

Is GNOME's Open Source Web Browser Ready for the Masses?

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From Internet Explorer (IE) to Firefox to Google Chrome, there's no shortage of Web browsers to choose from these days—a luxury that can be easy to take for granted for those who have forgotten what things were a number of years ago, after Netscape collapsed and IE was the only game in town. But GNOME, the open source development community, thinks it can offer a better browser than these bigger-name alternatives in the form of Web, formerly known as Epiphany. Is it right?

Although Firefox has long been available as an open source, multiplatform browser, the GNOME team has quietly maintained its own browser package since 2002. The platform, which was known as Epiphany until its rechristening in March 2012 with the simple title 'Web,' is based on the open source WebKit rendering engine (which also powers Chrome and Apple's Safari) and supports Linux, Mac OS X and BSD.

The browser's new name reflects the focus on cleanliness and simplicity.

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