Avast® Secure Browser

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The goal of this short guide is to introduce the key features of Avast Secure Browser, in order to help optimize the end-user experience. Please let Avast PR know if you would like a demo session in order to dive more deeply into its entire functionality or feature set.
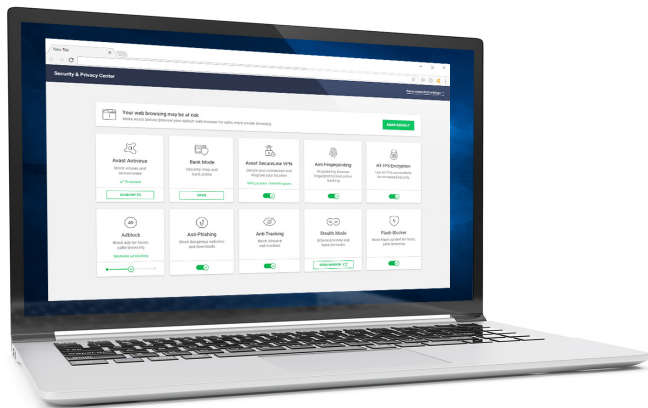
Avast® Secure Browser
REVIEWER'S GUIDE 2018

A The browser is your passport to the web
It's time to stop leaving it exposed and vulnerable

As experienced engineers of consumer security products, Avast strives to secure every aspect of the users' digital life. And since most of us spend an increasing portion of those lives online, we've focused on transforming the power of our world-leading software expertise into a simple, secure, all-in-one browser.

Consumers are connected 24/7 and expect to get online whenever they want — as fast as they can. Avast aims to make the online experience as safe and convenient as possible with Avast Secure Browser. That means protection against cyber thieves, invasive advertisers, and intruders invading user privacy by following their lives online.

The browser is essentially the OS of the internet. It is where people commune, collaborate, work, research, shop, bank, sign important documents, communicate, consume entertainment, and live their digital lives. Unfortunately, all this potential for connecting, working, and playing, also leads to a high level of potential risk.

When we browse without any security features or unknowingly don't have them engaged (which is often the case due to the default settings in leading browsers) we open ourselves up to hackers. Thieves can steal identities, 'borrow' our credit card information to make purchases from others accounts, or simply pass on browsing habits to others, making a profit exploiting our privacy.

This is why the security and privacy of the browser is — and will be — at the top of the priority list for consumers in coming years. And, the more users browse, the more likely they'll be targeted by criminals and crooks looking to exploit them.

Those who do offer security features treat it secondary to performance, or bury those features deep within settings which many users don't access. The Avast Secure Browser offers a high level of performance, whilst introducing a dedicated user console to better manage their online security and privacy.

The best part? It includes added protection from the world's foremost cybersecurity experts, including expert banking and password security. Furthermore, users will get a free 7-day VPN trial (with an extra 60 days with credit card information) to access a completely locked-down browsing environment. In short, it's everything a user needs to stay more secure online, and they don't have to do anything out of the ordinary to get it.

A user can access all these features from the Security & Privacy Center, to suit their everyday browsing needs.

Since most individuals either adopt whatever browser that comes with thier desktop, or live in ignorance of the settings for security features, they are at risk of computer hackers, identity theft, spying, malware and more — every time they go online.

In upgrading the SafeZone Browser to the improved Avast Secure Browser, we hope to deliver the security and privacy users need, whilst respecting the performance and ease of use that consumers have come to demand from a browsing experience — no one wants to cruise the internet at the speed of molasses. No one.

B The Avast consumer approach
A browser with a view

To improve browser security, we designed this one with a dedicated Security & Privacy Center to keep users protected, informed and private online.

The Security & Privacy Center is at the heart of what makes Avast Secure Browser unique to any others. Friendly and simple, it allows new and experienced users alike to easily find and control security settings. Its central location and easy-to-understand features means everyone will have the tools they need to maximize their enjoyment of time online. In short: we make the complex simple, and let the user make the browser their own.

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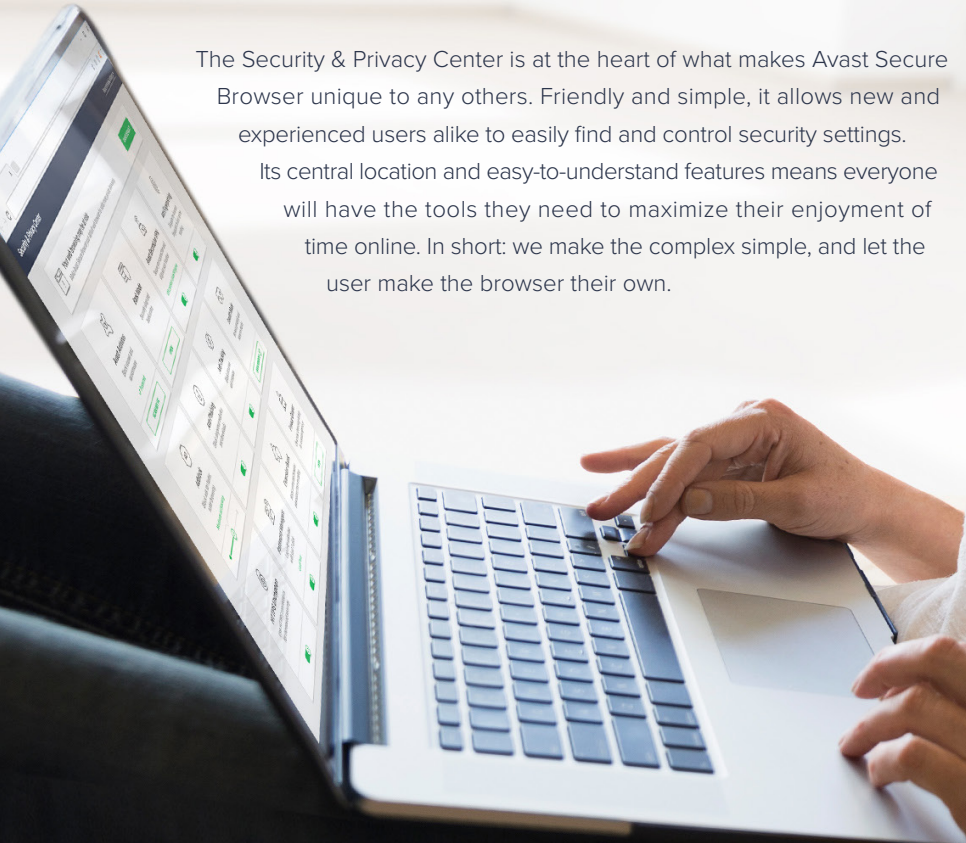
C Privacy

Staying private while browsing online is almost impossible with ad networks and ad tracking companies finding ever more sophisticated ways to track your digital life.

Worse still, most users are unaware of the many privacy-enhancing features in modern browsers, or simply misunderstand how they work. Most users incorrectly believe that Chrome's Incognito Mode prevents websites from tracking their activity. They may also be unaware that the few privacy-enhancing tools their browser does have, may in fact be turned "off" by default — therefore, unless they manually turn them on, users will not get the privacy benefits they expect.

Avast solves this problem by having a majority of the privacy features turned on by default, and by making it very obvious to users where the important security and privacy features can be found.

That way, users can adjust them as needed, whenever they like. In addition, we have also equipped the browser with our unique

Anti-Tracking feature, which automatically blocks scripts that would follow your online activity across multiple websites.

Furthermore, as mentioned earlier in this guide, each installation comes with 7 free days (plus 60 more with credit card) of Avast SecureLine VPN, the best tool for keeping your browsing private on open networks.

C Product overview
Privacy - features and benefits

Anti-Fingerprinting
Disguise my browser fingerprint to limit online tracking

What is Anti-Fingerprinting?
Anti-Fingerprinting disguises your unique browser fingerprint (e.g., browser version, language, timezone, add-ons, etc.) to help prevent websites from identifying and tracking you without your consent.

Why do I need it?
Websites and ad networks are getting smarter. Instead of relying on cookies and your IP address to identify you, they're now using your unique browser configuration to track you. Anti-Fingerprinting hides your browser information from sites to help protect your privacy and limit online tracking. (Note: This feature may "break" certain websites by hiding information the sites need to work. We therefore recommend using this feature only when needed.)
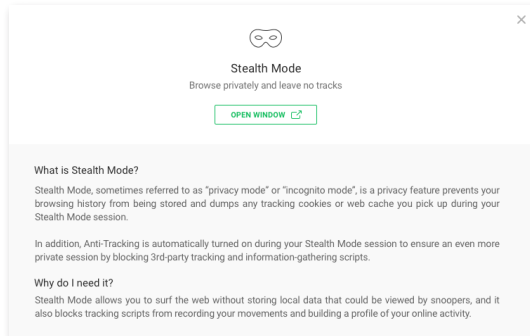
Stealth Mode
Doesn't save users' browsing histories and dumps any tracking cookies or web caches they pick up during their browsing session. In addition, it automatically activates Anti-Tracking, HTTPS Encryption and Anti-Phishing.

Can be launched from the top of the 3-dot menu in the top-right of the browser window.

Stealth Mode
Browse privately and leave no tracks

OPEN WINDOW

What is Stealth Mode?
Stealth Mode, sometimes referred to as "privacy mode" or "incognito mode", is a privacy feature prevents your browsing history from being stored and dumps any tracking cookies or web cache you pick up during your Stealth Mode session.

In addition, Anti-Tracking is automatically turned on during your Stealth Mode session to ensure an even more private session by blocking 3rd-party tracking and information-gathering scripts.

Why do I need it?
Stealth Mode allows you to surf the web without storing local data that could be viewed by snoopers, and it also blocks tracking scripts from recording your movements and building a profile of your online activity.

Privacy Cleaner
Cleans users' browser history, cached images, cookies, and other junk with just one click, to keep their activity private and free up disk space.

HTTPS Encryption
Forces supported websites to encrypt themselves, hiding all data handled by the browser to ensure no one else can read it.
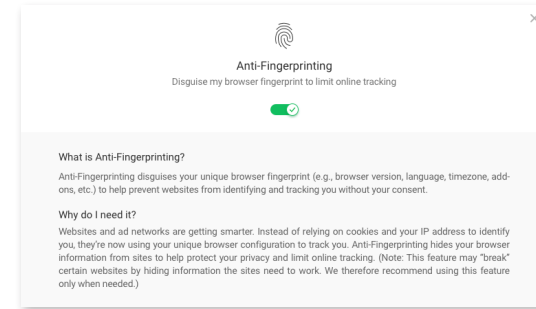
Anti-Tracking
Protects users' privacy by preventing websites, advertisers, and other web services from tracking their online activity.

The three features above can be accessed from the Security & Privacy Center.

Anti-Fingerprinting
Stops websites from identifying a user by hiding their unique browser profile, which includes information like browser version, language settings, add-ons, and more. We've added detail here for those who appreciate more technical specs, however, this feature is still in beta whilst we continue to develop a new technology - what we call "Herd Anonymity" - a way for the browser to blend in and be less identifiable. This feature is off by default as it may "break" some websites.

This feature can be tested by going to https://panopticlick.eff.org/ to see that changes that are made to the browser's "User Agent", or one specific element of the digital fingerprint, which contains technical details about your device and browser.

D Protection

Attacks on personal banking accounts and a growing interest in cryptocurrencies means our browsers are more vulnerable than ever before.

Bank Mode protects users from malicious keypad logs or password hackers, as well as crypto hijacking, while the Extension Guard feature protects them from dangerous or unsafe browser extensions.

Malware that tries to steal data or force your computer to mine bitcoin has become more prevalent than ever before: over 2,500 online stores were recently discovered to be "Cryptojacked", stealing visitors' CPU power to mine bitcoins. An astonishing 80% of them also had malware that would steal credit card information.
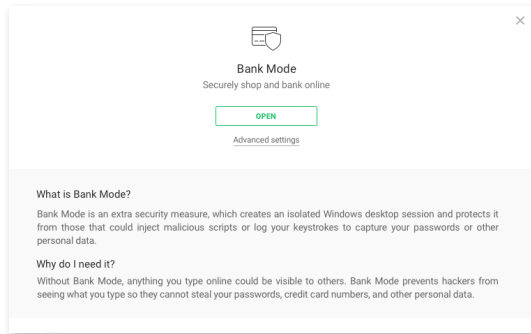
Most browsers rely on third-party extensions to add incremental security and privacy, but Avast Secure Browser has everything users need built in from the start.

The same Anti-Tracking technology that keeps your browsing habits private also stops third-party scripts, the source of most cryptojacking attacks, from running on the websites you visit. This not only improves your performance, but also keeps your CPU safe.

Finally, Avast Secure Browser uses the latest version of Chromium, which ensures a strong, secure, and trusted foundation on which to build and improve the browser experience.

D Product overview
Protection - features and benefits

Bank Mode
Securely shop and bank online

OPEN

Advanced settings

What is Bank Mode?
Bank Mode is an extra security measure, which creates an isolated Windows desktop session and protects it from those that could inject malicious scripts or log your keystrokes to capture your passwords or other personal data.

Why do I need it?
Without Bank Mode, anything you type online could be visible to others. Bank Mode prevents hackers from seeing what you type so they cannot steal your passwords, credit card numbers, and other personal data.

Bank Mode

Prevents hackers from seeing what users type so they cannot steal passwords, credit card numbers, or other personal data.

Requires Avast Antivirus to be installed. Can be launched from the 3-dot menu top-right of the browser window. You will receive a prompt to switch to Bank Mode when navigating to some banking sites and cryptocurrency buying/selling exchanges.

Extension Guard

Keeps users safer by blocking unreputable add-ons or plugins, while letting users install the ones that are known and trusted.
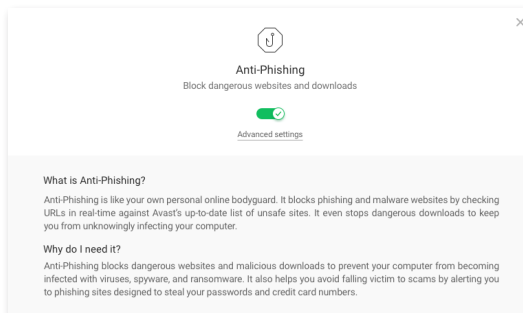
If this feature is enabled from the Security & Privacy Center, a notification is displayed when the user tries to install an extension from the Chrome Web Store.

Anti-Phishing

Blocks malicious websites and downloads to prevent your PC from becoming infected with viruses, spyware, and ransomware.

Anti-Phishing
Block dangerous websites and downloads

Advanced settings

What is Anti-Phishing?
Anti-Phishing is like your own personal online bodyguard. It blocks phishing and malware websites by checking URLs in real-time against Avast's up-to-date list of unsafe sites. It even stops dangerous downloads to keep you from unknowingly infecting your computer.

Why do I need it?
Anti-Phishing blocks dangerous websites and malicious downloads to prevent your computer from becoming infected with viruses, spyware, and ransomware. It also helps you avoid falling victim to scams by alerting you to phishing sites designed to steal your passwords and credit card numbers.

Flash Protect

Flash has been heavily criticized for hogging computer resources, killing battery life, and opening computers up to numerous security vulnerabilities. Now that HTML5 has arrived, people have a safer, faster alternative to playing videos and animations online, and Flash-based content is slowly becoming extinct. This can be controlled from the Security & Privacy Center.

To test this you can visit a page that loads Flash content, such as a game on Miniclip https://www.miniclip.com/.

Password Manager

Safely store, create, and autofill your login credentials for your favorite sites.

This feature can be controlled from the Security & Privacy Center, where you can select your preferred password manager application.

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E Performance

Ads are more than an annoying eyesore: they can slow your browsing down, or even contain malicious content.

To achieve its goal of creating an improved browsing experience, it's imperative to ensure users can browse fast. Avast Secure Browser boosts your performance and your security with a built-up Adblock, which can be turned on and off with the click of a button.

The user interface is designed to be easy to read and understand. A clutter-free UI means increased clarity, transparency, and ease of use, reducing the friction of prolonged use. Additionally, if the user tries to download any threatening or simply untrusted browser

add-ons, Avast Secure Browser will warn them of the danger, preventing a slow-down or a security risk. Cryptojacking also causes performance problems when it 'borrows' a user's CPU - but with Anti-Tracking, these attacks are prevented, meaning nothing will slow down Avast Secure Browser.
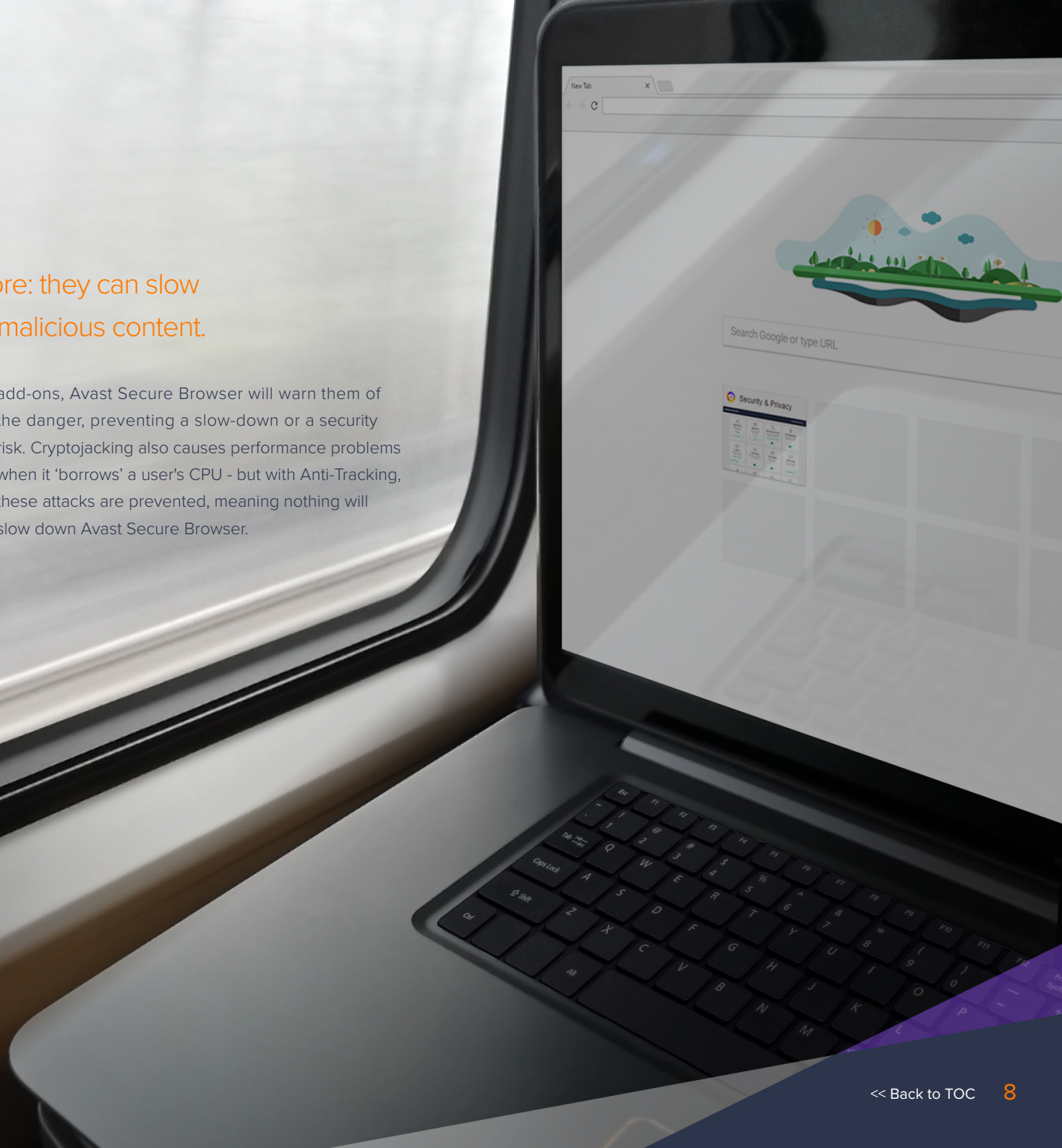
E Product overview
Performance - features and benefits
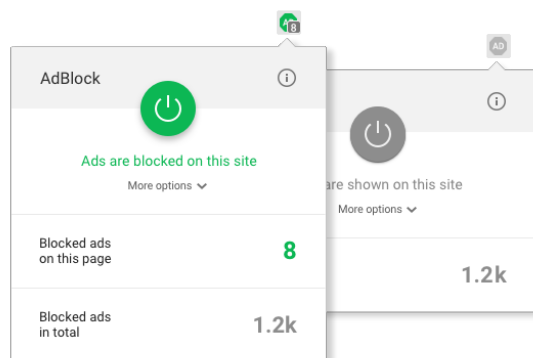
Adblock

Stops ads to help web pages load faster, while giving users the flexibility to choose whether they want to block every ad, or just the more aggressive and intrusive ones.

The level of ad blocking can be controlled from the Security & Privacy Center or toggled on and off from the toolbar icon located at the top right of the browser window.
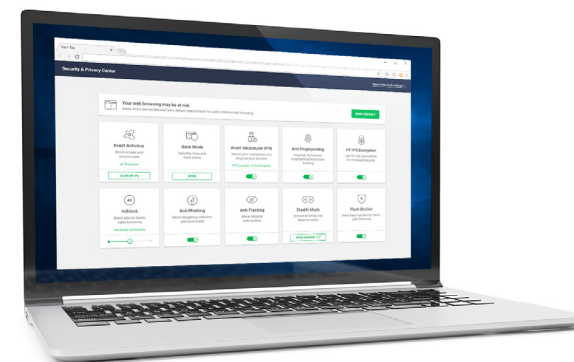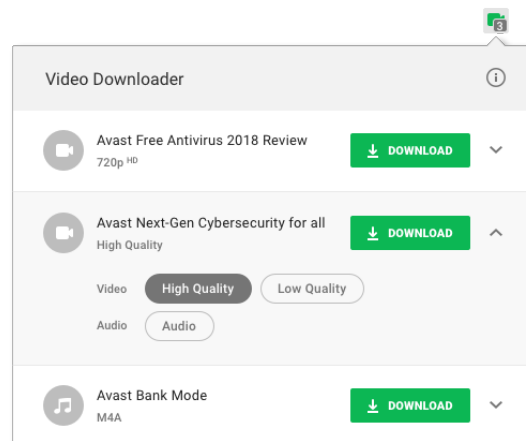
AdBlock

Ads are blocked on this site
More options

Blocked ads on this page	8
Blocked ads in total	1.2k

are shown on this site
More options

1.2k

Video Downloader

Enables users to download media from their favourite video sites. We support all the popular video sites including Vimeo and DailyMotion.

To test, when you visit one of these sites, simply click the Video Downloader icon top right of the browser window to view a list of videos that are available to download. You can also click on the download button that shows when you mouse over your chosen video.

Video Downloader

Avast Free Antivirus 2018 Review	720p HD	DOWNLOAD
Avast Next-Gen Cybersecurity for all	High Quality	DOWNLOAD

Video High Quality Low Quality
Audio Audio

Avast Bank Mode	M4A	DOWNLOAD

Chromium Foundation

Avast Secure Browser is built on Chromium, the world's largest open source browser platform. Browsers such as Google Chrome, Opera, UC Browser, Microsoft Edge for Android, etc. are all built using it as a base. As a result, Chromium's core underlying platform and rendering engine are cutting edge, making it the fastest, most secure option available.

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F Feature to feature
Avast offers more

How Avast's key features compare alongside other leading browsers.

With a focus on uncluttered user browsing experience, performance, and the "Security & Privacy Console" for security management and education, the feature set is different from the start. Not listed here, but key to note, is a 60 day free trial* of Avast SecureLine VPN — aimed to help the user experience how all of these tools work in concert to protect their digital life from every angle.

* 60 days free with credit card information. A preliminary seven days free trial is offered before the request for credit card information as well.

	Avast Secure Browser	Google Chrome	Mozilla Firefox	Microsoft Edge
Built-in Adblock	●	●	–	–
Anti-Tracking (on by default)	●	–	–	–
True 'Private Browsing' Mode **	●	–	●	–
Bank Mode	●	–	–	–
Security & Privacy Center	●	–	–	–
Built-in Password Manager	●	●	●	–
Forced HTTPS Encryption	●	–	–	–
Supports Extensions/Add-ons	●	●	●	●*
Built-in Video Downloader	●	–	–	–
Support for themes	–	●	●	–
Chromecast Support	●	●	–	–
Available for Mobile	–	●	●	●
Windows Version Support	7+	7+	7+	10

* Requires Avast Antivirus to be installed
** True private browsing - Anti-Tracking, Anti-Phishing and HTTPS Encryption forced on.

G Connect & download the product
Download a review copy

Download the Avast Secure Browser using the link below.
To contact a technical product manager with any questions,
please reach out to your local PR contact.

Avast Secure Browser is a newly upgraded and improved version of Avast SafeZone Browser.

Users who previously used SafeZone Browser will automatically receive Avast Secure Browser as part of a regular monthly update n March 2018.

Future platform plans are in progress and include Android and other mobile platforms of Avast Secure Browser.

Download

Available to download for free from
https://www.avast.com/secure-browser

Specifications

• Available for Windows 7+

• Requires 400MB of hard disk space

• Based on Chromium

• Supported languages include: English, French, Portuguese (Brazilian), German, Russian, Spanish (International), Italian, Dutch, Polish, Japanese, Swedish, Czech, Danish, Finnish, Norwegian

Global leaders in digital security products

Avast (www.avast.com) protects over 400 million people online using an unrivaled library of security software distributed under the Avast and AVG brands. Using an advanced threat detection network and machine learning algorithms, Avast is able to detect, identify, and stop any and all threats that may try to infect or compromise the data, devices, and digital lives of our users.

Avast digital security products for mobile, PC and Mac are top-ranked and certified by VB100, AVComparatives, AV-TEST, OPSWAT, ICSA Labs, West Coast Labs, and more.

Avast PR & Technical
contact information

If you have any questions about Avast Secure Browser for your review, or would like to request screenshots, graphics or additional materials, please contact: pr@avast.com. You can find a media kit at Avast.com. We have technical product experts who can quickly get in touch to help you through any of your product testing scenarios or questions.