

# Accessing the Internet

## Mozilla Firefox

<http://www.mozilla-europe.org/en/products/firefox/>



Firefox is an excellent alternative web browser to Internet Explorer. It is packed full of similar features to other web browsers, as well as having a whole host of add-ons (two of which are described below).

The browser includes tabbed browsing, **session restore** if the browser crashes, **spell checking**, **search suggestions**, **integrated search**, **bookmarks**, **pop-up blocker** and a host of **accessibility options** (primarily for visual disabilities, though there are several add-ons for other types of access).

## Firefox - Mouseless Browser

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/879?id=879>



The Mouseless Browser add-on for Firefox allows you to browse the internet using only the number keys, or numberpad on your keyboard. It is an 'ID' based system that tags everything on a page, adding numbers next to links, so that you can simply type in a number, followed by enter to navigate. This can be useful for someone who does not have good mouse skills, or could be used in conjunction with a standard keyboard, on-screen keyboard, or an Intellikeys keyboard. As well as being able to navigate with the number keys, there are also some keyboard keys assigned for **page up**, **page down**, **page forward**, **page back** and to **go to the address bar**.

## Firefox - Mouse Gestures

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/39>



The Mouse Gestures add-on in Firefox allows a user to navigate the internet by using the mouse. The left, middle or right mouse button can be set so that when someone clicks and drags the mouse in a particular way, it will perform an action, including **page forward**, **page back**, **open a new tab**, **open a new window**, **close a tab** and **close a window**. It also includes some options for using the mouse scroll wheel for mouse gestures. The screen shot example shows how you can hold your mouse button down (right by default) and click and drag down and right to close the window. Mouse gestures can also be found in other web browsers, such as Opera, Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator.

## Internet Explorer

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/downloads/ie/getitnow.mspx>



Microsoft Internet Explorer is probably the most widely known and used web browser. It comes with all of the usual features of a typical web browser and includes various **keyboard shortcuts, accessibility features, pop-up blocker** and **increased security**. Like Firefox and Opera, there are several add-ons available for Internet Explorer such as screen reader add-ons and add-ons for increasing the visibility and changing the colours within the browser.

## Opera

<http://www.opera.com/download/>



Opera has many of the same features as the other web browsers that have already been described, including **mouse gestures** and **keyboard shortcuts**. There are also a number of **voice recognition** options built into the browser that allow a user to navigate using their voice. Another feature that has been built into Opera, is something called **Speed Dial**, this brings up a page when you first launch the browser that has nine large thumbnail windows that can be set with any predefined websites, which can then be navigated to with a simple click when you start the browser.

## Qualiweb Lite

<http://www.qualilife.co.uk/html/downloads.html>



Qualife produce a large range of software with a host of accessibility options, including Qualiweb Pro. They also produce a free version of their web browser, called Qualiweb Lite, which doesn't have as many features as Qualiweb Pro, but is still packed with a wide range of accessibility options, including **Auto Click Mouse, Auto Scan Mouse** (one switch), **Manual Scan Mouse** (two switches), **XY Mouse, Radar Mouse** and **Direction Mouse**. There are also options to add a visual effect to the mouse click and include a sound on the mouse click. There is also a **screen reader** and some **speech recognition** options included in the browser.

## Communicate: Webwide

<http://www.widgit.com/products/webwide/index.htm>



Communicate: Webwide is a web browser that allows someone to symbolate websites. It includes the **Widgit Literacy Symbols** (formally Rebus) and can be set to automatically add symbols the text on a web page. There are a number of features in the software to change how a web page is displayed, you can view websites normally, with a simplified layout, or with symbol support (over 29 000 black and white or colour Widgit Literacy Symbols). There are options to view text only versions of websites, to change the colours on a page and to have full speech support. An **easy access manager** has been included for storing your favourite websites. The software can be set up with different user logins, so that you can save your setups under different user names.

## The Grid 2

<http://www.sensorysoftware.com/thegrid2.html>



The Grid 2 is authoring software that can help someone with unclear or no speech to communicate. It can also be used to create grids that can send information, text and commands to other software, making it a very powerful program, particularly for those who cannot use, or have difficulty with a standard mouse or keyboard. The Grid 2 has a huge array of access options, including **dwll, radar mouse, mouse clicks, switch access** and many others and can therefore be tailored to suit an individual. One example would be to make a switch accessible numberpad grid that could be used with the previously mentioned Mouseless Browser in Firefox:



## Other Web Browsers and Applications:

### Browsealoud

[http://www.browsealoud.com/page.asp?pg\\_id=80004](http://www.browsealoud.com/page.asp?pg_id=80004)

This is a free download that speaks all text on a web page as you hover your mouse over that text.

### KidRocket

<http://kidrocket.org/>

KidRocket is a child friendly web browser that includes some games, math and art pages. Certain websites are currently locked in the software and others cannot be added for children to visit, but this should be rectified in a later version.

### Netscape Navigator

<http://browser.netscape.com/>

This is an alternative web browser, made by Mozilla who also produce Firefox and has many of the same features as well as the option to use Firefox add-ons.