# **Most Commonly Used Internet Browsers**

Government Code, [Section 2054.134](https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/SOTWDocs/GV/htm/GV.2054.htm), requires state agencies, including publicly funded institutions of higher education, to ensure any generally accessible Internet websites they maintain are compatible with the most commonly used Internet browsers, and with wireless communication devices.

The Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) is responsible for determining the mostly commonly use Internet browsers. This document provides a list of the most commonly used Internet browsers as of December 2018. A notification will be sent to Texas Information Resources Managers as updates occur.

Ensuring an agency’s public-facing websites are compatible with the most commonly used stable and

secure Internet browsers improves

• citizen access to government

• customer convenience, and

• security

Table 1 shows Internet browsers with at least 1% of US market share, sorted alphabetically by platform.

Table 1: Most Commonly Used Internet Browsers, 2018

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Desktop** | **Mobile + Tablet** |
| **Chrome** | **Android** |
| **Edge** | **Chrome** |
| **Firefox** | **Safari** |
| **Internet Explorer** | **Samsung Internet** |
| **Safari** |  |

*\* Source: StatCounter, gs.statcounter.com*

DIR strongly encourages agencies to notify their website visitors to update their device software to be compatible with the most recent, stable, and secure version to improve personal security and enhance the user experience.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. How is a “generally accessible Internet website” defined?

A generally accessible Internet website is a state agency website that is

• connected to the Internet and is owned, funded, or operated by or for an agency

• public-facing, or intended to be accessed by members of the general public

This does not include an agency’s internal-only or intranet sites.

## 2. What is meant by a “wireless communication device”?

A wireless communication device is any device used to access the Internet through a

commercial mobile service provider regulated by the Federal Communications Commission.

Examples include tablets and smartphones.

## 3. What is meant by “compatible with”?

It is important to distinguish between website mobile device compatibility and website mobile

device optimization.

*Compatibility* refers to a mobile device’s ability to access a website and perform the basic

functions of the website.

*Optimization* refers to website functionality that reacts to the device connecting to the website

and, as a result, responds to and simplifies the website content making it easier to use with a

mobile device.

## 4. What is meant by “Internet browser”?

An Internet browser is an application or software that allows a device to connect to the global

communication network known as the World Wide Web.

## 5. Our website analytics demonstrate different browser traffic patterns than those identified by DIR. Do we still have to ensure compatibility with these browsers?

While it is recommended your agency’s website be compatible with the most commonly used

Internet browsers identified in *Table 1*, if your agency’s website analytics have consistently

identified a different web traffic pattern, then it is appropriate for the agency to focus on

ensuring compatibility with the most commonly used browsers identified by your agency’s

website analytics.

## 6. Are web applications covered by this provision?

No. Web-based applications are not required to be compatible with the most commonly used

Internet browsers as identified in Table 1 above. However, it is good practice to ensure visitors

can easily access your agency’s essential services with a mobile device.