

### The Ethical Implications of Harmful Web Browsers

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When it comes to discussing the ethical implications of harmful web browsers, the focus must be on the individual. Big companies or even cybersecurity professionals know how to deal with these web browsers and their issues in an efficient manner. However, the average everyday person may be impacted and the ethics of the situation become a little cloudy. In order to fully look into the situation, the pros and cons must be weighed. After that, using a piece of legislature that involves this issue can give us a better understanding of how this issue was handled in the past. After we properly identify that policy or strategy, a decision can be made as to whether or not it properly protects individual rights.

First, some important costs and benefits must be identified. In an article by the European Business Review, a multitude of the different advantages and disadvantages of popular web browsers are outlined. A prime benefit of each web browser, that is shared between many web browsers such as Chrome and Firefox, is how often these services are receiving updates. The companies that make up these browsers constantly grow with the changing internet. In an ethical perspective, this is a fantastic practice. The customer deserves to have the best product. If the companies are committed to providing excellent support for the upcoming years then it will only improve the life of their users. The company, in this sense, is not taking advantage of their customers which can be considered an ethical positive. On the other hand, some cons are also present within these popular web browsers. Continuing with the same article, some cons that were mentioned included the limited amount of access that most of these web browsers contained. While they may be updated frequently, these companies are less focused on making these web browsers accessible for all types of people. Many browsers require a device that is fast

and has a lot of memory. They also may require a fast internet connection. These requirements make it a lot more difficult for many different types of people to use them. In an ethical sense, this is a huge cost. When companies specifically cut access to a variety of people, especially if they have the means to make it more accessible.

Next, different rights that an individual can have can give an insight as to how ethical web browsers can be. One example of this is from an article by Dirk Schrader in which they outlaw a policy called the “CIS Control 9.” This policy helps to properly establish protections against web browsers. Some protections outlined under this policy include protecting the user from malware such as any phishing emails, dangerous file types, and enforcing network based URL filters. Each of these components helps to properly protect the individual. While this policy properly protects many different aspects of popular web browsers, there still are limitations as to how far the policy reaches. Looking back at the ethics, it is important because this policy helps to establish a good ethical standing within web browsers but it is not a one-size-fits-all solution.

Lastly, using the “CIS Control 9” policy, accurately judging whether or not this solution properly protects rights becomes easier. This policy was created to ensure that the rights of the individual were protected. In another article by Andrew Swoboda, the author explains how this policy protects a variety of people everyday. This policy is actively protecting the individual’s right to safely browse without being taken advantage of. This policy is also actively protecting the individual’s right to use the internet without the fear that it may try and harm them or their device in the future. Taking these steps is very important when discussing how ethical each of these web browsers are. Using all of the information present, it is safe to say that popular web browsers tend to stay on the side of being ethical. The companies who have created these

browsers and the laws or policies in place ensure that the individual is receiving the best service they can.

## References

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