

Web Geek's Guide to Google Chrome

Iris Yoffa

Google's *Chrome* web browser was released for public use in September 2008, not that long ago. The download and install process is fast and effortless, typical of Google software. The interface is streamlined to focus on the content, toolbars are kept to a minimum and the loading of that content is fast.

So, beyond loading a web page, what is there? I found that for the typical enduser, discovering how to optimize and customize this browser could be somewhat challenging. Most folks are busy enough that they don't want to spend a lot of time wading through pages of information, but need to find quick answers to their questions.

The *Web Geek's Guide to Google Chrome* is a fairly slim volume. It appears to be designed to match the minimalist design of its subject matter. The 236 pages of content are divided into 12 chapters and three appendices: "Google *Chrome* and Browsing the Way It Should Be," "Tinkering Around under the Hood," *Chrome* for Power Users," "Google *Chrome* Shortcuts," "*Chrome* for the Non-Windows User" and a Glossary.

While you can easily find quick answers to *Chrome* usability questions in this book, there is also a lot of insight into Google's philosophy and why they do what they do. One of the biggest concerns I hear from many people is fear around Google's tracking of a user's web activity. I liked the to-the-point explanation that Google collects data about web browsing activity and is looking for patterns in Internet activity. It doesn't look at or track an individual's personal information.

So we begin with a comparison to the big three: *IE (Internet Explorer)*, *Firefox*, and *Opera*. And then there are a few tips on speeding up your browser experience.

Chapter 3 is your introduction to *Chrome* as a first time user, with an overview of basic navigation and usability. Discussed next is the extended functionality of the address bar, also referred to as the Omnibox, page controls and customization controls. There is a section on how *Chrome* offers increased stability to your browsing experience and also information concerning safe browsing.

The second part of the book begins with an overview of Open Source, what it is and why it benefits everyone involved. The cost, the licensing philosophy, the collaborative approach to software and the turn around time for bug fixes, begin an in-depth discussion of this topic. Google *Chrome* is built on Open Source code and philosophy.

Chrome offers web developers a web toolkit, a fast V8 *JavaScript* engine, and the *Gears API* for facilitating web application features such as storing database and web pages on the user's computer. No matter what you get, you always want more. So, there is a section on extending the functionality of *Chrome* with extensions and add-ins. You can personalize this browser with themes of your own creation using *Chromeium Theme Creator*. Instructions on how to code bookmarklets completes this section.

"*Chrome* for Power Users" is the title of Section III and consists of just two chapters: "*Chrome* Hacks for the Power User" and "Troubleshooting Google *Chrome*." You'll find information on how to implement some very advanced tweaks as well as a listing of command-line switches. The three appendices contain a listing of *Chrome* keyboard shortcuts, tips for non-windows users, and a glossary.

In Summary

For a mere \$19.99 you can obtain a guide into the intricacies of how to make Google *Chrome* the ultimate web browsing tool for all your needs. You'll find the text and descriptions easy to read and understand. If you've been thinking of moving to a fast browser that provides increased security, *Web Geek's Guide to Google Chrome* can help you make the transition.

About: *Web Geek's Guide to Google Chrome*

Authors: Jerri Ledford, Yvette Davis

Publisher: QUE
www.informit.com/que

ISBN-10: 0789739739

ISBN-13: 978-0-7897-3973-5

Price: \$19.99