

Privacy Terms: [Mozilla Firefox](#) vs. [Google Chrome](#)

Google and Mozilla present their privacy policies very differently. Mozilla uses a visually clear page with collapsible sections to make the reading experience less of a wall-of-text; Google's formatting is much more of a wall-of-text. However, Mozilla's language is a bit more technical than Google's. The style of writing and formatting also emphasizes different priorities: Google leans the reader's focus toward the features and functionality that Chrome offers, while Mozilla focuses more on what data is collected and who is given access to it. Both privacy policies also have many links to more information on how exactly data is collected for the knowledgeable and curious user.

The greatest similarities between the two browsers' privacy policies are in the places where they provide similar functionality. For example, when searching, both browsers send data to the search provider to produce search suggestions. For recommendations in the browser, both browsers use the IP address to provide location-based recommendations. For the average reader, there are not many serious differences between the two browsers' policies.

However, these similarities shrink when viewing the [Google](#) and [Mozilla](#) Privacy Policies (not just Chrome and Firefox). Google's list of data that it "may collect" includes (directly from the privacy policy):

- Terms you search for
- Videos you watch
- [Views and interactions with content and ads](#)
- [Voice and audio information](#)
- Purchase activity
- People with whom you communicate or share content
- Activity on third-party sites and apps that use our services
- Chrome browsing history you've [synced with your Google Account](#)

and

- GPS and other [sensor data from your device](#)
- [IP address](#)
- Activity on Google services, such as your searches and places you label like home or work
- [Information about things near your device](#), such as Wi-Fi access points, cell towers, and Bluetooth-enabled devices

The only courses of action to remove that information from Google are:

- Delete your content from [specific Google services](#)
- Search for and then delete specific items from your account using [My Activity](#)
- [Delete specific Google products](#), including your information associated with those products
- [Delete your entire Google Account](#)

Google's policy does go on to describe differences in types of data and how long they are kept; some is deleted/anonymized automatically, some is deleted if the Google account is deleted, and some is kept

longer for legal or business purposes. While the Mozilla privacy policy doesn't include these specifics, it does give a general overview of when data is collected and what it might be shared for; details are saved for the product-specific policy. Importantly, it includes this statement:

We also don't want your personal information for any longer than we need it, so we only keep it long enough to do what we collected it for. Once we don't need it, we take steps to destroy it unless we are required by law to keep it longer.

This is a tremendous difference between Mozilla and Google – where Google harvests a great deal of information and requires intentional action to delete much of it, Mozilla collects much less data and removes it when it is no longer needed.

While Google Chrome does allow users to opt-out of certain types of data collection similarly to how Firefox does, Google also stows a lot of information about its data collection practices in the Google privacy policy rather than in the Chrome privacy policy. Firefox's privacy policy is very clear about what data is collected, makes clear which kinds of collection the user can opt out of, and makes it possible to opt out even if doing so actually reduces the user's security. Google collects a truly staggering amount of information, according to its own privacy policy; Mozilla Firefox allows much greater control over data sharing, and includes less data collection by default.