

Subject: browser wars

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I often talk about how important it is that students introduce us to new tools, and that we evolve our tools (except emacs of course 😊)

Yesterday Lucas introduced me to the browser Brave:

<https://brave.com/>

So far I am impressed. It has two things I like:

- bookmarks on a drop down menu
- a built-in ad blocker that seems to work really well

Lucas is more familiar with these browsers than I am, but from what I understand, the lineage of Brave is:

Google Chrome => Chromium => Brave

Chrome began as Google's answer to Microsoft. It was supposed to be a fast, lightweight browser. It has become bloated and slow.

Chromium is an open source project based on Chrome that, interestingly, Google is part of. Chromium has IMHO been languishing a bit - it hasn't really taken off. Google Chrome still owns about 65% of the browser market.

Brave is one of several open source projects that are offshoots of Chromium. It seems to be an impressive project. I like that it emphasizes privacy and seems to be really good at having its ad blocker not be detected by web sites.

Here is an overview of the different browsers available:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_web_browsers

As I mentioned recently, Chrome, Firefox and Safari are all having problems with ads these days - browsing has become painfully slow and you often have to wait seconds for web pages to complete so you can click through them. It is very frustrating to sit at the end of a 1Gbps Internet connection and watch your browser crawl.

So far, Brave seems to be a decent option.

-Joe