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How to Clear Cache in Every Major Browser

Clear the cache in Chrome, Firefox, Edge, IE, Safari, and more

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In most browsers, you can clear the cache from the *Privacy* or *History* area in the *Settings* or *Options* menu, depending on the browser, of course. **Ctrl+Shift+Del** (or **Cmd-Shift-Del** on a Mac) works with most browsers as well.

While that hotkey combo works in most non-mobile browsers, the exact steps involved in clearing your browser's cache depend entirely on what web browser you're using.

Below you'll find some browser and device specific instructions, as well as links to more expansive tutorials if you need them.

What Exactly Is Cache?

Your browser's cache, pronounced like *cash*, is a collection of web pages, including the text, images, and most other media contained on them, that is stored on your hard drive or phone storage.

Having a local copy of a web page makes for *very* quick loading on your next visit because your computer or device doesn't have to download from the internet all of that same information again.

Why Do You Have to Clear Cache?

You certainly don't *have* to, not as a regular part of computer or smartphone maintenance, anyway. However, a few good reasons to clear cache come to mind...

Clearing your cache forces your browser to retrieve the newest copy available from the website, something that should happen automatically but sometimes does not.

You might also want to clear the cache if you're experiencing issues like 404 errors or 502 errors (among others), sometimes indications that your browser's cache is corrupted.

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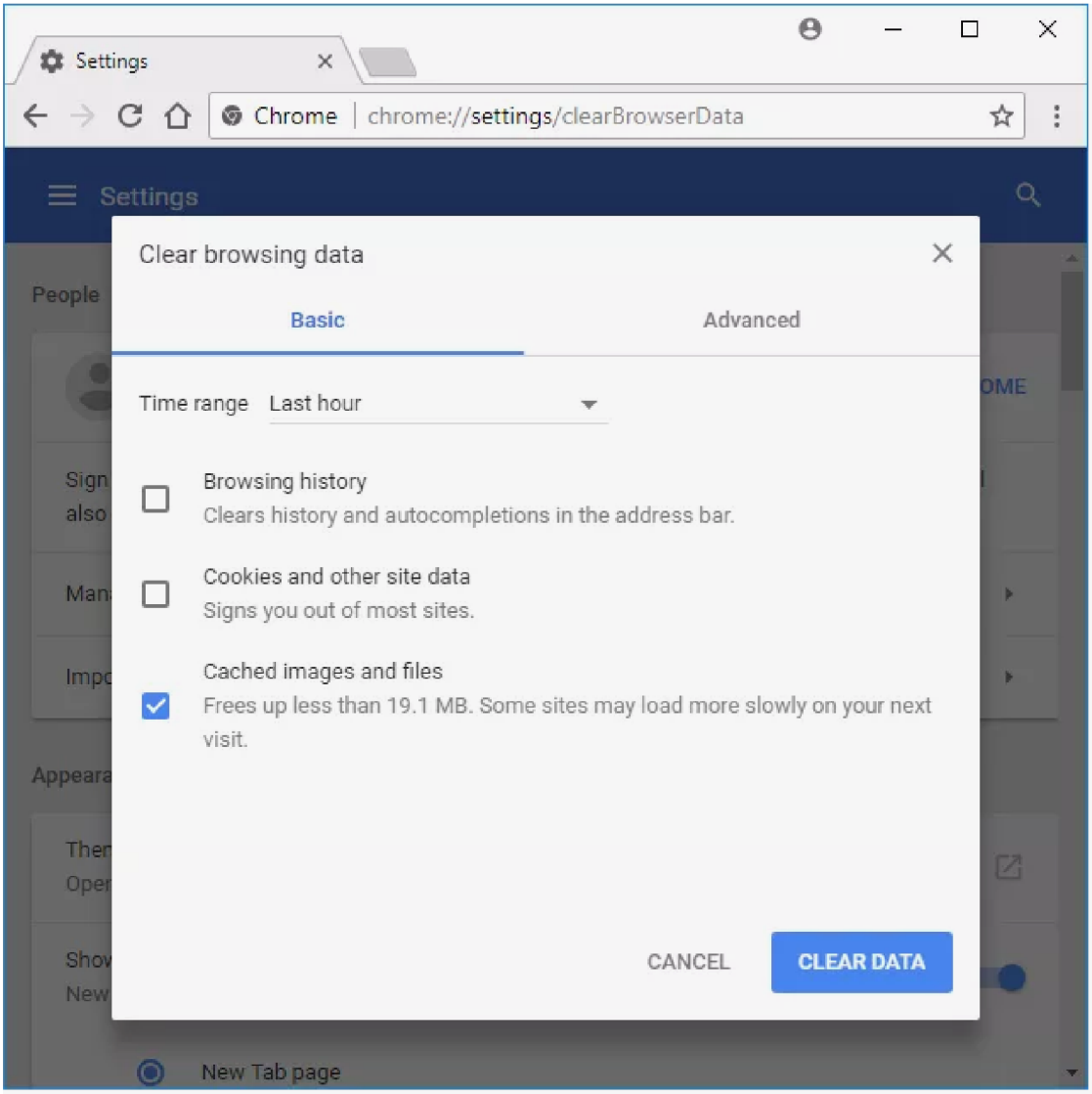
Another reason to delete browser cache data is to free up space on your hard drive. Over time, the cache can grow to a really large size, and so clearing it out can recover some of that previously used space.

Chrome: Clear Browsing Data

In Google Chrome, clearing the browser cache is done via the *Clear browsing data* area in *Settings*. From there, check **Cached images and files** (as well as anything else you want to remove) and then tap or click the **CLEAR DATA** button.



Without a keyboard, tap or click the **Menu** button (the icon with three stacked lines) followed by **More tools** and finally **Clear browsing data...**.

See How to Clear the Cache in Chrome [*support.google.com*] for more details.

Tip: Choose **All time** from the *Time range* option at the top of the *Clear browsing data* window to make sure you get everything.

In Chrome's mobile browser, go to **Settings** from the three-dotted menu at the bottom, and then **Privacy**. From there, choose **Clear Browsing Data**. In this menu, check **Cached Images and Files** and press the **Clear Browsing Data** button once, and then again for confirmation.

Internet Explorer: Delete Browsing History

In Microsoft Internet Explorer, the browser that comes pre-installed on most Windows computers, clearing the cache is done from the *Delete Browsing History* area. From here, check **Temporary Internet files and website files** and then click or tap **Delete**.

Like with other popular browsers, the fastest way to the *Delete Browsing History* settings is via the **Ctrl+Shift+Del** keyboard shortcut.

Another option is via the **Tools** button (the gear icon), followed by **Safety** and then **Delete browsing history...**.

See How to Clear the Cache in Internet Explorer for a full set of instructions.

Tip: Internet Explorer often refers to the browser cache as *temporary internet files* but they're one in the same.

Firefox: Clear Recent History

In Mozilla's Firefox browser, you clear the cache from the *Clear Recent History* area in the browser's *Options*. Once there, check **Cache** and then tap or click **Clear Now**.

The **Ctrl+Shift+Del** keyboard shortcut is probably the fastest way to open this tool. It's also available from Firefox's Menu button (the three-lined "hamburger" button) via **Options**, then **Privacy & Security**, and finally the **clear your recent history** link from the *History* area.

See How to Clear the Cache in Firefox for a complete tutorial.

Tip: Don't forget to choose **Everything** from the *Time range to clear:* set of options, assuming that's the time frame you want to clear the cache over.

If you're using Firefox's mobile app, tap the menu from the bottom right and then choose **Settings** from that menu. Find the *PRIVACY* section and tap **Clear Private Data**. Make sure **Cache** is chosen and then tap **Clear Private Data**. Confirm with an **OK**.

Firefox Focus is another mobile browser from Firefox that you can clear the cache from using the **ERASE** button on the top right of the app.

Safari: Empty Caches

In Apple's Safari browser, clearing the cache is done via the *Develop* menu. Just tap or click **Develop** and then **Empty Caches**.

With a keyboard, clearing the cache in Safari is super easy with the **Option-Command-E** shortcut.

See How to Clear the Cache in Safari [*help.apple.com*] if you need more help.

Tip: If you don't see *Develop* on your Safari menu bar, enable it via **Safari > Preferences...**, then **Advanced**, followed by selecting the **Show Develop menu in menu bar** option.

Clearing the browser cache from mobile Safari, like the one on your iPad or iPhone, is accomplished in a different app. From your device, open the **Settings** app and then find the **Safari** section. In there, scroll toward the bottom and tap **Clear History and Website Data**. Tap **Clear History and Data** to confirm.

Opera: Clear Browsing Data

In Opera, clearing the cache is done via the *Clear browsing data* section that's part of *Settings*. Once open, check **Cached images and files** and then click or tap **Clear browsing data**.

The fastest way to bring up the *Clear browsing data* window is via the **Ctrl+Shift+Del** keyboard shortcut.

Without a keyboard, click or tap the main menu button (the Opera logo from the upper-left hand side of the browser), then **Settings**, **Privacy & security**, and finally the **Clear browsing data...** button. Check the **Cached images and files** option and then press **Clear browsing data**.

See How to Clear the Cache in Opera [*help.opera.com*] for detailed instructions.

Tip: Be sure to choose **the beginning of time** option at the top so you're sure to erase everything!

You can clear the cache from the mobile Opera browser, too. Tap the Opera icon from the bottom menu and then navigate to **Settings > Clear...** to choose what to delete: saved passwords, browsing history, cookies and data, or all of it.

Edge: Clear Browsing Data

In Microsoft's Edge browser, included in Windows 10, clearing the cache is done via the *Clear browsing data* menu. Once open, check **Cached data and files** and then tap or click **Clear**.

The fastest way to the *Clear browsing data* menu is via the **Ctrl+Shift+Del** keyboard shortcut.

Another option is via the **Settings and more** button (that little icon with three horizontal dots), followed by **Settings** and then the **Choose what to clear** button under the *Clear browsing data* heading.

See How to Clear the Cache in Microsoft Edge [support.*microsoft.com*] for more extensive help.

Tip: Tap or click **Show more** while in the *Clear browsing data* menu for additional items you can erase while clearing cached files and images.

To delete cache files from the Edge mobile browser, go into the menu using button on the right side of the menu, and choose **Settings**. Go to **Privacy > Clear browsing data** and choose what you want removed; you can pick cache, passwords, form data, cookies, and more.

choose **All Time** from the top menu (if that's what you want to do), and then tap or click **Clear Browsing Data**.

To get there, tap or click the **Vivaldi** button (the V logo icon) followed by **Tools** and finally **Clear Private Data...**.

Like with most browsers, the **Ctrl+Shift+Del** keyboard shortcut brings up this menu, too.

More About Clearing Caches in Web Browsers

Most browsers have at least basic cache management settings where, at a minimum, you can choose how much space you'd like the browser to use for cached website data.

Some browsers even let you choose to automatically clear cache, as well as other data that might contain private information, every single time you close the browser window.

Check out the links to the more detailed information I provided in most of the browser-specific sections above if you're interested in learning about how to do any of these more advanced things with your browser's caching system.

In most browsers, you can overwrite a web page's stored cache without deleting all the cache collected by the browser. In essence, this will erase and replenish the cache for that specific page only. In most browsers and operating systems, you can bypass the cache by holding down **Shift** or **Ctrl** as you refresh.

Trying to Delete Cookies From Your Browser? Here's How

How to Clear the Cache or Delete Temporary Internet Files in IE11

Clear Your YouTube Search History to Keep Your Searches Private

How to Find, Manage, and Delete Your Search History

Need to Clear the Cache in Firefox? Here's How

How to Clear Your Google History

How to Change Your URL on Every Major Social Network

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What to Do When You Get a 404 Not Found Error

400 Bad Request Errors: What They Are and How to Fix Them

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A Brief Overview of DNS Caching and How It Makes the Internet Better

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