
Subject: Opera now Free

Posted by [C4miner](#) on Thu, 22 Sep 2005 01:59:50 GMT

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I thought I would point out that the Opera Internet Browser is now a free download. No ads.

Check it out if you want.

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [Lijitsu](#) on Thu, 22 Sep 2005 02:03:42 GMT

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How is it, compared to IE? I have Firefox, but it's such a bother to try and get out of the habit of using something that only has a few extra features.

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [YSLMuffins](#) on Thu, 22 Sep 2005 02:48:12 GMT

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Opera has a TON of features. I'd love to type them all myself, but someone on Slashdot has already kindly done that.

cgenman, on /. As an avid Opera user, and a fan of Firefox, they can be similar to a light or average user. I'll assume here that you're familiar with both.

I like to think of Opera as a highly configurable tool for heavy users who like to get their hands dirty with their tools, and Firefox for everyone else. Opera is highly configurable, has nice data semi-permanence features, and there are a million advanced options that speed up use for people willing to learn about what it can do.

If you don't like where the menu bar is, you can move it to the bottom of the screen, or to the sides, or you can move the buttons to a different bar, or move the buttons from other bars to that one. You can liberally re-arrange everything about the interface to suit your particular tastes, and can add and remove buttons and functionality as you please. I've seen people who have all of the functionality of the browser on a single pop-up address bar on the side of the window, and others that spread everything around onto dozens of little areas.

And there are quick and easy buttons available in the interface for everything: from zooming to above 100% to changing your "identify as" to toggling javascript. Basically all of these behave intelligently. If you hold the zoom drop-down button you get a standard drop-down menu to select the zoom resolution you want, and if you click on it, it automatically resets to 100%. And you move buttons by simply grabbing and moving them, which is very easy and convenient.

If you're comfortable editing a simple menu.ini file, you can add or subtract menu options. As a real-world example, you can add menu options for "open in I.E." "Validate HTML" "Validate Links"

and "Spell Check" pretty easily to the right-click menu. While these can't be completely new code, you can pipe existing functions together in new ways to create things that do new behaviors.

Unlike Firefox's extensions you can't add extensive code that doesn't already exist. You can, however, run external applications which seems to cover the extreme cases. But if I needed to code an HTML editor in an extension, for example, I would recommend Firefox as a base over Opera. But for nearly all other personal customization, I'd go with Opera.

Data permanence is also a big issue in Opera. If you go backwards and forwards in Firefox, you lose any text you may have typed into a comment box. If you go backwards and forwards in Opera, your comment stays right where it was. On Slashdot this lets you go a couple of links back, launch a new window with the story in it, and go back forwards to what you were writing. It also caches the rendered page, so that going forwards and backwards is instantaneous.

You can also undo closing tabs. I can't tell you the number of times this has come in handy. Unfortunately, comment fields are not permanent across tab or application closures, something I wish they would fix. However, you do keep your history on that tab, which is nice. You also have windows open across sessions. If the application crashes or is accidentally closed, you can re-open it with all of your tabs still in place, and can still go back and forwards through their histories. Basically, Opera crashing is a 3 second fix, while Firefox crashing requires tediously going back through the history figuring out where all of your tabs were.

You can also save all of your open tabs or windows as a session, and can re-open sessions as bookmarks, on startup, etc.

There is also basic psuedo command line functionality, in that you can convert any *[space]TEXT into <http://www.yoursearchengine.com/search?q=TEXT> [yoursearchengine.com]. "g footloose" will search google for the term "footloose". "z firefly" will search amazOn for "firefly." I personally have searches setup for ebay, friend's bulletin boards, language translators, and a whole lot else.

The mail client was the first mail client that I know of to use freestanding searches as virtual folders, but that has since been copied into every mail client out there.

There are keyboard shortcuts for everything. Everything. This is a point of pride at Opera. No matter how good with a browser you may be, you could still be faster by learning a *few more* keyboard shortcuts. This will be true for the entire time you use Opera.

Opera was first with mousegestures, but everybody has that now (firefox with a plug-in).

There is a "fast forward" option, which tries to intelligently figure out which is the next page in a series and goes to that one. Surprisingly, it seems to work 99% of the time, and saves a fraction of a second each time.

There is a quickdownloads pane, which is nice. Select a hundred links, choose "quick download," and all of your files will download to a single place with a single click. Opera was the first with "open in background" functionality for windows, but now firefox has that too.

The built-in notes manager, basically a yellow sticky pad, is (surprisingly) useful. I thought it would

be bloat when the feature was added, but I jot things down all of the time there.

There is an RSS feed, chat client, Usenet client, etc. "suite stuff." But they really don't take up much space, and can be turned off.

Spell checking was recently integrated, though it could be more integrated. I'm sure as hell not using it enough.

You can set a page to automatically reload at specific intervals. It's a cute feature occasionally used to stay abreast of changes to a page, and usually used to try and annoy webmasters or drive up poorly-written voting scripts.

You can create a second window that is hard linked to a first window, though why you would do that is beyond me.

Opera has some nice features for disabled people, like letting you control the browser with voice, and doing a basic screen reader.

You can press CTRL-Backspace to go up an HTTP directory. If you're in www.myspace.com/~seishino/videos/counterstrike.vid, it will take you to www.myspace.com/~seishino/videos. Just a little timesaving shortcut also likely to annoy webmasters.

You can use one of any number of pre-made CSS files on a web page, including ones you have made yourself.

Some features of Opera are specific for mobile phones, kiosks, and web developers. You can maximize opera to take up the entire screen, for example, or make customized versions of opera that are then locked to that look / feel. You can change the virtual screen resolution to see how your site would look on a small screen. The "info" pane will tell you the page MIME type, main page and inline element size, and where the local cache is located. These are nice developer features.

You can also mouse around without a mouse, using the arrow keys to hotspot jump. This combined with extensive keyboard shortcuts, and Opera is entirely usable without a mouse. Again, a phone feature.

The whole phone thing is nice, as it would be nice to have a single browser across multiple platforms. But as my phone provider still looks at net traffic like some form of diamonds flowing through the air available only to businesses with gobs of money, I wouldn't know.

The bookmark manager is solid. It's easy to move things between pages and the color changes based on if it has updated since you last visited. I think that's why the color changes, anyway. You can give bookmark shortcut names to use in the address bar. slashdot.org could be shortened to [sla](#), for example. Bookmarks can be dragged around and added to any panel you want just like buttons.

Some of these you can get in firefox through extensions, some you can't. Opera's extensions

community, while nice, can't compare with FireFox's. But again, you can do more of the customization yourself. Also, a lot of the most popular FireFox extensions like mousegestures are there to implement Opera features... The Opera community doesn't need to be as active, because the Opera developers are very active.

Again, there are a lot of nice features of Opera hidden in there. I use it both at home and at work, and have made a few converts out of people. The question is if a person really wants to try out the advanced features and learn to use them, or if they just want to use a straightforward browser with an un-cluttered interface. Firefox seems to be better at the latter, while Opera has a lot more advanced features that can help make the web developer or the heavy surfer's life a little easier.

That can answer your features question even if you don't read it. But to sum things up, if you like customizing and starting out with the bare minimum, you'll obviously like FF. But for those that want everything in one convenient and small package, like me, you'll like Opera.

I paid for Opera, but now that it's free as in beer, I don't mind. They make a damn good browser!

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [Lijitsu](#) on Thu, 22 Sep 2005 04:27:12 GMT

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He made a convert out of me. IE is fine and all, but the features I saw him talking about will really help.

Goes to download Opera.

Edit: Thank you.

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [Blazer](#) on Thu, 22 Sep 2005 10:02:40 GMT

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<http://img121.exs.cx/img121/1651/getfirefox7qf.png>

[Edit: Crimson made it clickable because she was sick of the thread being warped]

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [Dr. Lithius](#) on Thu, 22 Sep 2005 10:34:43 GMT

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That is entirely unacceptable behavior!! . . .you need two hot chicks. . .and maybe a Ferrari and some Nathan's Famous Hot Dogs to sell Firefox. And a mile-wide stone face carved on Mars.

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [Mindtzar](#) on Thu, 22 Sep 2005 11:15:06 GMT

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Opera has a ton of lame features X-(

And if you really want a BitTorrent client and spell checker and other tacky crap. Just download the plugins for FireFox. FireFox and Opera both use the same engine anyway.

And the other day I had an idiot called "Majin" or "Jamie Christie" try and tell me Opera was better, and he listed the features. And I'm like "Who the hell wants a bit torrent client intergrated into a WEB BROWSER".

<majin.vegeta999@gmail.com says> firefox isn't as secure as opera and is probably not as secure as ie, more hackers target ie and not firefox and faster

<Mindtzar@gmail.com says> you complete dolt. FireFox and Opera use the same HTML rendering engine and other security features, and the similarties don't end there. Don't act as if you know anything about the security related side.

Then he tried to tell me it was more secure and faster, even though they use the same engine

-__-

FireFox rains supreme.

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [Renx](#) on Thu, 22 Sep 2005 11:27:41 GMT

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Nothing you just said makes firefox look any better. All you did was complain about a tiny integrated feature that you don't use. It's not doing any harm being there, is it?

I don't know what you have again the spell checker. With the way you and others flame people around here, I'm surprised you're not promoting it instead...

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [Mindtzar](#) on Thu, 22 Sep 2005 11:32:06 GMT

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I wasn't trying to make FireFox look any better, I just think all a lot of the intergrated features are pointless and that maj1n is flaming idiot.

[edit]

And that I think FireFox rains supreme over most other browsers.

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [Dan](#) on Thu, 22 Sep 2005 11:43:23 GMT

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Well I like Opera. The voice commands are pretty nifty, even if I don't use it all. I'm still getting used to it, but I do like Opera. Although I shall keep IE, FireFox and Opera installed on my computer.

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [ScythaR](#) on Thu, 22 Sep 2005 11:44:45 GMT

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Mindtzar wrote on Thu, 22 September 2005 07:15

FireFox rains supreme.

Reigns

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [DoitlE](#) on Thu, 22 Sep 2005 11:59:02 GMT

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Eye-Ronny

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [almor999](#) on Thu, 22 Sep 2005 13:26:32 GMT

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I have been using Opera for a while now and I prefer it over firefox. Opera has the best tabbed browsing I have ever seen and I like the built-in email client.

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Thu, 22 Sep 2005 16:13:03 GMT

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I much prefer Firefox over Opera. I did download Opera, and I used it for a few, but it's just not desirable to me to use.

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [Dan](#) on Thu, 22 Sep 2005 16:37:02 GMT

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I'm going to try it out for a few days, before drawing any conclusion. I like the tabbed browsing by default, although I am aware that FireFox has tabbed browsing too, it seems a bit easier for me on Opera for some reason. I also liked the voice browsing, but that lost its magic quite quickly :>

Unfortunately, I've already found a few kinks and a webpage that doesn't seem to display correctly. For example, sometimes when I try to highlight text, such as in an area where I am typing this message, it doesn't actually highlight, and I have to do it again, small but inconvenient. Also, www.ctrlaltdel-online.com the side menu's text doesn't seem to align correctly, and www.the-inquirer.net's articles don't seem to load most of the time on Opera, and FireFox sometimes has difficulty to, for that I blame the site.

The popup blocker in Opera seems to be slightly better than that of FireFox's too.

I do like Opera and FireFox just about equally, and I am going to continue to explore both of them before I decide which browser I prefer. They both have more than enough features that I myself use. I think it will boil down to how each browser 'feels' and performs for me.

[EDIT] Oh, and Blazer that image really does fuck up this whole post, change the size of it or something at least.

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [rm5248](#) on Thu, 22 Sep 2005 19:55:26 GMT

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Some of my school's computers have Firefox on them, although I do like Opera a bit better than Firefox.

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [YSLMuffins](#) on Thu, 22 Sep 2005 20:17:50 GMT

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Dan, those kinks might be Javascript things. Try disabling it from the tools menu>quick preferences.

Edit: at least, that's how some sites keep me from highlighting text.

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [icedog90](#) on Fri, 23 Sep 2005 06:24:57 GMT

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For some reason I just don't want to change from Firefox to something else. I like Firefox just fine, it isn't missing features that I want.

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [Crimson](#) on Fri, 23 Sep 2005 14:55:09 GMT

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There's a tabbed browsing plugin for Firefox that gives you a lot of control over the tabs so you can make them do what you want. I'm the type that would rather install the features I want and customize how I use it. I'm glad Opera went free... whatever helps get people away from IE is all right by me.

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [Aircraftkiller](#) on Fri, 23 Sep 2005 15:25:16 GMT

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I'd rather just have it instead of having to go look for it.

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Fri, 23 Sep 2005 15:45:13 GMT

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I don't like bulk, and I'd much rather have to add things on that I want rather than having more than I care to have. If I want/need something, it's not hard to find what I want and install it.

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [Oblivion165](#) on Fri, 23 Sep 2005 15:54:31 GMT

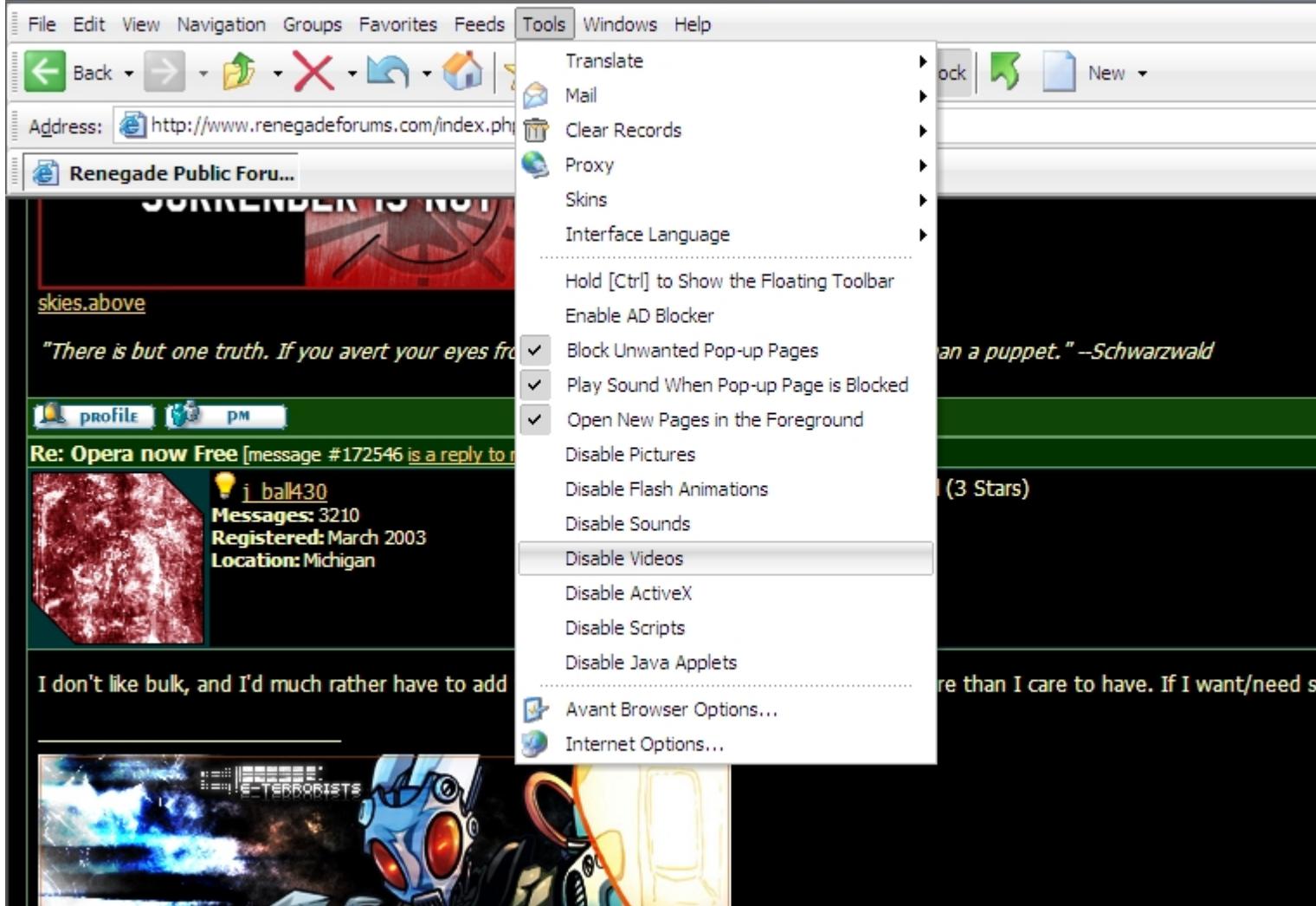
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i really like Avant. IE (Wrapper ?)

It uses IE, so it's not all buggy, but uses Tabs for multiple windows, and has a load of features added in.

File Attachments

1) [Clipboard01.jpg](#), downloaded 438 times



The screenshot shows the Avant Browser interface. The 'Tools' menu is open, displaying various options like 'Translate', 'Mail', and 'Proxy'. A sub-menu for 'Block Unwanted Pop-up Pages' is also open, with 'Disable Videos' highlighted. The main browser window shows a forum post from 'skies.above' with a quote from 'j_ball430' and a reply from 'Aircraftkiller'.

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [Aircraftkiller](#) on Fri, 23 Sep 2005 19:05:54 GMT

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How is that bulk? Bulk in terms of megabytes? Or bulk in terms of options you want but would rather download?

That makes very little sense if you mean the last option. If you already get everything you want with Opera, what's the point in spending more of your time just to find a bunch of "extensions" to upgrade its functionality? IE does what Firefox does without extensions, so why not just use that instead?

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Fri, 23 Sep 2005 19:19:04 GMT

Internet Explorer is an abomination to all web browsers. I would never subject myself to such a piss poor and slow browser.

Bulk as in I don't care for all the extra extensions if I don't need them. It's just more to go sift through for me. I don't have anything against Opera for that, but I'd much rather use Firefox because of a personal preference. There's a reason why people use different browsers. Different browsers fit different preferences.

Subject: Re: Opera now Free

Posted by [Dan](#) on Fri, 23 Sep 2005 21:27:34 GMT

You both have good points.

In Opera, the extra features you might want are nearly always already there, but in FireFox there are loads of extensions to plug in. In terms of speed, I havent noticed much of a difference between FireFox and Opera, and I have noticed a few things which don't seem to display correctly in Opera, just a few tables, but then again, that could just be my settings.

I prefer the Transfer screen in Opera than in FireFox, I'm not sure why, but I prefer the feel to it.

I think that Opera and FireFox are both good browsers, and really, just picking between them really seems to just boil down to personal preference. I myself will be using Opera from now on, simply because I like the feel of it and there don't seem to be any major changes between FireFox and Opera in terms of performance, just the appearance really.
