



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Microsoft: Internet Explorer No Longer Supported

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Microsoft will no longer support Internet Explorer, the internet **browser** that many people loved to hate.

The big technology company based in Redmond, Washington, said Internet Explorer, or IE, will end on June 15.

The 27-year-old browser now joins other kinds of technology products that are no longer used: BlackBerry phones, Palm Pilots and **dial-up modems**.

IE's end was not a surprise. Microsoft announced the move last year. The technology company has been pushing users to its Edge browser, which was launched in 2015.

The company made clear then it was time to move on.

Sean Lyndersay is general manager of Microsoft Edge Enterprise. Lyndersay described Microsoft Edge as "a faster, more secure and more modern browsing experience than Internet Explorer," in a May 2021 blog post.

Users marked Explorer's passing on Twitter. Some criticized the browser; while others posted 1990's nostalgia memes – images that bring back fun or happy memories.

Microsoft released the first version of Internet Explorer in 1995. At the same time, Netscape Navigator was the most popular browser. Internet Explorer's launch signaled the beginning of the end of Navigator.

Microsoft went on to tie IE and its Windows operating system tightly together.

But Microsoft faced legal battles in the U.S. in the late 1990's and early 2000's over its efforts to keep out competing browsers.

The company also had problems with European officials who said that tying Internet Explorer to Windows gave it an unfair **advantage** over other browsers. Other browsers included Mozilla's Firefox, Opera and Google's Chrome.

Users complained that IE was slow, likely to crash and easily **hacked**. IE's market share, which in the early 2000s was over 90 percent, began to decrease as users found other browsers.

The internet research company Statcounter said the Chrome browser controls roughly 65 percent of the worldwide browser market today. It is followed by Apple's Safari with 19 percent. Microsoft Edge has about four percent, just ahead of Firefox.

I'm John Russell.

Richard Jacobsen reported on this story for the Associated Press. John Russell adapted it for VOA Learning English.

Words in This Story

browser - *n.* a computer program that is used to find and look at information on the Internet

dial-up modem - *n.* an internet connection through a telephone line

advantage - *n.* something (such as a good position or condition) that helps to make someone or something better or more likely to succeed than others

hack - *v. (computers)* to secretly get access to the files on a computer or network in order to get information, cause damage, etc.