



The Use Of Extensions In Browsers For The Advancement Of Learning

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Abstract

Learning online using customized browsing can help us save time and efforts. Browsers like Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Firefox, Opera and Internet Explorer provide us opportunity to customize their browsers for the ease of use. We can add extensions or add-ons to make our browsers learner friendly. My paper will analyze how these add-ons will make the learning process easier. Extensions can be operated in all sites or can be restricted to specific websites for incognito browsing. They are software programs that are built for meeting the specific requirements of individual browsers. I will be discussing various extensions like Google Translator, Grammarly, Google Keep, SpeakIt, Screencastify, Share to Classroom, Sticky Notes, Mindzip and Thesaurus.

Keywords: *E-learning, Addons, Customized Browsing*

1. Introduction

Browsing Online has become a habit with everyone in the present day world. Safari, Maxthon, Sea Monkey, Deepnet Explorer, Avant Browser, Opera, Microsoft Edge, Firefox, Google Chrome and Internet Explorer are the popular browsers that are used extensively. All the browsers provide us the facility to add extensions or add-ons to enhance the browsing experience. There are many learner friendly extensions in these browsers which will help us to elevate our learning experience. Extensions are actually small software programs that are developed in consideration with individual needs in HTML, Javascript or CSS programs.

2. Online Learning

Online learning or Web enhanced learning has become the most convenient form of learning in the contemporary world. It is cost-effective and one can learn exactly what one wants to know unlike the traditional education in most countries. One need not travel long and stay away from one's home, if one chooses to go for online learning. Moreover, one can learn in one's own pace with the help of online learning. Cousera, NovoEd and edX offer courses from top universities of the world. Open Yale Courses, MIT Open Courseware, Open Learning Initiative, Khan Academy, MIT Video, Stanford Online, Canvas Network Open UV



Think India (Quarterly Journal)

ISSN: 0971-1260 Vol-22, Special Issue-07

Two-Day National seminar on

*"Artificial Intelligence, Multimedia and ICT in Teaching,
Learning and Acquisition"*

sponsored by

Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi
on 23rd and 24th September 2019 at **Department of English,**
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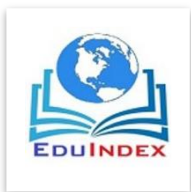


and University of the People are other initiatives that promote online learning. Udacity, Apple Developer Site, Google Code, Mozilla Developer Network, Code.org, Learnable, Pluralsight and CodeHS offer courses for Software developers. Dave Conservatoire, Drawspace, Justin Guitar are some of the websites that help one in enriching one's knowledge of music and other arts.

3. Extensions

Pin it Button, Translate, EverNote Web Clipper, Save to Pocket, Awesome Screenshot, OneNote Web Clipper, Grammarly for Safari, Wipr, Instapaper are some of the extensions available in Safari. Sea monkey provides add ons like speed start and Keyword Search. Foxit reader, TeamSpeak and Xn View are add-ons available in Avant Browser. Maxthon provide shopping extensions, utility extensions, News Extensions, Social and Communication Extensions, Lifestyle extensions as well as gaming extensions.

Google Chrome has the largest number of extensions. It allows software from unpopular software providers as well. One must be very cautious when one adds an extension to Chrome browser. Looking into the extensions provided by chrome, Google Translator, Google Dictionary, Read Aloud, Screen Castify and Sticky Notes are of major help for students. Google Translator helps us to translate contents available in a language to other language. Dark Reader helps in improving the reading experience and Night Shift helps to shift the colour of the browser. Google Dictionary helps us to find meaning of words. Text to Speech extensions are of most help to the students. Read Aloud: A Text to Speech Voice Reader and SpeakIt- Text to Speech for Chrome are the main text to speech extensions available on chrome. Grammarly and Grammar and Spell Checker by Ginger help to correct spelling and grammar of sentences in English. Share to Classroom will help teachers and students to share classes and materials online. Sticky Notes will help readers to take notes while reading without changing tabs or without minimizing. Multi highlight will help us to highlight contents of the web pages and the highlighting will remain whenever we open the same website. Just Read will help us to read uninterruptedly without any ads, pop-ups or comments. Awesome Screenshot and Full Screen Capture help to capture images during browsing. Screencastify helps to record videos.



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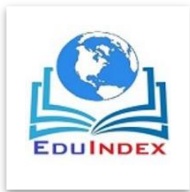
Google mailchecker, Plan- Calendar and Tasks, Office Editing for Docs, Sheet and Docusign are of great help to office employers, staffs and other people who does things systematically. Save Emails to Pdf will help to secure sensitive content sent via online. My Quotes New Tab, Quotes and Thoughtful Tab gives new thoughtful Quotes in each new tab. Sreenr, qSnap and Droplr provide screenshots in an instant.

To add extensions, one must first open one's browser and select add extensions or add-ons by visiting the settings provided by the browser. Select the extension you want to add to your browser. It will appear in the browsing page and with just a click you can carry out the function of these extensions. One can add extensions to one's computer from mobile devices as well. After adding an extension to your account through mobile devices, one must enable the extensions in the browser once he/she visits the browser via a desktop or laptop.

Extensions are useful not merely for students but also shoppers, designers, photographers, chefs, life hackers and bloggers. But, the student community should sort out the extensions helpful for them in order to gain from the technological developments of the twenty-first century. Extensions can be operated in all sites or can be restricted to specific websites for incognito browsing. It is the duty of each individual to find out the extensions that will help them in their browsing. Using extensions in browsers is a matter of choice for many as they are unaware of the technical developments and some are even afraid of these developments as well.

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