As the world becomes more technologically advanced and people start moving from the standard computer to iphones, tablets, and other portable media devices, the world of browsers also changes. We now are using more mobile browsers versus the standard browsers you would find on a desktop. Most of this paper will revolve around the web browsers available to and the major differences between them. I am going to focus on 4 major browsers: Chrome, Opera, Dolphin, and Firefox. I will discuss the different features of each, the display of the webpages, the security features and the speed of performance.

The first android browser that I would like to discuss is Chrome. This browser is available on the desktop and mobile devices in which you can sync tabs and bookmarks across these platforms. It is for Android and now can be installed on Mac ios. It’s a nice and fast browser to use. There is an incognito mode. The downside is there is no support for Flash Videos. In terms of security Chrome *does* [support Do Not Track](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Do_Not_Track), which blocks tracking of your online browsing pages. But third parties don’t actually have to follow it. So this makes your information semi-secure. Also, the layout of the webpage is very easy to use the web url is in the top left hand corner and the page tracking number right next to it. There is a little 3 dot icon button that allows you to look at your personal settings in the upper right corner. This setting box allows you to pick incognito, bookmark pages, show your history and much more. Overall, a very good browser and very easy to use for me. The placement of everything is well-thought out. I recommend this browser the most.

The second browser that I would like to talk about is Opera. This browser is support on a Android and Mac Ios operating system. Opera offers “off-road” technology that allows you to expedite page loads when the browser is running patchy or not working the best. This feature is not offered on any other browser I have or will discuss. Opera also offers a feature called “Speed dial” that allows you to make folders of bookmarks on your phone. This is different than the other browsers I have and will discuss because those just make bookmarks alone. The layout of the webpage isn’t the easiest for me to use The web address box is located at the top of the page and a “cross” is located at the top left. When the “cross” is pressed Speeddial, save for offline, unsorted bookmarks and more appear as options allow you to toggle between the settings I just discussed. I guess I wouldn’t expect that to pop up from the cross. I expected a new tab to pop up. At the bottom there is back and forward arrow button. I figured this was for ONLY going back and forth between webpages. It does “kinda” do that. You have to click on a history button from there and then go back and forth to the pages. It seems like too much work to me. I don’t like extra clicking. Also, this same arrow button has more “hidden” features, which I wasn’t a big fan of. The button seems very deceiving. There is also a former page button and and an “O” that allow for turning off-road mode on and off. As you can see the layout of the Opera page is very different from the Chrome layout discussed. Overall I would say Opera is hard to navigate as a browser.

The third browser I would like to discuss is Dolphin. It used to be an Android only browser, but now it’s supported by Mac ios. Unlike Chrome, Dolphin does not have a desktop component so syncing is a problem. One of the neat features of Dolphin that no other browser has is “gestures”. You can draw a gesture or letter on the screen and automatically associate it with a webpage. So once you redraw this letter/gesture it goes to the webpage you associated it with. I am personally not a fan of this option. Who wants to draw something, when you can just as easily type a web address in. I can’t imagine driving and trying to draw. This feature seems pointless to me. Another feature that the other web browsers don’t have is “Sonor”.You speak into the phone and it will search the web for you. I like this feature, especially for driving. On top of that, Dolphin does offer a similar speed dial look like Opera does. As far as the layout of the webpage, the search bar is in the top center, which is different from Chrome; Chrome is at the top left. There is a Star button that opens up the bookmark box. This is different from the 3 dot icon that is located on the Opera browser. There is a cross at the top right of the dolphin browser that opens up a new tab. This is different than the cross on the Opera browser that opens up other options. Unlike any of the other browsers discussed, Dolphin has a “fist-like” looking icon to the right that is actually the control panel. To me a “fist-like” looking icon is deceiving. On a quick look, I would have no clue what that means. Overall I would say this is a decent browser, but the “fist-icon” is somewhat deceiving.

The last browser I would like to discuss is Firefox. This browser I Android only supported., unlike Chrome, Opera, and Dolphin. A good feature is that Firefox supports Flash, unlike other browsers like Safari that I haven’t discussed. It also has a private browsing tab that’s really easy to use unlike Opera that doesn’t have that. It has a neat feature that none of the other browsers have called Reader mode. It strips out all the other stuff on the page that you don’t need and make it easier to read. I personally like this feature. It makes it so much easy to see and read everything. It also has the do not track mode like Chrome. Unfortunately, the default is turned off and you have to go and turn it on. I think this is a dumb option. I think by default no one wants to be tracked on a webpage. This makes me question the security. There is also a Guest Session mode feature that none of the other browsers I discussed offer. It pretty much allows your friend to use your phone and wont’ let them see your active tabs, bookmarks and history information. I could see how this option could be helpful to me because I babysit kids that constantly use my phone and they don’t need to see my personal stuff. As far as the how the browser displays a webpage, I am not a big fan. The web address bar is on the far left, which is a different location than the previous browsers. There is a button next to the address bar that has a number on it with pages behind it. I would assume this ONLY means the number of webpages that are open behind this one. I opened it and that was true, but there are other feature behind it I didn’t expect. I don’t like how that is set up. I think it should only be the number of webpages. The other features were Private browsing mode and information about my tabs being moved. It’s nice that there is a private browsing mode unlike Opera that I didn’t see one at all for. I just don’t like the location of it. On the right hand side there is 3 dots button that have other features within that button. I like this feature it’s similar to Chrome, my favorite browser. It has the tabs information, page, tools, and setting info in it. There are all nice and packaged in that one button just like Chrome, which I like. Overall, the browser is decent, but not my favorite.

All in all, the browsers I discussed have some positive features and some negative features. At the end of the day for me, I would use Chrome. It’s the easiest for the easiest for me to navigate, secure enough for me, and the least “flawed” in other areas.