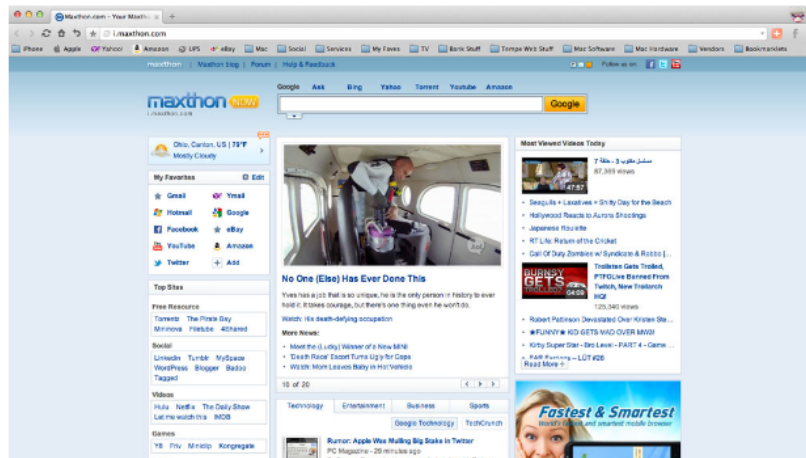
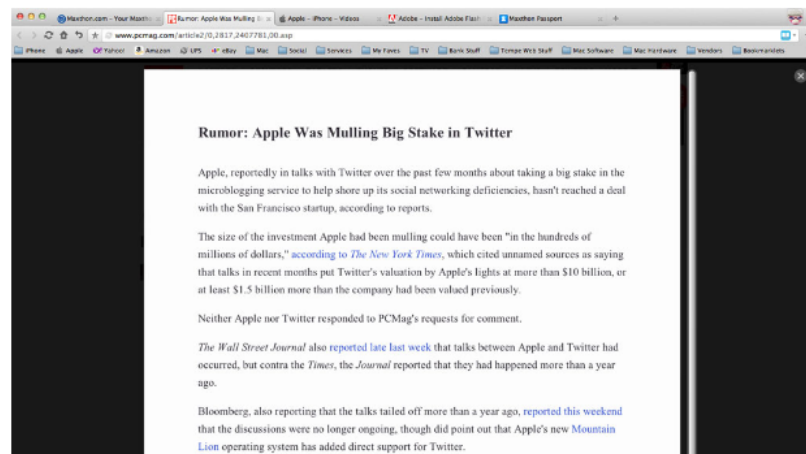




July 31, 2012
By: J.R. Bookwalter



With Microsoft's Internet Explorer long out of the picture, Apple's Safari, Mozilla's Firefox and Google's Chrome have been left to duke it out in recent years, each one hoping to become the favored web browser of Mac users everywhere. Into this passionate combat comes Maxthon, which serves up a Chromium-based browser with a handful of unique features -- but are they enough for Mac users to abandon their favorites?



Otherwise, Maxthon is a reasonably full-featured affair. Reader Mode strips away ads and presents web articles in a clean, easy-to-read page, while "Magic Fill" takes the work out of juggling usernames and passwords. That's a good thing, because Mac stalwarts like 1Password do not yet support Maxthon; we also received an error when trying to install Xmarks, our favorite solution for keeping bookmarks in sync across browsers.

MX Credits may be one of the more bizarre aspects of Maxthon for many Mac users. A "virtual asset" similar to a reward system, Maxthon awards users with credits for registration, email verification, friend invites and other tasks, but the encouragement of phony money is essentially worthless right now. However, the company promises "new ways to spend credits for all kinds of goods" in the future.

Finally, a caveat for OS X Mountain Lion users: The currently-available release of Maxthon for Mac is not signed for Gatekeeper, and you'll get a warning as such when attempting to launch it. Thankfully, this can be circumvented by holding down the Control key, clicking the Maxthon icon and selecting "Open," then confirming that you wish to do so. Here's hoping the developers fix this little faux pas with a future update.

The bottom line. Web browsers are a unique experience in the software world. Since they're all completely free to use, our allegiance to one over another is largely dependent upon which most closely fits our lifestyle. We can't say that Maxthon is entirely a comfortable fit for ours, nor is there anything inherently bad or wrong with it. That said, it doesn't yet offer a compelling reason to switch from Chrome itself unless you



Product	Maxthon for Mac 1.0.2.0 (Beta 798)
Company	Maxthon International Ltd.
Contact	maxthon.com
Price	Free
Requirements	Mac OS X 10.6 or later
Positives +	Mac full-screen support. Cloud sync to other platforms, including mobile apps. Wide range of video playback without the need to install plugins.
Negatives +	Not quite as fast as Safari 6 or Chrome 20 in our speed tests. Extension support limited. No support yet for browser add-ons like 1Password or Xmarks. No OS X Mountain Lion Gatekeeper support.
MacLife RATED	GOOD

http://www.maclife.com/article/reviews/maxthon_mac_review