Best Free Web Safety & Security Plans Today

techsafety2026

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TECH DOC link

Why Google, Apple, Microsoft are not safe choices

1. Privacy Concerns

Google Chrome has been criticized for excessive data collection, including user ID, device ID, location, and audio data. Contradicts Apple's privacy-focused marketing, which allows Google to be the default search engine in Safari.

2. Market Dominance and Lack of Innovation

The dominance of these tech giants in the browser market stifles competition and innovation. Mozilla argues that Apple, Google, and Microsoft essentially lock users into their browsers through default settings in their operating systems, giving them an unfair advantage. This lack of browser diversity can leave users exposed to security and privacy risks.

Why Google, Apple, Microsoft are not safe choices -- 2

3. **Declining Search Quality**

Google's search quality has been decreasing, with more ads, less useful links.

4. **Rise of Alternatives**

<u>Firefox</u>: Offers enhanced privacy features

<u>Brave</u>: Ad and tracker blocking. And uses <u>duckduckgo</u>

<u>Vivaldi</u>: Offers high customization and protection against phishing.

Personal and Device Safety

Howto Consider Safer Operating Systems (O.S.)

All desktops and laptops world-wide use --2025

1. Windows -- 67%

2. Mac –- 20-25%

3. ChromeOS and Linux – 6%

Personal and Device Safety -2

All smart phone and pocket computers world-wide use either

1. **Android** --   73%

2. **Apple** (IOS) – 27%

One is **open source**...

One is **closed source**

Personal and Device Safety -3

Linux has completely dominated the supercomputer field since 2017, with all of the top 500 most powerful supercomputers in the world running a Linux distribution.

Linux is also most used for web servers, and the most common Linux distribution is **Ubuntu**.

So Why Use Linux?

MUO says there are 9 reasons for using Linux...

ZDNet emphasizes security and easy Linux choices...

Debugpoint offers 10 best Linux choices and why

Debugpoint offers 5 best privacy-focused Linux 2023 choices

IP (Internet Protocol) Safety Issues

An Internet Protocol address (IP address) is a numerical label such as 192.0.2.1 that is connected to a computer network that uses the Internet Protocol for communication. An IP address serves two main functions:

network interface identification, and location addressing.

VIA IP your computer front door is open to anyone. Your device is easily identifiable to hackers

A **virtual IP address** (**VIP** or VIPA) is an IP address that does not correspond to a physical network interface. So...

VPN Safety Overview

VPNs protect your privacy by encrypting your internet traffic — essentially scrambling your data — so that even if your ISP or the government sees that you're online, there's no way for them to know what you're doing. And VPNs hide your real IP address by routing your traffic through VPN servers so that no one can know what websites you're visiting. Talk about anonymity!

VPNs aren't just for privacy, though. You can use a VPN to bypass geographic restrictions, avoid censorship, and access a more open internet. You can even use VPNs to torrent safely and securely without fear of being found out by your ISP.

More at **security.org**

Free Ways to Use VPNs for Security

 Maybe the best Free Browser with free VPN and Security options

Opera

Or maybe

Tor Browser

And best Free VPN software app for your entire device

Proton VPN

Other Ways for Security -1

-- Fight <u>phone tracking</u>

-- Fight unauthorized personal info use

It's no secret that a huge number of companies are collecting, buying and selling data about us. Find out what information they collect, and take action to help protect yourself.

-- Use <u>**Permission Slip**</u> from Consumer Reports to Find out what kinds of data a company collects

Other Ways for Security -2

-- Password Managers like the free <u>Bitwarden</u>

-- <u>2-Step Verification</u> and apps

Two-step verification simply adds another step to your logins. In addition to logging in with your password, you also may need to enter a code sent to your phone or email.

Other Ways for Security -3

-- Safe Search **Engines** -- **Google v. Duckduckgo**

  DuckDuckGo does not collect or share any personal information. Their <u>privacy page</u> has a great rundown on why privacy is important.

-- <u>Duckduckgo private email</u> **address**

-- **<u>Don't respond to strange email!</u>**

Great AI Search Engine if you take security caution

-- If you use AI for searching try **Perplexity** but

    1. Use a VPN like Proton to hide IP address

    2. Use a false email entry like mail@duck.com

    3. Turn on incognito mode on Perplexity.ai browser page or in app to delete search info

Other Way for Email Security -4

Proton Mail

Most popular email providers, such as Gmail, Outlook, and Yahoo, scan the content of your emails and use your email address to create a detailed profile on you and profit from your data.

Proton Mail is a private email service that uses open source, independently audited end-to-end encryption and zero-access encryption to secure your communications. This protects against data breaches and ensures no one (not even Proton) can access your inbox. Only you can read your messages.

Free service with 1 gig of storage or $3.99/month for much more.

Safe free email apps that are <u>not</u> Gmail and Windows and Apple -6

-- <u>Thunderbird</u>

Access all your messages, calendars, and contacts in one fast free app. Filter and organize the way you like. Manage all accounts separately or in a unified inbox. Thunderbird simply makes your life simpler. Need an email identity/service to use.

-- <u>Other Free Open Source email clients</u>

FOSS means Free and Open Source Software. It doesn't mean the software is free of cost. It means that the software's source code is open for all and anyone is free to use, study and modify the code. This principle allows others to contribute to developing and improving a software like a community.

Other Questions?

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For questions contact
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Free Software (for all systems)

Libre Office (Like Windows Office)

Gimp with **PhotoGimp** (Together like Photoshop)

VLC Media Player (Plays everything - Files, Discs, Webcams, Devices, Streams)

Top Linux Systems and a way to try them easily with **Ventoy**

FOSSHUB (Search for hundreds of free safe software apps)

Alternativeto.net (Apps and software ranked by 2 million viewers)

LIBBY (Thousands of magazines and books and audio books for free)