

You have a Choice

The software that allows you to read internet content is called a 'browser' and many people accept whatever comes installed on their computer without ever considering there may be better alternatives out there. Windows based PCs come packaged with Microsoft Internet Explorer, but that's not the only game in town. Stats for February 2010 indicate distribution is approximately:

Internet Explorer – 54.5%
Mozilla Firefox – 30.9%
Google Chrome – 5.6%
Safari – 5.2%
Opera – 2.1%
Others* – 1.7%

So why am I mentioning this?

Internet Explorer (IE) is the most widely distributed only because it is packaged with new machines. That does not necessarily mean it is the best. Nor does it mean the product is secure! Recent analysis from Secunia (April 2010) showed the latest version of IE8 has 39 known vulnerabilities, 5 of which presented serious security issues.

So maybe now is a good time to have a think on how you access internet pages, it is best to be able to look at the web secure in the knowledge that there is no hostile code looking back at YOU. Having a secure browser does not replace security software, but it does help not leave the doors open. Secunia data shows the most secure among the top five are Opera and Firefox with zero serious vulnerabilities.

All browser software is free to download.

NB*

'Others' includes: Amaya, AOL Explorer, Avant, Camino, Conkeror, DeepNet, Epiphany, Flock, Galeon, iCab, Maxthon, Netsurf, Netscape, PhaseOut, Seamonkey, Sputnik and probably a bunch more.