

# Detect Users Browser Capabilities with PHP

In today's internet of JavaScript rich UI, it's sometimes very important to know the browser/platform user is using for browsing your site so that you can change the content dynamically according to the browser or the platform. Many sites are already working with this, like Firefox's official website automatically takes you to Linux downloads if you are using a browser on Linux OS, also nowadays browsers are evolving very fast and at times the browser version too becomes important, like a page that works well on IE7 does not look the same on IE6 or say Google Chrome/Opera.

Here we'll see how you can get a lot of information about the current browser using PHP function `get_browser()`.

## Checking If Available

`get_browser()` has been available since PHP 4, but sometimes it might not work because you'll see to set the path for `browscap.ini` in PHP's configuration file i.e. `php.ini`. In case you do not have `browscap.ini` on your system download it from <http://browsers.garykeith.com/downloads.asp>

## Usage

Usage is pretty simple, the function `get_browser ([ string $user_agent [, bool $return_array = false ] ] )` you may pass `null` for the first argument, the function will automatically get the useragent from environment variables, and for the second parameter it is optional too, pass `true` if you want the function to return data in an array instead of an object.

The function will return key-value pairs for various features, browser name, version etc. The sample code below and the output on various browsers will give you an idea.

Code: PHP

```
<?php
$browser = get_browser( null, true );
```

```
print '<pre>';
print $_SERVER['HTTP_USER_AGENT'] . "\n\n";
print_r($browser);
print '</pre>';
?>
```

Output on Lynx (CLI browser):

Code:

```
Lynx/2.8.5rel.1 libwww-FM/2.14 SSL-MM/1.4.1 OpenSSL/0.9.8e-fips-rhel5
```

Array

```
(
  [browser_name_regex] => ^lynx/2\.8.*$
  [browser_name_pattern] => Lynx/2.8*
  [parent] => Lynx
  [version] => 2.8
  [majorver] => 2
  [minorver] => 8
  [comment] => Lynx
  [browser] => Lynx
  [frames] => 1
  [iframes] => 1
  [tables] => 1
  [platform] => unknown
  [platform_version] => unknown
  [alpha] =>
  [beta] =>
  [win16] =>
  [win32] =>
  [win64] =>
  [cookies] =>
  [backgroundsounds] =>
  [javascript] =>
  [vbscript] =>
```

```
[javaapplets] =>
[activexcontrols] =>
[ismobiledevice] =>
[issyndicationreader] =>
[crawler] =>
[cssversion] => 0
[aolversion] => 0
)
```

## Output on Firefox:

### Code:

```
Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 5.1; rv:10.0.2) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/10.0.2

Array
(
    [browser_name_regex] => ^mozilla/5\.0 (.*windows nt 5\.1.*rv:.*) gecko/. *
firefox/10\..*$
    [browser_name_pattern] => Mozilla/5.0 (*Windows NT 5.1*rv:*) Gecko/*
Firefox/10.*
    [parent] => Firefox 10.0
    [platform] => WinXP
    [platform_version] => 5.1
    [comment] => Firefox 10.0
    [browser] => Firefox
    [version] => 10.0
    [majorver] => 10
    [minorver] => 0
    [win32] => 1
    [frames] => 1
    [iframes] => 1
    [tables] => 1
    [cookies] => 1
    [javascript] => 1
    [javaapplets] => 1
    [cssversion] => 3
)
```

```
[alpha] =>
[beta] =>
[win16] =>
[win64] =>
[backgroundsounds] =>
[vbscript] =>
[activexcontrols] =>
[ismobiledevice] =>
[issyndicationreader] =>
[crawler] =>
[aolversion] => 0
)
```

## Output on IE:

### Code:

```
Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 8.0; Windows NT 5.1; Trident/4.0; .NET CLR
2.0.50727; .NET4.0C; .NET4.0E; .NET CLR 3.0.4506.2152; .NET CLR 3.5.30729)

Array
(
    [browser_name_regex] => ^mozilla/4\.0 (compatible; msie 8\.0; .*windows
nt 5\.1\.*; trident/4\.0\.*)\.*$
    [browser_name_pattern] => Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 8.0; *Windows NT
5.1*; Trident/4.0*)*
    [parent] => IE 8.0
    [platform] => WinXP
    [platform version] => 5.1
    [comment] => IE 8.0
    [browser] => IE
    [version] => 8.0
    [majorver] => 8
    [minorver] => 0
    [win32] => 1
    [frames] => 1
    [iframes] => 1
)
```

```
[tables] => 1
[cookies] => 1
[backgroundsounds] => 1
[javascript] => 1
[vbscript] => 1
[javaapplets] => 1
[activexcontrols] => 1
[cssversion] => 2
[alpha] =>
[beta] =>
[win16] =>
[win64] =>
[ismobiledevice] =>
[issyndicationreader] =>
[crawler] =>
[aolversion] => 0
)
```

## Output on Google Chrome:

### Code:

```
Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 5.1) AppleWebKit/536.5 (KHTML, like Gecko)
Chrome/19.0.1084.52 Safari/536.5

Array
(
    [browser_name_regex] => ^mozilla/5\.0 (.?windows nt 5\.1.*)
applewebkit/.? (khtml, like gecko).?chrome/19\...?safari/.?$
    [browser_name_pattern] => Mozilla/5.0 (*Windows NT 5.1*) AppleWebKit/*
(KHTML, like Gecko)*Chrome/19.*Safari/*
    [parent] => Chrome 19.0
    [platform] => WinXP
    [platform_version] => 5.1
    [comment] => Chrome 19.0
    [browser] => Chrome
    [version] => 19.0
)
```

```
[majorver] => 19
[minorver] => 0
[win32] => 1
[frames] => 1
[iframes] => 1
[tables] => 1
[cookies] => 1
[javascript] => 1
[javaapplets] => 1
[cssversion] => 3
[alpha] =>
[beta] =>
[win16] =>
[win64] =>
[backgroundsounds] =>
[vbscript] =>
[activexcontrols] =>
[ismobiledevice] =>
[issyndicationreader] =>
[crawler] =>
[aolversion] => 0
)
```

## References

<http://php.net/manual/en/function.get-browser.php>  
<http://browsers.garykeith.com/downloads.asp>

Source: <http://www.go4expert.com/articles/detect-users-browser-capabilities-php-t28492/>