

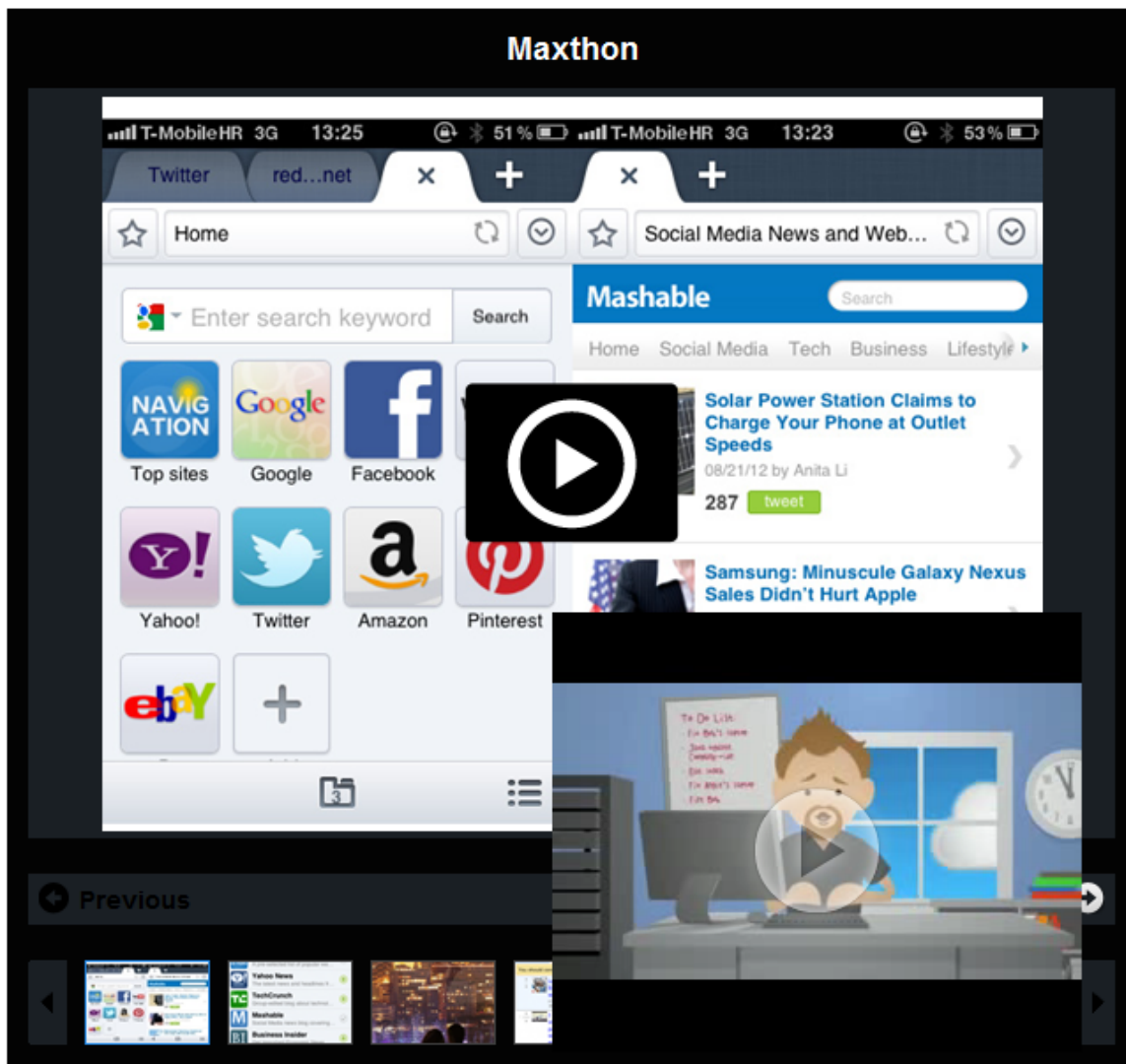
Mashable

Maxthon 1.0 Takes on Safari and Chrome for the iPhone [HANDS ON]



August 21, 2012 by Stan Schroeder

1



One of the up-and-comers in the web browser market, Maxthon, was previously available only on the iPad and as a desktop browser. The new version, 1.0, also works on the iPhone and the iPod touch, making it a fresh alternative to iPhone's native Safari, Chrome, Opera and a few others.

Plethora of Features

In a way, [Maxthon](#) improves upon Safari by marrying a couple of features from other competitors into one app. Maxthon offers tabbed browsing, a smart address bar and favorites syncing — features we've seen on [Chrome](#) for iOS.

Maxthon also includes a grid of "quick access" bookmarks that appear when you open a new tab, which is similar to Opera's mobile offering.

Finally, Maxthon features a download manager, private browsing and reader mode for those who like to read on their smartphone. It can be set to automatically open when you encounter suitable content.

One neat feature is almost hidden — if you need more content for your home page grid of bookmarks, you can tap the "Add" icon from Home and choose from a list of featured bookmarks and apps called the "App Center."

The Look and Feel

Maxthon's design is quite similar to Chrome, though tabs are shown in a more conventional way: at the top, similar to the way they're shown in desktop browsers. A button at the bottom of the screen lets you show or hide the tabs, while another one lets you access the settings and additional options, such as favorites and downloads.

As far as web page rendering and browsing speed are concerned, we encountered no errors, though we didn't notice a big speed advantage over Safari, even when browsing on an iPhone 3GS.

While few of its features are completely original, Maxthon does offer a compelling package for anyone looking for an alternative to the popular iPhone browsing options. It will have a hard time fighting off Chrome, which has the advantage of being plugged into Google's vast network of online services, but at the moment it is more feature rich than Google's offering.

Have you tried Maxthon for iPhone out? What do you think? Share your opinions in the comments.

<http://mashable.com/2012/08/21/maxthon-iphone/>