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You can use your Android TV to stream TV shows and movies from services like Netflix and Amazon Prime Video, watch your locally-saved media via apps such as Kodi and Plex, and even stream games from your computer to your TV screen. However, your Android TV can also be used to browse the web. Unfortunately, no browser comes pre-installed on the stock version of the operating system. So, which is the best browser for Android TV? Here are the top options.
1. Puffin TV Browser
Many Android TV browsers do not work with your device's remote. You'll need to use a gaming controller or a smartphone app to operate and navigate around the app. We start, therefore, with Puffin TV Browser. This one does work with your Android TV's basic remote, making it an excellent choice for all users. The Puffin TV Browser has a version that's been specifically designed for Android TV boxes—it's not just a repurposed mobile Android app. The specially designed interface means Puffin is lightweight, fast, and easy on the eye. Other features include QR codes for adding your favorite sites to the app and support for Adobe Flash as and when it's needed. The browser's servers are based in the US, meaning you will see the American version of sites.
Download: Puffin TV Browser (Free)
2. Google Chrome
It's odd that Chrome does not come pre-installed on the Android TV operating system. It is perhaps even stranger that there's no dedicated Android TV version of the app, and it is not available in the Android TV Play Store. However, those oddities do not preclude you from installing Chrome on your Android TV. You can install the app on your Android TV box using the web version of the Play Store. Some devices will even let you install the app using a voice command. Using Google Chrome on Android TV has both pros and cons. On the pro side, if you're an existing Chrome user, you will have access to all your bookmarks, browsing history, and other synced content. One of the cons is that Chrome probably won't work with your existing Android TV remote, which makes it a little more awkward to use than some other options.
Download: Chrome (Free)
3. Mozilla Firefox
Firefox is another well-known desktop and mobile browser that you can sideload onto your Android TV device. Like Chrome, there is no dedicated Android TV version of Firefox. The lack of its presence on the Android TV Play Store is due to Google's restrictive requirements on what qualifies as an Android TV app. People who use Firefox on Android TV often point to its extensions as one of the app's core benefits. Unlike Google Chrome, almost all your extensions will work on the Android TV platform. Anecdotaly, lots of users also say that browsing YouTube is faster when using Firefox for Android TV than when using the official YouTube app. You may not experience the same results. Remember, you can easily manage Firefox or any other sideloaded apps on your Android TV, so don't let the sideloading aspect put you off.
Download: Firefox (Free)
4. TVWeb Browser
TVWeb Browser is more in the mold of Puffin TV Browser. It's a web browser that's specifically designed to run on the Android TV operating system. Navigation is simple. On the left-hand side of the screen, you have access to your favorite search engines, your bookmarks, and the settings menu, and that's all there is to it. In terms of features, TVWeb Browser offers integrated voice search, bookmarks, access to your browsing history, User Agent switching, customizable search engines, and an on-screen mouse pointer that you can control with your regular Android TV remote. TVWeb Browser is free to download and use.
Download: TVWeb Browser (Free)
5. TV Bro
TV Bro is an Android TV browser that has been specifically designed to work seamlessly with your Android TV remote. Key features include tabs, support for bookmarks, and even voice search support (again, via your TV remote). There's also an easy-to-use download manager, access to your browsing history, and support for shortcuts. Perhaps most importantly, TV Bro is entirely open-source. That means you can dig into the code and see how the app works, make sure it is safe, and check what data it collects. TV Bro uses Android's rendering engine and allows you to switch user agents.
Download: TV Bro (Free)
Other Ways to Browse the Web on Android TV
If none of the Android TV browsers we have looked at are sufficient to meet your needs, there are a couple of alternatives available to you. GameStream
If you own an Nvidia Shield and you should, as the Nvidia Shield is one of the best boxes for cord-cutters, you can use the device's GameStream feature to access your Windows desktop and thus use any desktop browser you choose. The process is possible because GameStream lets you manually add any game through the GeForce Experience app on your PC. If you add C:\Windows\System32\vmstsc.exe (the Remote Desktop Connection app) you can be looking at your computer's desktop in seconds. Of course, you will need to use your Android TV remote as the mouse, which could be tedious. If your Android TV box supports it, you could use a Bluetooth-enabled mouse instead. Cast Your Screen
Android TV boxes come with built-in Chromecast technology. As such, you can use Chromecast to cast your computer screen to your TV, again allowing you to use any desktop browser you've installed. The downside of using Chromecast to access a browser on Android TV is the lag. It will not be a suitable solution for some tasks, but it's more than adequate for streaming video and listening to audio. Which Is the Best Android TV Browser?
After looking at various options, and weighing up the pros and cons, we like Puffin TV Browser the most. It's clean, fast, and offers the right balance between features and usability. And if you would like to learn more about the Android TV, be sure to explore what the best Android TV launchers are. Slack securely scales up to support collaboration at the world's biggest companies.Meet Slack for EnterpriseTalk to sales85%of users say Slack has improved communication\*86%feel their ability to work remotely has improved\*68%feel more connected to their teams\* Using Splashtop SOS, you can now remotely view Android device screens in real-time and remotely access/control Android devices running Android 8 or later as well as other Android-based phones and tablets from Samsung, LG, and Lenovo. SOS is remote access/support software for IT, help desk, and support professionals to provide quick, attended support on Android, Windows, and Mac. With SOS, you can:
Remotely access/view Android phones and Android tablets running Android version 5 or later
Remotely control Android devices running Android 8.0 or later such as Asus, Essential, Google Pixel, OnePlus, HTC, Huawei, Honor, Motorola, Nokia, OPPO, Sony, Xiaomi, and ZTE
Remotely control some additional Samsung, Lenovo TAB 2 & 3, Yoga, and LG Android devices even if they aren't running Android 8 or later
Remotely access Windows and Mac computers from your Android devices
Looking for an unattended Android access solution or to incorporate Splashtop technology into your product? See the links at the bottom of this page for unattended and OEM options. Otherwise, continue on to learn about attended remote Android access with Splashtop SOS. How to remotely view Android tablet and Android phone screens
Get Splashtop SOS Sign up for SOS to remotely view an Android device with your Windows or Mac computer or from another Android device. You can use the service with a free trial or low-cost paid subscription. Download and start a free trial
Buy a low-cost subscription
SOS is a great value and costs much less than other attended support tools. It is based on proven Splashtop remote access technology, used by more than 20 million users worldwide. The mobile device access features are not included in the free non-commercial version of SOS, the original version of SOS, or Splashtop Remote Support. You must purchase Splashtop SOS if you want to remotely access mobile devices. Download the SOS app on the device that you want to view or control
Have your end-user go to the SOS app download link (as displayed in your Splashtop app) from their Android device to download, run, and install the SOS App. When you (or your customer) run the SOS app on the Android device it will display a session code that you will enter on your screen to remotely view that device. Users with devices running Android 8 or higher will be prompted to turn on accessibility in Android to allow remote access. Users with certain devices (LG, Lenovo) may be prompted to also download an add-on from the Google Play Store to add remote access to certain Android device families. Enter the code in your Splashtop Business app and start remote viewing the Android screen
Run the Splashtop Business app on your computer and click the SOS (plus sign) icon near the top of the app to open the SOS connect screen. Enter the nine-digit code displayed in the SOS app on your customer's Android device. When you click the arrow, the session will begin. At this point you will be able to live-view their Android screen in a window on your computer screen. The image below shows a view of the end user's Android screen, the technician's interface, and viewing the Android during remote connections screen in a window on the computer screen with the controls expanded. Using the Viewing Controls
Click the arrow at the top of the mirrored device screen window to access the controls. The buttons are: Disconnect Back (device control) Home (device control) Menu (device control) FPS streaming quality Scaled/Original size toggle Full Screen File transfer You can also take print screens of the Android screen using the standard print screen key combinations for your Windows or Mac computer. Disconnecting the Session
When the session is complete, you can close the viewer window on your computer. The session can be closed on the device you are viewing by clicking the X disconnect button. Learn more and get started with Splashtop SOS
What else can you do with Splashtop SOS?
Splashtop SOS is your attended support solution for Windows, Mac, Android, iOS, and Chrome OS. It is a great way for help desk, support, and IT professionals to remotely access computers and mobile devices to assist customers. If you're already using another help desk system, mobile device management system, or unattended support tool, SOS is an inexpensive add-on that enables you or your team to provide quick support to managed or unmanaged computers and mobile devices. Remotely access and view Android phones and tablets running Android 5 or later
Remotely control Android phones and devices running Android 8 or later
Also remotely control other Android devices (Samsung, LG, Lenovo)
Remotely access and control Windows and Mac computers with additional features including file transfer, chat, and viewing from mobile devices
Remotely access and view Chromebook devices
Get started with Splashtop SOS!
New! Additional Options
Need an unattended access solution where the user doesn't have to be present at the device to give you an access code? Check out unattended Android access with Splashtop Remote Support. Remotely Access Android devices through our remote desktop app available on Windows, Mac, and Android. Do you want us to add support for additional manufacturers and devices like Bluebird, CipherLabs, Honeywell, Sonim, Motorola, Panasonic, Seuic, Unitech, and Zebra? Sign up for the unattended Android beta and note the device types/brands you would like support for in the form. Or if you're a device manufacturer, partner with Splashtop to add support for your devices. Do you want to integrate Splashtop remote access technology into your MDM, RMM, endpoint management, or other solution? Join Datto, Ivanti, Ninja, and others who integrate Splashtop into their solutions. Contact us for OEM and Partnership solutions. Which LG and Lenovo devices are supported with the plug-ins?
LG Android devices - will be prompted to install the LG Add-On app from the Google Play Store for remote control of these devices
Lenovo Android devices including TAB2 X30, TAB3-730, TAB3-850, TAB3 A8-50, Yoga TAB3 8, Yoga TAB3 10, Yoga TAB3 Pro, Yoga TAB3 Plus, Yoga Book, and Tablet A12 - will be prompted to also install the free SOS Lenovo Yoga Add-On or Lenovo Achilles Add-On apps from the Google Play Store for remote control of these devices
Other Android devices - Devices running Android 8.0 or later can be remotely viewed and controlled. Devices running Android versions 5-7 or later should be able to be remotely viewed with SOS (but not remotely controlled). Created by Tim Del Chiaro Friday, September 9, 2022
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