

How to Use Tor & DuckDuckGo for Private Internet Browsing & Searching

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There are tons of perfectly sensible reasons why anyone might like to conduct their online web browsing and Internet searches securely and privately.

Law-abiding citizens, researchers, advocates and activists, politicians and yes, even criminals, might want their Internet activity to remain beyond the reach of government monitoring or invasive marketing and personal data monetization by search engine companies. We still (ostensibly) have those rights as Americans, and we don't need to justify to anyone why we wish to exercise the protections guaranteed to us under the Fourth Amendment.

This handout gives you what you need to know to get started using two of the simplest and most effective ways of doing just that: the Tor browser, and the DuckDuckGo search engine.

Tor Browser

Tor (The Onion Router) is an open-source software project created by Internet security experts and an army of privacy-minded volunteers. It was originally developed with the U.S. Navy in mind, for the primary purpose of protecting government communications. Today, it is used every day for a wide variety of purposes by normal people, the military, journalists, law enforcement officers, activists, and many others.

You can download and use Tor free, anytime you like, on your Mac. Using the Tor browser protects your privacy and provides strong end-to-end encryptions for your web surfing activities, for whatever reason you choose.

To use Tor on your Mac:

1. Open Safari and go to torproject.org
2. Click the large Download button on the Tor Project home page and follow the instructions on the next screen to start the download.
3. Once the download completes, open your Downloads folder. From the Finder menu, click Go and then click on Downloads. The Tor Browser file will be named starting with *TorBrowserBundle...*
4. Double-click the downloaded file from Step 3. Your Mac will un-Zip the Tor Browser, and replace the downloaded ZIP file with a new application icon for the Tor Browser.
5. Drag the Tor Browser icon to your Applications folder in the Finder window sidebar
6. From the Finder Go menu, choose Applications
7. Find the Tor Browser in your Applications folder
8. Double-click on the Tor icon to start the Tor Browser.

Using the Tor browser is slower than a regular browser like Safari. That's because all of the traffic between your computer and the target site is patched through at least three encrypted servers spread all across the globe, so loading pages and watching videos will take a little longer than usual.

DuckDuckGo Search Engine

If you'd like to keep your Internet searches private and keep information about what you search for out of the hands of classified-advertising companies, marketers and advertisers, you can try the DuckDuckGo search engine on your Mac or iPad/iPhone.

On your Mac:

1. Open Safari and go to ddg.gg
2. At the bottom of the DuckDuckGo home page, click "Add to Browser"
3. Click "Install Safari extension"
4. A small file will download to your computer

5. Find the downloaded file in your Downloads folder. From the Finder menu, click Go and then click on Downloads. The DuckDuckGo Extension will be named *duckduckgo.safariextz*
6. Double-click the Safari extension downloaded in step 5. Safari will prompt for permission to install the DuckDuckGo extension.
7. To adjust the settings of the DuckDuckGo extension:
 1. In Safari, choose Preferences from the Safari menu
 2. Click on the Extensions tab

Now you can use DuckDuckGo as your default search engine right from the Safari omni bar. Just type your search terms (with or without the optional DDG !bang modifiers) into the omni bar and DuckDuckGo will process your search request, privately and securely.

On your iPad/iPhone:

The security features Apple has built into iOS currently prevent browser add-ons like the DuckDuckGo browser extension for Safari on Mac. But you can still quickly and easily make DuckDuckGo your default search engine on your iPad or iPhone. Here's how:

1. Tap Safari
2. In the address/search bar, type **ddg.gg**, then tap **Go**
3. The DuckDuckGo mobile home page opens
4. Tap the share button
5. Tap Add to Home Screen
6. Tap Add

You will now have a DuckDuckGo icon on your iPhone or iPad screen, which you can drag to your icon dock, replacing the Safari icon if you like.

Then whenever you need to find something on the Internet, just tap the DuckDuckGo icon and enter your search. You're still using the secure, encrypted, private search features of DuckDuckGo, within the Safari browser, without any extra steps!

For more information about Tor:

torproject.org → About Tor

For more information about DuckDuckGo:

duckduckgo.com/about