

Tips and Tricks

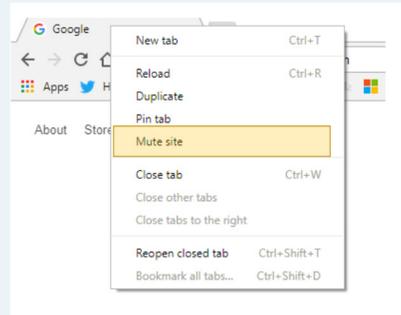
Google Chrome stopping all that noise!

by Eric Ruzek

Are you a Google Chrome user? If so, they recently released a nice update that provides the ability to mute sites at your discretion. Why is this handy you might ask? There are different sites such as **Facebook.com** with videos in the news feed that may play automatically as you scroll through the feed with audio that can be annoying. That bothersome audio can be distracting if you're trying to listen to music or something else. Or maybe you're just not interested in hearing the sounds coming from those videos or the advertising ones.

Never fear as Chrome has come to the rescue by allowing sites to be muted. This way you eliminate having to hear those sounds, especially if you revisit that site in the future. But even if you don't plan to revisit the site it provides a quick way to cancel all the noises from the site.

To enable this feature, you simply right click on the tab the webpage is running and click on mute. From there you should not have any audio from that page until you enable it again. Chrome remembers the mute setting, even if you close Chrome or the tab and come back to the site later. Therefore, you would have to right click on the tab for the page and click unmute to enable the sounds again.



Opera, the other alternative browser

by Eric Ruzek



While Chrome is a favorite for many of us here at *CCS Technologies* there are other options for browsers out there. One such option that we like is the Opera browser, which provides a similar experience with tabbed sites and is quick to load pages. Opera packs many modern features such as the previously mentioned tabbed browsing, support for synchronizing your bookmarks across multiple devices, and can be expanded with extensions. Another advantage is it runs lighter on your system than Chrome, which makes it a better choice if you find Chrome slowing down your system.

You can find this browser at this link: <https://www.opera.com/download>

Believe it or not, closing unused apps on your phone will NOT extend the battery life. (Yes, you read that correctly.)

by Jeff Verry

Smartphones are designed to learn from how you use them and anticipate how much memory and processing power should be used for each app. Every time an app is closed, it tells the phone to start this process of learning how you work all over again, which takes power. This at best has a net zero effect and does not extend battery life at all. Or get this. It could actually drain more power. What?! But don't just take our word for it.

When asked "Do you quit your iOS multitasking apps frequently, and is this necessary for battery life?", Apple CEO Tim Cook and iOS chief Craig Federighi recently replied "No and no." Google's VP of Engineering for Android, Hiroshi Lockheimer, said that closing apps could have a small negative effect on your handset's battery. He stated it "could very slightly worsen".

One of our technicians is always ready to assist with questions about browsers, smartphones and many other computer IT items, so give us a call!

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