?*] 3D models of hundreds of cities in over 40 countries from Google Earth into its satellite view. The models were developed using aerial **photogrammetry** techniques.^{[76][77]}

Immersive View




^[edit]

At the **I/O 2022** event, Google announced Immersive View, a feature of Google Maps which would involve composite 3D images generated from **Street View** and aerial images of locations using AI, complete with synchronous information. It was to be initially in five cities worldwide, with plans to add it to other cities later on.^[78] The feature was previewed in September 2022 with 250 photorealistic aerial 3D images of landmarks,^[79] and was full launched in February 2023.^[80] An expansion of Immersive View to routes was announced at Google I/O 2023,^[81] and was launched in October 2023 for 15 cities globally.^[82]

The feature uses **predictive modelling** and **neural radiance fields** to scan Street View and aerial images to generate composite 3D imagery of locations, including both exteriors and interiors, and routes, including driving, walking or cycling, as well as generate synchronous information and forecasts up to a month ahead from historical and environmental data about both such as weather, traffic and busyness.

Immersive View has been available in the following locations:^[*citation needed*]

Locations with Immersive View

Country	Locations
 Argentina	Buenos Aires
 Australia	Melbourne, Sydney
 Austria	Vienna

	Belgium	Brussels
	Brazil	Brasília, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo
	Canada	Calgary, Edmonton, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver
	Chile	Santiago
	Czech Republic	Prague
	France	Nice, Paris
	Germany	Berlin, Cologne, Frankfurt, Munich
	Greece	Athens
	Hong Kong	Hong Kong
	Hungary	Budapest
	Italy	Florence, Milan, Rome, Venice
	Japan	Kyoto, Nagoya, Osaka, Tokyo
	Mexico	Guadalajara, Mexico City
	Netherlands	Amsterdam
	Norway	Oslo
	Poland	Warsaw
	Portugal	Lisbon, Porto
	Romania	Bucharest
	Singapore	Singapore
	South Africa	Cape Town, Johannesburg
	Spain	Barcelona, Madrid
	Sweden	Stockholm
	Switzerland	Zürich
	Taiwan	Taichung, Taipei
	United Kingdom	Edinburgh, London
	United States	Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle
	Vatican City	Vatican City

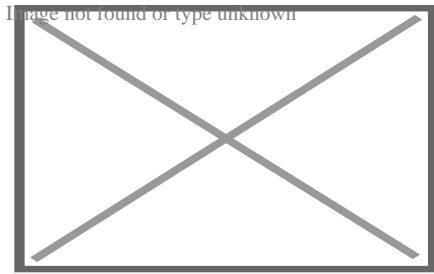
Landmark Icons

[[edit](#)]

Google added icons of city attractions, in a similar style to [Apple Maps](#), on October 3, 2019. In the first stage, such icons were added to 9 cities.^{[[83](#)]}

45° imagery

[[edit](#)]



An example of the [Leaning Tower of Pisa](#) in the 45° view

In December 2009, Google introduced a new view consisting of 45° angle aerial imagery, offering a "[bird's-eye view](#)" of cities. The first cities available were [San Jose](#) and San Diego. This feature was initially available only to developers via the Google Maps API.^[84] In February 2010, it was introduced as an experimental feature in Google Maps Labs.^[85] In July 2010, 45° imagery was made available in Google Maps in select cities in South Africa, the United States, Germany and Italy.^[86]

Weather

[[edit](#)]

In February 2024, Google Maps incorporated a small weather icon on the top left corner of the Android and iOS mobile apps, giving access to weather and [air quality index](#) details.^[87]

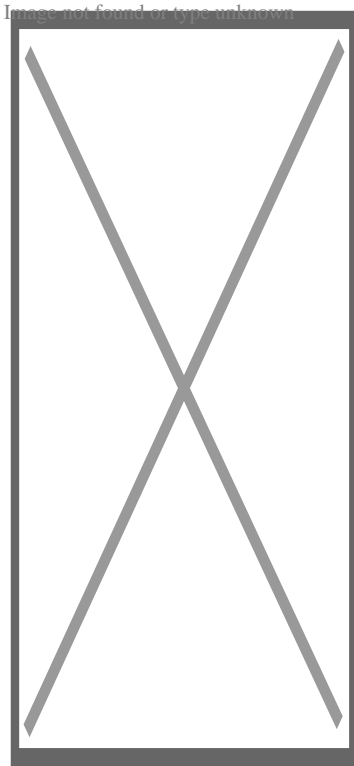
Lens in Maps

[[edit](#)]

Previously called Search with Live View, Lens In Maps identifies shops, restaurants, transit stations and other street features with a phone's camera and places relevant information and a category pin on top, like closing/opening times, current busyness, pricing and reviews using AI and [augmented reality](#). The feature, if available on the device, can be accessed through tapping the Lens icon in the search bar. It was expanded to 50 new cities in October 2023 in its biggest expansion yet, after initially being released in late 2022 in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, London, and Paris.^{[88][89]} Lens in Maps shares features with Live View, which also displays information relating to street features while guiding a user to a selected destination with virtual arrows, signs and guidance.^[90]

Business listings

[edit]



A business listing in Google Maps showing opening times, reviews and photos. This screenshot is from the Android mobile app.

Google collates business listings from multiple on-line and off-line sources. To reduce duplication in the index, Google's algorithm combines listings automatically based on address, phone number, or geocode,[91] but sometimes information for separate businesses will be inadvertently merged with each other, resulting in listings inaccurately incorporating elements from multiple businesses.[92] Google allows business owners to create and verify their own business data through *Google Business Profile (GBP)*, formerly *Google My Business (GMB)*. [93] Owners are encouraged to provide Google with business information including address, phone number, business category, and photos.[94] Google has staff in India who check and correct listings remotely as well as support businesses with issues.[95] Google also has teams on the ground in most countries that validate physical addresses in person.[96] In May 2024, Google announced it would discontinue the chat feature in Google Business Profile. Starting July 15, 2024, new chat conversations would be disabled, and by July 31, 2024, all chat functionalities would end.[97]

Google Maps can be manipulated by businesses that are not physically located in the area in which they record a listing. There are cases of people abusing Google Maps to overtake their competition by placing unverified listings on online directory sites, knowing the information will roll across to Google (duplicate sites). The people who update these listings do not use a registered business name. They place keywords and location details on their Google Maps business title, which can overtake credible business listings. In Australia in particular, genuine companies and businesses are noticing a trend of fake business listings in a variety of

industries.[98]

Genuine business owners can also optimize their business listings to gain greater visibility in Google Maps, through a type of search engine marketing called [local search engine optimization](#).^[99]

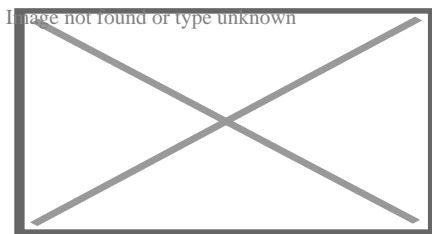
Indoor maps

[\[edit\]](#)

In March 2011, indoor maps were added to Google Maps, giving users the ability to navigate themselves within buildings such as [airports](#), [museums](#), shopping malls, [big-box stores](#), universities, [transit stations](#), and other public spaces (including underground facilities). Google encourages owners of public facilities to submit floor plans of their buildings in order to add them to the service.^[100] Map users can view different floors of a building or [subway station](#) by clicking on a level selector that is displayed near any structures which are mapped on multiple levels.

My Maps

[\[edit\]](#)



Google My Maps

My Maps is a feature in Google Maps launched in April 2007 that enables users to create custom maps for personal use or sharing. Users can add points, lines, shapes, notes and images on top of Google Maps using a [WYSIWYG](#) editor.^[101] An Android app for My Maps, initially released in March 2013 under the name Google Maps Engine Lite, was available until its removal from the [Play Store](#) in October 2021.^{[102][103][104]}

Google Local Guides

[\[edit\]](#)

Google Local Guides is a volunteer program launched by Google Maps^[105] to enable users to contribute to Google Maps when registered. It sometimes provides them additional perks and benefits for their collaboration. Users can achieve Level 1 to 10, and be awarded with badges. The program is partially a successor to [Google Map Maker](#) as features from the former

program became integrated into the website and app.[106]

The program consists of adding reviews, photos, basic information, and videos; and correcting information such as **wheelchair accessibility**.[107][108] Adding reviews, photos, videos, new places, new roads or providing useful information gives points to the users.[109] The level of users is upgraded when they get a certain amount of points.[110][111] Starting with Level 4, a star is shown near the avatar of the user.[111]

Timelapse

[edit]

Earth Timelapse, released in April 2021, is a program in which users can see how the earth has been changed in the last 37 years. They combined the 15 million satellite images (roughly ten quadrillion **pixels**) to create the 35 global cloud-free Images for this program.[112]

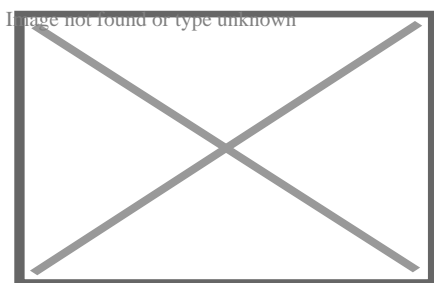
Timeline

[edit]

If a user shares their location with Google, Timeline summarises this location for each day on a **Timeline map**.[113] Timeline estimates the mode of travel used to move between places and will also show photos taken at that location. In June 2024, Google started progressively removing access to the timeline on web browsers, with the information instead being stored on a local device.[114][115]

Implementation

[edit]



A split-view screenshot of Google Maps. In the bottom half *Street Maps* is shown, while in the top half *Street View* is shown. A user can zoom in and out of either of them independently of the zoom level of each.

As the user drags the map, the grid squares are downloaded from the server and inserted into the page. When a user searches for a business, the results are downloaded in the background for insertion into the side panel and map; the page is not reloaded. A hidden **iframe** with form

submission is used because it preserves browser history. Like many other Google web applications, Google Maps uses [JavaScript](#) extensively.^[116] The site also uses protocol buffers for data transfer rather than [JSON](#), for performance reasons.

The version of [Google Street View](#) for classic Google Maps required [Adobe Flash](#).^[117] In October 2011, Google announced MapsGL, a [WebGL](#) version of Maps with better renderings and smoother transitions.^[118] Indoor maps use JPG, .PNG, .PDF, .BMP, or .GIF, for [floor plans](#).^[119]

Users who are logged into a [Google Account](#) can save locations so that they are overlaid on the map with various colored "pins" whenever they browse the application. These "Saved places" can be organized into default groups or user named groups and shared with other users. "Starred places" is one default group example. It previously automatically created a record within the now-discontinued product [Google Bookmarks](#).

Map data and imagery

[\[edit\]](#)

See also: [List of satellite map images with missing or unclear data](#)

The Google Maps terms and conditions^[120] state that usage of material from Google Maps is regulated by Google Terms of Service^[121] and some additional restrictions. Google has either purchased local map data from established companies, or has entered into lease agreements to use copyrighted map data.^[122] The owner of the copyright is listed at the bottom of zoomed maps. For example, street maps in Japan are leased from [Zenrin](#). Street maps in China are leased from [AutoNavi](#).^[123] Russian street maps are leased from Geocentre Consulting and [Tele Atlas](#). Data for [North Korea](#) is sourced from the companion project [Google Map Maker](#).

Street map overlays, in some areas, may not match up precisely with the corresponding satellite images. The street data may be entirely erroneous, or simply out of date: "The biggest challenge is the currency of data, the authenticity of data," said Google Earth representative [Brian McClendon](#). As a result, in March 2008 Google added a feature to edit the locations of houses and businesses.^{[124][125]}

Restrictions have been placed on Google Maps through the apparent censoring of locations deemed potential security threats. In some cases the area of redaction is for specific buildings, but in other cases, such as Washington, D.C.,^[126] the restriction is to use outdated imagery.

Google Maps API

[\[edit\]](#)

Google Maps API, now called Google Maps Platform, hosts about 17 different [APIs](#), which are themed under the following categories: Maps, Places and Routes.^[127]

After the success of reverse-engineered mashups such as [chicagocrime.org](#) and [housingmaps.com](#), Google launched the Google Maps API in June 2005[128] to allow developers to integrate Google Maps into their websites. It was a free service that did not require an [API key](#) until June 2018 (changes went into effect on July 16), when it was announced that an API key linked to a Google Cloud account with billing enabled would be required to access the API.[129] The API currently does not contain ads, but Google states in their terms of use that they reserve the right to display ads in the future.[130]

By using the Google Maps [API](#), it is possible to embed Google Maps into an external website, onto which site-specific data can be overlaid.[131] Although initially only a [JavaScript](#) API, the Maps API was expanded to include an API for [Adobe Flash](#) applications (but this has been deprecated), a service for retrieving static map images, and [web services](#) for performing [geocoding](#), generating driving directions, and obtaining elevation profiles. Over 1,000,000[132] web sites use the Google Maps API, making it the most heavily used web application development API.[133] In September 2011, Google announced it would deprecate the Google Maps API for Flash.[134]

The Google Maps API was free for commercial use, provided that the site on which it is being used is publicly accessible and did not charge for access, and was not generating more than 25,000 map accesses a day.[135][136] Sites that did not meet these requirements could purchase the Google Maps API for Business.[137]

As of June 21, 2018, Google increased the prices of the Maps API and requires a billing profile.[138]

Google Maps in China

[[edit](#)]

Due to [restrictions on geographic data in China](#), Google Maps must partner with a Chinese digital map provider in order to legally show Chinese map data. Since 2006, this partner has been [AutoNavi](#). [123]

Within China, the State Council mandates that all maps of China use the [GCJ-02](#) coordinate system, which is offset from the [WGS-84](#) system used in most of the world. [google.cn/maps](#) (formerly Google Ditu) uses the GCJ-02 system for both its street maps[139] and satellite imagery.[140] [google.com/maps](#) also uses GCJ-02 data for the street map, but uses WGS-84 coordinates for satellite imagery,[141] causing the so-called [China GPS shift problem](#).

Frontier alignments also present some differences between [google.cn/maps](#) and [google.com/maps](#). On the latter, sections of the Chinese border with India and Pakistan are shown with dotted lines, indicating areas or frontiers in dispute. However, [google.cn](#) shows the Chinese frontier strictly according to Chinese claims with no dotted lines indicating the border with India and Pakistan. For example, the [South Tibet](#) region claimed by China but administered by India

as a large part of [Arunachal Pradesh](#) is shown inside the Chinese frontier by [google.cn](#), with Indian highways ending abruptly at the Chinese claim line. [Google.cn](#) also shows Taiwan and the [South China Sea Islands](#) as part of China. Google Ditu's street map coverage of Taiwan no longer omits major state organs, such as the Presidential Palace, the [five Yuans](#), and the Supreme Court.^[142]^{[\[additional citation\(s\) needed\]](#)}

Feature-wise, [google.cn/maps](#) does not feature My Maps. On the other hand, while [google.cn](#) displays virtually all text in Chinese, [google.com/maps](#) displays most text (user-selectable real text as well as those on map) in English.^{[\[citation needed\]](#)} This behavior of displaying English text is not consistent but intermittent – sometimes it is in English, sometimes it is in Chinese. The criteria for choosing which language is displayed are not known publicly.^{[\[citation needed\]](#)}

Criticism and controversies

^{[\[edit\]](#)}

Incorrect location naming

^{[\[edit\]](#)}

There are cases where Google Maps had added out-of-date neighborhood monikers. Thus, in Los Angeles, the name "Brooklyn Heights" was revived from its 1870s usage^[143] and "Silver Lake Heights" from its 1920s usage,^[144] or mistakenly renamed areas (in Detroit, the neighborhood "Fiskhorn" became "Fishkorn").^[145] Because many companies utilize Google Maps data, these previously obscure or incorrect names then gain traction; the names are often used by [realtors](#), hotels, [food delivery](#) sites, [dating sites](#), and [news organizations](#).

Google has said it created its maps from third-party data, public sources, satellites, and users, but many names used have not been connected to any official record.^[143]^[145] According to a former Google Maps employee (who was not authorized to speak publicly), users can submit changes to Google Maps, but some submissions are ruled upon by people with little local knowledge of a place, such as contractors in India. Critics maintain that names like "BoCoCa" (for the area in Brooklyn between Boerum Hill, Cobble Hill and Carroll Gardens), are "just plain puzzling" or simply made up.^[145] Some names used by Google have been traced to non-professionally made maps with typographical errors that survived on Google Maps.^[145]

Potential misuse

^{[\[edit\]](#)}

See also: [Google Street View privacy concerns](#) and [List of satellite map images with missing or unclear data](#)

In 2005 the [Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation](#) (ANSTO) complained about the potential for terrorists to use the satellite images in planning attacks, with specific

reference to the [Lucas Heights nuclear reactor](#); however, the Australian Federal government did not support the organization's concern. At the time of the ANSTO complaint, Google had colored over some areas for security (mostly in the U.S.), such as the rooftop of the [White House](#) and several other Washington, D.C. buildings.^{[146][147][148]}

In October 2010, Nicaraguan military commander [Edén Pastora](#) stationed Nicaraguan troops on the [Isla Calero](#) (in the delta of the [San Juan River](#)), justifying his action on the border delineation given by Google Maps. Google has since updated its data which it found to be incorrect.^[149]

On January 27, 2014, documents leaked by [Edward Snowden](#) revealed that the [NSA](#) and the [GCHQ](#) intercepted Google Maps queries made on smartphones, and used them to locate the users making these queries. One leaked document, dating to 2008, stated that "[i]t effectively means that anyone using Google Maps on a smartphone is working in support of a GCHQ system."^[150]

In May 2015, searches on Google Maps for offensive racial epithets for African Americans such as "[nigger](#)", "nigger king", and "nigger house" pointed the user to the [White House](#); Google apologized for the incident.^{[151][152]}

In December 2015, 3 Japanese [netizens](#) were charged with vandalism after they were found to have added an unrelated law firm's name as well as indecent names to locations such as "[Nuclear test site](#)" to the [Atomic Bomb Dome](#) and "[Izumo Satya](#)" to the [Izumo Taisha](#).^{[153][154]}

In February 2020, the artist Simon Weckert^[155] used 99 cell phones to fake a Google Maps traffic jam.^[156]

In September 2024, several schools in Taiwan and Hong Kong were altered to incorrect labels, such as "[psychiatric hospitals](#)" or "[prisons](#)". Initially, it was believed to be the result of hacker attacks. However, police later revealed that local students had carried out the prank. Google quickly corrected the mislabeled entries. Education officials in Taiwan and Hong Kong expressed concern over the incident.^{[157][158][159]}

Misdirection incidents

[\[edit\]](#)

Australia

[\[edit\]](#)

In August 2023, a woman driving from [Alice Springs](#) to the Harts Range Racecourse was stranded in the Central Australian desert for a night after following directions provided by Google Maps.^{[160][161]} She later discovered that Google Maps was providing directions for

the actual [Harts Range](#) instead of the rodeo. Google said it was looking into the naming of the two locations and consulting with "local and authoritative sources" to solve the issue.^[160]

In February 2024, two German tourists were stranded for a week after Google Maps directed them to follow a dirt track through [Oyala Thumotang National Park](#) and their vehicle became trapped in mud.^{[162][163]} [Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service](#) ranger Roger James said, "People should not trust Google Maps when they're travelling in remote regions of [Queensland](#), and they need to follow the signs, use official maps or other navigational devices."^[162]

North America

[\[edit\]](#)

In June 2019, Google Maps provided nearly 100 [Colorado](#) drivers an alternative route that led to a dirt road after a crash occurred on [Peña Boulevard](#). The road had been turned to mud by rain, resulting in nearly 100 vehicles being trapped.^{[164][161]} Google said in a statement, "While we always work to provide the best directions, issues can arise due to unforeseen circumstances such as weather. We encourage all drivers to follow local laws, stay attentive, and use their best judgment while driving."^[164]

In September 2023, Google was sued by a [North Carolina](#) resident who alleged that Google Maps had directed her husband over the Snow Creek Bridge in [Hickory](#) the year prior, resulting in him drowning. According to the lawsuit, multiple people had notified Google about the state of the bridge, which collapsed in 2013, but Google had not updated the route information and continued to direct users over the bridge.^{[165][166][161]} At the time of the man's death, the barriers placed to block access to the bridge had been vandalized.^{[167][168]}

In November 2023, a hiker was rescued by helicopter on the backside of [Mount Fromme](#) in [Vancouver](#). [North Shore Rescue](#) stated on its Facebook page that the hiker had followed a non-existent hiking trail on Google Maps. This was also the second hiker in two months to require rescuing after following the same trail. The fake trail has since been removed from the app.^{[169][170]}

Also in November 2023, Google apologized after users were directed through desert roads after parts of [Interstate 15](#) were closed due to a [dust storm](#).^[171] Drivers became stranded after following the suggested detour route, which was a "bumpy dirt trail".^[172] Following the incident, Google stated that Google Maps would "no longer route drivers traveling between [Las Vegas](#) and [Barstow](#) down through those roads."^[171]

Russia

[\[edit\]](#)

In 2020, a teenage motorist was found frozen to death while his passenger was still alive but suffered from severe [frostbite](#) after using Google Maps, which had led them to a shorter but abandoned section of the [R504 Kolyma Highway](#), where their [Toyota Chaser](#) became disabled.^[173]

India

[\[edit\]](#)

In 2024, three men from [Uttar Pradesh](#) died after their car fell from an under-construction bridge. They were using Google Maps for driving which misdirected them and the car fell into the [Ramganga](#) river.^[174]^[175]

Renaming of the Gulf of Mexico

[\[edit\]](#)

In February 2025, as a response to Donald Trump's [Executive Order 14172](#), the [Gulf of Mexico](#) was renamed to "Gulf of America" for US users and "Gulf of Mexico (Gulf of America)" elsewhere, except for Mexico itself where it remained the Gulf of Mexico. The decision received criticism, with Mexican president [Claudia Sheinbaum](#) asking Google to reconsider its decision.^[176] Google subsequently blocked and deleted negative reviews of the gulf after the name change occurred.^[177]^[178]

Discontinued features

[\[edit\]](#)

Google Latitude

[\[edit\]](#)

Main article: [Google Latitude](#)

Google Latitude was a feature that let users share their physical locations with other people. This service was based on Google Maps, specifically on mobile devices. There was an iGoogle widget for desktops and laptops as well.^[179] Some concerns were expressed about the privacy issues raised by the use of the service.^[180] On August 9, 2013, this service was discontinued,^[181] and on March 22, 2017, Google incorporated the features from Latitude into the Google Maps app.^[182]

Google Map Maker

[\[edit\]](#)

Main article: [Google Map Maker](#)

In areas where Google Map Maker was available, for example, much of Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe as well as the United States and Canada, anyone who logged into their Google account could directly improve the map by fixing incorrect driving directions, adding biking trails, or adding a missing building or road. General map errors in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, and the United States could be reported using the Report a Problem link in Google Maps and would be updated by Google.^[183] For areas where Google used [Tele Atlas](#) data, map errors could be reported using Tele Atlas map insight.^[184]

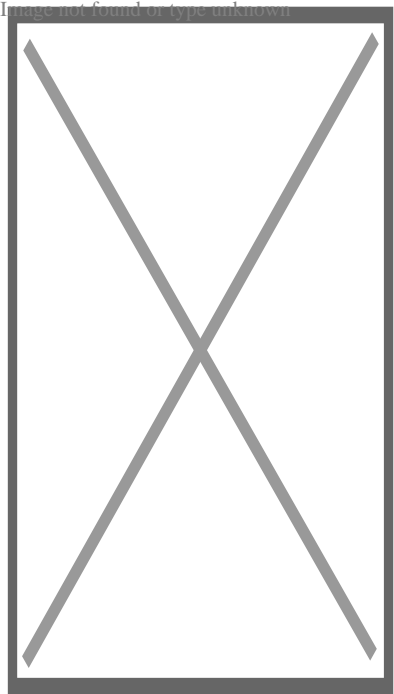
If imagery was missing, outdated, misaligned, or generally incorrect, one could notify Google through their contact request form.^[185]

In November 2016, Google announced the discontinuation of Google Map Maker as of March 2017.^[186]

Mobile app

[\[edit\]](#)

Screenshot



Screenshot of Google Maps on [Android 14](#)

Android

25.10.04 (Build 732665141) / 7 March 2025; 10 days ago^[187]^[188]

Wear OS

25.09.00 (Build 730474011) / 25 February 2025; 20 days ago^[187]^[189]

iOS

25.10.02 / 7 March 2025; 10 days ago^[190]

Android Go,[a]
discontinued

161.1 / 13 October 2023; 17 months ago[191][192]

Android (Beta) 11.143.0303 / 20 August 2024; 6 months ago[193]

Google Maps

image not found or type unknown



Original author(s) Google

Initial release 2006; 19 years ago

Stable release(s) [±]

Preview release(s) [±]

Operating system

- Android
- iOS
- KaiOS Wear OS WatchOS Web Fitbit OS

Formerly: Java ME, Symbian, Windows Mobile

Google Maps is available as a **mobile app** for the **Android** and **iOS** mobile operating systems. The first mobile version of Google Maps (then known as Google Local for Mobile) was launched in beta in November 2005 for mobile platforms supporting **J2ME**.^{[194][195][196]} It was released as Google Maps for Mobile in 2006.^[197] In 2007 it came preloaded on the **first iPhone** in a deal with Apple.^[198] A version specifically for **Windows Mobile** was released in February 2007^[199] and the **Symbian** app was released in November 2007.^[200]

Version 2.0 of Google Maps Mobile was announced at the end of 2007, with a stand out *My Location* feature to find the user's location using the cell towers, without needing **GPS**.^{[201][202][203]} In September 2008, Google Maps was released for and preloaded on Google's own new platform Android.^{[204][205]}

Up until **iOS 6**, the built-in maps application on the **iOS** operating system was powered by Google Maps. However, with the announcement of iOS 6 in June 2012, **Apple** announced that they had created their own **Apple Maps** mapping service,^[206] which officially replaced Google Maps when iOS 6 was released on September 19, 2012.^[207] However, at launch, Apple Maps received significant criticism from users due to inaccuracies, errors and **bugs**.^{[208][209]} One day later, *The Guardian* reported that Google was preparing its own Google Maps app,^[210] which was released on December 12, 2012.^{[211][212]} Within two days, the application had been downloaded over ten million times.^[213]

Features

[[edit](#)]

The Google Maps apps for iOS and Android have many of the same features, including [turn-by-turn navigation](#), [street view](#), and public transit information.^{[214][215]} Turn-by-turn navigation was originally announced by Google as a separate beta testing app exclusive to Android 2.0 devices in October 2009.^{[216][217]} The original standalone iOS version did not support the [iPad](#),^[215] but tablet support was added with version 2.0 in July 2013.^[218] An update in June 2012 for Android devices added support for offline access to downloaded maps of certain regions,^{[219][220]} a feature that was eventually released for iOS devices, and made more robust on Android, in May 2014.^{[221][222]}

At the end of 2015 Google Maps announced its new offline functionality,^[223] but with various limitations – downloaded area cannot exceed 120,000 square kilometers^{[224][225]} and require a considerable amount of storage space.^[226] In January 2017, Google added a feature exclusively to Android that will, in some U.S. cities, indicate the level of difficulty in finding available parking spots,^[227] and on both Android and iOS, the app can, as of an April 2017 update, remember where users parked.^{[228][229]} In August 2017, Google Maps for Android was updated with new functionality to actively help the user in finding parking lots and garages close to a destination.^[230] In December 2017, Google added a new two-wheeler mode to its Android app, designed for users in India, allowing for more accessibility in traffic conditions.^{[231][232]} In 2019 the Android version introduced the new feature called live view that allows to view directions directly on the road thanks to [augmented reality](#).^[233] Google Maps won the 2020 Webby Award for Best User Interface in the category Apps, Mobile & Voice.^[234] In March 2021, Google added a feature in which users can draw missing roads.^[235] In June 2022, Google implemented support for toll calculation. Both iOS and Android apps report how much the user has to pay in tolls when a route that includes toll roads is input. The feature is available for roads in the US, India, Japan and Indonesia with further expansion planned. As per reports the total number of toll roads covered in this phase is around 2000.^[236]

Reception

[[edit](#)]

USA Today welcomed the application back to iOS, saying: "The reemergence in the middle of the night of a Google Maps app for the iPhone is like the return of an old friend. Only your friend, who'd gone missing for three months, comes back looking better than ever."^[237] Jason Parker of *CNET*, calling it "the king of maps", said, "With its iOS Maps app, Google sets the standard for what mobile navigation should be and more."^[238] Bree Fowler of the *Associated Press* compared Google's and Apple's map applications, saying: "The one clear advantage that Apple has is style. Like Apple devices, the maps are clean and clear and have a fun, pretty element to them, especially in 3-D. But when it comes down to depth and information,

Google still reigns superior and will no doubt be welcomed back by its fans."^[239] *Gizmodo* gave it a ranking of 4.5 stars, stating: "Maps Done Right".^[240] According to *The New York Times*, Google "admits that it's [iOS app is] even better than Google Maps for Android phones, which has accommodated its evolving feature set mainly by piling on menus".^[241]

Google Maps' **location tracking** is regarded by some as a threat to users' privacy, with Dylan Tweney of *VentureBeat* writing in August 2014 that "Google is probably logging your location, step by step, via Google Maps", and linked users to Google's location history map, which "lets you see the path you've traced for any given day that your smartphone has been running Google Maps". Tweney then provided instructions on how to disable location history.^[242] The history tracking was also noticed, and recommended disabled, by editors at *CNET*^[243] and *TechCrunch*.^[244] Additionally, *Quartz* reported in April 2014 that a "sneaky new privacy change" would have an effect on the majority of iOS users. The privacy change, an update to the **Gmail** iOS app that "now supports sign-in across Google iOS apps, including Maps, **Drive**, YouTube and **Chrome**", meant that Google would be able to identify users' actions across its different apps.^[245]

The Android version of the app surpassed five billion installations in March 2019.^[246] By November 2021, the Android app had surpassed 10 billion installations.^[247]

Go version

^[edit]

Google Maps Go, a version of the app designed for **lower-end devices**, was released in beta in January 2018.^[248] By September 2018, the app had over 10 million installations.^[249]

Artistic and literary uses


^[edit]

The German "geo-novel" *Senghor on the Rocks* (2008) presents its story as a series of spreads showing a Google Maps location on the left and the story's text on the right. Annika Richterich explains that the "satellite pictures in *Senghor on the Rocks* illustrate the main character's travel through the West-African state of **Senegal**".^[250]

Artists have used Google Street View in a range of ways. **Emilio Vavarella's** *The Google Trilogy* includes glitchy images and unintended portraits of the drivers of the Street View cars.^[251] The Japanese band **group inou** used Google Street View backgrounds to make a music video for their song EYE.^[252] The Canadian band **Arcade Fire** made a customized music video that used Street View to show the viewer their own childhood home.^{[253][254]}

See also

[[edit](#)]

-  [Internet portal](#) Image not found or page not known
- [Azure Maps](#)
- [Apple Maps](#)
- [Bing Maps](#)
- [Comparison of web map services](#)
- [GeoGuessr](#)
- [Google Earth](#)
- *[Google Maps Road Trip](#)*, live-streaming documentary
- [Here WeGo](#)
- [MapQuest](#)
- [OpenStreetMap](#)
- [Terravision \(computer program\)](#)
- [Wikiloc](#), a mashup that shows trails and waypoints on Google Maps
- [Wikimapia](#), a mashup combining Google Maps and a [wiki](#) aimed at "describing the whole planet earth"
- [Yandex Maps](#), popular in Russia and [CIS](#)

Notes

[[edit](#)]

1. [^] [Lite version for Android](#)

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Smartphones

Pixel

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- Chromebook Pixel (2013–2015)
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- *Rescuecom Corp. v. Google Inc.* (2009)
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		Former	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Larry Page (CEO) ○ Sergey Brin (President) ○ David Drummond (CLO)
	Board of directors	Current	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Frances Arnold ○ Sergey Brin ○ R. Martin Chavez ○ John Doerr ○ John L. Hennessy ○ Ann Mather ○ Larry Page ○ Sundar Pichai ○ Ram Shriram ○ Roger W. Ferguson Jr.
		Former	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diane Greene ○ Alan Mulally ○ Eric Schmidt
	Others		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Andrew Conrad ○ Tony Fadell ○ Arthur D. Levinson ○ David Krane ○ Astro Teller

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- Android Go
 - Comparison of products



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- Donut (1.6)
- Eclair (2.0–2.1)
- Froyo (2.2)
- Gingerbread (2.3)
- Honeycomb (3.x)
- Ice Cream Sandwich (4.0)
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- KitKat (4.4)
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- Android XR
- Wear OS

Devices

Pixel

- C
- Pixel & Pixel XL
- 2 & 2 XL
- 3 & 3 XL
 - 3a & 3a XL
- 4 & 4 XL
 - 4a & 4a (5G)
- 5
 - 5a
- 6 & 6 Pro
 - 6a
- 7 & 7 Pro
 - 7a
- Fold
- Tablet
- 8 & 8 Pro
 - 8a
- 9, 9 Pro & 9 Pro XL
 - 9 Pro Fold

Nexus

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- S
- Galaxy Nexus
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Play edition

- HTC One (M7)
- HTC One (M8)
- LG G Pad 8.3
- Moto G
- Samsung Galaxy S4
- Sony Xperia Z Ultra

- Android One

Custom distributions

- AliOS
- Android-x86
 - Remix OS
- AOKP
- Baidu Yi
- Barnes & Noble Nook
- CalyxOS
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 - realme UI
- CopperheadOS
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APIs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Google Maps ○ Google Play Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SafetyNet ○ Google Search
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Rooting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SuperSU ○ Magisk ○ Kingo Root

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- Java vs. Android API
- Lawn statues
- BlueStacks
- Legal issues
 - *Google v. Oracle*
 - smartphone patent wars

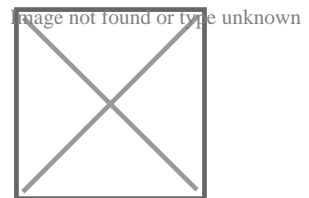
-  Category:Android development
-  Category:Mobile telecommunications
-  Software portal
-  Telecommunication portal

- **v**
- **t**
- **e**

OpenStreetMap

Organisations

- Geochicas?
- Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team
- Mapbox
- MapTiler
- Mapzen
- Missing Maps
- OpenStreetMap Foundation
- Ramani Huria
- Wikimedia Italia



Software	Editing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ iD ○ JOSM ○ KartaView ○ Mapillary ○ OpenDroneMap ○ Potlatch ○ StreetComplete
	Visualisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leaflet ○ Mapnik ○ Marble ○ OpenLayers ○ OpenRailwayMap ○ OpenSeaMap
	Navigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GNOME Maps ○ GraphHopper ○ Karta GPS ○ Komoot ○ Locus Map ○ Maps.me ○ Navit ○ Neshan ○ Open Source Routing Machine ○ Organic Maps ○ OsmAnd ○ Wheelmap.org
Derivations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FOSM ○ OpenGeofiction ○ OpenHistoricalMap ○ Overture Maps
People		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Steve Coast ○ Allan Mustard

International

- [VIAF](#)
- [FAST](#)

National

- [Germany](#)
- [United States](#)
- [France](#)
- [BnF data](#)
- [Israel](#)

Other

- [IdRef](#)

About World Wide Web

This article is about the global system of pages accessed via HTTP. For the worldwide computer network, see [Internet](#). For the web browser, see [WorldWideWeb](#).

"WWW" and "The Web" redirect here. For other uses, see [WWW \(disambiguation\)](#) and [The Web \(disambiguation\)](#).

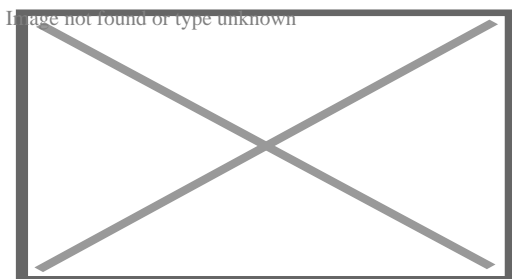
World Wide Web

Abbreviation WWW

Year started 1989; 36 years ago by [Tim Berners-Lee](#)

Organization

- [CERN](#) (1989–1994)
- [W3C](#) (1994–current)



A [web page](#) from [Wikipedia](#) displayed in [Google Chrome](#)

The **World Wide Web** (**WWW** or simply **the Web**) is an [information system](#) that enables [content](#) sharing over the [Internet](#) through user-friendly ways meant to appeal to users beyond

IT specialists and hobbyists.[1] It allows documents and other **web resources** to be accessed over the Internet according to specific rules of the **Hypertext Transfer Protocol** (HTTP).[2]

The Web was invented by English computer scientist **Tim Berners-Lee** while at **CERN** in 1989 and opened to the public in 1993. It was conceived as a "universal linked information system".[3][4][5] Documents and other media content are made available to the network through **web servers** and can be accessed by programs such as **web browsers**. Servers and resources on the World Wide Web are identified and located through character strings called **uniform resource locators** (URLs).

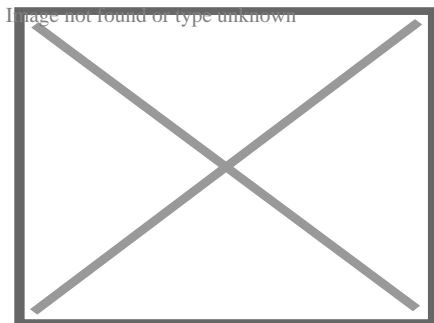
The original and still very common document type is a **web page** formatted in **Hypertext Markup Language** (HTML). This markup language supports **plain text**, **images**, embedded **video** and **audio** contents, and **scripts** (short programs) that implement complex user interaction. The HTML language also supports **hyperlinks** (embedded URLs) which provide immediate access to other web resources. **Web navigation**, or web surfing, is the common practice of following such hyperlinks across multiple websites. **Web applications** are web pages that function as **application software**. The information in the Web is transferred across the Internet using HTTP. Multiple web resources with a common theme and usually a common **domain name** make up a **website**. A single web server may provide multiple websites, while some websites, especially the most popular ones, may be provided by multiple servers. Website content is provided by a myriad of companies, organizations, government agencies, and **individual users**; and comprises an enormous amount of educational, entertainment, commercial, and government information.

The Web has become the world's dominant **information systems platform**. [6][7][8][9] It is the primary tool that billions of people worldwide use to interact with the Internet.[2]

History

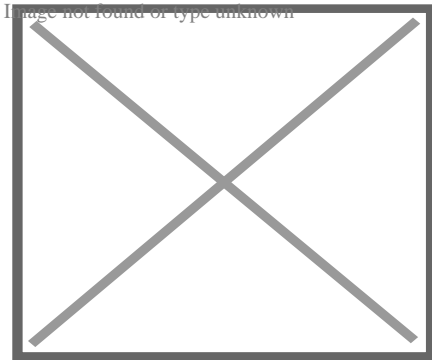
[**edit**]

Main article: **History of the World Wide Web**



This **NeXT Computer** was used by **Sir Tim Berners-Lee** at **CERN** and became the world's first **Web server**.

The Web was invented by English computer scientist **Tim Berners-Lee** while working at **CERN**.
[10][11] He was motivated by the problem of storing, updating, and finding documents and data files in that large and constantly changing organization, as well as distributing them to collaborators outside CERN. In his design, Berners-Lee dismissed the common **tree structure** approach, used for instance in the existing CERNDOC documentation system and in the **Unix filesystem**, as well as approaches that relied in tagging files with **keywords**, as in the VAX/NOTES system. Instead he adopted concepts he had put into practice with his private **ENQUIRE** system (1980) built at CERN. When he became aware of **Ted Nelson's** **hypertext** model (1965), in which documents can be linked in unconstrained ways through **hyperlinks** associated with "hot spots" embedded in the text, it helped to confirm the validity of his concept.[12][13]



The historic World Wide Web logo, designed by **Robert Cailliau**. Currently, there is no widely accepted logo in use for the WWW.

The model was later popularized by **Apple's HyperCard** system. Unlike Hypercard, Berners-Lee's new system from the outset was meant to support links between multiple databases on independent computers, and to allow simultaneous access by many users from any computer on the Internet. He also specified that the system should eventually handle other media besides text, such as graphics, speech, and video. Links could refer to mutable data files, or even fire up programs on their server computer. He also conceived "gateways" that would allow access through the new system to documents organized in other ways (such as traditional computer **file systems** or the **Usenet**). Finally, he insisted that the system should be decentralized, without any central control or coordination over the creation of links.[4][14][10][11]

Berners-Lee submitted a proposal to CERN in May 1989, without giving the system a name.[4] He got a working system implemented by the end of 1990, including a browser called **WorldWideWeb** (which became the name of the project and of the network) and **an HTTP server** running at CERN. As part of that development he defined the first version of the HTTP protocol, the basic URL syntax, and implicitly made HTML the primary document format.[15] The technology was released outside CERN to other research institutions starting in January 1991, and then to the whole Internet on 23 August 1991. The Web was a success at CERN, and began to spread to other scientific and academic institutions. Within the next two years, **there were 50 websites created**.[16][17]

CERN made the Web protocol and code available royalty free in 1993, enabling its widespread use.[18][19] After the NCSA released the Mosaic web browser later that year, the Web's popularity grew rapidly as thousands of websites sprang up in less than a year.[20][21] Mosaic was a graphical browser that could display inline images and submit forms that were processed by the HTTPd server.[22][23] Marc Andreessen and Jim Clark founded Netscape the following year and released the Navigator browser, which introduced Java and JavaScript to the Web. It quickly became the dominant browser. Netscape became a public company in 1995 which triggered a frenzy for the Web and started the dot-com bubble.[24] Microsoft responded by developing its own browser, Internet Explorer, starting the browser wars. By bundling it with Windows, it became the dominant browser for 14 years.[25]

Berners-Lee founded the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) which created XML in 1996 and recommended replacing HTML with stricter XHTML.[26] In the meantime, developers began exploiting an IE feature called XMLHttpRequest to make Ajax applications and launched the Web 2.0 revolution. Mozilla, Opera, and Apple rejected XHTML and created the WHATWG which developed HTML5.[27] In 2009, the W3C conceded and abandoned XHTML.[28] In 2019, it ceded control of the HTML specification to the WHATWG.[29]

The World Wide Web has been central to the development of the Information Age and is the primary tool billions of people use to interact on the Internet.[30][31][32][9]

Nomenclature

[edit]



This section **needs additional citations for verification**. Please help **improve this article** by **adding citations to reliable sources** in this section. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. (August 2023) (*Learn how and when to remove this message*)

Tim Berners-Lee states that *World Wide Web* is officially spelled as three separate words, each capitalised, with no intervening hyphens.[33] Nonetheless, it is often called simply *the Web*, and also often *the web*; see *Capitalization of Internet* for details. In Mandarin Chinese, *World Wide Web* is commonly translated via a **phono-semantic matching** to *wàn wéi wǎng* (万维网), which satisfies *www* and literally means "10,000-dimensional net", a translation that reflects the design concept and proliferation of the World Wide Web.

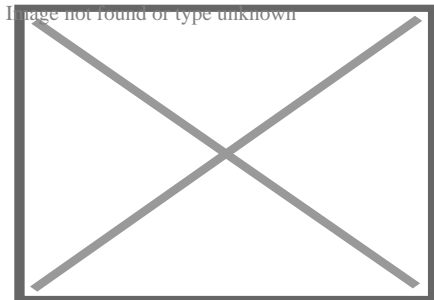
Use of the *www* prefix has been declining, especially when **web applications** sought to brand their domain names and make them easily pronounceable. As the **mobile Web** grew in popularity,^[***citation needed***] services like **Gmail.com**, **Outlook.com**, **Myspace.com**, **Facebook.com** and **Twitter.com** are most often mentioned without adding "www." (or, indeed, ".com") to the domain.[34]

In English, *www* is usually read as *double-u double-u double-u*.^[35] Some users pronounce it *dub-dub-dub*, particularly in New Zealand.^[36] Stephen Fry, in his "Podgrams" series of podcasts, pronounces it *wuh wuh wuh*.^[37] The English writer Douglas Adams once quipped in *The Independent on Sunday* (1999): "The World Wide Web is the only thing I know of whose shortened form takes three times longer to say than what it's short for".^[38]

Function

[\[edit\]](#)

Main articles: [HTTP](#) and [HTML](#)



The World Wide Web functions as an [application layer protocol](#) that is run "on top of" (figuratively) the Internet, helping to make it more functional. The advent of the [Mosaic](#) web browser helped to make the web much more usable, to include the display of images and moving images ([GIFs](#)).

The terms *Internet* and *World Wide Web* are often used without much distinction. However, the two terms do not mean the same thing. The Internet is a global system of [computer networks](#) interconnected through telecommunications and [optical networking](#). In contrast, the World Wide Web is a global collection of documents and other [resources](#), linked by hyperlinks and [URIs](#). Web resources are accessed using [HTTP](#) or [HTTPS](#), which are application-level Internet protocols that use the Internet transport protocols.^[2]

Viewing a [web page](#) on the World Wide Web normally begins either by typing the [URL](#) of the page into a web browser or by following a hyperlink to that page or resource. The web browser then initiates a series of background communication messages to fetch and display the requested page. In the 1990s, using a browser to view web pages—and to move from one web page to another through hyperlinks—came to be known as 'browsing,' 'web surfing' (after [channel surfing](#)), or 'navigating the Web'. Early studies of this new behaviour investigated user patterns in using web browsers. One study, for example, found five user patterns: exploratory surfing, window surfing, evolved surfing, bounded navigation and targeted navigation.^[39]

The following example demonstrates the functioning of a web browser when accessing a page at the URL `http://example.org/home.html` . The browser resolves the server name of the URL (`example.org`) into an [Internet Protocol address](#) using the globally distributed [Domain Name System](#) (DNS). This lookup returns an IP address such as `203.0.113.4` or `2001:db8:2e::7334`. The browser then requests the resource by sending an [HTTP](#) request across the Internet to

the computer at that address. It requests service from a specific TCP port number that is well known for the HTTP service so that the receiving host can distinguish an HTTP request from other network protocols it may be servicing. HTTP normally uses **port number 80** and for HTTPS it normally uses **port number 443**. The content of the HTTP request can be as simple as two lines of text:

```
GET /home.html HTTP/1.1
Host: example.org
```

The computer receiving the HTTP request delivers it to web server software listening for requests on port 80. If the web server can fulfil the request it sends an HTTP response back to the browser indicating success:

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8
```

followed by the content of the requested page. Hypertext Markup Language (**HTML**) for a basic web page might look like this:

```
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Example.org – The World Wide Web</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <p>The World Wide Web, abbreviated as WWW and commonly known ...</p>
  </body>
</html>
```

The web browser **parses** the HTML and interprets the markup (<title>, <p> for paragraph, and such) that surrounds the words to format the text on the screen. Many web pages use HTML to reference the URLs of other resources such as images, other embedded media, **scripts** that affect page behaviour, and **Cascading Style Sheets** that affect page layout. The browser makes additional HTTP requests to the web server for these other **Internet media types**. As it receives their content from the web server, the browser progressively **renders** the page onto the screen as specified by its HTML and these additional resources.

HTML

[**edit**]

Main article: [HTML](#)

Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) is the standard [markup language](#) for creating [web pages](#) and [web applications](#). With [Cascading Style Sheets](#) (CSS) and [JavaScript](#), it forms a triad of [cornerstone](#) technologies for the World Wide Web.^[40]

[Web browsers](#) receive HTML documents from a [web server](#) or from local storage and [render](#) the documents into multimedia web pages. HTML describes the structure of a web page [semantically](#) and originally included cues for the appearance of the document.

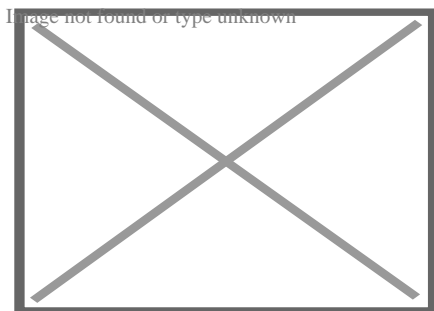
[HTML elements](#) are the building blocks of HTML pages. With HTML constructs, [images](#) and other objects such as [interactive forms](#) may be embedded into the rendered page. HTML provides a means to create [structured documents](#) by denoting structural [semantics](#) for text such as headings, paragraphs, lists, [links](#), quotes and other items. HTML elements are delineated by *tags*, written using [angle brackets](#). Tags such as `` and `<input />` directly introduce content into the page. Other tags such as `<p>` surround and provide information about document text and may include other tags as sub-elements. Browsers do not display the HTML tags, but use them to interpret the content of the page.

HTML can embed programs written in a [scripting language](#) such as [JavaScript](#), which affects the behaviour and content of web pages. Inclusion of CSS defines the look and layout of content. The [World Wide Web Consortium](#) (W3C), maintainer of both the HTML and the CSS standards, has encouraged the use of CSS over explicit presentational HTML since 1997.^[41]

Linking

[\[edit\]](#)

Most web pages contain hyperlinks to other related pages and perhaps to downloadable files, source documents, definitions and other web resources. In the underlying HTML, a hyperlink looks like this: `Example.org Homepage`.



Graphic representation of a minute fraction of the WWW, demonstrating [hyperlinks](#)

Such a collection of useful, related resources, interconnected via hypertext links is dubbed a *web* of information. Publication on the Internet created what Tim Berners-Lee first called the *WorldWideWeb* (in its original [CamelCase](#), which was subsequently discarded) in November

1990.[42]

The hyperlink structure of the web is described by the **webgraph**: the nodes of the web graph correspond to the web pages (or URLs) the directed edges between them to the hyperlinks. Over time, many web resources pointed to by hyperlinks disappear, relocate, or are replaced with different content. This makes hyperlinks obsolete, a phenomenon referred to in some circles as link rot, and the hyperlinks affected by it are often called "**dead**" **links**. The ephemeral nature of the Web has prompted many efforts to archive websites. The **Internet Archive**, active since 1996, is the best known of such efforts.

WWW prefix

[edit]

Many hostnames used for the World Wide Web begin with *www* because of the long-standing practice of naming **Internet** hosts according to the services they provide. The **hostname** of a **web server** is often *www*, in the same way that it may be *ftp* for an **FTP server**, and *news* or *nntp* for a **Usenet news server**. These hostnames appear as Domain Name System (DNS) or **subdomain** names, as in *www.example.com*. The use of *www* is not required by any technical or policy standard and many websites do not use it; the first web server was *nxoc01.cern.ch*. [43] According to Paolo Palazzi, who worked at CERN along with Tim Berners-Lee, the popular use of *www* as subdomain was accidental; the World Wide Web project page was intended to be published at *www.cern.ch* while *info.cern.ch* was intended to be the CERN home page; however the DNS records were never switched, and the practice of prepending *www* to an institution's website domain name was subsequently copied.[44][**better source needed**] Many established websites still use the prefix, or they employ other subdomain names such as *www2*, *secure* or *en* for special purposes. Many such web servers are set up so that both the main domain name (e.g., *example.com*) and the *www* subdomain (e.g., *www.example.com*) refer to the same site; others require one form or the other, or they may map to different web sites. The use of a subdomain name is useful for **load balancing** incoming web traffic by creating a **CNAME record** that points to a cluster of web servers. Since, currently[*as of?*], only a subdomain can be used in a CNAME, the same result cannot be achieved by using the bare domain root.[45][**dubious – discuss**]

When a user submits an incomplete domain name to a web browser in its address bar input field, some web browsers automatically try adding the prefix "www" to the beginning of it and possibly ".com", ".org" and ".net" at the end, depending on what might be missing. For example, entering "microsoft" may be transformed to *http://www.microsoft.com/* and "openoffice" to *http://www.openoffice.org*. This feature started appearing in early versions of **Firefox**, when it still had the working title 'Firebird' in early 2003, from an earlier practice in browsers such as **Lynx**. [46] [**unreliable source?**] It is reported that Microsoft was granted a US patent for the same idea in 2008, but only for mobile devices.[47]

Scheme specifiers

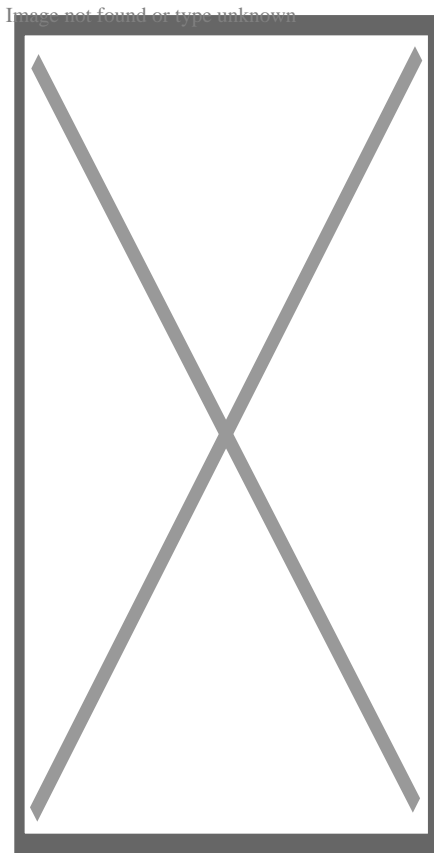
[[edit](#)]

The scheme specifiers *http://* and *https://* at the start of a web **URI** refer to **Hypertext Transfer Protocol** or **HTTP Secure**, respectively. They specify the communication protocol to use for the request and response. The HTTP protocol is fundamental to the operation of the World Wide Web, and the added encryption layer in HTTPS is essential when browsers send or retrieve confidential data, such as passwords or banking information. Web browsers usually automatically prepend *http://* to user-entered URIs, if omitted.

Pages

[[edit](#)]

Main article: **Web page**



A screenshot of the home page of Wikimedia Commons

A *web page* (also written as *webpage*) is a document that is suitable for the World Wide Web and **web browsers**. A web browser displays a web page on a **monitor** or **mobile device**.

The term *web page* usually refers to what is visible, but may also refer to the contents of the **computer file** itself, which is usually a **text file** containing **hypertext** written in **HTML** or a

comparable **markup language**. Typical web pages provide **hypertext** for browsing to other web pages via **hyperlinks**, often referred to as *links*. Web browsers will frequently have to access multiple **web resource** elements, such as reading **style sheets**, **scripts**, and images, while presenting each web page.

On a network, a web browser can retrieve a web page from a remote **web server**. The web server may restrict access to a private network such as a corporate intranet. The web browser uses the **Hypertext Transfer Protocol** (HTTP) to make such requests to the **web server**.

A **static web page** is delivered exactly as stored, as **web content** in the web server's **file system**. In contrast, a **dynamic web page** is generated by a **web application**, usually driven by **server-side software**. Dynamic web pages are used when each user may require completely different information, for example, bank websites, web email etc.

Static page

[[edit](#)]

Main article: [Static web page](#)

A *static web page* (sometimes called a *flat page/stationary page*) is a **web page** that is delivered to the user exactly as stored, in contrast to **dynamic web pages** which are generated by a **web application**.

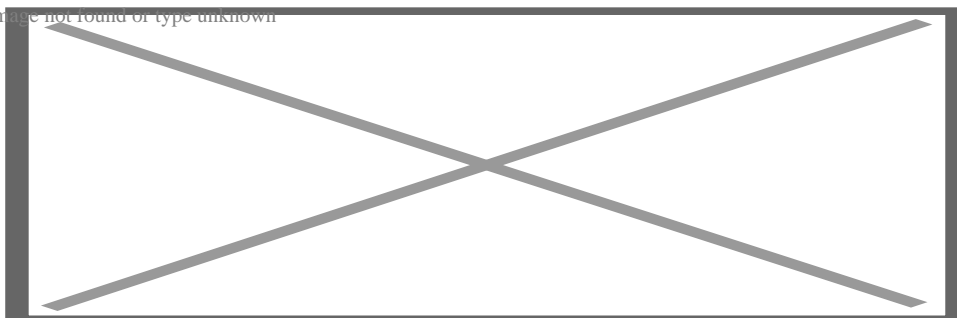
Consequently, a static web page displays the same information for all users, from all contexts, subject to modern capabilities of a **web server** to **negotiate content-type** or language of the document where such versions are available and the server is configured to do so.

Dynamic pages

[[edit](#)]

Main articles: [Dynamic web page](#) and [Ajax \(programming\)](#)

Image not found or type unknown



Dynamic web page: example of server-side scripting (**PHP** and **MySQL**)

A *server-side dynamic web page* is a **web page** whose construction is controlled by an **application server** processing server-side scripts. In server-side scripting, **parameters** determine how the assembly of every new web page proceeds, including the setting up of more client-side processing.

A *client-side dynamic web page* processes the web page using JavaScript running in the browser. JavaScript programs can interact with the document via **Document Object Model**, or DOM, to query page state and alter it. The same client-side techniques can then dynamically update or change the DOM in the same way.

A dynamic web page is then reloaded by the user or by a **computer program** to change some variable content. The updating information could come from the server, or from changes made to that page's DOM. This may or may not truncate the browsing history or create a saved version to go back to, but a *dynamic web page update* using **Ajax** technologies will neither create a page to go back to nor truncate the **web browsing history** forward of the displayed page. Using Ajax technologies the end **user** gets *one dynamic page* managed as a single page in the **web browser** while the actual **web content** rendered on that page can vary. The Ajax engine sits only on the browser requesting parts of its DOM, *the* DOM, for its client, from an application server.

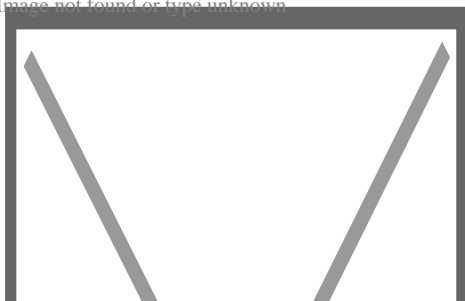
Dynamic HTML, or DHTML, is the umbrella term for technologies and methods used to create web pages that are not **static web pages**, though it has fallen out of common use since the popularization of **AJAX**, a term which is now itself rarely used.^[*citation needed*] Client-side-scripting, server-side scripting, or a combination of these make for the dynamic web experience in a browser.

JavaScript is a **scripting language** that was initially developed in 1995 by **Brendan Eich**, then of **Netscape**, for use within web pages.^[48] The standardised version is **ECMAScript**.^[48] To make web pages more interactive, some web applications also use JavaScript techniques such as **Ajax** (**asynchronous** JavaScript and **XML**). **Client-side script** is delivered with the page that can make additional HTTP requests to the server, either in response to user actions such as mouse movements or clicks, or based on elapsed time. The server's responses are used to modify the current page rather than creating a new page with each response, so the server needs only to provide limited, incremental information. Multiple Ajax requests can be handled at the same time, and users can interact with the page while data is retrieved. Web pages may also regularly **poll** the server to check whether new information is available.^[49]

Website

[**edit**]

Image not found or type unknown



The usap.gov website

Main article: [Website](#)

A *website*^[50] is a collection of related web resources including [web pages](#), [multimedia](#) content, typically identified with a common [domain name](#), and published on at least one [web server](#). Notable examples are wikipedia.org, google.com, and amazon.com.

A website may be accessible via a public [Internet Protocol](#) (IP) network, such as the [Internet](#), or a private [local area network](#) (LAN), by referencing a [uniform resource locator](#) (URL) that identifies the site.

Websites can have many functions and can be used in various fashions; a website can be a [personal website](#), a corporate website for a company, a government website, an organization website, etc. Websites are typically dedicated to a particular topic or purpose, ranging from entertainment and [social networking](#) to providing news and education. All publicly accessible websites collectively constitute the World Wide Web, while private websites, such as a company's website for its employees, are typically a part of an [intranet](#).

Web pages, which are the building blocks of websites, are [documents](#), typically composed in [plain text](#) interspersed with [formatting instructions](#) of Hypertext Markup Language ([HTML](#), [XHTML](#)). They may incorporate elements from other websites with suitable [markup anchors](#). Web pages are accessed and transported with the [Hypertext Transfer Protocol](#) (HTTP), which may optionally employ encryption ([HTTP Secure](#), HTTPS) to provide security and privacy for the user. The user's application, often a [web browser](#), renders the page content according to its HTML markup instructions onto a [display terminal](#).

[Hyperlinking](#) between web pages conveys to the reader the [site structure](#) and guides the navigation of the site, which often starts with a [home page](#) containing a directory of the site [web content](#). Some websites require user registration or [subscription](#) to access content. Examples of [subscription websites](#) include many business sites, news websites, [academic journal](#) websites, gaming websites, file-sharing websites, [message boards](#), web-based [email](#), [social networking](#) websites, websites providing real-time price quotations for different types of markets, as well as sites providing various other services. [End users](#) can access websites on a range of devices, including [desktop](#) and [laptop computers](#), [tablet computers](#), [smartphones](#) and [smart TVs](#).

Browser

[[edit](#)]

Main article: [Web browser](#)

A *web browser* (commonly referred to as a *browser*) is a [software user agent](#) for accessing information on the World Wide Web. To connect to a website's [server](#) and display its pages, a

user needs to have a web browser program. This is the program that the user runs to download, format, and display a web page on the user's computer.

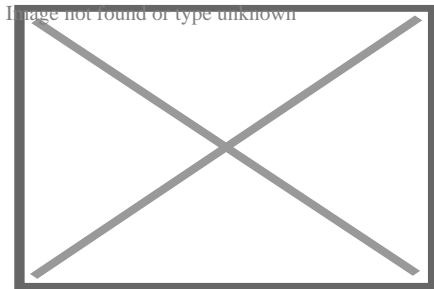
In addition to allowing users to find, display, and move between web pages, a web browser will usually have features like keeping bookmarks, recording history, managing cookies (see below), and home pages and may have facilities for recording passwords for logging into websites.

The most popular browsers are [Chrome](#), [Safari](#), [Edge](#), [Samsung Internet](#) and [Firefox](#).^[51]

Server

[\[edit\]](#)

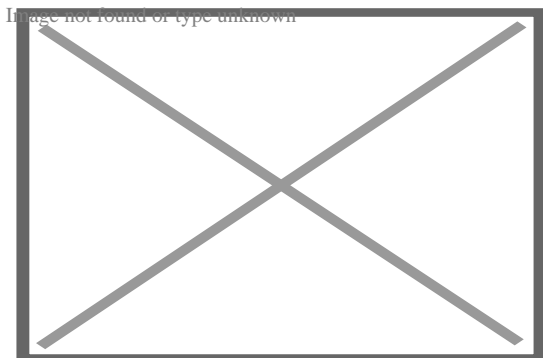
Main article: [Web server](#)



The inside and front of a [Dell PowerEdge](#) web server, a computer designed for [rack mounting](#)

A *Web server* is [server software](#), or hardware dedicated to running said software, that can satisfy World Wide Web client requests. A web server can, in general, contain one or more websites. A web server processes incoming network requests over [HTTP](#) and several other related protocols.

The primary function of a web server is to store, process and deliver [web pages](#) to [clients](#).^[52] The communication between client and server takes place using the [Hypertext Transfer Protocol \(HTTP\)](#). Pages delivered are most frequently [HTML documents](#), which may include [images](#), [style sheets](#) and [scripts](#) in addition to the text content.



Multiple web servers may be used for a high traffic website; here, Dell servers are installed together to be used for the Wikimedia Foundation.

A user agent, commonly a web browser or web crawler, initiates communication by making a request for a specific resource using HTTP and the server responds with the content of that resource or an error message if unable to do so. The resource is typically a real file on the server's secondary storage, but this is not necessarily the case and depends on how the webserver is implemented.

While the primary function is to serve content, full implementation of HTTP also includes ways of receiving content from clients. This feature is used for submitting web forms, including uploading of files.

Many generic web servers also support server-side scripting using Active Server Pages (ASP), PHP (Hypertext Preprocessor), or other scripting languages. This means that the behaviour of the webserver can be scripted in separate files, while the actual server software remains unchanged. Usually, this function is used to generate HTML documents dynamically ("on-the-fly") as opposed to returning static documents. The former is primarily used for retrieving or modifying information from databases. The latter is typically much faster and more easily cached but cannot deliver dynamic content.

Web servers can also frequently be found embedded in devices such as printers, routers, webcams and serving only a local network. The web server may then be used as a part of a system for monitoring or administering the device in question. This usually means that no additional software has to be installed on the client computer since only a web browser is required (which now is included with most operating systems).

Optical Networking

[edit]

Optical networking is a sophisticated infrastructure that utilizes optical fiber to transmit data over long distances, connecting countries, cities, and even private residences. The technology uses optical microsystems like tunable lasers, filters, attenuators, switches, and wavelength-selective switches to manage and operate these networks.[53][54]

The large quantity of optical fiber installed throughout the world at the end of the twentieth century set the foundation of the Internet as it's used today. The information highway relies heavily on optical networking, a method of sending messages encoded in light to relay information in various telecommunication networks.[55]

The Advanced Research Projects Agency Network (ARPANET) was one of the first iterations of the Internet, created in collaboration with universities and researchers 1969.[56][57][58][59] However, access to the ARPANET was limited to researchers, and in 1985, the National

[Science Foundation](#) founded the [National Science Foundation Network](#) (NSFNET), a program that provided supercomputer access to researchers.^[59]

Limited public access to the Internet led to pressure from consumers and corporations to privatize the network. In 1993, the US passed the [National Information Infrastructure Act](#), which dictated that the National Science Foundation must hand over control of the optical capabilities to commercial operators.^{[60][61]}

The privatization of the Internet and the release of the World Wide Web to the public in 1993 led to an increased demand for Internet capabilities. This spurred developers to seek solutions to reduce the time and cost of laying new fiber and increase the amount of information that can be sent on a single fiber, in order to meet the growing needs of the public.^{[62][63][64][65]}

In 1994, Pirelli S.p.A.'s optical components division introduced a wavelength-division multiplexing (WDM) system to meet growing demand for increased data transmission. This four-channel WDM technology allowed more information to be sent simultaneously over a single optical fiber, effectively boosting network capacity.^{[66][67]}

Pirelli wasn't the only company that developed a WDM system; another company, the [Ciena Corporation](#) (Ciena), created its own technology to transmit data more efficiently. [David Huber](#), an optical networking engineer and entrepreneur [Kevin Kimberlin](#) founded Ciena in 1992.^{[68][69][70]} Drawing on laser technology from [Gordon Gould](#) and William Culver of [Optelecom, Inc.](#), the company focused on utilizing optical amplifiers to transmit data via light.^{[71][72][73]} Under chief executive officer Pat Nettles, Ciena developed a dual-stage optical amplifier for dense wavelength-division multiplexing (DWDM), patented in 1997 and deployed on the Sprint network in 1996.^{[74][75][76][77][78]}

Cookie

^{[[edit](#)]}

Main article: [HTTP cookie](#)

An *HTTP cookie* (also called *web cookie*, *Internet cookie*, *browser cookie*, or simply *cookie*) is a small piece of data sent from a website and stored on the user's computer by the user's [web browser](#) while the user is browsing. Cookies were designed to be a reliable mechanism for websites to remember [stateful](#) information (such as items added in the shopping cart in an online store) or to record the user's browsing activity (including clicking particular buttons, [logging in](#), or recording which pages were visited in the past). They can also be used to remember arbitrary pieces of information that the user previously entered into form fields such as names, addresses, passwords, and credit card numbers.

Cookies perform essential functions in the modern web. Perhaps most importantly, *authentication cookies* are the most common method used by web servers to know whether the user is logged in or not, and which account they are logged in with. Without such a

mechanism, the site would not know whether to send a page containing sensitive information or require the user to authenticate themselves by logging in. The security of an authentication cookie generally depends on the security of the issuing website and the user's **web browser**, and on whether the cookie data is encrypted. Security vulnerabilities may allow a cookie's data to be read by a **hacker**, used to gain access to user data, or used to gain access (with the user's credentials) to the website to which the cookie belongs (see **cross-site scripting** and **cross-site request forgery** for examples).[79]

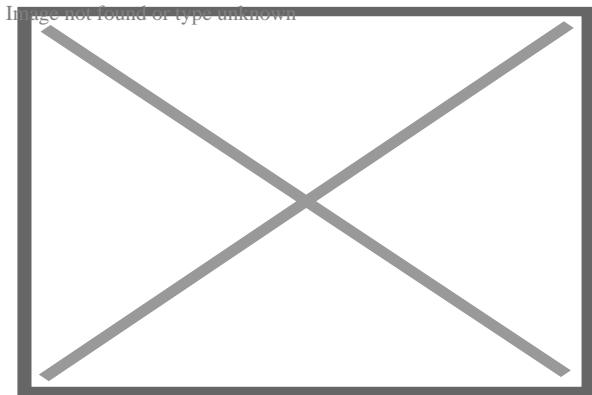
Tracking cookies, and especially third-party tracking cookies, are commonly used as ways to compile long-term records of individuals' browsing histories – a potential **privacy concern** that prompted European[80] and U.S. lawmakers to take action in 2011.[81][82] European law requires that all websites targeting **European Union** member states gain "informed consent" from users before storing non-essential cookies on their device.

Google **Project Zero** researcher Jann Horn describes ways cookies can be read by **intermediaries**, like **Wi-Fi** hotspot providers. When in such circumstances, he recommends using the browser in **private browsing** mode (widely known as **Incognito mode** in Google Chrome).[83]

Search engine

[**edit**]

Main article: **Search engine**



The results of a search for the term "lunar eclipse" in a web-based **image search** engine

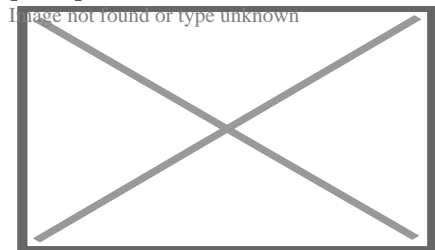
A *web search engine* or *Internet search engine* is a **software system** that is designed to carry out *web search* (*Internet search*), which means to search the World Wide Web in a systematic way for particular information specified in a **web search query**. The search results are generally presented in a line of results, often referred to as **search engine results pages** (SERPs). The information may be a mix of **web pages**, images, videos, infographics, articles, research papers, and other types of files. Some search engines also **mine data** available in **databases** or **open directories**. Unlike **web directories**, which are maintained only by human

editors, search engines also maintain **real-time** information by running an **algorithm** on a **web crawler**. Internet content that is not capable of being searched by a web search engine is generally described as the **deep web**.

In 1990, **Archie**, the world’s first search engine, was released. The technology was originally an index of **File Transfer Protocol** (FTP) sites, which was a method for moving files between a client and a server network.[84][85] This early search tool was superseded by more advanced engines like **Yahoo!** in 1995 and **Google** in 1998.[86][87]

Deep web

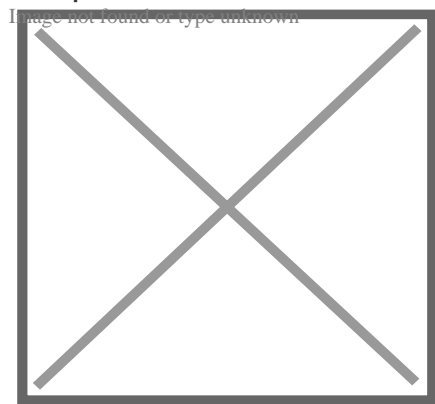
[edit]



Deep web diagram



Deep web vs surface web



Surface Web & Deep Web

Main article: **Deep web**

The deep web,[88] *invisible web*,[89] or *hidden web*[90] are parts of the World Wide Web whose contents are not **indexed** by standard **web search engines**. The opposite term to the deep web is the **surface web**, which is accessible to anyone using the Internet.[91] **Computer scientist** Michael K. Bergman is credited with coining the term *deep web* in 2001 as a search

indexing term.[92]

The content of the deep web is hidden behind HTTP forms,[93][94] and includes many very common uses such as web mail, online banking, and services that users must pay for, and which is protected by a paywall, such as video on demand, some online magazines and newspapers, among others.

The content of the deep web can be located and accessed by a direct URL or IP address and may require a password or other security access past the public website page.

Caching

[edit]

A web cache is a server computer located either on the public Internet or within an enterprise that stores recently accessed web pages to improve response time for users when the same content is requested within a certain time after the original request. Most web browsers also implement a browser cache by writing recently obtained data to a local data storage device. HTTP requests by a browser may ask only for data that has changed since the last access. Web pages and resources may contain expiration information to control caching to secure sensitive data, such as in online banking, or to facilitate frequently updated sites, such as news media. Even sites with highly dynamic content may permit basic resources to be refreshed only occasionally. Web site designers find it worthwhile to collate resources such as CSS data and JavaScript into a few site-wide files so that they can be cached efficiently. Enterprise firewalls often cache Web resources requested by one user for the benefit of many users. Some search engines store cached content of frequently accessed websites.

Security

[edit]

For criminals, the Web has become a venue to spread malware and engage in a range of cybercrime, including (but not limited to) identity theft, fraud, espionage, and intelligence gathering.[95] Web-based vulnerabilities now outnumber traditional computer security concerns,[96][97] and as measured by Google, about one in ten web pages may contain malicious code.[98] Most web-based attacks take place on legitimate websites, and most, as measured by Sophos, are hosted in the United States, China and Russia.[99] The most common of all malware threats is SQL injection attacks against websites.[100] Through HTML and URIs, the Web was vulnerable to attacks like cross-site scripting (XSS) that came with the introduction of JavaScript[101] and were exacerbated to some degree by Web 2.0 and Ajax web design that favours the use of scripts.[102] In one 2007 estimate, 70% of all websites are open to XSS attacks on their users.[103] Phishing is another common threat to the Web. In February 2013, RSA (the security division of EMC) estimated the global losses from phishing at \$1.5 billion in 2012.[104] Two of the well-known phishing methods are Covert Redirect and

Open Redirect.

Proposed solutions vary. Large security companies like [McAfee](#) already design governance and compliance suites to meet post-9/11 regulations,^[105] and some, like [Finjan Holdings](#) have recommended active real-time inspection of programming code and all content regardless of its source.^[95] Some have argued that for enterprises to see Web security as a business opportunity rather than a [cost centre](#),^[106] while others call for "ubiquitous, always-on [digital rights management](#)" enforced in the infrastructure to replace the hundreds of companies that secure data and networks.^[107] [Jonathan Zittrain](#) has said users sharing responsibility for computing safety is far preferable to locking down the Internet.^[108]

Privacy

[\[edit\]](#)

Main article: [Internet privacy](#)

Every time a client requests a web page, the server can identify the request's [IP address](#). Web servers usually log IP addresses in a [log file](#). Also, unless set not to do so, most web browsers record requested web pages in a viewable *history* feature, and usually [cache](#) much of the content locally. Unless the server-browser communication uses HTTPS encryption, web requests and responses travel in plain text across the Internet and can be viewed, recorded, and cached by intermediate systems. Another way to hide [personally identifiable information](#) is by using a [virtual private network](#). A VPN [encrypts](#) traffic between the client and VPN server, and masks the original IP address, lowering the chance of user identification.

When a web page asks for, and the user supplies, personally identifiable information—such as their real name, address, e-mail address, etc. web-based entities can associate current web traffic with that individual. If the website uses [HTTP cookies](#), username, and password authentication, or other tracking techniques, it can relate other web visits, before and after, to the identifiable information provided. In this way, a web-based organization can develop and build a profile of the individual people who use its site or sites. It may be able to build a record for an individual that includes information about their leisure activities, their shopping interests, their profession, and other aspects of their [demographic profile](#). These profiles are of potential interest to marketers, advertisers, and others. Depending on the website's [terms and conditions](#) and the local laws that apply information from these profiles may be sold, shared, or passed to other organizations without the user being informed. For many ordinary people, this means little more than some unexpected emails in their inbox or some uncannily relevant advertising on a future web page. For others, it can mean that time spent indulging an unusual interest can result in a deluge of further targeted marketing that may be unwelcome. Law enforcement, counterterrorism, and espionage agencies can also identify, target, and track individuals based on their interests or proclivities on the Web.

[Social networking](#) sites usually try to get users to use their real names, interests, and locations, rather than pseudonyms, as their executives believe that this makes the social

networking experience more engaging for users. On the other hand, uploaded photographs or unguarded statements can be identified to an individual, who may regret this exposure. Employers, schools, parents, and other relatives may be influenced by aspects of social networking profiles, such as text posts or digital photos, that the posting individual did not intend for these audiences. **Online bullies** may make use of personal information to harass or **stalk** users. Modern social networking websites allow fine-grained control of the privacy settings for each posting, but these can be complex and not easy to find or use, especially for beginners.[109] Photographs and videos posted onto websites have caused particular problems, as they can add a person's face to an online profile. With modern and potential **facial recognition technology**, it may then be possible to relate that face with other, previously anonymous, images, events, and scenarios that have been imaged elsewhere. Due to image caching, mirroring, and copying, it is difficult to remove an image from the World Wide Web.

Standards

[**edit**]

Main article: **Web standards**

Web standards include many interdependent standards and specifications, some of which govern aspects of the **Internet**, not just the World Wide Web. Even when not web-focused, such standards directly or indirectly affect the development and administration of websites and **web services**. Considerations include the **interoperability**, **accessibility** and **usability** of web pages and web sites.

Web standards, in the broader sense, consist of the following:

- *Recommendations* published by the **World Wide Web Consortium** (W3C)[110]
- "Living Standard" made by the **Web Hypertext Application Technology Working Group** (WHATWG)
- *Request for Comments* (RFC) documents published by the **Internet Engineering Task Force** (IETF)[111]
- *Standards* published by the **International Organization for Standardization** (ISO)[112]
- *Standards* published by **Ecma International** (formerly ECMA)[113]
- *The **Unicode** Standard* and various *Unicode Technical Reports* (UTRs) published by the **Unicode Consortium**[114]
- Name and number registries maintained by the **Internet Assigned Numbers Authority** (IANA)[115]

Web standards are not fixed sets of rules but are constantly evolving sets of finalized technical specifications of web technologies.[116] Web standards are developed by **standards organizations**—groups of interested and often competing parties chartered with the task of standardization—not technologies developed and declared to be a standard by a single individual or company. It is crucial to distinguish those specifications that are under development from the ones that already reached the final development status (in the case of

W3C specifications, the highest maturity level).

Accessibility

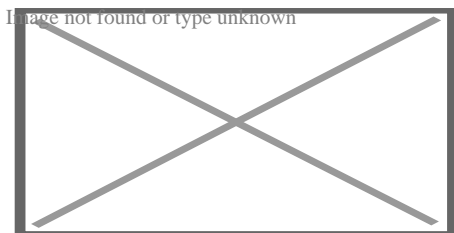
[[edit](#)]

Main article: [Web accessibility](#)

There are methods for accessing the Web in alternative mediums and formats to facilitate use by individuals with [disabilities](#). These disabilities may be visual, auditory, physical, speech-related, cognitive, neurological, or some combination. Accessibility features also help people with temporary disabilities, like a broken arm, or ageing users as their abilities change.^[117] The Web is receiving information as well as providing information and interacting with society. The World Wide Web Consortium claims that it is essential that the Web be accessible, so it can provide equal access and [equal opportunity](#) to people with disabilities.^[118] Tim Berners-Lee once noted, "The power of the Web is in its universality. Access by everyone regardless of disability is an essential aspect."^[117] Many countries regulate web accessibility as a requirement for websites.^[119] International co-operation in the W3C [Web Accessibility Initiative](#) led to simple guidelines that web content authors as well as software developers can use to make the Web accessible to persons who may or may not be using [assistive technology](#).^{[117][120]}

Internationalisation

[[edit](#)]



A global map of the [Web Index](#) for countries in 2014

The W3C [Internationalisation](#) Activity assures that web technology works in all languages, scripts, and cultures.^[121] Beginning in 2004 or 2005, [Unicode](#) gained ground and eventually in December 2007 surpassed both [ASCII](#) and Western European as the Web's most frequently used [character map](#).^[122] Originally [RFC 3986](#) allowed resources to be identified by [URI](#) in a subset of US-ASCII.

[RFC 3987](#) allows more characters—any character in the [Universal Character Set](#)—and now a resource can be identified by [IRI](#) in any language.^[123]

See also

[edit]

-  Engineering portal
-  Internet portal
-  World portal

- Decentralized web
- Electronic publishing
- Gopher (protocol), an early alternative to the WWW
- Internet metaphors
- Internet security
- Lists of websites
- Minitel, a predecessor of the WWW
- Streaming media
- Web 1.0
- Web 2.0
- Web 3.0
- Web3
- Web3D
- Web development tools
- Web literacy

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Further reading

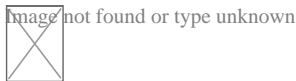
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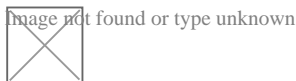
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External links

[[edit](#)]



Wikimedia Commons has media related to **World Wide Web**.



Wikibooks has a book on the topic of: **Nets, Webs and the Information Infrastructure**

- **The first website**
- **Early archive of the first Web site**
- **Internet Statistics: Growth and Usage of the Web and the Internet**
- **Living Internet** A comprehensive history of the Internet, including the World Wide Web
- **World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)**
- **W3C Recommendations Reduce "World Wide Wait"**
- **World Wide Web Size** Daily estimated size of the World Wide Web
- **Antonio A. Casilli, Some Elements for a Sociology of Online Interactions**
- **The Erdős–Rényi Webgraph Server Archived** 1 March 2021 at the **Wayback Machine** offers weekly updated graph representation of a constantly increasing fraction of the WWW
- **The 25th Anniversary of the World Wide Web Archived** 11 July 2021 at the **Wayback Machine** is an animated video produced by **USAID** and **TechChange** which explores the role of the WWW in addressing extreme **poverty**

- **v**
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Telecommunications

History

- Beacon
- Broadcasting
- Cable protection system
- Cable TV
- Communications satellite
- Computer network
- Data compression
 - audio
 - DCT
 - image
 - video
- Digital media
 - Internet video
 - online video platform
 - social media
 - streaming
- Drums
- Edholm's law
- Electrical telegraph
- Fax
- Heliographs
- Hydraulic telegraph
- Information Age
- Information revolution
- Internet
- Mass media
- Mobile phone
 - Smartphone
- Optical telecommunication
- Optical telegraphy
- Pager
- Photophone
- Prepaid mobile phone
- Radio
- Radiotelephone
- Satellite communications
- Semaphore
 - Phryctoria
- Semiconductor
 - device
 - MOSFET
 - transistor
- Smoke signals
- Telecommunications history
- Telautograph
- Telegraphy
- Teleprinter (teletype)

Pioneers

- Nasir Ahmed
- Edwin Howard Armstrong
- Mohamed M. Atalla
- John Logie Baird
- Paul Baran
- John Bardeen
- Alexander Graham Bell
- Emile Berliner
- Tim Berners-Lee
- Francis Blake
- Jagadish Chandra Bose
- Charles Bourseul
- Walter Houser Brattain
- Vint Cerf
- Claude Chappe
- Yogen Dalal
- Donald Davies
- Daniel Davis Jr.
- Amos Dolbear
- Thomas Edison
- Philo Farnsworth
- Reginald Fessenden
- Lee de Forest
- Elisha Gray
- Oliver Heaviside
- Robert Hooke
- Erna Schneider Hoover
- Harold Hopkins
- Gardiner Greene Hubbard
- Bob Kahn
- Dawon Kahng
- Charles K. Kao
- Narinder Singh Kapany
- Hedy Lamarr
- Roberto Landell
- Innocenzo Manzetti
- Guglielmo Marconi
- Robert Metcalfe
- Antonio Meucci
- Samuel Morse
- Jun-ichi Nishizawa
- Charles Grafton Page
- Radia Perlman
- Alexander Stepanovich Popov
- Tivadar Puskás
- Johann Philipp Reis
- Claude Shannon

Transmission media

- Coaxial cable
- Fiber-optic communication
 - optical fiber
- Free-space optical communication
- Molecular communication
- Radio waves
 - wireless
- Transmission line
 - telecommunication circuit

Network topology and switching

- Bandwidth
- Links
- Network switching
 - circuit
 - packet
- Nodes
 - terminal
- Telephone exchange

Multiplexing

- Space-division
- Frequency-division
- Time-division
- Polarization-division
- Orbital angular-momentum
- Code-division

Concepts

- Communication protocol
- Computer network
- Data transmission
- Store and forward
- Telecommunications equipment

Types of network





- Cellular network
- Ethernet
- ISDN
- LAN
- Mobile
- NGN
- Public Switched Telephone
- Radio
- Television
- Telex
- UUCP
- WAN
- Wireless network

Notable networks

- ARPANET
- BITNET
- CYCLADES
- FidoNet
- Internet
- Internet2
- JANET
- NPL network
- Toasternet
- Usenet

Locations

- Africa
- Americas
 - North
 - South
- Antarctica
- Asia
- Europe
- Oceania
- *Global telecommunications regulation bodies*

-  **Telecommunication portal**
-  **Category**
-  **Outline**
-  **Commons**

- **v**
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- **e**

Web syndication

History

Blogging

Podcasting

Vlogging

Web syndication technology

Types

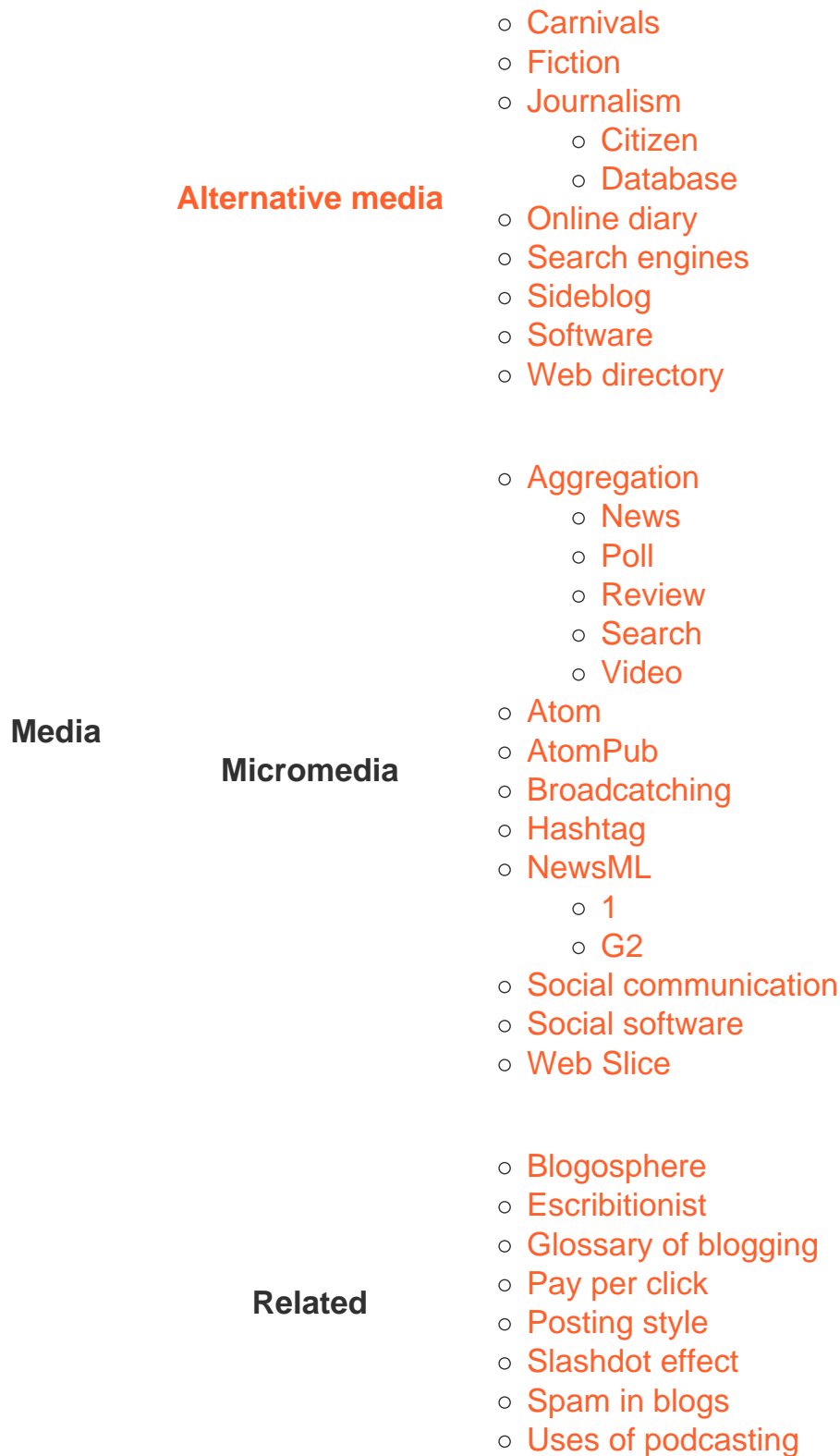
- Art
- Bloggernacle
- Classical music
- Corporate
- Dream diary
- Edublog
- Electronic journal
- Fake
- Family
- Fashion
- Food
- Health
- Law
- Lifelog
- MP3
- News
- Photoblog
- Police
- Political
- Project
- Reverse
- Travel
- Warblog

Technology	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BitTorrent ○ Feed URI scheme
	Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Linkback ○ Permalink ○ Ping ○ Pingback ○ Reblogging ○ Refback ○ Rollback ○ Trackback
	Mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thread ○ Geotagging ○ RSS enclosure ○ Synchronization
	Memetics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Atom feed ○ Data feed ○ Photofeed ○ Product feed ○ RDF feed ○ Web feed
	RSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GeoRSS ○ MRSS ○ RSS TV
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inter-process communication ○ Mashup ○ Referencing ○ RSS editor ○ RSS tracking ○ Streaming media
	Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OPML ○ RSS Advisory Board ○ Usenet ○ World Wide Web ○ XBEL ○ XOXO

- Audio podcast
- Enhanced podcast
- Mobilecast
- Narrowcasting
- Peercasting
- Screencast
- Slidecasting
- Videocast
- Webcomic
- Webtoon
- Web series

Form

- Anonymous blogging
- Collaborative blog
- Columnist
- Instant messaging
- Liveblogging
- Microblog
- Mobile blogging
- Spam blog
- Video blogging
- Motovlogging



- **v**
- **t**
- **e**

Semantic Web

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Databases○ Hypertext○ Internet○ Ontologies○ Semantics○ Semantic networks○ World Wide Web
Sub-topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Dataspaces○ Hyperdata○ Linked data○ Rule-based systems
Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Semantic analytics○ Semantic broker○ Semantic computing○ Semantic mapper○ Semantic matching○ Semantic publishing○ Semantic reasoner○ Semantic search○ Semantic service-oriented architecture○ Semantic wiki○ Solid

Related topics

- [Collective intelligence](#)
- [Description logic](#)
- [Folksonomy](#)
- [Geotagging](#)
- [Information architecture](#)
- [iXBRL](#)
- [Knowledge extraction](#)
- [Knowledge management](#)
- [Knowledge representation and reasoning](#)
- [Library 2.0](#)
- [Digital library](#)
- [Digital humanities](#)
- [Metadata](#)
- [References](#)
- [Topic map](#)
- [Web 2.0](#)
- [Web engineering](#)
- [Web Science Trust](#)

Syntax and supporting technologies

- HTTP
- IRI
 - URI
- RDF
 - triples
 - RDF/XML
 - JSON-LD
 - Turtle
 - TriG
 - Notation3
 - N-Triples
 - TriX (no W3C standard)
- RRID
- SPARQL
- XML
- Semantic HTML

Schemas, ontologies and rules

- Common Logic
- OWL
- RDFS
- Rule Interchange Format
- Semantic Web Rule Language
- ALPS
- SHACL

Standards

Semantic annotation

- eRDF
- GRDDL
- Microdata
- Microformats
- RDFa
- SAWSDL
- Facebook Platform

Common vocabularies

- DOAP
- Dublin Core
- FOAF
- Schema.org
- SIOC
- SKOS

Microformat vocabularies

- hAtom
- hCalendar
- hCard
- hProduct

Authority control databases Image not found or type unknown
Edit this at Wikidata

International

- **FAST**

National

- **Germany**
- **United States**
- **France**
- **BnF data**
- **Czech Republic**
- **Spain**
- **Latvia**
- **Israel**

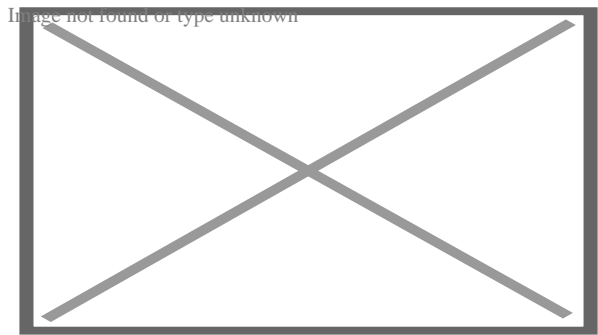
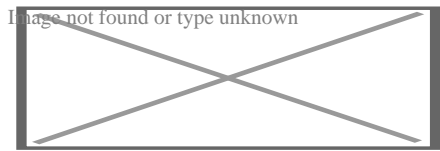
Other

- **NARA**

About Google Search

"Google.com" redirects here. For the company itself, see **Google**.

Google Search



Google Search on desktop

Type of site	Web search engine
Available in	149 languages

Owner	Google
Revenue	Google Ads
URL	google.com <small>Image not found or type unknown</small> Edit this at Wikidata
IPv6 support	Yes[1]
Commercial	Yes
Registration	Optional
Launched	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1995; 30 years ago (first prototype) ○ 1997; 28 years ago (final launch)
Current status	Online
Written in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Python ○ C ○ C++[2]

Google Search (also known simply as **Google** or **Google.com**) is a **search engine** operated by **Google**. It allows users to search for information on the **Web** by entering keywords or phrases. Google Search uses **algorithms** to analyze and rank **websites** based on their relevance to the search query. It is the most popular search engine worldwide.

Google Search is the **most-visited website in the world**. As of 2020, Google Search has a 92% share of the global search engine market.[3] Approximately 26.75% of Google's monthly global traffic comes from the **United States**, 4.44% from **India**, 4.4% from **Brazil**, 3.92% from the **United Kingdom** and 3.84% from **Japan** according to data provided by **Similarweb**. [4]

The order of search results returned by Google is based, in part, on a priority rank system called "**PageRank**". Google Search also provides many different options for customized searches, using symbols to include, exclude, specify or require certain search behavior, and offers specialized interactive experiences, such as flight status and package tracking, weather forecasts, currency, unit, and time conversions, word definitions, and more.

The main purpose of Google Search is to search for text in publicly accessible documents offered by web servers, as opposed to other data, such as **images** or **data contained in databases**. It was originally developed in 1996 by **Larry Page**, **Sergey Brin**, and **Scott Hassan**. [5][6][7] The search engine would also be set up in the garage of **Susan Wojcicki**'s **Menlo Park** home. [8] In 2011, Google introduced "**Google Voice Search**" to search for spoken, rather than typed, words. [9] In 2012, Google introduced a **semantic search** feature named **Knowledge Graph**.

Analysis of the frequency of search terms may indicate economic, social and health trends. [10] Data about the frequency of use of search terms on Google can be **openly** inquired via **Google**

Trends and have been shown to correlate with flu outbreaks and unemployment levels, and provide the information faster than traditional reporting methods and surveys. As of mid-2016, Google's search engine has begun to rely on deep neural networks.[11]

In August 2024, a US judge in Virginia ruled that Google's search engine held an illegal monopoly over Internet search.[12][13] The court found that Google maintained its market dominance by paying large amounts to phone-makers and browser-developers to make Google its default search engine.[13]

Search indexing

[edit]

See also: Googlebot

Google indexes hundreds of terabytes of information from web pages.[14] For websites that are currently down or otherwise not available, Google provides links to cached versions of the site, formed by the search engine's latest indexing of that page.[15] Additionally, Google indexes some file types, being able to show users PDFs, Word documents, Excel spreadsheets, PowerPoint presentations, certain Flash multimedia content, and plain text files.[16] Users can also activate "SafeSearch", a filtering technology aimed at preventing explicit and pornographic content from appearing in search results.[17]

Despite Google search's immense index, sources generally assume that Google is only indexing less than 5% of the total Internet, with the rest belonging to the deep web, inaccessible through its search tools.[14][18][19]

In 2012, Google changed its search indexing tools to demote sites that had been accused of piracy.[20] In October 2016, Gary Illyes, a webmaster trends analyst with Google, announced that the search engine would be making a separate, primary web index dedicated for mobile devices, with a secondary, less up-to-date index for desktop use. The change was a response to the continued growth in mobile usage, and a push for web developers to adopt a mobile-friendly version of their websites.[21][22] In December 2017, Google began rolling out the change, having already done so for multiple websites.[23]

"Caffeine" search architecture upgrade

[edit]

In August 2009, Google invited web developers to test a new search architecture, codenamed "Caffeine", and give their feedback. The new architecture provided no visual differences in the user interface, but added significant speed improvements and a new "under-the-hood" indexing infrastructure. The move was interpreted in some quarters as a response to Microsoft's recent release of an upgraded version of its own search service, renamed Bing, as well as the launch of Wolfram Alpha, a new search engine based on "computational knowledge".[24]

25] Google announced completion of "Caffeine" on June 8, 2010, claiming 50% fresher results due to continuous updating of its index.**[26]**

With "Caffeine", Google moved its back-end indexing system away from **MapReduce** and onto **Bigtable**, the company's distributed database platform.**[27][28]**

"Medic" search algorithm update

[edit]

In August 2018, **Danny Sullivan** from Google announced a broad core algorithm update. As per current analysis done by the industry leaders Search Engine Watch and Search Engine Land, the update was to drop down the medical and health-related websites that were not user friendly and were not providing good user experience. This is why the industry experts named it "Medic".**[29]**

Google reserves very high standards for YMYL (Your Money or Your Life) pages. This is because misinformation can affect users financially, physically, or emotionally. Therefore, the update targeted particularly those YMYL pages that have low-quality content and misinformation. This resulted in the algorithm targeting health and medical-related websites more than others. However, many other websites from other industries were also negatively affected.**[30]**

Search results

[edit]

Ranking of results

[edit]

By 2012, it handled more than 3.5 billion searches per day.**[31]** In 2013 the **European Commission** found that Google Search favored Google's own products, instead of the best result for consumers' needs.**[32]** In February 2015 Google announced a major change to its mobile search **algorithm** which would favor mobile friendly over other **websites**. Nearly 60% of Google **searches** come from mobile phones. Google says it wants users to have access to premium quality **websites**. Those websites which lack a mobile-friendly **interface** would be ranked lower and it is expected that this update will cause a shake-up of **ranks**. Businesses who fail to update their **websites** accordingly could see a dip in their regular websites traffic.**[33]**
]

PageRank

[edit]

Main article: [PageRank](#)

Google's rise was largely due to a patented [algorithm](#) called PageRank which helps rank web pages that match a given search string.[34] When Google was a Stanford research project, it was nicknamed [BackRub](#) because the technology checks [backlinks](#) to determine a site's importance. Other keyword-based methods to rank search results, used by many search engines that were once more popular than Google, would check how often the search terms occurred in a page, or how strongly associated the search terms were within each resulting page. The PageRank algorithm instead analyzes human-generated [links](#) assuming that web pages linked from many important pages are also important. The algorithm computes a [recursive](#) score for pages, based on the weighted sum of other pages linking to them. PageRank is thought to [correlate](#) well with human concepts of importance. In addition to PageRank, Google, over the years, has added many other secret criteria for determining the ranking of resulting pages. This is reported to comprise over 250 different indicators,[35][36] the specifics of which are kept secret to avoid difficulties created by scammers and help Google maintain an edge over its competitors globally.

PageRank was influenced by a similar page-ranking and site-scoring algorithm earlier used for [RankDex](#), developed by [Robin Li](#) in 1996. Larry Page's patent for PageRank filed in 1998 includes a citation to Li's earlier patent. Li later went on to create the Chinese search engine [Baidu](#) in 2000.[37][38]

In a potential hint of Google's future direction of their Search algorithm, Google's then chief executive [Eric Schmidt](#), said in a 2007 interview with the *[Financial Times](#)*: "The goal is to enable Google users to be able to ask the question such as 'What shall I do tomorrow?' and 'What job shall I take?' ".[39] Schmidt reaffirmed this during a 2010 interview with *[The Wall Street Journal](#)*: "I actually think most people don't want Google to answer their questions, they want Google to tell them what they should be doing next." [40]

Google optimization

[[edit](#)]

Main article: [Search engine optimization](#)

Because Google is the most popular [search engine](#), many [webmasters](#) attempt to influence their website's Google rankings. An industry of consultants has arisen to help websites increase their rankings on Google and other search engines. This field, called search engine optimization, attempts to discern patterns in search engine listings, and then develop a methodology for improving rankings to draw more searchers to their clients' sites. Search engine optimization encompasses both "on page" factors (like body copy, title elements, H1 heading elements and image [alt attribute](#) values) and Off Page Optimization factors (like [anchor text](#) and PageRank). The general idea is to affect Google's relevance algorithm by incorporating the keywords being targeted in various places "on page", in particular the title element and the body copy (note: the higher up in the page, presumably the better its keyword

prominence and thus the ranking). Too many occurrences of the keyword, however, cause the page to look suspect to Google's spam checking algorithms. Google has published guidelines for website owners who would like to raise their rankings when using legitimate optimization consultants.[41] It has been hypothesized, and, allegedly, is the opinion of the owner of one business about which there have been numerous complaints, that negative publicity, for example, numerous consumer complaints, may serve as well to elevate page rank on Google Search as favorable comments.[42] The particular problem addressed in *The New York Times* article, which involved *DecorMyEyes*, was addressed shortly thereafter by an undisclosed fix in the Google algorithm. According to Google, it was not the frequently published consumer complaints about DecorMyEyes which resulted in the high ranking but mentions on news websites of events which affected the firm such as legal actions against it. *Google Search Console* helps to check for websites that use duplicate or copyright content.[43]

"Hummingbird" search algorithm upgrade

[edit]

Main article: *Google Hummingbird*

In 2013, Google significantly upgraded its search algorithm with "Hummingbird". Its name was derived from the speed and accuracy of the *hummingbird*.^[44] The change was announced on September 26, 2013, having already been in use for a month.^[45] "Hummingbird" places greater emphasis on *natural language* queries, considering context and meaning over individual keywords.^[44] It also looks deeper at content on individual pages of a website, with improved ability to lead users directly to the most appropriate page rather than just a website's homepage.^[46] The upgrade marked the most significant change to Google search in years, with more "human" search interactions^[47] and a much heavier focus on conversation and meaning.^[44] Thus, web developers and writers were encouraged to *optimize their sites* with natural writing rather than forced keywords, and make effective use of technical web development for on-site navigation.^[48]

Search results quality

[edit]

In 2023, drawing on internal Google documents disclosed as part of the *United States v. Google LLC (2020)* antitrust case, technology reporters claimed that Google Search was "bloated and overmonetized"^[49] and that the "semantic matching" of search queries put advertising profits before quality.^[50] *Wired* withdrew Megan Gray's piece after Google complained about alleged inaccuracies, while the author reiterated that «As stated in court, "A goal of Project Mercury was to increase commercial queries"».^[51]

In March 2024, Google announced a significant update to its core search algorithm and spam targeting, which is expected to wipe out 40 percent of all spam results.^[52] On March 20th, it

was confirmed that the roll out of the spam update was complete.[53]

Shopping search

[edit]

On September 10, 2024, the European-based **EU Court of Justice** found that Google held an illegal monopoly with the way the company showed favoritism to its shopping search, and could not avoid paying €2.4 billion.[54] The EU Court of Justice referred to Google's treatment of rival shopping searches as "discriminatory" and in violation of the **Digital Markets Act**.^[54]

Interface

[edit]

Page layout

[edit]

At the top of the search page, the approximate result count and the response time two digits behind decimal is noted. Of search results, page titles and URLs, dates, and a preview text snippet for each result appears. Along with web search results, sections with images, news, and videos may appear.^[55] The length of the previewed text snippet was experimented with in 2015 and 2017.^{[56][57]}

Universal search

[edit]

"Universal search" was launched by Google on May 16, 2007, as an idea that merged the results from different kinds of search types into one. Prior to Universal search, a standard Google search would consist of links only to websites. Universal search, however, incorporates a wide variety of sources, including websites, news, pictures, maps, blogs, videos, and more, all shown on the same search results page.^{[58][59]} **Marissa Mayer**, then-vice president of search products and user experience, described the goal of Universal search as "we're attempting to break down the walls that traditionally separated our various search properties and integrate the vast amounts of information available into one simple set of search results."^[60]

In June 2017, Google expanded its search results to cover available job listings. The data is aggregated from various major job boards and collected by analyzing company homepages. Initially only available in English, the feature aims to simplify finding jobs suitable for each user.^{[61][62]}

Rich snippets

[\[edit\]](#)

In May 2009, Google announced that they would be parsing website **microformats** to populate search result pages with "Rich snippets". Such snippets include additional details about results, such as displaying reviews for restaurants and social media accounts for individuals.[\[63\]](#)

In May 2016, Google expanded on the "Rich snippets" format to offer "Rich cards", which, similarly to snippets, display more information about results, but shows them at the top of the mobile website in a swipeable carousel-like format.[\[64\]](#) Originally limited to movie and recipe websites in the United States only, the feature expanded to all countries globally in 2017.[\[65\]](#)

Knowledge Graph

[\[edit\]](#)

Main article: **Knowledge Graph**

The Knowledge Graph is a knowledge base used by Google to enhance its search engine's results with information gathered from a variety of sources.[\[66\]](#) This information is presented to users in a box to the right of search results.[\[67\]](#) Knowledge Graph boxes were added to Google's search engine in May 2012,[\[66\]](#) starting in the United States, with international expansion by the end of the year.[\[68\]](#) The information covered by the Knowledge Graph grew significantly after launch, tripling its original size within seven months,[\[69\]](#) and being able to answer "roughly one-third" of the 100 billion monthly searches Google processed in May 2016.[\[70\]](#) The information is often used as a spoken answer in **Google Assistant**[\[71\]](#) and **Google Home** searches.[\[72\]](#) The Knowledge Graph has been criticized for providing answers without source attribution.[\[70\]](#)

Google Knowledge Panel

[\[edit\]](#)

A Google Knowledge Panel[\[73\]](#) is a feature integrated into Google search engine result pages, designed to present a structured overview of entities such as individuals, organizations, locations, or objects directly within the search interface. This feature leverages data from Google's Knowledge Graph,[\[74\]](#) a database that organizes and interconnects information about entities, enhancing the retrieval and presentation of relevant content to users.

The content within a Knowledge Panel[\[75\]](#) is derived from various sources, including **Wikipedia** and other structured databases, ensuring that the information displayed is both accurate and contextually relevant. For instance, querying a well-known public figure may trigger a

Knowledge Panel displaying essential details such as biographical information, birthdate, and links to social media profiles or official websites.

The primary objective of the Google Knowledge Panel is to provide users with immediate, factual answers, reducing the need for extensive navigation across multiple web pages.

Personal tab

[[edit](#)]

In May 2017, Google enabled a new "Personal" tab in Google Search, letting users search for content in their Google accounts' various services, including email messages from [Gmail](#) and photos from [Google Photos](#).^[76]^[77]

Google Discover

[[edit](#)]

Google Discover, previously known as Google Feed, is a personalized stream of articles, videos, and other news-related content. The feed contains a "mix of cards" which show topics of interest based on users' interactions with Google, or topics they choose to follow directly.^[78] Cards include, "links to news stories, YouTube videos, sports scores, recipes, and other content based on what [Google] determined you're most likely to be interested in at that particular moment."^[78] Users can also tell Google they're not interested in certain topics to avoid seeing future updates.

Google Discover launched in December 2016^[79] and received a major update in July 2017.^[80] Another major update was released in September 2018, which renamed the app from Google Feed to Google Discover, updated the design, and adding more features.^[81]

Discover can be found on a tab in the Google app and by swiping left on the home screen of certain Android devices. As of 2019, Google will not allow [political campaigns](#) worldwide to target their advertisement to people to make them vote.^[82]

AI Overviews

[[edit](#)]

At the 2023 [Google I/O](#) event in May, Google unveiled Search Generative Experience (SGE), an experimental feature in Google Search available through [Google Labs](#) which produces [AI-generated](#) summaries in response to search prompts.^[83] This was part of Google's wider efforts to counter the unprecedented rise of generative AI technology, ushered by [OpenAI](#)'s launch of [ChatGPT](#), which sent Google executives to a panic due to its potential threat to

Google Search.[84] Google added the ability to generate images in October.[85] At I/O in 2024, the feature was upgraded and renamed AI Overviews.[86]

"cheese not sticking to pizza"

Image not found or type unknown

Early AI Overview response to the problem of "cheese not sticking to pizza"

AI Overviews was rolled out to users in the United States in May 2024.[86] The feature faced public criticism in the first weeks of its rollout after errors from the tool went viral online. These included results suggesting users add glue to pizza or eat rocks,[87] or incorrectly claiming **Barack Obama** is Muslim.[88] Google described these viral errors as "isolated examples", maintaining that most AI Overviews provide accurate information.[87][89] Two weeks after the rollout of AI Overviews, Google made technical changes and scaled back the feature, pausing its use for some health-related queries and limiting its reliance on social media posts.[90] *Scientific American* has criticised the system on environmental grounds, as such a search uses 30 times more energy than a conventional one.[91] It has also been criticized for condensing information from various sources, making it less likely for people to view full articles and websites. When it was announced in May 2024, Danielle Coffey, CEO of the News/Media Alliance was quoted as saying "This will be catastrophic to our traffic, as marketed by Google to further satisfy user queries, leaving even less incentive to click through so that we can monetize our content." [92]

In August 2024, AI Overviews were rolled out in the UK, India, Japan, Indonesia, Mexico and Brazil, with local language support.[93] On October 28, 2024, AI Overviews was rolled out to 100 more countries, including Australia and New Zealand.[94]

AI Mode

[edit]

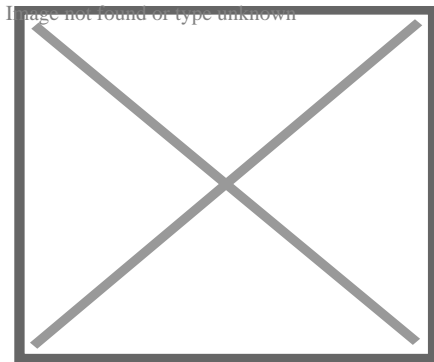
In March 2025, Google introduced an experimental "AI Mode" within its Search platform, enabling users to input complex, multi-part queries and receive comprehensive, AI-generated responses. This feature leverages Google's advanced Gemini 2.0 model, which enhances the system's reasoning capabilities and supports multimodal inputs, including text, images, and voice.

Initially, AI Mode is available to Google One AI Premium subscribers in the United States, who can access it through the Search Labs platform. This phased rollout allows Google to gather user feedback and refine the feature before a broader release.

The introduction of AI Mode reflects Google's ongoing efforts to integrate advanced AI technologies into its services, aiming to provide users with more intuitive and efficient search experiences.^{[95][96]}

Redesigns

[\[edit\]](#)



Product Sans, Google's typeface since 2015

In late June 2011, Google introduced a new look to the Google homepage in order to boost the use of the Google+ social tools.^[97]

One of the major changes was replacing the classic navigation bar with a black one. Google's digital creative director Chris Wiggins explains: "We're working on a project to bring you a new and improved Google experience, and over the next few months, you'll continue to see more updates to our look and feel."^[98] The new navigation bar has been negatively received by a vocal minority.^[99]

In November 2013, Google started testing yellow labels for advertisements displayed in search results, to improve user experience. The new labels, highlighted in yellow color, and aligned to the left of each sponsored link help users differentiate between organic and sponsored results.^[100]

On December 15, 2016, Google rolled out a new desktop search interface that mimics their modular mobile user interface. The mobile design consists of a tabular design that highlights search features in boxes. and works by imitating the desktop Knowledge Graph real estate, which appears in the right-hand rail of the search engine result page, these featured elements frequently feature Twitter carousels, People Also Search For, and Top Stories (vertical and horizontal design) modules. The Local Pack and Answer Box were two of the original features of the Google **SERP** that were primarily showcased in this manner, but this new layout creates

a previously unseen level of design consistency for Google results.[101]

Smartphone apps

[edit]

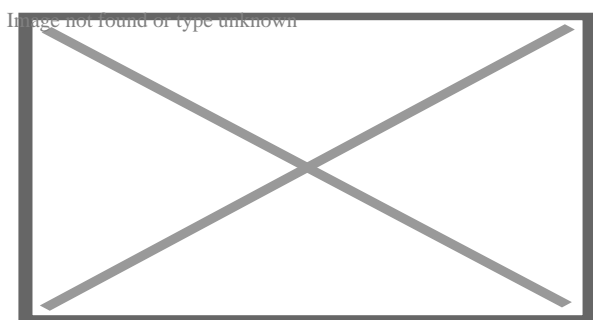
Google offers a "Google Search" **mobile app** for **Android** and **iOS** devices.[102] The mobile apps exclusively feature Google Discover and a "Collections" feature, in which the user can save for later perusal any type of search result like images, bookmarks or map locations into groups.[103] Android devices were introduced to a preview of the feed, perceived as related to **Google Now**, in December 2016,[104] while it was made official on both Android and iOS in July 2017.[105][106]

In April 2016, Google updated its Search app on Android to feature "Trends"; search queries gaining popularity appeared in the autocomplete box along with normal query autocompletion.[107] The update received significant backlash, due to encouraging search queries unrelated to users' interests or intentions, prompting the company to issue an update with an opt-out option.[108] In September 2017, the Google Search app on iOS was updated to feature the same functionality.[109]

In December 2017, Google released "Google Go", an app designed to enable use of Google Search on physically smaller and lower-spec devices in multiple languages. A Google blog post about designing "India-first" products and features explains that it is "tailor-made for the millions of people in [India and Indonesia] coming online for the first time".[110]

Performing a search

[edit]



A definition link is provided for many search terms.

Google Search consists of a series of **localized websites**. The largest of those, the **google.com site**, is the top most-visited website in the world.[111] Some of its features include a definition link for most searches including dictionary words, the number of results you got on your search, links to other searches (e.g. for words that Google believes to be misspelled, it provides a link to the search results using its proposed spelling), the ability to filter results to a

date range,[112] and many more.

Search syntax

[edit]

Google search accepts queries as normal text, as well as individual keywords.[113] It **automatically corrects** apparent misspellings by default (while offering to use the original spelling as a selectable alternative), and provides the same results regardless of capitalization. [113] For more customized results, one can use a wide variety of **operators**, including, but not limited to:[114][115]

- OR or | – Search for webpages containing one of two similar queries, such as *marathon OR race*
- AND – Search for webpages containing two similar queries, such as *marathon AND runner*
- - (minus sign) – Exclude a word or a phrase, so that *"apple -tree"* searches where word *"tree"* is not used
- "" – Force inclusion of a word or a phrase, such as *"tallest building"*
- * – Placeholder symbol allowing for any substitute words in the context of the query, such as *"largest * in the world"*
- .. – Search within a range of numbers, such as *"camera \$50..\$100"*
- site: – Search within a specific website, such as *"site:youtube.com"*
- define: – Search for definitions for a word or phrase, such as *"define:phrase"*
- stocks: – See the stock price of investments, such as *"stocks:googl"*
- related: – Find web pages related to specific **URL** addresses, such as *"related:www.wikipedia.org"*
- cache: – Highlights the search-words within the cached pages, so that *"cache:www.google.com xxx"* shows cached content with word *"xxx"* highlighted.
- () – Group operators and searches, such as *(marathon OR race) AND shoes*
- filetype: or ext: – Search for specific file types, such as *filetype:gif*
- before: – Search for before a specific date, such as *spacex before:2020-08-11*
- after: – Search for after a specific date, such as *iphone after:2007-06-29*
- @ – Search for a specific word on social media networks, such as *"@twitter"*

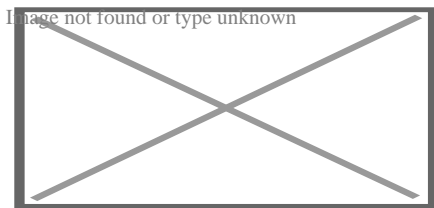
Google also offers a **Google Advanced Search** page with a web interface to access the advanced features without needing to remember the special operators.[116]

Query expansion

[edit]

Google applies **query expansion** to submitted search queries, using techniques to deliver results that it considers "smarter" than the query users actually submitted. This technique involves several steps, including:[117]

- Word **stemming** – Certain words can be reduced so other, similar terms, are also found in results, so that "*translator*" can also search for "*translation*"
- Acronyms – Searching for abbreviations can also return results about the name in its full length, so that "**NATO**" can show results for "*North Atlantic Treaty Organization*"
- Misspellings – Google will often suggest correct spellings for misspelled words
- Synonyms – In most cases where a word is incorrectly used in a phrase or sentence, Google search will show results based on the correct synonym
- Translations – The search engine can, in some instances, suggest results for specific words in a different language
- Ignoring words – In some search queries containing extraneous or insignificant words, Google search will simply drop those specific words from the query



A screenshot of suggestions by Google Search when "wiki" is typed

In 2008, Google started to give users **autocomplete search suggestions** in a list below the search bar while typing, originally with the approximate result count previewed for each listed search suggestion.[118]

"I'm Feeling Lucky"

[edit]

"I'm Feeling Lucky" redirects here. For the 2011 book by Douglas Edwards, see *I'm Feeling Lucky* (book).

Google's homepage includes a button labeled "I'm Feeling Lucky". This feature originally allowed users to type in their search query, click the button and be taken directly to the first result, bypassing the search results page. Clicking it while leaving the search box empty opens Google's archive of **Doodles**. [119] With the 2010 announcement of **Google Instant**, an automatic feature that immediately displays relevant results as users are typing in their query, the "I'm Feeling Lucky" button disappears, requiring that users opt-out of Instant results through search settings to keep using the "I'm Feeling Lucky" functionality.[120] In 2012, "I'm Feeling Lucky" was changed to serve as an advertisement for Google services; users hover their computer mouse over the button, it spins and shows an emotion ("I'm Feeling Puzzled" or "I'm Feeling Trendy", for instance), and, when clicked, takes users to a Google service related to that emotion.[121]

Tom Chavez of "Rapt", a firm helping to determine a website's advertising worth, estimated in 2007 that Google lost \$110 million in revenue per year due to use of the button, which bypasses the advertisements found on the search results page.^[122]

Special interactive features

^[edit]

See also: [List of Google Easter eggs](#) § [Embedded tools](#)

Besides the main text-based search-engine function of Google search, it also offers multiple quick, interactive features. These include, but are not limited to:^{[123][124][125]}

- Calculator
- Time zone, currency, and unit conversions
- Word translations
- Flight status
- Local film showings
- Weather forecasts
- Population and unemployment rates
- Package tracking
- Word definitions
- Metronome
- Roll a die
- "Do a barrel roll" (search page spins)
- "Askew" (results show up sideways)

"OK Google" conversational search

^[edit]

See also: [Google Now](#) and [Google Assistant](#)

During Google's developer conference, [Google I/O](#), in May 2013, the company announced that users on [Google Chrome](#) and [ChromeOS](#) would be able to have the browser initiate an audio-based search by saying "OK Google", with no button presses required. After having the answer presented, users can follow up with additional, contextual questions; an example include initially asking "OK Google, will it be sunny in Santa Cruz this weekend?", hearing a spoken answer, and reply with "how far is it from here?"^{[126][127]} An update to the Chrome browser with [voice-search](#) functionality rolled out a week later, though it required a button press on a microphone icon rather than "OK Google" voice activation.^[128] Google released a browser extension for the Chrome browser, named with a "[beta](#)" tag for unfinished development, shortly thereafter.^[129] In May 2014, the company officially added "OK Google" into the browser itself;^[130] they removed it in October 2015, citing low usage, though the microphone icon for activation remained available.^[131] In May 2016, 20% of search queries

on mobile devices were done through voice.[132]

Operations

[edit]

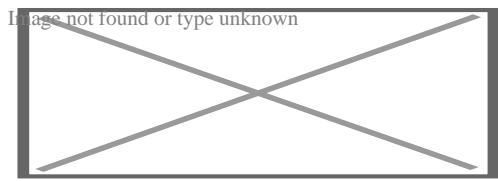
Search products

[edit]

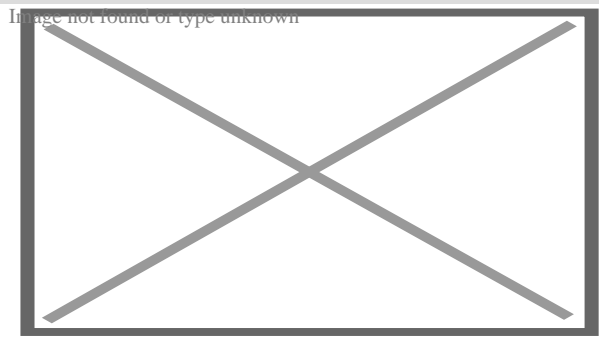
Main article: [List of Google products](#)

"Google Videos" redirects here. For other uses, see [Google Videos \(disambiguation\)](#).

Google Videos



Screenshot



Google Videos homepage as of 2016

Type of site	Video search engine
Available in	Multilingual
Owner	Google
URL	www.google.com/videohp
Commercial	Yes
Registration	Recommended
Launched	August 20, 2012; 12 years ago

In addition to its tool for searching [web pages](#), Google also provides services for searching images, [Usenet newsgroups](#), news websites, videos (**Google Videos**), [searching by locality](#), maps, and items for sale online. **Google Videos** allows searching the [World Wide Web](#) for video clips.[133] The service evolved from [Google Video](#), Google's discontinued video hosting service that also allowed to search the web for video clips.[133]

In 2012, Google has indexed over 30 trillion web pages, and received 100 billion queries per month.^[134] It also **caches** much of the content that it **indexes**. Google operates other tools and services including **Google News**, **Google Shopping**, **Google Maps**, **Google Custom Search**, **Google Earth**, **Google Docs**, **Picasa** (discontinued), **Panoramio** (discontinued), **YouTube**, **Google Translate**, **Google Blog Search** and **Google Desktop Search** (discontinued^[135]).

There are also products available from Google that are not directly search-related. **Gmail**, for example, is a **webmail** application, but still includes search features; **Google Browser Sync** does not offer any search facilities, although it aims to organize your browsing time.

Energy consumption

^[edit]

In 2009, Google claimed that a search query requires altogether about 1 **kJ** or 0.0003 **kW·h**,^[136] which is enough to raise the temperature of one liter of water by 0.24 °C. According to green search engine **Ecosia**, the industry standard for search engines is estimated to be about 0.2 grams of CO₂ emission per search.^[137] Google's 40,000 searches per second translate to 8 kg CO₂ per second or over 252 million kilos of CO₂ per year.^[138]

Google Doodles

^[edit]

Main article: **Google Doodle**

On certain occasions, the **logo** on Google's webpage will change to a special version, known as a "Google Doodle". This is a picture, drawing, animation, or interactive game that includes the logo. It is usually done for a special event or day although not all of them are well known.^[139] Clicking on the Doodle links to a string of Google search results about the topic. The first was a reference to the **Burning Man Festival** in 1998,^[140]^[141] and others have been produced for the birthdays of notable people like **Albert Einstein**, historical events like the interlocking **Lego** block's 50th anniversary and holidays like **Valentine's Day**.^[142] Some Google Doodles have interactivity beyond a simple search, such as the famous "Google Pac-Man" version that appeared on May 21, 2010.

Criticism

^[edit]

Privacy

^[edit]

Main article: **Privacy concerns regarding Google**

Google has been criticized for placing long-term **cookies** on users' machines to store preferences, a tactic which also enables them to track a user's search terms and retain the data for more than a year.[143]

Since 2012, Google Inc. has globally introduced encrypted connections for most of its clients, to bypass governative blockings of the commercial and IT services.[144]

Complaints about indexing

[edit]

In 2003, *The New York Times* complained about Google's **indexing**, claiming that Google's **caching** of content on its site infringed its copyright for the content.[145] In both *Field v. Google* and *Parker v. Google*, the United States District Court of **Nevada** ruled in favor of Google.[146] [147]

Child sexual abuse

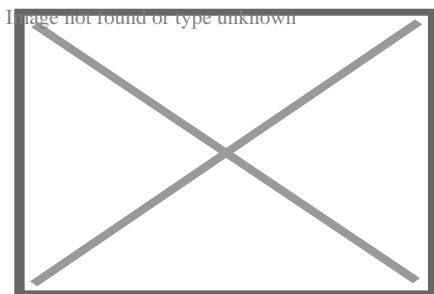
[edit]

[icon] This section **needs expansion**. You can help by **making an edit request** adding to it . (May 2024)

A 2019 *New York Times* article on Google Search showed that images of **child sexual abuse** had been found on Google and that the company had been reluctant at times to remove them.[148]

January 2009 malware bug

[edit]



A screenshot of the error of January 31, 2009

Google flags search results with the message "This site may harm your computer" if the site is known to install malicious software in the background or otherwise surreptitiously. For approximately 40 minutes on January 31, 2009, all search results were mistakenly classified as **malware** and could therefore not be clicked; instead a warning message was displayed and

the user was required to enter the requested URL manually. The bug was caused by human error.[149][150][151][152] The URL of "/" (which expands to all URLs) was mistakenly added to the malware patterns file.[150][151]

Possible misuse of search results

[edit]

In 2007, a group of researchers observed a tendency for users to rely exclusively on Google Search for finding information, writing that "With the Google interface the user gets the impression that the search results imply a kind of totality. ... In fact, one only sees a small part of what one could see if one also integrates other research tools." [153]

In 2011, Google Search query results have been shown by Internet activist **Eli Pariser** to be tailored to users, effectively isolating users in what he defined as a **filter bubble**. Pariser holds algorithms used in search engines such as Google Search responsible for catering "a personal ecosystem of information". [154] Although contrasting views have mitigated the potential threat of "informational dystopia" and questioned the scientific nature of Pariser's claims, [155] filter bubbles have been mentioned to account for the surprising results of the **U.S. presidential election in 2016** alongside **fake news** and **echo chambers**, suggesting that **Facebook** and Google have designed personalized online realities in which "we only see and hear what we like". [156]

FTC fines

[edit]

In 2012, the US **Federal Trade Commission** fined Google **US\$22.5 million** for violating their agreement not to violate the privacy of users of Apple's **Safari web browser**. [157] The FTC was also continuing to investigate if Google's favoring of their own services in their search results violated antitrust regulations. [158]

Payments to Apple

[edit]

In a November 2023 disclosure, during the ongoing antitrust trial against Google, an economics professor at the **University of Chicago** revealed that Google pays Apple 36% of all search advertising revenue generated when users access Google through the Safari browser. This revelation reportedly caused Google's lead attorney to cringe visibly. [citation needed] The revenue generated from Safari users has been kept confidential, but the 36% figure suggests that it is likely in the tens of billions of dollars.

Both Apple and Google have argued that disclosing the specific terms of their search default agreement would harm their competitive positions. However, the court ruled that the information was relevant to the antitrust case and ordered its disclosure. This revelation has raised concerns about the dominance of Google in the search engine market and the potential anticompetitive effects of its agreements with Apple.[159]

Big data and human bias

[edit]

Google **search engine** robots are programmed to use **algorithms** that understand and predict human **behavior**. The book, *Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code*[160] by **Ruha Benjamin** talks about human **bias** as a behavior that the Google search engine can recognize. In 2016, some users Google searched "three Black teenagers" and images of criminal **mugshots** of young African American teenagers came up. Then, the users searched "three White teenagers" and were presented with photos of smiling, happy teenagers. They also searched for "three Asian teenagers", and very revealing photos of Asian girls and women appeared. Benjamin concluded that these results reflect human **prejudice** and views on different **ethnic groups**. A group of analysts explained the concept of a **racist** computer program: "The idea here is that computers, unlike people, can't be racist but we're increasingly learning that they do in fact take after their makers ... Some experts believe that this problem might stem from the hidden biases in the massive piles of **data** that the algorithms process as they learn to recognize patterns ... reproducing our worst values".[160]

Monopoly ruling

[edit]

On August 5, 2024, Google lost a **lawsuit which started in 2020** in **D.C. Circuit Court**, with Judge **Amit Mehta** finding that the company had an illegal monopoly over Internet search.[161] This monopoly was held to be in violation of Section 2 of the **Sherman Act**. [162] Google has said it will appeal the ruling,[163] though they did propose to loosen search deals with Apple and others requiring them to set Google as the default search engine.[164]

Trademark

[edit]

Main article: **Google (verb)**

As people talk about "googling" rather than searching, the company has taken some steps to defend its trademark, in an effort to prevent it from becoming a **generic trademark**. [165][166] This has led to lawsuits, threats of lawsuits, and the use of euphemisms, such as calling Google Search a **famous web search engine**. [167]

Discontinued features

[[edit](#)]

Translate foreign pages

[[edit](#)]

Until May 2013, Google Search had offered a feature to [translate search queries into other languages](#). A Google spokesperson told [Search Engine Land](#) that "Removing features is always tough, but we do think very hard about each decision and its implications for our users. Unfortunately, this feature never saw much pick up".^[168]

Instant search

[[edit](#)]

Instant search was announced in September 2010 as a feature that [displayed suggested results while the user typed in their search query](#), initially only in select countries or to registered users.^[169] The primary advantage of the new system was its ability to save time, with [Marissa Mayer](#), then-vice president of search products and user experience, proclaiming that the feature would save 2–5 seconds per search, elaborating that "That may not seem like a lot at first, but it adds up. With Google Instant, we estimate that we'll save our users 11 hours with each passing second!"^[170] Matt Van Wagner of [Search Engine Land](#) wrote that "Personally, I kind of like Google Instant and I think it represents a natural evolution in the way search works", and also praised Google's efforts in [public relations](#), writing that "With just a press conference and a few well-placed interviews, Google has parlayed this relatively minor speed improvement into an attention-grabbing front-page news story".^[171] The upgrade also became notable for the company switching Google Search's underlying technology from [HTML](#) to [AJAX](#).^[172]

Instant Search could be disabled via Google's "preferences" menu for those who didn't want its functionality.^[173]

The publication [2600: The Hacker Quarterly](#) compiled a list of words that Google Instant did not show suggested results for, with a Google spokesperson giving the following statement to [Mashable](#):^[174]

There are several reasons you may not be seeing search queries for a particular topic. Among other things, we apply a narrow set of removal policies for pornography, violence, and hate speech. It's important to note that removing queries from Autocomplete is a hard problem, and not as simple as blacklisting particular

terms and phrases.

In search, we get more than one billion searches each day. Because of this, we take an algorithmic approach to removals, and just like our search algorithms, these are imperfect. We will continue to work to improve our approach to removals in Autocomplete, and are listening carefully to feedback from our users.

Our algorithms look not only at specific words, but compound queries based on those words, and across all languages. So, for example, if there's a bad word in Russian, we may remove a compound word including the transliteration of the Russian word into English. We also look at the search results themselves for given queries. So, for example, if the results for a particular query seem pornographic, our algorithms may remove that query from Autocomplete, even if the query itself wouldn't otherwise violate our policies. This system is neither perfect nor instantaneous, and we will continue to work to make it better.

PC Magazine discussed the inconsistency in how some forms of the same topic are allowed; for instance, "lesbian" was blocked, while "gay" was not, and "cocaine" was blocked, while "crack" and "heroin" were not. The report further stated that seemingly normal words were also blocked due to pornographic innuendos, most notably "scat", likely due to having two completely separate contextual meanings, one for music and one for a sexual practice.[175]

On July 26, 2017, Google removed Instant results, due to a growing number of searches on mobile devices, where interaction with search, as well as screen sizes, differ significantly from a computer.[176][177]

Instant previews[edit]

"Instant previews" allowed previewing screenshots of search results' web pages without having to open them. The feature was introduced in November 2010 to the desktop website and removed in April 2013 citing low usage.[178][179]

Dedicated encrypted search page

[edit]

Various search engines provide encrypted Web search facilities. In May 2010 Google rolled out SSL-encrypted web search.[180] The encrypted search was accessed at encrypted.google.com[181] However, the web search is encrypted via Transport Layer Security (TLS) by default today, thus every search request should be automatically encrypted if TLS is supported by the web browser.[182] On its support website, Google announced that

the address encrypted.google.com would be turned off April 30, 2018, stating that all Google products and most new browsers use HTTPS connections as the reason for the discontinuation.^[183]

Real-Time Search

[\[edit\]](#)

Google Real-Time Search was a feature of Google Search in which search results also sometimes included **real-time** information from sources such as **Twitter**, **Facebook**, **blogs**, and news websites.^[184] The feature was introduced on December 7, 2009,^[185] and went offline on July 2, 2011, after the deal with Twitter expired.^[186] Real-Time Search included **Facebook** status updates beginning on February 24, 2010.^[187] A feature similar to Real-Time Search was already available on **Microsoft's Bing search engine**, which showed results from **Twitter** and Facebook.^[188] The interface for the engine showed a live, descending "river" of posts in the main region (which could be paused or resumed), while a **bar chart** metric of the frequency of posts containing a certain search term or hashtag was located on the right hand corner of the page above a list of most frequently reposted posts and outgoing links. **Hashtag** search links were also supported, as were "promoted" tweets hosted by Twitter (located persistently on top of the river) and thumbnails of retweeted image or video links.

In January 2011, geolocation links of posts were made available alongside results in Real-Time Search. In addition, posts containing syndicated or attached shortened links were made searchable by the *link:* query option. In July 2011, Real-Time Search became inaccessible, with the Real-Time link in the Google sidebar disappearing and a custom 404 error page generated by Google returned at its former URL. Google originally suggested that the interruption was temporary and related to the launch of **Google+**;^[189] they subsequently announced that it was due to the expiry of a commercial arrangement with Twitter to provide access to tweets.^[190]

See also

[\[edit\]](#)

 **Internet portal**
Image not found or type unknown

- **List of search engines by popularity** – Software system for finding relevant information on the Web
- **Timeline of Google Search**
- **Censorship by Google § Google Search**
- **Google (verb)** – Transitive verb, to search using Google
- **Dragonfly (search engine)** – Prototype Internet search engine to comply with Chinese censorship requirements

- [Google bombing](#) – Practice that causes a webpage to have a high rank in Google
- [Google Panda](#) – Change to Google's search results ranking algorithm
- [Google Penguin](#) – Google search engine algorithm update
- [Googleshack](#) – Contest to find a Google Search query that returns a single result
- [Halalgoogling](#) – Islamic search engine blocking haram content
- [Prabhakar Raghavan](#) – American computer scientist
- [Reunion \(advertisement\)](#) – Google India advertisement for Google Search
- [List of search engines](#)
- [Comparison of web search engines](#)
- [History of Google](#)
- [List of Google products](#)

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- Area 120
- ATAP
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- China
- Cloud Platform
- Energy
- Google.org
 - Crisis Response
- Health
- Registry

Active

- Security Operations
- DeepMind
- Fitbit
- ITA Software
- Jigsaw
- Looker
- Mandiant
- Owlchemy Labs

Subsidiaries

- Actifio
- Adscape
- Akwan Information Technologies
- Anvato
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- BandPage
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- BufferBox
- Crashlytics
- Dodgeball
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- Dropcam
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- Flutter
- Global IP Solutions
- Green Throttle Games
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- Gridcentric
- ImageAmerica
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- Invite Media

Development

- Accelerated Linear Algebra
- AMP
- *Actions on Google*
- ALTS
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- *Android Cloud to Device Messaging*
- Android Debug Bridge
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- AppSheet
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- Cloud Dataflow
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A–C

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- *Affiliate Network*
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- *Allo*
- *Analytics*
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- *Calendar*
- *Cast*
- *Catalogs*
- *Chat*
- *Checkout*
- *Chrome*
- *Chrome Apps*
- *Chrome Experiments*

Hardware

Smartphones

Pixel

- Pixel (2016)
- Pixel 2 (2017)
- Pixel 3 (2018)
- Pixel 3a (2019)
- Pixel 4 (2019)
- Pixel 4a (2020)
- Pixel 5 (2020)
- Pixel 5a (2021)
- Pixel 6 (2021)
- Pixel 6a (2022)
- Pixel 7 (2022)
- Pixel 7a (2023)
- Pixel Fold (2023)
- Pixel 8 (2023)
- Pixel 8a (2024)
- Pixel 9 (2024)
- Pixel 9 Pro Fold (2024)

Smartwatches

- Pixel Watch (2022)
- Pixel Watch 2 (2023)
- Pixel Watch 3 (2024)

Tablets

- Pixel C (2015)
- Pixel Slate (2018)
- Pixel Tablet (2023)

Laptops

- Chromebook Pixel (2013–2015)
- Pixelbook (2017)
- Pixelbook Go (2019)

Other

- Pixel Buds (2017–present)

Smartphones

- Nexus One (2010)
- Nexus S (2010)
- Galaxy Nexus (2011)
- Nexus 4 (2012)
- Nexus 5 (2013)
- Nexus 6 (2014)

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Litigation

Advertising

- *Feldman v. Google, Inc.* (2007)
- *Rescuecom Corp. v. Google Inc.* (2009)
- *Goddard v. Google, Inc.* (2009)
- *Rosetta Stone Ltd. v. Google, Inc.* (2012)
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- Jedi Blue

Antitrust

- European Union (2010–present)
- *United States v. Adobe Systems, Inc., Apple Inc., Google Inc., Intel Corporation, Intuit, Inc., and Pixar* (2011)
- *Umar Javeed, Sukarma Thapar, Aaqib Javeed vs. Google LLC and Ors.* (2019)
- *United States v. Google LLC* (2020)
- *United States v. Google LLC* (2023)

Intellectual property

- *Perfect 10, Inc. v. Amazon.com, Inc.* (2007)
- *Viacom International Inc. v. YouTube, Inc.* (2010)
- *Lenz v. Universal Music Corp.* (2015)
- *Authors Guild, Inc. v. Google, Inc.* (2015)
- *Field v. Google, Inc.* (2016)
- *Google LLC v. Oracle America, Inc.* (2021)
- Smartphone patent wars

Privacy

- *Rocky Mountain Bank v. Google, Inc.* (2009)
- *Hibnick v. Google, Inc.* (2010)
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- Judgement of the German Federal Court of Justice on Google's autocomplete function (2013)
- *Joffe v. Google, Inc.* (2013)
- *Mosley v SARL Google* (2013)
- *Google Spain v AEPD and Mario Costeja González* (2014)
- *Frank v. Gaos* (2019)

Other

- *Garcia v. Google, Inc.* (2015)
- *Google LLC v Defteros* (2020)
- *Epic Games v. Google* (2021)
- *Gonzalez v. Google LLC* (2022)

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- Googlization
- Illegal flower tribute
- Objectives and key results
- Rooting
- Search engine manipulation effect
- Side project time
- Sitelink
- Site reliability engineering
- StudyTube
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 - list

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- Features
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		Former	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Larry Page (CEO) ○ Sergey Brin (President) ○ David Drummond (CLO)
	Board of directors	Current	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Frances Arnold ○ Sergey Brin ○ R. Martin Chavez ○ John Doerr ○ John L. Hennessy ○ Ann Mather ○ Larry Page ○ Sundar Pichai ○ Ram Shriram ○ Roger W. Ferguson Jr.
		Former	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diane Greene ○ Alan Mulally ○ Eric Schmidt
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Android

- Android Go
 - Comparison of products



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- Donut (1.6)
- Eclair (2.0–2.1)
- Froyo (2.2)
- Gingerbread (2.3)
- Honeycomb (3.x)
- Ice Cream Sandwich (4.0)
- Jelly Bean (4.1–4.3)
- KitKat (4.4)
- Lollipop (5.x)
- Marshmallow (6.0)
- Nougat (7.x)
- Oreo (8.x)
- Pie (9)
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Derivatives

- Android Automotive
- Android Things
- TV
 - devices
- Android XR
- Wear OS

Devices

Pixel

- C
- Pixel & Pixel XL
- 2 & 2 XL
- 3 & 3 XL
 - 3a & 3a XL
- 4 & 4 XL
 - 4a & 4a (5G)
- 5
 - 5a
- 6 & 6 Pro
 - 6a
- 7 & 7 Pro
 - 7a
- Fold
- Tablet
- 8 & 8 Pro
 - 8a
- 9, 9 Pro & 9 Pro XL
 - 9 Pro Fold

Nexus

- One
- S
- Galaxy Nexus
- 4
- 10
- Q
- 5
 - 5X
- 6
 - 6P
- 7
 - 2012
 - 2013
- 9
- Player

Play edition

- HTC One (M7)
- HTC One (M8)
- LG G Pad 8.3
- Moto G
- Samsung Galaxy S4
- Sony Xperia Z Ultra

- Android One

Custom distributions

- AliOS
- Android-x86
 - Remix OS
- AOKP
- Baidu Yi
- Barnes & Noble Nook
- CalyxOS
- ColorOS
 - realme UI
- CopperheadOS
- EMUI
 - Magic UI
- Fire OS
- Flyme OS
- GrapheneOS
- Xiaomi HyperOS
 - MIUI
 - MIUI for Poco
- LeWa OS
- LineageOS
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- MicroG
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- PixelExperience
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- ZUI




Booting and recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Booting process○ Recovery mode<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ TWRP○ ClockworkMod○ Fastboot
APIs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Google Maps○ Google Play Services<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ SafetyNet○ Google Search
Alternative UIs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Asus ZenFone○ Cherry OS○ ColorOS○ EMUI○ Funtouch OS○ Flyme OS○ HiOS○ Hive UI (XOLO Hive)○ HTC Sense○ LG UX<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Optimus UI○ Motoblur○ One UI○ Origin OS<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Experience○ TouchWiz○ OxygenOS○ Pixel UI○ XOS○ Xperia UI
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Dedicated

Active

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SEO, or search engine optimisation, means improving your website's structure, content, and overall performance to rank higher in search results. This leads to more organic traffic, increased brand visibility, and better conversion rates, ultimately supporting your business's growth.

What is SEO marketing?

SEO marketing is the process of using search engine optimization techniques to enhance your online presence. By optimizing your website, creating relevant content, and building authority, you attract organic traffic from search engines, increase brand awareness, and drive conversions.

SEO services expert

SEO Sydney

Phone : 1300 684 339

City : Sydney

State : NSW

Zip : 2000

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