

Windows laptops & PCs | Easy | 2 min read

How to change your default browser or default apps

Default apps are the programs Windows uses automatically, for example to open a web link, a PDF or a photo. If the wrong one opens, you can change it in a few clicks.

Quick fixes to try first

- If a single file opens in the wrong program, right-click it, choose **Open with**, then **Choose another app**, pick the one you want and tick **Always** if offered.
- Make sure the program you want is actually installed. Install it from its official website or the Microsoft Store if not.
- Do not worry if Windows asks you to confirm a change. It is usual.

Step by step: change the default browser

1. Open **Settings** by pressing the Windows key and I together.
2. Choose **Apps**, then **Default apps**.
3. Windows 11: find your browser, such as Chrome or Edge, in the list and click it. Click **Set default**.
Windows 10: scroll down to **Web browser** and click the current one, then choose a different one.
4. You may need to confirm the change. The exact wording may differ slightly.
5. Open a link from an email or document to check it works.

Step by step: other file types

1. In the same **Default apps** page, find the program you want, or type a file type such as .pdf in the search box.
2. Click the file type and choose the program you prefer.
3. Repeat for any other types, such as photos, music or video.

If that did not work

- If it keeps switching back, an update may have reset it. Repeat the steps.
- Use the browser's own **Settings** and look for **Make default**.
- If a pop-up urges you to change your browser, be careful. Only change it in **Settings**.
- Avoid installing browsers or PDF readers from adverts or unknown sites.

When to get more help

Stop and email us if the browser opens strange pages, you did not install the program that is taking over, or links open nothing at all. This could be unwanted software. Tell us your Windows version and which program keeps opening.

Still stuck? Email admin@visiontech336.com and tell us what you can see on the screen. Menus and button names can differ slightly between versions and makes. If something does not match, stop and ask rather than guess. Please never send passwords or card details.