



Aark Design

Web Browsers and Fun with IE 6

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Hello all I hope you have all been well.

Today I want to talk about Web Browsers and the fun web designers and programmers have with IE 6. I won't bore you with all the technical issues and the hacks we use to get around them. There are plenty of places online you can find that info out. What I want to talk about is why we find IE 6 such a pain and the reason we are all going on about it at the moment.

IE 6 is an old version of Microsoft's Internet Explorer we are know on version 8. So you are probably thinking well so there should not be that much of a problem as every one will have made the move to IE 7 and then IE 8 well that's were we hit the problem.

Not every one updates there browsers and so we get issues with compatibility. The other question I hear you all ask is why is it such a big problem the Internet is the Internet and so why does it matter what web browser I use to look at it.

In theory yes that makes sense but the problem is code and the Internet is a living thing. The code HTML and CSS that runs the Internet and what designers and developers live and breath is a changing thing. Like most technology its growing and developing and getting better. This means that old web browsers are not able to cope with the newer technologies and so course problems when trying to show a specific new bit of code.

Its a bit like having a vintage car and expecting a sat nav to look right on the dash board. Its just not going to work.

So I hear you ask why don't people just upgrade how much does it cost and whats the problem. Well that's another one that's simple to start and then gets complicated. Its always free to upgrade a web browser and it should be simple. The word there is should.

Most newer browsers have a check for updates button this does all the work for you and takes all the pain out. They download the new browser install it and replace the old one. The problems come when you have an older browser and you have to go an find the update or the newer version download it then find it on your computer install it and then remove the old version. This takes time and we all have busy lives so we put it off and put it off and then forget. I totally understand. The other problem people have is at home there keep there computer up to date and have all the shinny shinny we all love and want more of but at work the place you do most of your Internet browsing the IT department wont let any one download things or install things and so you can't upgrade. Or they say it will brake things.

This is the main problem we all have and the problem that will need to be addressed. Soon most big websites will start to stop supporting IE 6 and this will force IT departments to upgrade so salvation is on horizon.

In the mean time tho you can have a look at other browsers you can upgrade your IE to 8 and enjoy all the shinny new bits it has to offer. Or try out FireFox and its feeling of community and open source. Or Safari which is Apples offering. Or have a look at one of the many others such as Opera or Taxi. There are hundreds out there. So go and explore the world web browsers and try and escape the problems of IE 6.

Keep Smiling

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