Adobe Reader **Plug-ins** **security** **Adobe Flash Player** **Microsoft Silverlight** **QuickTime** **Java** **new features**

What is a plug-in?

Plug-ins are small applications that allow you to view certain types of content within your web browser. Common plug-ins include **Adobe Reader**, which lets you view PDF files in your browser; and **Microsoft Silverlight**, which is often required for video sites like Netflix.

You might also be familiar with some older plug-ins, such as **Adobe Flash Player**, **Java**, and **QuickTime**, although these aren't too common anymore.

Note: If you're using a mobile device instead of a laptop or desktop, you won't need to worry about updating your plug-ins manually.

Keeping your plug-ins up to date

Plug-ins are updated for various reasons, including **new features** and **security fixes**. Because of this, most websites expect you to have the latest version of common plug-ins. If you're not running the most recent version, you might see an error message instead of your content.

It's worth pointing out that some web browsers will update all of your plug-ins automatically. If you're using a browser like Internet Explorer, you may need to update your plug-ins from time to time.

> Microsoft will no longer support Internet Explorer 11 on August 17, 2021. To download Microsoft Edge to use as your web browser, click **here**.

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