How to clear your browsing history including your cache

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On this page:

Context Answer

> Firefox - any version (Macintosh, Windows, Linux) Internet Explorer 8 and later (Windows) Safari - any version (Windows & Macintosh) Google Chrome - any version (Windows & Macintosh) Microsoft Edge - any version

Context

- When accessing a website that contains private personal information (your online bank account, Atlas, web mail) from a shared or public computer
- To avoid leaving an electronic paper trail in your browser
- To avoid storing private personal information on your MIT work station

Answer

- 1. Clear the cache in your browser. Just clearing your browser cache will delete any temporary internet files stored on your computer, such as graphics and other web page content, that help to load your web pages faster upon subsequent visits. This option **will not** clear your browser's history.
- 2. Clear your browsing history (recommended steps listed below). This will delete more than just your cache. It will also delete the list of sites you've recently visited, your download history, your form and search bar history, and cookies (such as site preferences and log in status information as well as passwords).

Firefox - any version (Macintosh, Windows, Linux)

Follow the steps below or see the Mozilla article: Clear Recent History.

- 1. Method 1: Follow the menu path: Firefox >> History >> Clear Recent History. If you don't have a Firefox button on the top left corner, follow Tools >> Clear Recent History.
- 2. Method 2: Use quick keys Control+Shift+Delete (PC) or Command+Shift+Delete (Mac).
- 3. Change the value for **Time range to clear** to: **Everything**, if you want ALL browsing history deleted. Or select a time range. Suggestion: If you only visited private information in the past few hours, you can just delete a past few hours' worth of browsing history.

🤲 🕙 💿 Clear Recent History		
Time range to clear:	Today 🗘	
Details	Last Hour Last Two Hours Last Four Hours	
	🗸 Today	
	Everything	

4. Click the triangle next to Details.

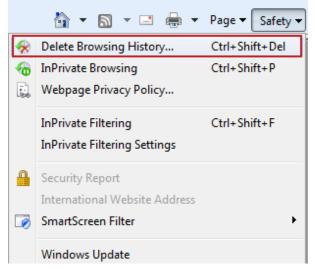
Result: Additional options are displayed. Check the boxes for all options. Click Clear Now.

Clear Recent History	
Time range to clear: Last Two Hours)
Details	
✓ Browsing & Download History	
☑ Form & Search History	
✓ Cookies	
☑ Cache	
✓ Active Logins	
Site Preferences	
Cancel Clear Now)

5. How to clear your browser's cache AUTOMATICALLY each time you close your browser: Follow the menu path: Tools >> Options >> Privacy (PC) or Firefox >> Preferences >> Privacy (Mac). Check the box for Clear history when Firefox closes.

Internet Explorer 8 and later (Windows)

1. Follow the menu path: Safety >> Delete Browsing History (IE 8)



or Menu >> Safety >> Delete Browsing History (IE 9)

		h ★ 🎕
	Print	+
	File	
	Zoom (100%)	
	Safety	
	View downloads	Ctrl+J
Manage add-ons		
	F12 developer tools	
	Go to pinned sites	
	Internet options	
	About Internet Explorer	

2. In the **Delete Browsing History** box, you have an option of only clearing certain elements or clearing everything. Select **Temporary** Internet Files just to clear the cache. When done selecting, click the **Delete** button at the bottom. If you opt to delete everything, you may receive a pop up asking if you are sure you want to delete all Internet Explorer browsing history. Click **Yes**.

Delete Browsing History
Preserve Favorites website data Keep cookies and temporary Internet files that enable your favorite websites to retain preferences and display faster.
Temporary Internet files Copies of webpages, images, and media that are saved for faster viewing.
Cookies Files stored on your computer by websites to save preferences such as login information.
✓ History List of websites you have visited.
Download History List of files you have downloaded.
Form data Saved information that you have typed into forms.
Passwords Saved passwords that are automatically filled in when you sign in to a website you've previously visited.
ActiveX Filtering and Tracking Protection data A list of websites excluded from filtering, and data used by Tracking Protection to detect where websites might be automatically sharing details about your visit.
About deleting browsing history Delete Cancel

3. How to clear your browser's cache AUTOMATICALLY each time you close your browser: Follow the menu path: **Tools >> Internet Options.** On the **Advanced** tab, check the box **Empty Temporary Internet Files folder when browser is closed**.

Safari - any version (Windows & Macintosh)

- 1. Follow the menu path: History >> Clear History...
- 2. The dialog box will ask "Are you sure you want to clear history?". Click Clear

Google Chrome - any version (Windows & Macintosh)

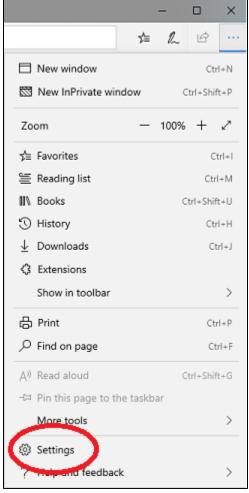
- 1. Follow the menu path: History >> Show Full History (Command+Y) for Mac or History (Ctrl+H) under the main menu for PC. When the History tab opens, select Clear all browsing data.
- 2. The dialog box will ask you to "Obliterate the following items". Select a period of time from the drop menu.
- 3. Select Clear browsing history and Empty the cache. Or select all options to clear all browsing data.

Clear browsing data	×
Obliterate the following items from: the beginning of time 💌	
Clear browsing history	
Clear download history	
Empty the cache	
Delete cookies and other site and plug-in data	
Clear saved passwords	
Clear saved Autofill form data	
Clear data from hosted apps	
Learn more Cancel Clear browsing dat	a

4. Press Clear browsing data.

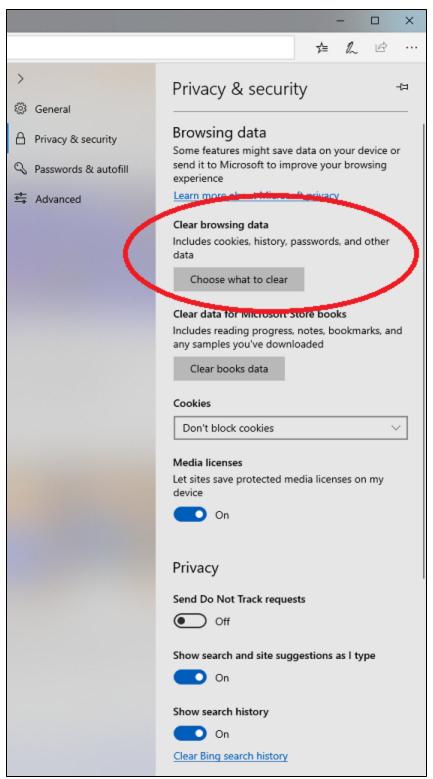
Microsoft Edge - any version

1. On the top right of the Microsoft Edge Window, press the ellipse menus "..." and press "Settings"



2. On the left side of the menu, select "Privacy & Security.

	- 🗆 X
	☆ & & …
> General	General -¤
Privacy & security Passwords & autofill Advanced	Default browser Do more with Microsoft Edge – the fast, new browser built for Windows 10 Change my default
	Customize
	Choose a theme
	Light ~
	Open Microsoft Edge with
	Start page \checkmark
	Open new tabs with
	"Top sites" and suggested content $\qquad \qquad \lor$
	Transfer favorites and other info
	Import or export
	Show the favorites bar
	Off Off
	Show the home button
	On
	Set your home page
	Start page \checkmark
	Show sites I frequently visit in "Top sites"
	On On
	Show definitions inline for
	On On



4. After selecting the items you want to clear (IS&T recommends clearing Browsing history, Cookies, and Cached data and files) press the Clear button to delete the selected items.

