

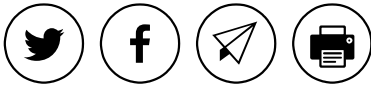
INTERNET, NETWORKING, & SECURITY > BROWSERS

# How to Clear Internet Cache in Every Major Browser

Clear the cache in Chrome, Firefox, Edge, Safari, and more

By [Tim Fisher](#) Updated on April 19, 2022

✓ Reviewed by [Kayla Dube](#)



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Clear cache quickly via **Ctrl+Shift+Del** (Windows) or **Command+Shift+Delete** (Mac).

Otherwise, try your browser's **Settings**, **Privacy**, or **Advanced** options.

## What Exactly Is Cache?

Your browser's cache, pronounced *cash*, is a collection of web pages stored on your hard drive or in your phone/tablet storage. The cache includes the text, images, and most other media contained on web pages that you've visited.

Having a local copy of a web page makes for quick loading on your next visit because your computer or mobile device doesn't have to download it from the internet again. Over time, however, the cache may take up a big chunk of your computer's storage.

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Lifewire / Tim Liedtke

## Why Do You Have to Clear Cache?

You don't have to clear the cache as a regular part of computer or smartphone maintenance. However, there are some good reasons to clear cache:

Clearing your cache forces your browser to retrieve the newest copy available from the website, something that should happen automatically but sometimes does not.

You're experiencing issues such as [404 errors](#) or [502 errors](#) (among others) that may indicate your browser's cache is corrupted.

Malware is another reason to delete the browser cache. It can be dropped in the cache without you knowing or alongside program installations, so clearing the entire cache can delete malicious files. (It also helps to have [antivirus software](#).)

Another reason to delete browser cache data is to free up space on your hard drive. Over time, the cache can grow to a huge

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As mentioned above, the quickest way to pull up the "cache clearing" or "browsing data" section in your browser is via **Ctrl+Shift+Del** (Windows) or **Command+Shift+Delete** (Mac) but see one of the sections below for the exact steps involved in clearing your specific browser's cache.

**Note:** This guide covers Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Opera, Edge, and Vivaldi, plus their respective mobile browser apps.

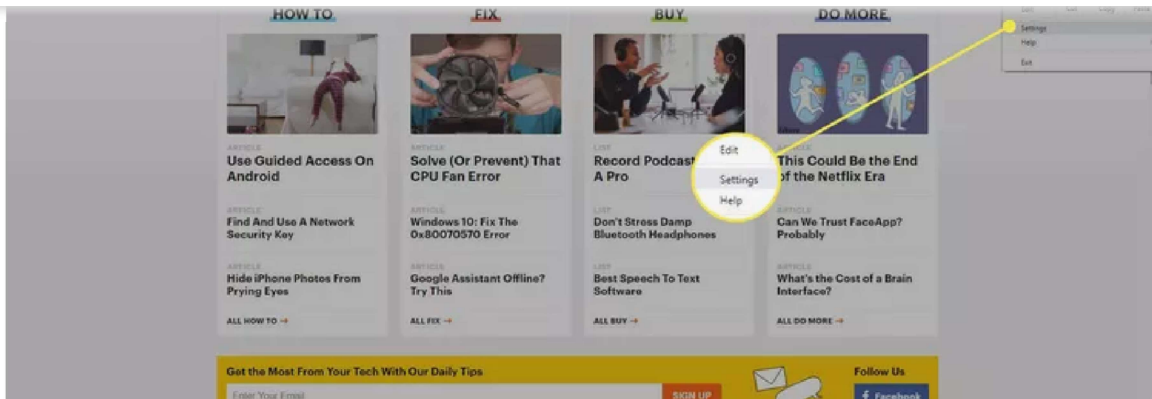
## Chrome: Clear Browsing Data

Assuming you use a keyboard, the quickest way to the **Clear browsing data** window in Google Chrome is by using the keyboard shortcut **Ctrl+Shift+Del** (Windows) or **Command+Shift+Delete** (Mac).

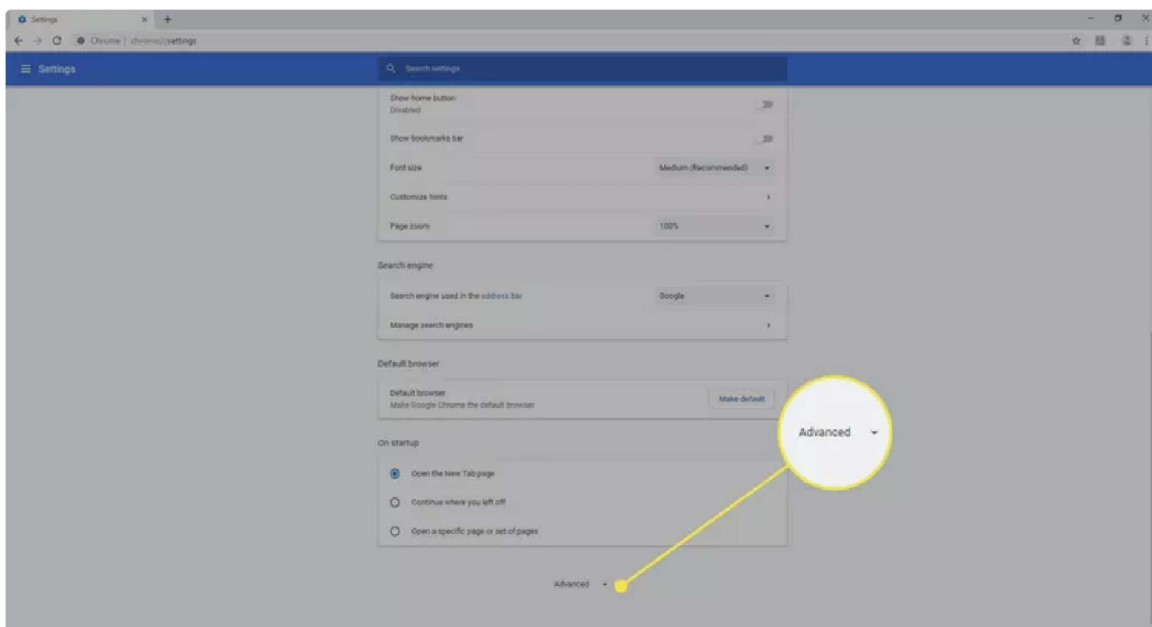
If you aren't into keyboard shortcuts, here's how to clear the Chrome browser cache on your computer:

1. Select the three-dotted menu button in the upper-right corner of Chrome and select **Settings** in the drop-down menu.

## JUMP TO A SECTION

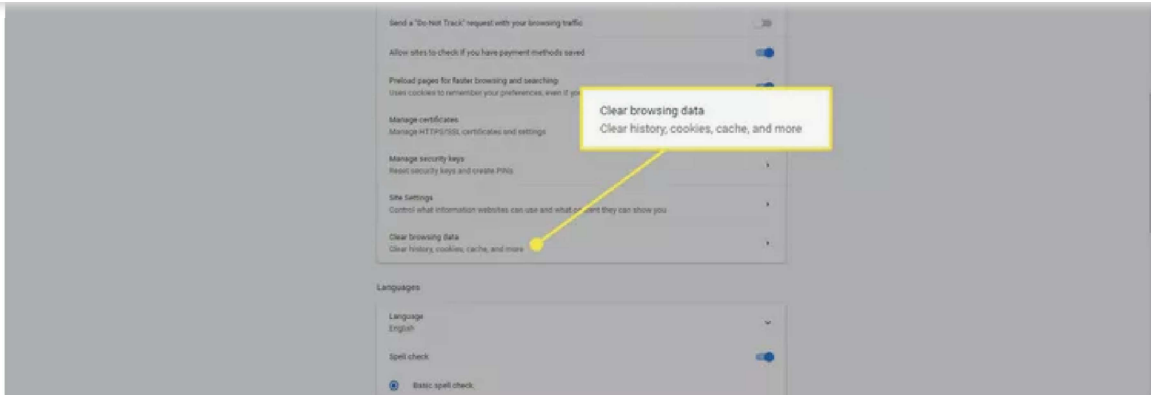


2. Choose **Advanced** at the bottom of the page.



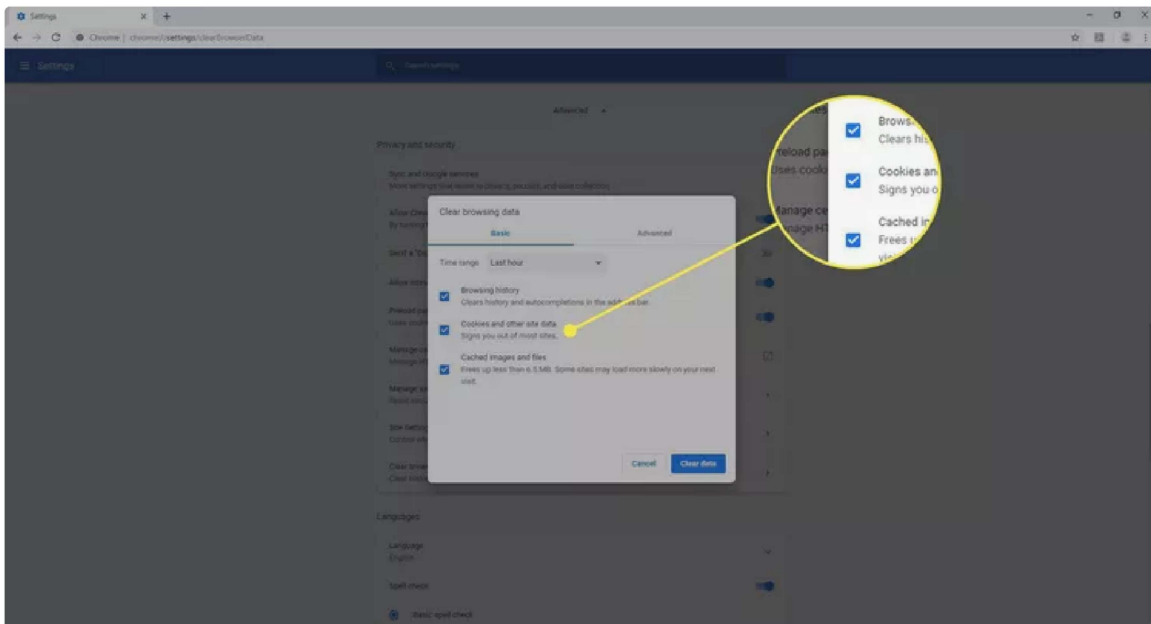
3. Select **Clear browsing data**.

## JUMP TO A SECTION



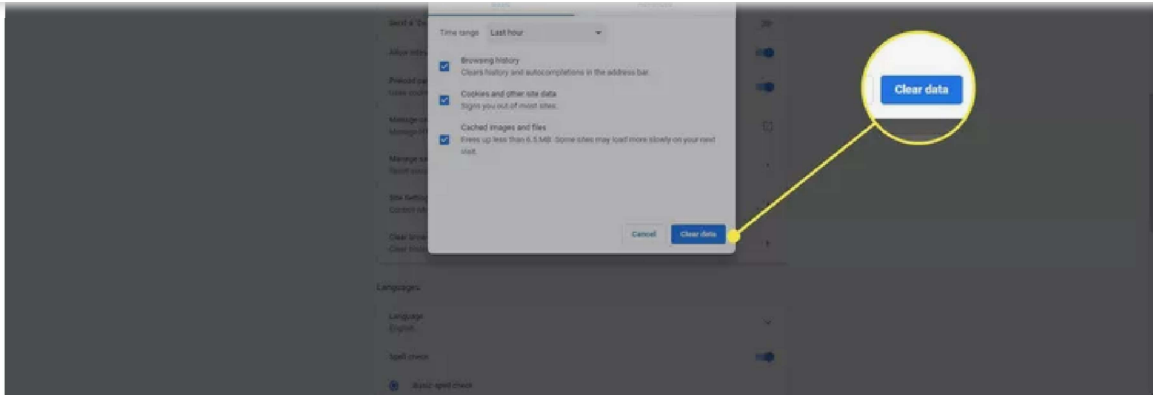
### 4. Check the box next to **Cached images and files**.

**Tip:** Also choose **All time** from the **Time range** option at the top to make sure you get everything.



### 5. Choose **Clear data**.

## JUMP TO A SECTION



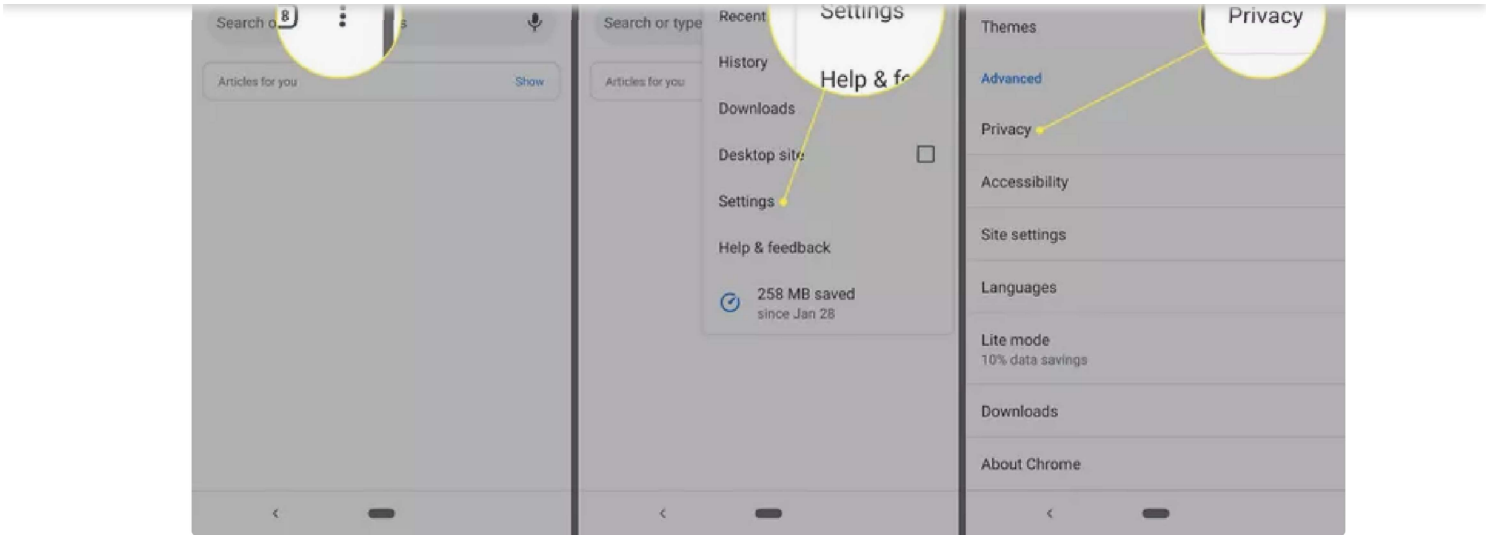
You can find more details about clearing browsing data in Chrome on [Google's support website](#).

## Clear Cache in the Chrome Mobile App

In Chrome's mobile app:

1. On Android, open the Chrome app and tap the three-dotted menu icon at the top of the screen. iOS users can find this button at the bottom.
2. Tap **Settings** in the menu.
3. Tap **Privacy**.

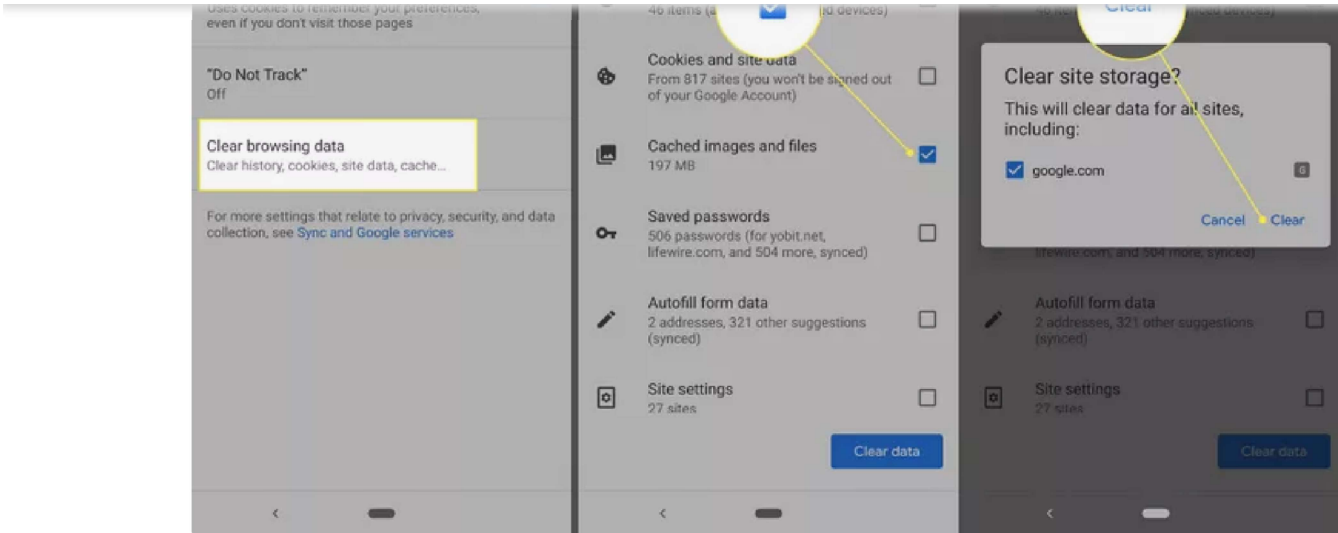
## JUMP TO A SECTION



4. Choose **Clear browsing data**.
5. Tap **Cached images and files** to place a check mark next to it.
6. Select **Clear data** on Android or **Clear Browsing Data** on iOS, and then confirm with **Clear** (Android) or **Clear Browsing Data** (iOS) in the pop-up window.



## JUMP TO A SECTION



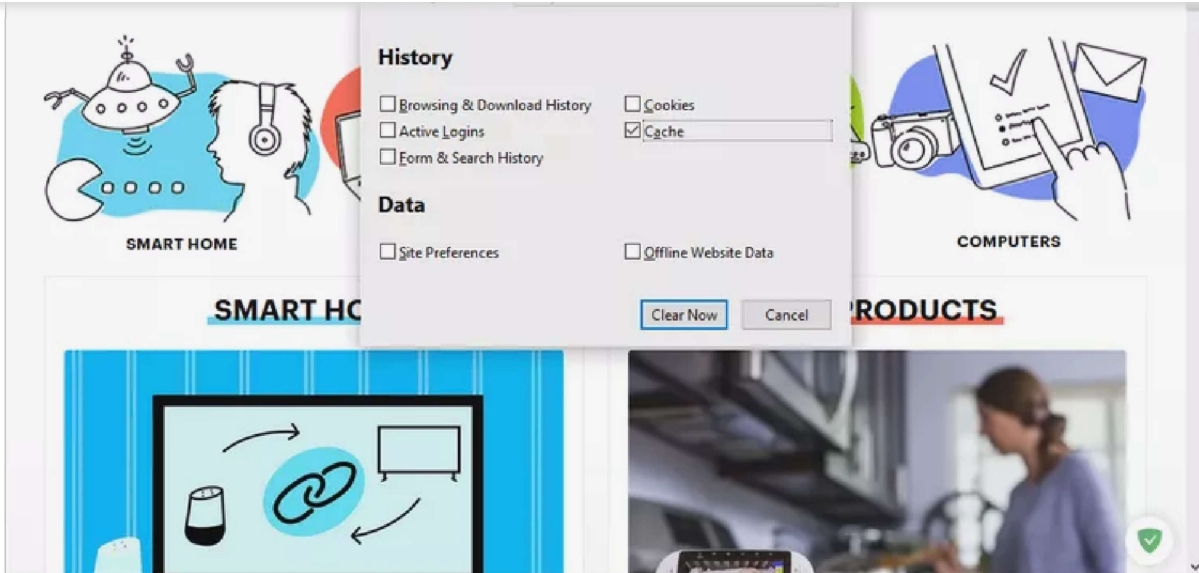
## Firefox: Clear Recent History

In Mozilla's Firefox browser, you clear the cache from the **Clear Recent History** or **Clear Data** area.

The **Ctrl+Shift+Del** (Windows) or **Command+Shift+Delete** (Mac) keyboard shortcut is the fastest way to open the Clear Recent History screen, which looks like this:

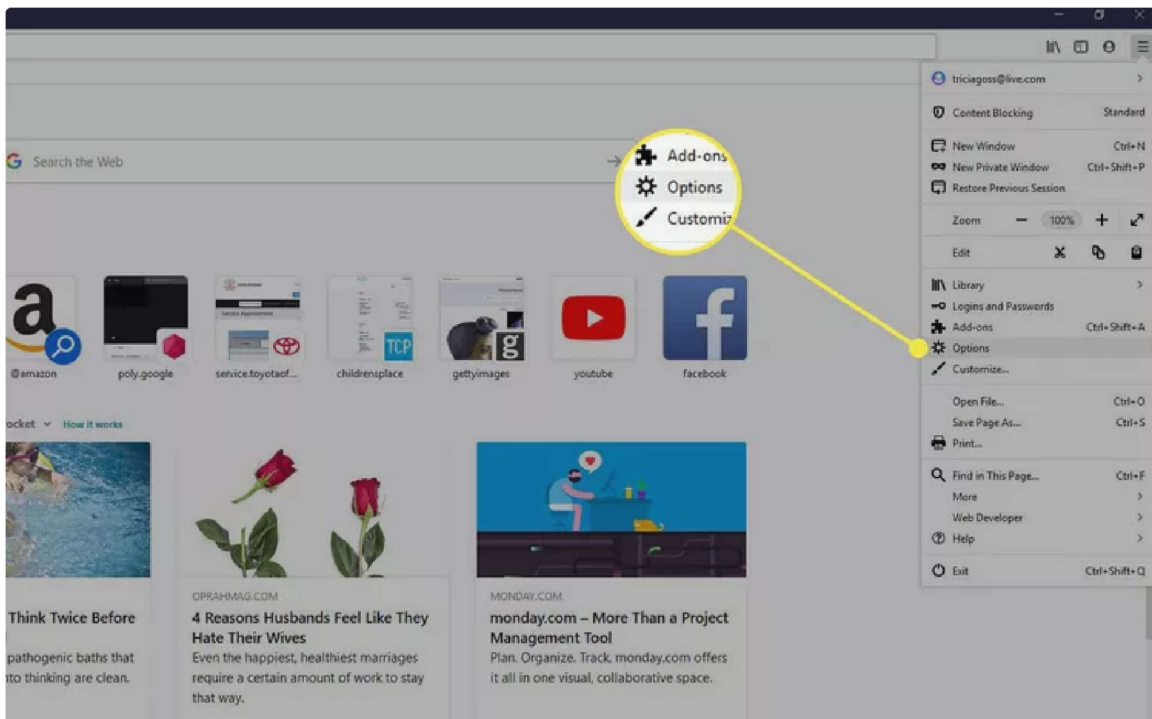
**Tip:** Don't forget to choose **Everything** from the **Time range to clear** options, assuming that's your intent.

JUMP TO A SECTION



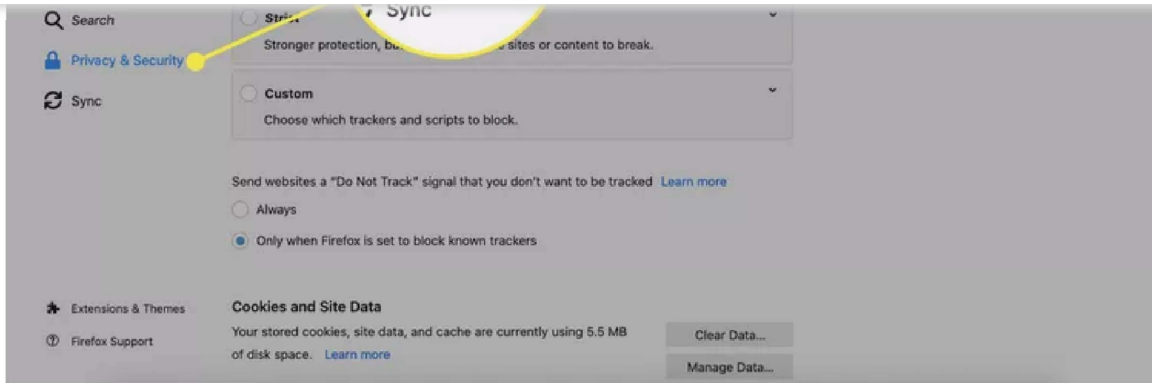
To get to the Clear Data screen through the menus, do this:

1. In Firefox's menu button (the three-lined hamburger icon), select **Options**.



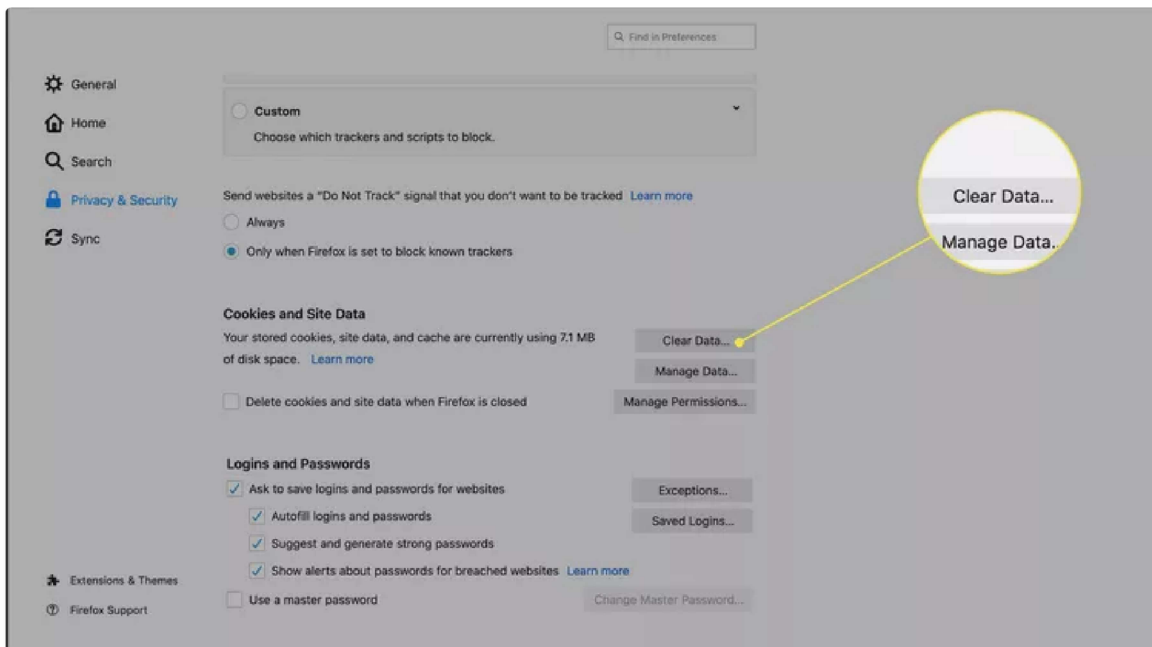
SKIP TO CONTENT **Privacy & Security** from the left.

## JUMP TO A SECTION



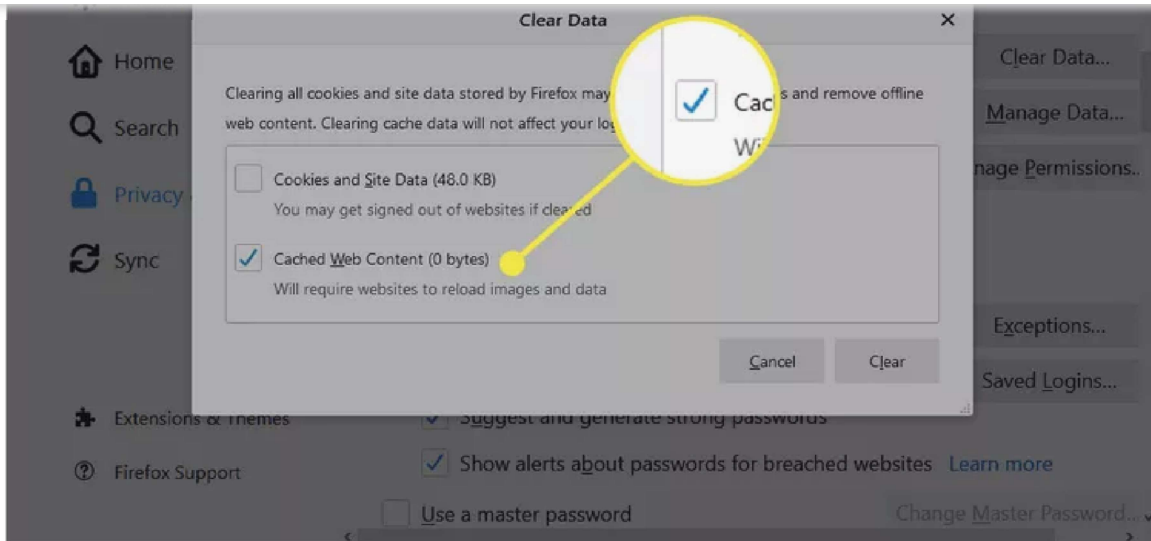
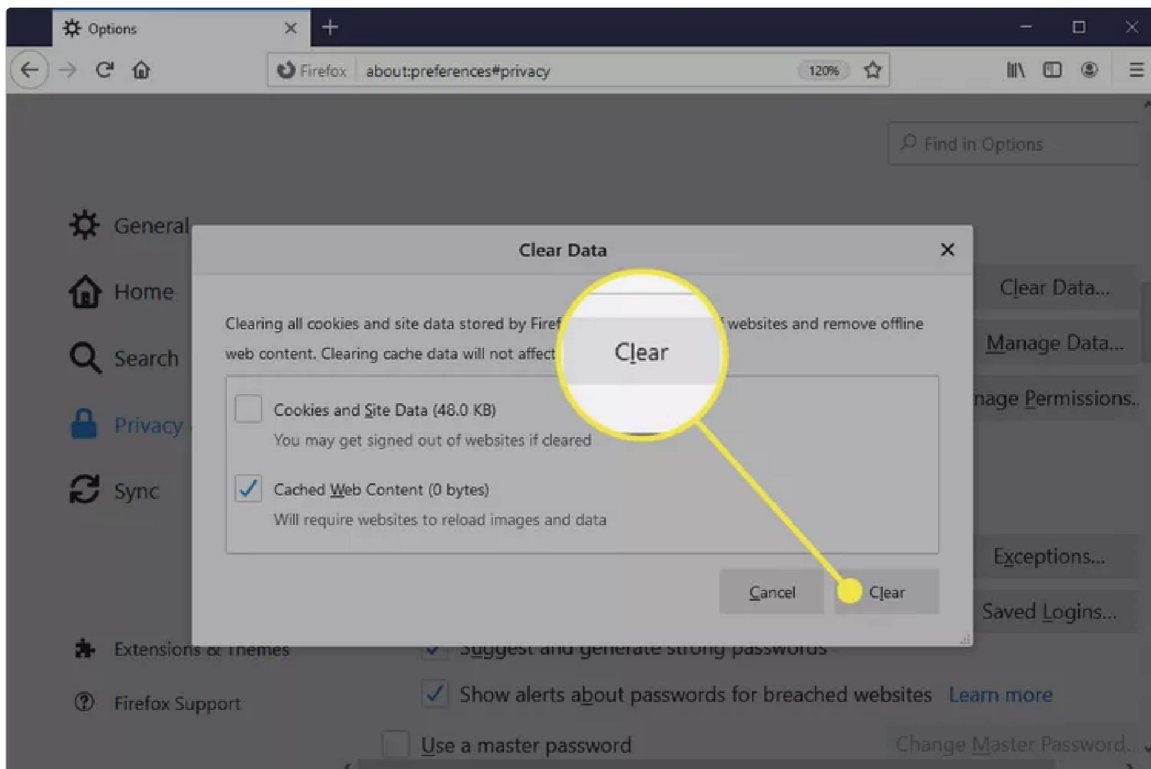
3. Select **Clear Data** in the **Cookies and Site Data** area.

If you scroll down a bit and choose **Clear History**, you'll get to the same screen that the shortcut above takes you to.



4. In the Clear Data screen that opens, select **Cached Web Content**.

## JUMP TO A SECTION

5. Choose **Clear**.

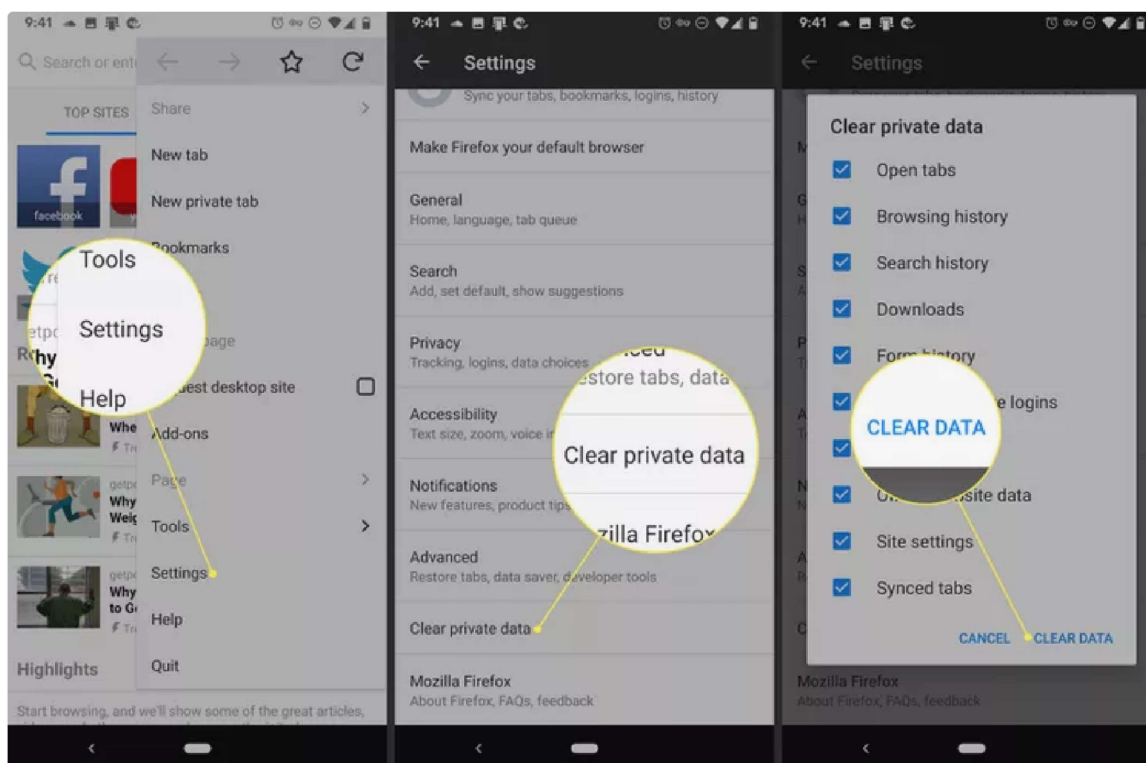
## Clear Cache in the Firefox Mobile App

To delete the cache in the Firefox mobile app:

SKIP TO CONTENT

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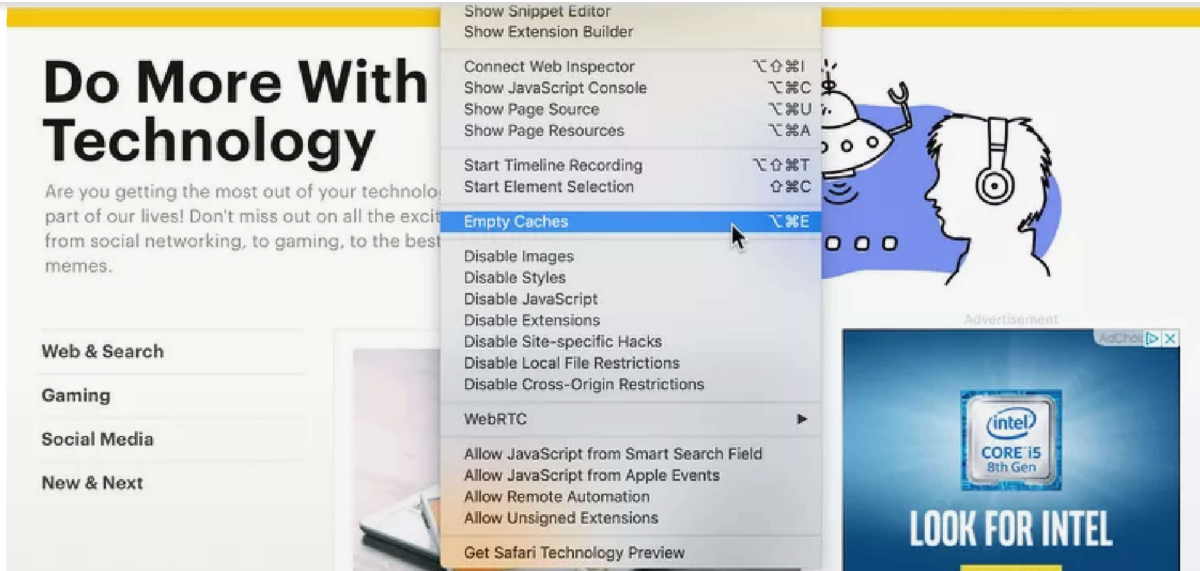
2. Select **Clear private data** on Android, or **Data Management** on iOS.
3. Enable the **Cache** option.
4. Choose **CLEAR DATA** on Android. If you're on an iOS device, select **Clear Private Data** and then confirm with **OK**.



## Safari: Empty Caches

In Apple's Safari browser on a Mac, clearing the cache is done via the **Develop** menu. Just select **Develop** in the Safari menu bar and then choose **Empty Caches**.

## JUMP TO A SECTION



You can also clear the cache in Safari on a Mac using the **Option+Command+E** keyboard shortcut.

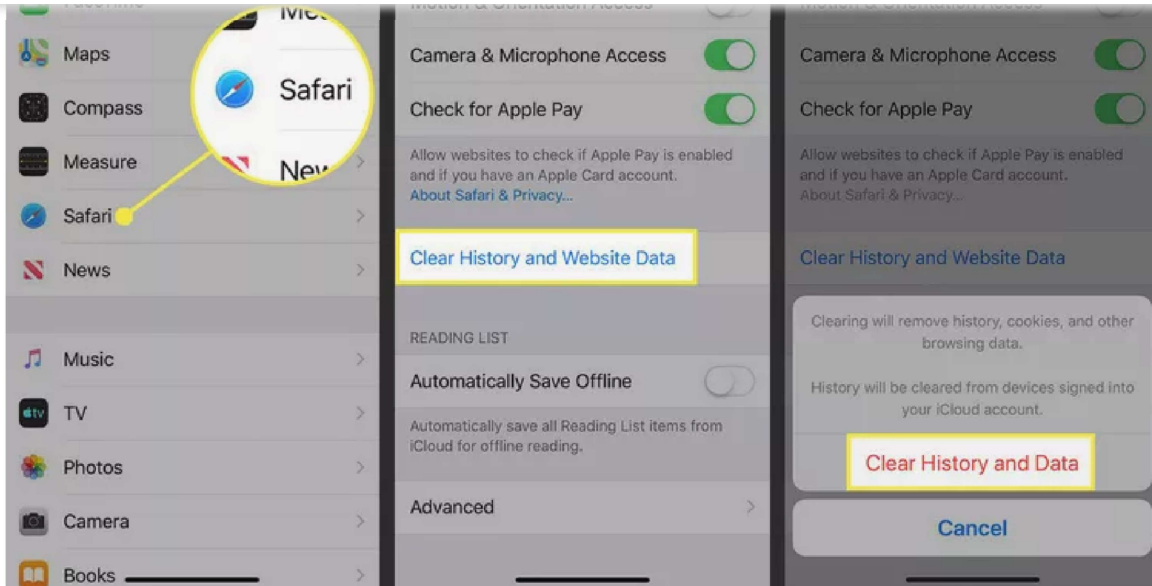
**Tip:** If you don't see **Develop** on your Safari menu bar, enable it via **Safari > Preferences > Advanced**, followed by selecting **Show Develop menu in menu bar**.

## Clear Cache in the Safari Mobile App

Clearing the browser cache from mobile Safari on your iPhone or iPad is accomplished in a different app.

1. Open the **Settings** app and tap **Safari**.
2. Scroll down and tap **Clear History and Website Data**.
3. Tap **Clear History and Data** to confirm.

## JUMP TO A SECTION



## Opera: Clear Browsing Data

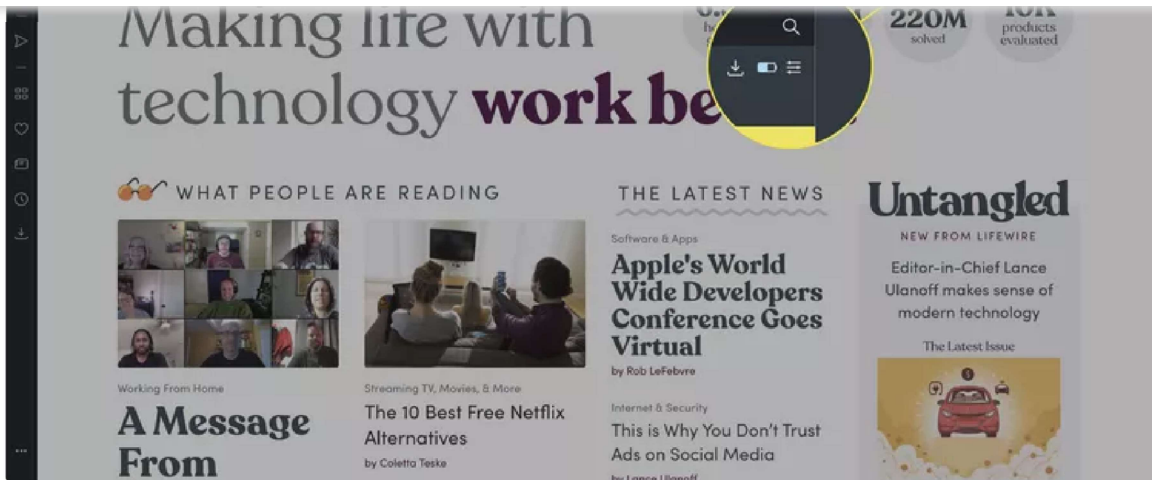
In Opera, clearing the cache is done via the **Clear browsing data** section that's part of **Settings**.

The fastest way to bring up the **Clear browsing data** window is via the **Ctrl+Shift+Del** (Windows) or **Command+Shift+Delete** (Mac) keyboard shortcut.

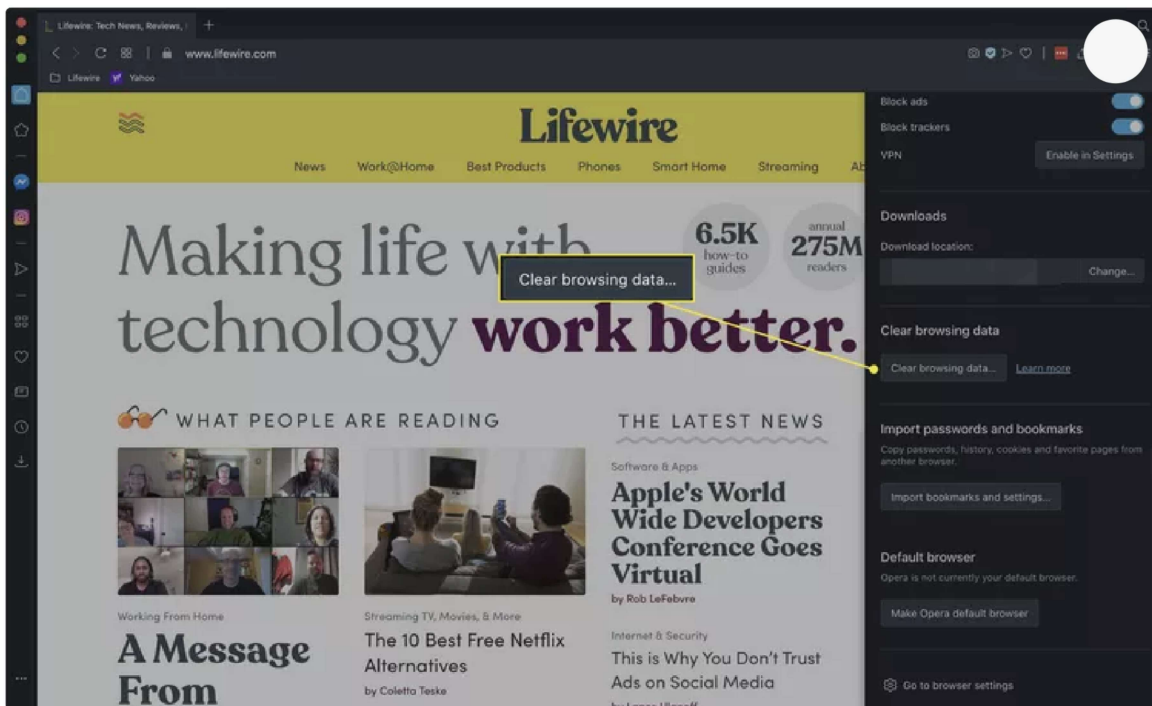
Otherwise:

1. Select the **Settings** icon, which looks like three sliders in the upper-right corner of the browser.

JUMP TO A SECTION



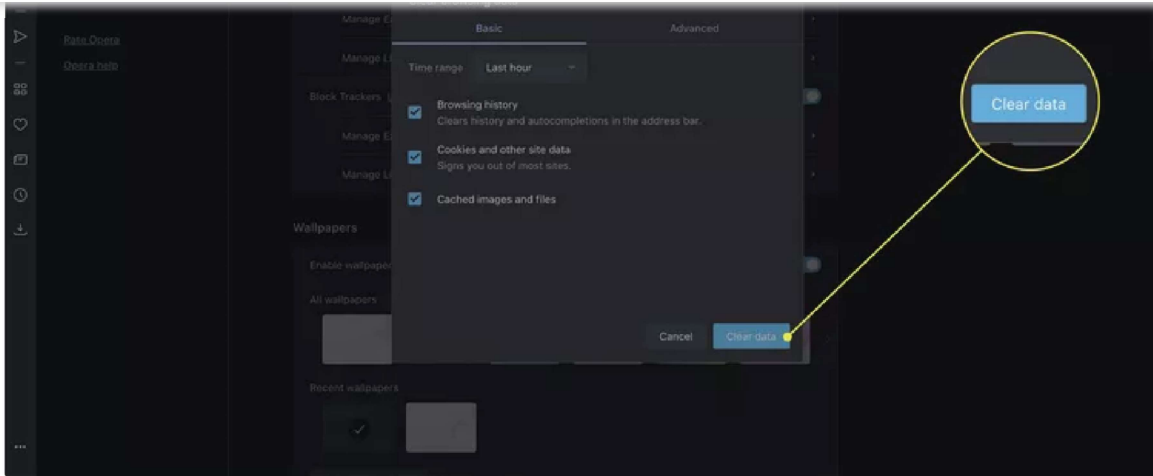
2. Scroll down and choose **Clear browsing data**.



3. Opera automatically selects all items you can delete, including **Cached Images and Files**. Click **Clear Data** to remove the information.



## JUMP TO A SECTION



You can find [detailed instructions on how to clear the cache on Opera's website](#).

**Tip:** Be sure to choose **All time** at the top to erase everything.

## Clear Cache in the Opera Mobile Browser

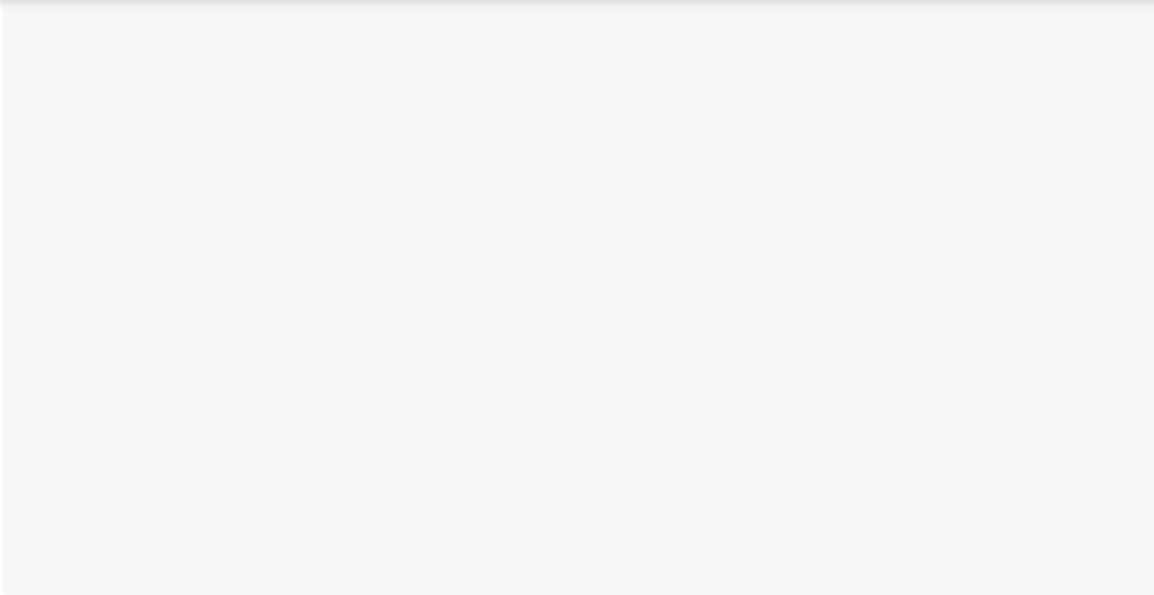
You can clear the cache from the Opera mobile app, too.

1. Select the **More** menu. It looks like three horizontal lines.
2. Choose **Settings**.
3. Select **Clear Browser Data**.

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**JUMP TO A SECTION**

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4. Tap the items you want to clear, including your history, cookies, images, and settings. Checkmarks will appear next to the ones you select.
  5. Select **Clear**.
  6. A confirmation message will appear, showing that the data is gone.


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## Edge: Clear Browsing Data

Clearing the cache in Microsoft Edge is done via the **Clear browsing data** menu.

 Microsoft Edge Clear browsing data screen

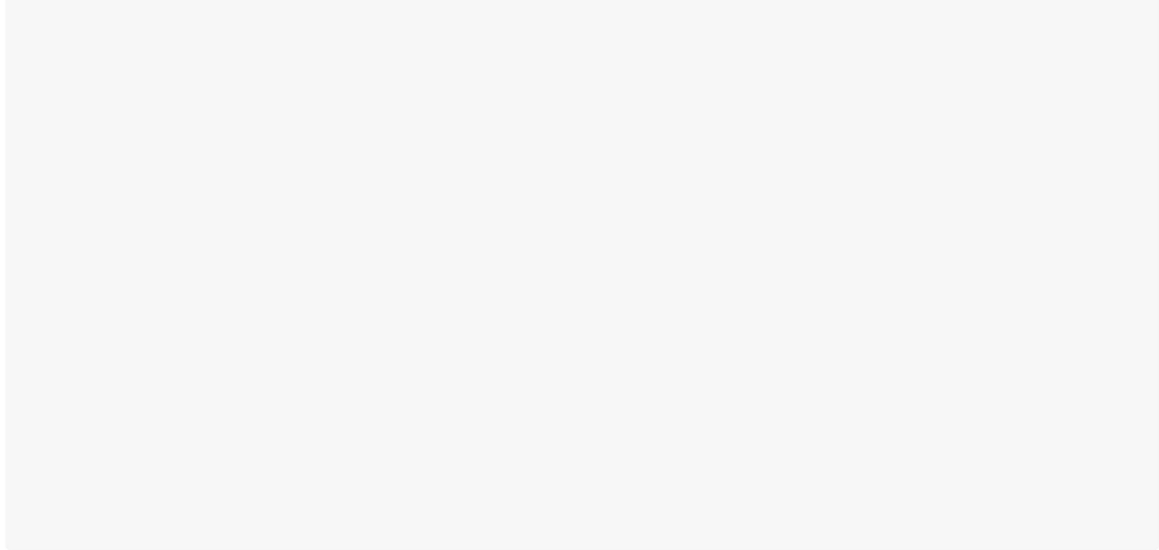
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## JUMP TO A SECTION


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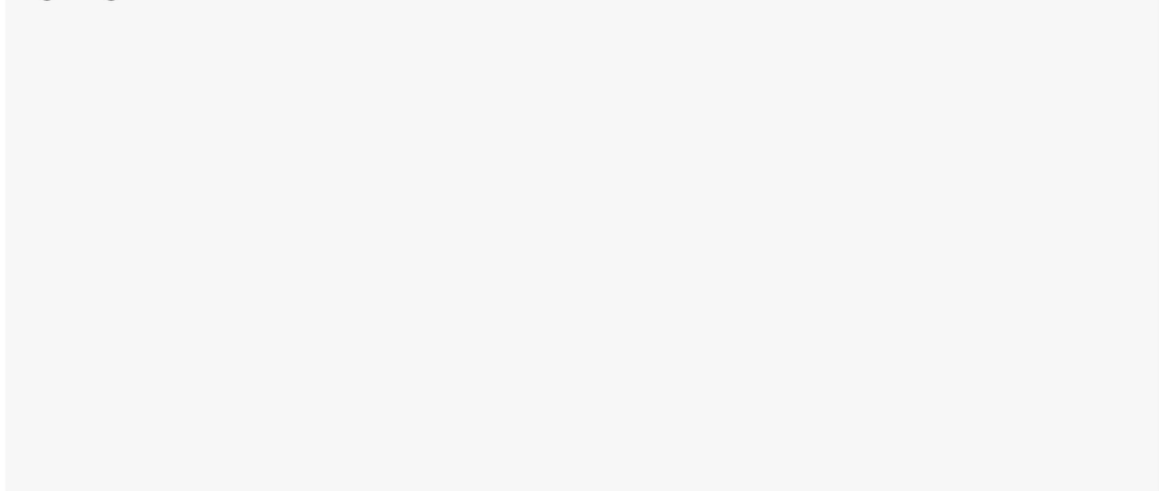
1. Open Microsoft Edge and select the three-dotted menu button at the top of the screen.

 A screenshot of Microsoft Edge with the More icon highlighted



2. Select **Settings**.

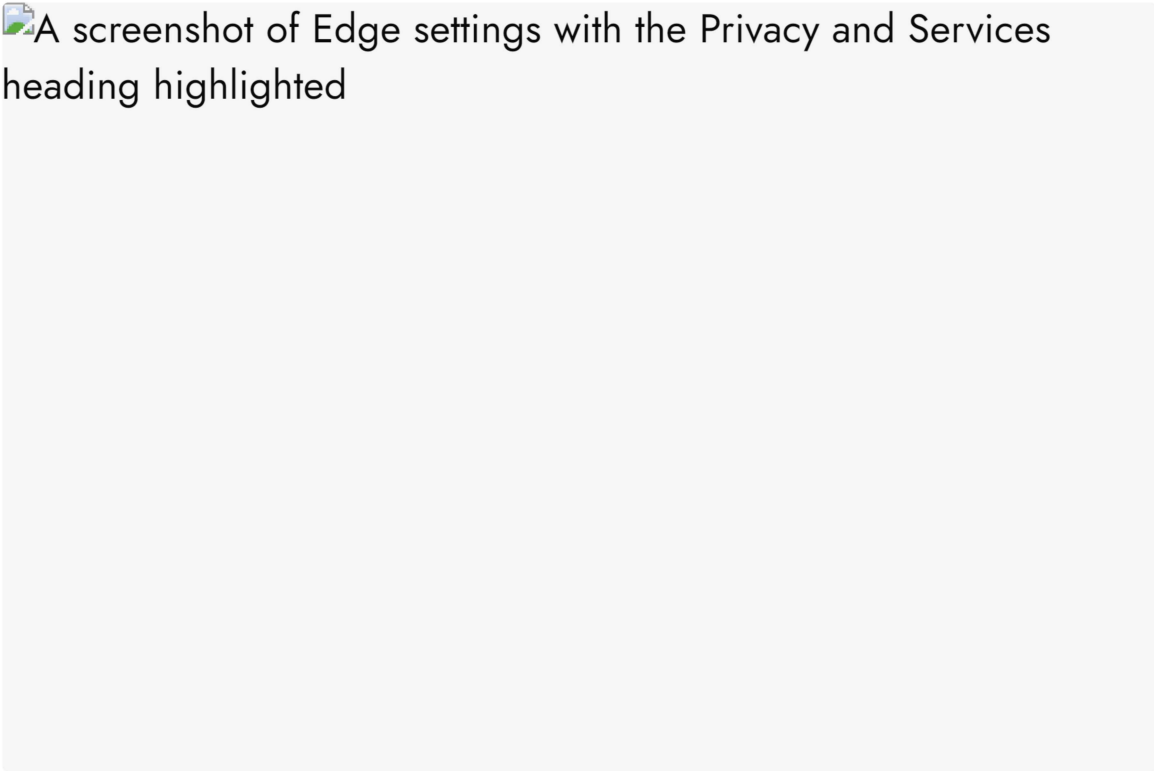
 A screenshot of Microsoft Edge with the Settings option highlighted



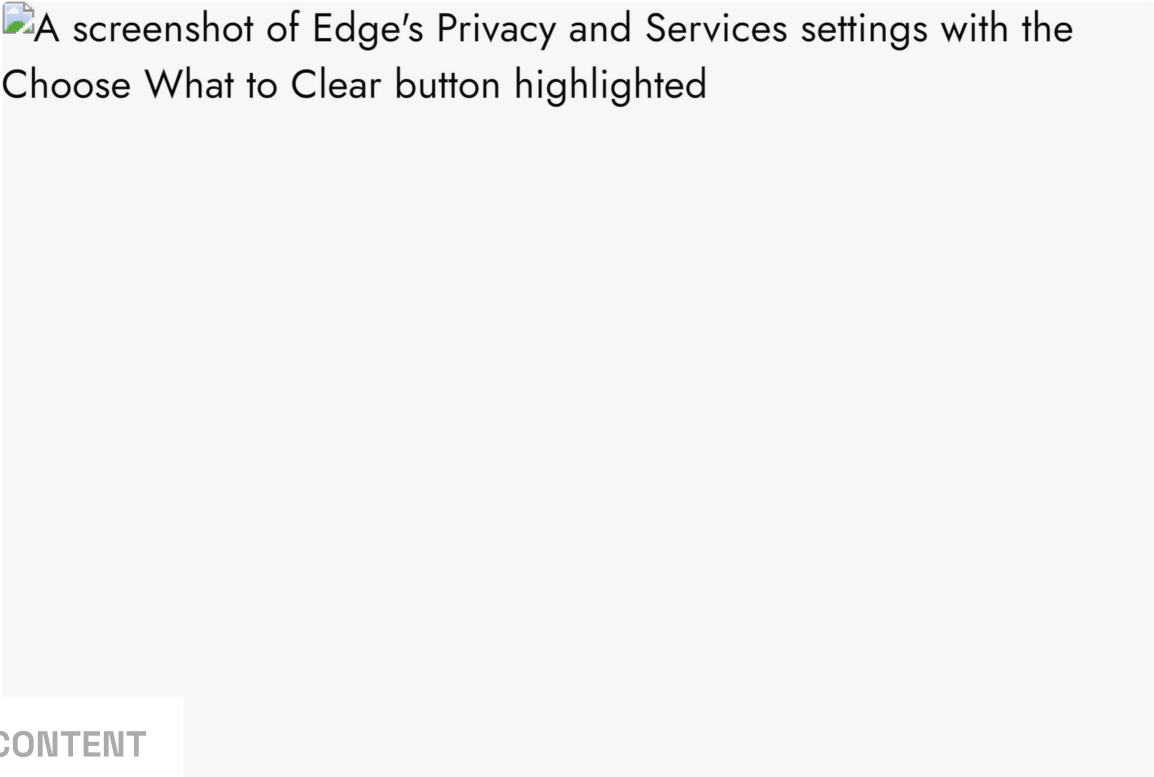
3. Go to **Privacy and services**.

## JUMP TO A SECTION

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A screenshot of Edge settings with the Privacy and Services heading highlighted

#### 4. Select **Choose What to Clear**.

A screenshot of Edge's Privacy and Services settings with the Choose What to Clear button highlighted

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**JUMP TO A SECTION**

the deletion options highlighted



See [how to clear the cache in Microsoft Edge](#) for more help.

## Clear Cache in the Edge Mobile Browser

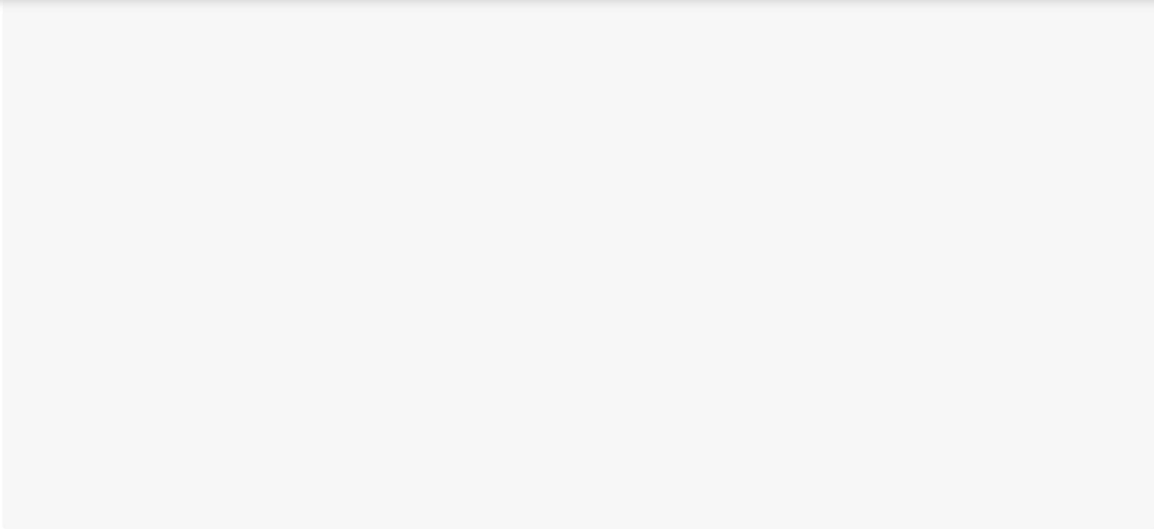
To delete cache files from the Edge mobile app:

1. Open the Edge app and tap the three-dotted menu button at the bottom.
2. Choose **Settings**.
3. Select **Privacy and Security**.

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**JUMP TO A SECTION**

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4. Tap **Clear browsing data**.
  5. Make sure **Cached images and files** is selected on Android, or **Cache** on iOS. This screen is also how you can delete other items like saved passwords and cookies.
  6. On Android, tap **Clear** and then confirm with **CLEAR**. For iOS, choose **Clear browsing data** and then **Clear**.

## Vivaldi: Delete Browsing Data

Clear the cache in Vivaldi via the **Delete Browsing Data** area.

1. From the menu bar (select the V logo at the top left if you don't see it), go to **Tools > Delete Browsing Data**.



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2. Select **Cache** as well as any other categories you want to clear.

You can also use this screen change the **Delete Data for** time to something else like **All Time** to clear the whole cache.

3. Choose **Delete**.

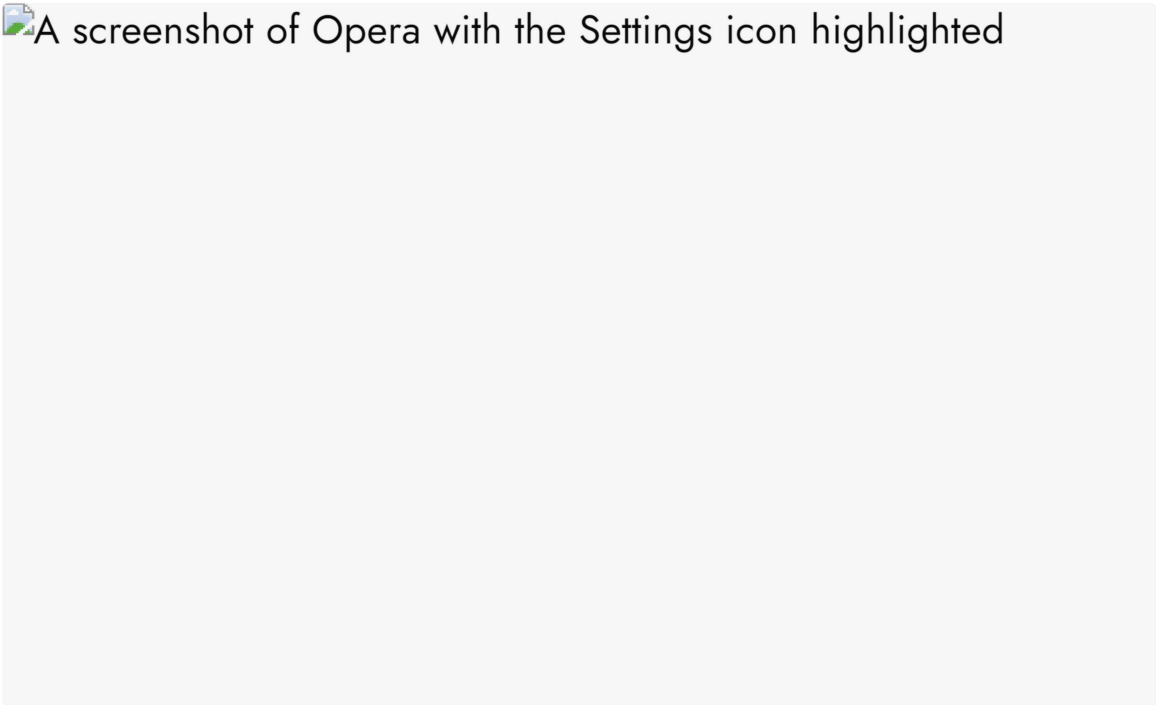
 A screenshot of Vivaldi with the Delete button highlighted

**JUMP TO A SECTION**

## Clear Cache in the Vivaldi Mobile Browser

The Vivaldi app for Android lets you clear the cache as well:

1. Tap the V icon at the top right of the app and then tap **Settings**.
2. Scroll down and select **Privacy**.
3. Tap **Clear browsing data**.
4. Make sure **Cached images and files** is selected, and optionally adjust the **Time range** setting to clear more or less of the cache.
5. Tap **Clear data** to erase the cache.

A screenshot of Opera with the Settings icon highlighted

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at a minimum, you can choose how much space you'd like the browser to use for its cache.

**Related:** [How to Clear Cache in Chrome on Mac](#)

Some browsers let you choose to automatically clear the cache and other data that might contain private information every time you close the browser window.

In most browsers, you can overwrite a web page's stored cache without deleting all the cache collected by the browser. In essence, this erases and replenishes the cache for that specific page only. In most browsers and operating systems, you can bypass the cache by holding down the **Shift** or **Ctrl** key as you refresh.

➤ [How to Clear the Cache in Windows 10](#)

## FAQ

### How do I delete my web browser cookies?

How you [clear web cookies](#) depends on your browser, but you can usually delete cookies from the same screen where you clear the cache.

### How long does the browser cache last?


By default, most browsers will maintain cached files indefinitely until the user deletes them. Some browsers give you the option to adjust how long the cache is stored.

### Does clearing the cache delete your browser history?

Not necessarily. When deleting your browser data, only check the box for the cache, and uncheck the boxes for the history, cookies, or anything else you want to keep.


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**More from Litewire**

 **Internet Explorer's Delete Browsing History on Windows desktop**


**MICROSOFT**

How to Clear the Cache in IE11

 **Person using laptop on sofa**


**BROWSERS**

Delete Temporary Internet Files and Cookies

 **Man working at computer keyboard on reflective desk**

**BROWSERS**

How to Clear the Cache in Microsoft Edge

 **Illustration of a red and white web browser on a light brown background**

**BROWSERS**

How to Delete Cookies in Every Major Browser

 **Removing Computer Data**


**FIREFOX**

How to Clear the Cache in Firefox

 **Apple Safari browser logos**


**SAFARI**

How to Reset Safari to Default Settings

 **Pile of smiley sandwich cookies.**

**CHROME**

How to Clear Cookies and Cache in Chrome

 **Illustration showing source code on a laptop screen**

**BROWSERS**

How to View the Source Code of a Web Page

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**BROWSERS**

How to Clear Cookies for a Specific Site

**CHROME**

How to Clear the Browsing History in Chrome for iPad

**MICROSOFT**

How to Delete Temporary Internet Files in Internet Explorer

 **Google Chrome Not Responding Fix**

 **Firefox With Custom Theme**

 **Firefox browser**

**CHROME**


How to Fix It When Google Chrome Is Not Responding

**FIREFOX**

How to Change Themes in Firefox

**FIREFOX**

Manage Browsing History and Private Data in Firefox

 **Computer File Search**

 **Internet Explorer 11 browsing history**

**MICROSOFT**

Where to Find Internet Explorer's Temporary Internet Files

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