

Testing Browsers / Versions / Operating Systems

Drop Caps, Smashing Magazine, Laura Franz, January 2012

DESK/LAPTOP According to gs.statcounter.com (which tracks the activity of third party visitors to their member websites – more than 15 billion hits per month, by people from all over the world onto 3 million+ member sites), the following browser versions accounted for 80% of visitors in 2011. During testing, I did not have access to Chrome 8 or 10, potentially representing browsers used by only 74% of visitors in 2011.

IE 8, 7, 9, 6
Chrome 12, 10, 13, 8
Firefox 3.6, 4.0, 5.0
Safari 5.0
Opera 10, 11

According to gs.statcounter.com, the following 5 browsers and the following 4 operating systems account for over 97% of visitors in 2011. Testing all versions available via Cross Browser Testing (and my mac)* may be overkill, but I potentially come closer to testing the browsers/OS used by 97% of visitors in 2011. Note: percentages given are for December 2011.

	Mac OSX (7.01%)	Win7 (42.65%)	WinVista (10.88%)	WinXP (36.44%)
IE (38.65%)		8, 9, 10 (prev2)	7, 8, 9	6, 7, 8
Chrome (27.27%)	16*	14, 16	6, 12	13
Firefox (25.27%)	2.0.0.20 3.0.5, 3.1, 3.5, 3.6, 4-7, 8, 9*	3.6, 4-9	2, 3.0.11, 3.5 3.6, 4	1, 1.5, 2, 3.0.11, 3.5, 3.6, 4, 5
Safari (6.08%)	3.2.1, 4, 5*	5	3.1.2, 4, 5	3.1.2, 5
Opera (1.98%)	9.2.7, 9.5, 9.6, 10.6, 11.6*	10.10, 11.5	9.25, 9.5, 9.6, 10.10, 10.5	8, 9.25, 9.5, 9.6, 10.10, 10.6

Also tested for **ACCESSABILITY**: Voice Over using Safari 5.1.1 on my mac.

MOBILE According to gs.statcounter.com, mobile devices accounted for only <6% of their visitors in 2011. The following mobile browsers (available via crossbrowsertesting.com) account for approximately 74% of mobile visitors. These stats are less clear, and less browsers/OS are available for testing. I tested all available.

	Android	Opera Mini	Mobile Safari	Blackberry
Android 2.2	2.2	5.1		
Blackberry				X (7.53%)
iPad 2			5.02	
iPad 1			4.0.4	
iPhone 4			4.0.5	
iPhone 3GS			4.0.5	