

[Alternatives to Google, Facebook and reclaiming privacy.](#)

By [darkshroud83](#)

I was asked to post this information to various places around the web for the privacy and security aspects. I'm finally posting it to a blog that I can easily keep up to date allowing everything else a place to link to.

My use of alternative software & services started when I stopped using as many Google products & services as I could over ten years ago.

Now between the actions of various governments, their officials, the EU, Google, Twitter, & Facebook over the last two years we now know who can't be trusted. Especially leading up to the U.S. 2016 election.

FYI, just to be clear hosting data outside the US will not protect it from the NSA. Like they're foreign counterparts these groups go after everything on a global scale.

So if you own your own router when was the last time you updated it? ISP routers are nice & convenient but they have limited security. Buying your own or better yet building your own network firewall are far more secure options.

Facebook and Google track everything we do. The Facebook apps & Chrome shouldn't be running on your systems & devices. Many of Chrome's extensions also track you. If you must use

Facebook then consider having a browser installed just for Facebook use.

Use [Revo's](#) free option to uninstall Chrome and any other spying software. Firefox is barely any better as the company is full of SJWs. Meanwhile, the Opera browser was quietly bought out by the Chinese, so if you use Opera do not use their built-in password manager.

At the time when I decided I didn't want Google or my ISP's email option that left Hotmail as the only service with comparable features to Google. So I used Microsoft/Hotmail for everything standard and Hushmail for stuff I wanted to keep private. Now I still use Microsoft but I use Gpg4win to encrypt emails on my system before sending them out and Telegram for private communication.

At the time of writing this Microsoft has been agnostic, not interfering with auto complete in their browser or their searches. So, for the time being, I will have some of their services listed.

So here is my big list of alternatives. If anyone has more suggestions hit me with a reply.

Email:

- [Privacy-Conscious Email Services List](#) – exactly what its titled as.
- [Scryptmail](#) – Free, based in US, end-to-end encryption.
- [Protonmail](#) – A fully encrypted email service, hosted in Switzerland.
- [msgsafe.io](#) – Private, encrypted, online communication for everyone.
- [Tutanota](#) – A fully encrypted email service, hosted in Germany.
- [Mailfence](#) – Based in Belgium, end-to-end encryption with Digital Signatures.
- [VFEEmail](#) – Since 2001, providing businesses and end-users a quick and convenient way to ensure their own security when it comes to email.
- [Unseen.is](#) – Private and Secure. Messaging, Calling, Email and Hosting from Iceland.
- [Outlook](#) – The only full-service Gmail competitor.
- [Virtru](#) – Outlook encryption plug-in, free for personal use.
- [GPF4win](#) – for file and email encryption. Gpg4win (GNU Privacy Guard for Windows) is Free Software and can be installed with just a few mouse clicks.
- [TorBirdy](#) – an extension for Mozilla Thunderbird that configures it to make connections over the Tor network.

Encrypted Messenger Software:

- [Telegram](#) (My pick) – Similar to What's App only independent, secure, & on all major platforms including the desktop.
- [Signal](#) – Encrypted FOSS messenger, only on iOS & Android. A Chrome web extension is available.
- [Threema](#) – Designed to generate as little data on servers as possible, end to end encryption.
- [BlackBerry Messenger](#) – Old school with a big user base, fully encrypted, & has a feed/channel system.
- [wire](#) – Simple, secure, private—always end-to-end.
- [Ricochet](#) – Anonymous instant messaging for privacy through the TOR network.
- [Tox.chat](#) – Tox is easy-to-use software that connects you with friends and family without anyone else listening in.
- [Briar](#) – Peer to peer secure messaging & forums anywhere.
- [Unseen.is](#) – Private and Secure. Messaging, Calling, Email, and Hosting from Iceland.
- [Matrix](#) – Matrix is an open standard for decentralized communication.

Browsers:

- [Brave](#) (Blink) – by former Mozilla CEO, privacy conscious, in beta, limited extensions. (My pick)
- [Vivaldi](#) (Blink) – by former Opera CEO, direct access to Chrome web store, a full chrome replacement. (My runner up.)
- [Iron](#) (SRWare) – based on the free Source code “Chromium” – without any problems at privacy and security.
- [IceDragon](#) – Fast, secure and feature-rich Internet browser based on Firefox. Full compatibility with original Firefox plug-ins.
- [Waterfox](#) – 64bit, Firefox based.
- [Pale Moon](#) (Goanna) – Firefox fork.
- [Midori](#) (WebKit) – Is blazing fast, utilizing the latest web technologies and a small but dexterous array of extensions provide all the essential features.
- [Light](#) – A minimalist browser based on Mozilla source code.

Mobile Browsers:

- Brave for Mobile: [Android](#), [iOS](#).
- Firefox Mobile: [Android](#), [iOS](#).

Password Managers:

- [Keepass](#)
- [LastPass](#)
- [Enpass](#)
- [Dashlane](#)
- [1Password](#)
- [RoboForm](#)

Two-Factor Authentication:

- [Authy](#) – Best Rated 2FA App

Alernate DNS:

First, do not use Google's DNS, it just gives them another means to track you. Second Open DNS is now owned by Cisco and they do censor.

- [Domain Name Speed Benchmark Test](#)
- [OpenNIC project](#)

Search Engines:

- [Lycos](#) – Yes they're still around and independent from Bing & Google.
- [DuckDuckGo](#) – privately uses Yahoo (Bing). Has "[bang](#)" options.
- [StartPage](#) – privately uses Google.
- [searX](#) – a metasearch engine, aggregating the results of other search engines while not storing information about its users.
- [Bing](#) – A full array of features and a rewards system you can sign up for.
- [Ecosia](#) – The search engine that plants trees with its ad revenue. (Bing)

Youtube Alternatives:

Note: If you're a serious content creator than I suggest mirroring your channel on several of these:

- [PewTube](#) – PewTube is a video-sharing alternative to mainstream sites like YouTube and Vimeo. Creators are able to freely upload audio, video, and images without fear of politically correct censorship.
- [MINDS](#) – “Your social network,” Open Channel based social media network. A good site to mirror content.
- [Live Leak](#) – This is the place to mirror your Youtube channel. They are anti-censorship.
- [Vid.me](#) <- Another good site to mirror your content. They're probably the most polished Youtube competitor.
- [vimeo](#) – A lot of original artistry content.
- [Break](#) – Popular Youtube competitor that's been around awhile.
- [metacafe](#) – Have been around awhile.
- [Gvid](#) – An experiment for a low cost, content-neutral replacement for Youtube.
- [BitChute](#) – A peer to peer content sharing platform. Our mission is to put people and free speech first.

Mobile OS Alternatives:

- [BlackBerry, Powered by Android](#) – BlackBerry services running on the Android OS.
- [Lineage OS](#) – Formerly Cyanogen Mod.
- [Copperhead OS](#) – “A hardened open-source operating system based on Android.”
- [Sailfish OS](#) – “Open source and developed by the Finnish mobile company Jolla Ltd. and the Sailfish OS community.”
- [silent circle](#) – “Silent Circle is a secure communications company offering mobile devices, software applications, and communication management services to the enterprise.”
- [Windows 10 Mobile](#)

OS Alternatives:

- [Qubes OS](#) – A reasonably secure operating system, what Snowden uses.
- [Tails](#) – Privacy for anyone anywhere.
- [Haiku](#) – Inspired by the BeOS, Haiku is fast, simple to use, easy to learn and yet very powerful.

Social Media alternatives:

- [Gab.ai](#) – The Twitter alternative.
- [WrongThink](#) – an alternative social networking web service made for the people, by the people that emerged after “The Great Fall of Twitter 2017” due to their unrelenting desire to curb free speech and censor their user base.
- [MINDS](#) – “Your social network,” Open Channel based social media network.
- [Mastodon](#) – a free, open-source social network. A decentralized alternative to commercial platforms, it avoids the risks of a single company monopolizing your communication.
- [Diaspora.com](#) – Decentralized online social world where you are in control. Integrates into other social networks.
- [SteemIt](#) – a blockchain-based social media platform where anyone can earn rewards.
- [BBM](#) – Old school with a big user base, fully encrypted, & a feed/channel system.
- [seenlife](#) – Privacy conscious Facebook competitor.
- [Movim](#) – Simple, light and respectful.
- [GNU social](#) – A continuation of the StatusNet project. It is social communication software for both public and private communications. It is widely supported and has a large user base.
- [Grassfire](#) – a fully featured social environment that includes user profiles, chat, instant messaging, user groups, user news feeds, media uploading/sharing, discussion forums and much more!
- [Friendica](#) – A Decentralized Social Network.

- [Voat.co](https://voat.co) – Reddit alternative.

VPN/Tunneling Software:

- [I2P](#) – The invisible internet project, similar to TOR.
- [Retrosahre](#) – Retrosahre was founded by drbob in 2006, as a platform to provide “secure communications and file sharing with friends”.
- [Freenet](#) – Browse websites, post on forums, and publish files within Freenet with strong privacy protections.
- [Greycoder](#) – best vpn service reviews.
- [Psiphon](#) – “For 10 years, Psiphon has provided open access to the Internet to citizens of countries with information controls and limitations.”
- [Lantern](#) – “Better than a VPN”
- [Whonix](#) – “Offers you the most secure way to surf the web.”

Alternate/Developing web technology:

- [libp2p](#) – A modular network stack. Run network applications free from runtime and address services, independently of their location.
- [IPFS](#) – A peer-to-peer hypermedia protocol.
- [Hubzilla](#) – a powerful platform for creating interconnected websites featuring a decentralized identity, communications, and permissions framework built using common webserver technology.
- [ZeroNet](#) – Peer to Peer, Open, free and un-censorable websites.
- [Freenet](#) – Browse websites, post on forums, and publish files within Freenet with strong privacy protections.
- [Retrosahre](#) – Retrosahre was founded by drbob in 2006, as a platform to provide “secure communications and file sharing with friends”.
- [Dark Mail Technical Alliance](#) – developing a unique end-to-end encrypted protocol and architecture that is the ‘next-generation’ of private and secure email.
- [LEAP](#) – a non-profit dedicated to giving all internet users access to secure encrypted communication.
- [JonDO](#) – a proxy client and will forward the traffic of your internet applications encrypted to the mix cascades and so it will hide your ip address.
- [I2P](#) – The invisible internet project, similar to TOR.
- [Matrix](#) – Matrix is an open standard for decentralized communication.

Miscellaneous:

- [We Are The New Media](#) <- List of alternative media & news sites.
- [Infogalactic](#) – A wikipedia alternative
- [Greycoder](#) – Privacy information & tech including VPNs.
- [Prism Break](#) – Privacy information & software.
- [Muckety](#) – Shows relationships between people, businesses, organizations, and governments.
- [Zcubes](#) – Z is the first omni-functional platform for the next generation that brings the digital experience closer to you in the real world.
- [Privacytools.io](#) – provides knowledge and tools to protect your privacy against global mass surveillance.
- <http://someonewhocares.org/hosts/>