

How to Make Microsoft Edge Distract-Free, Without Any Add-ons

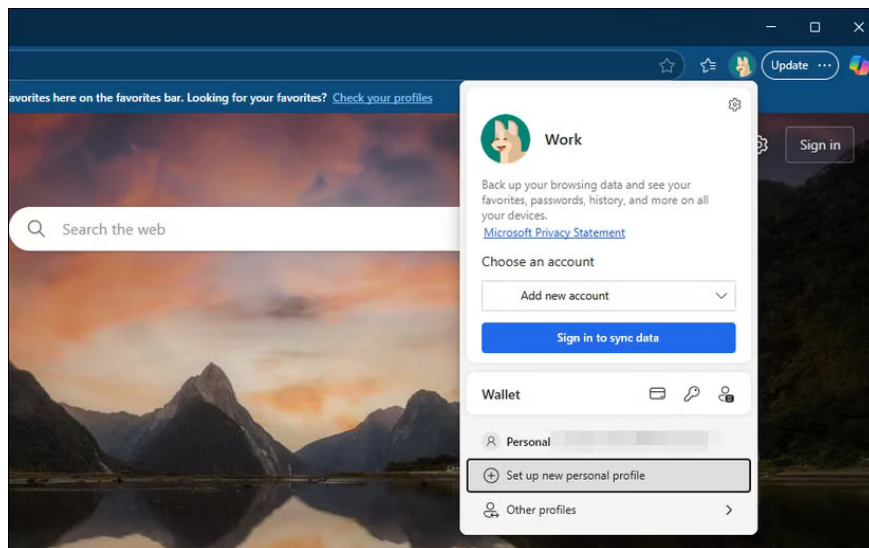
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5. Use a separate profile for work

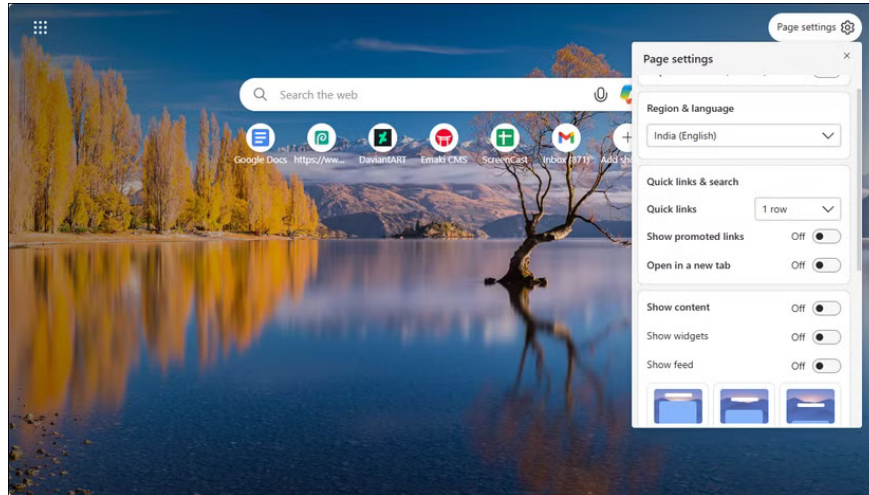
Creating your own profile in Edge is the most important productivity change you can make. A work profile contains only your work bookmarks, work accounts, and work extensions. It has the tools you need to get your work done, nothing else.

To create a new profile in Edge, click your profile icon in the upper-right corner and select **Set up a new personal profile** . Choose to sign in with a Microsoft account or continue without an account. Give it an easy-to-understand name, such as **Work** , and choose a theme color that visually distinguishes it from your personal browser. For example, you could use a blue theme for work and leave the default for personal use.



4. Remove distractions from the Start Page

Many people prefer Edge over Chrome for a variety of reasons, but unlike Google's minimalist approach, Edge will by default bombard you with a stream of news. These articles are algorithmically selected to grab your attention. One minute you're opening a new tab to check a work document, and the next you're reading about sensational celebrity stories or political scandals.



Luckily, Edge makes it a little easier to turn them off. To turn off the Edge feed:

1. Click the gear icon in the upper-right corner of any new tab to open **Page settings**.
2. Scroll down and turn off **Show feed**.
3. While you're there, clean up the **Quick Links** section. If you see Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, or YouTube lurking there, remove them. Click the three-dot menu next to each distracting site and select **Remove**.

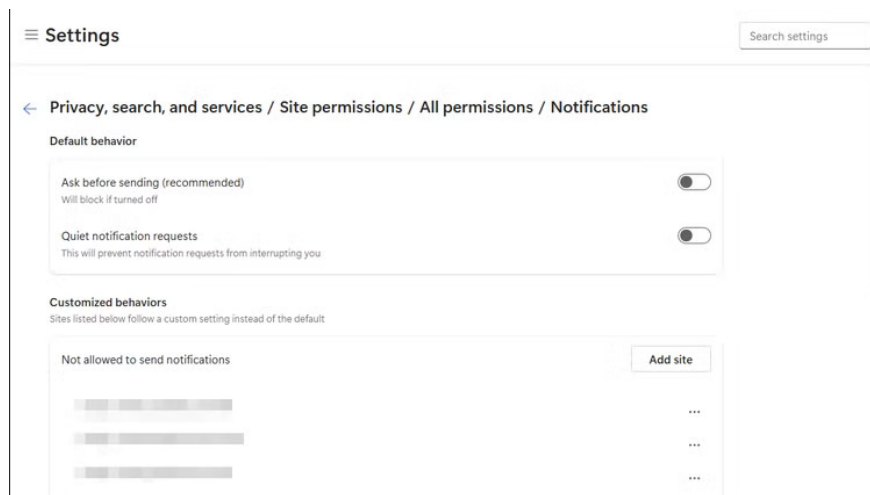
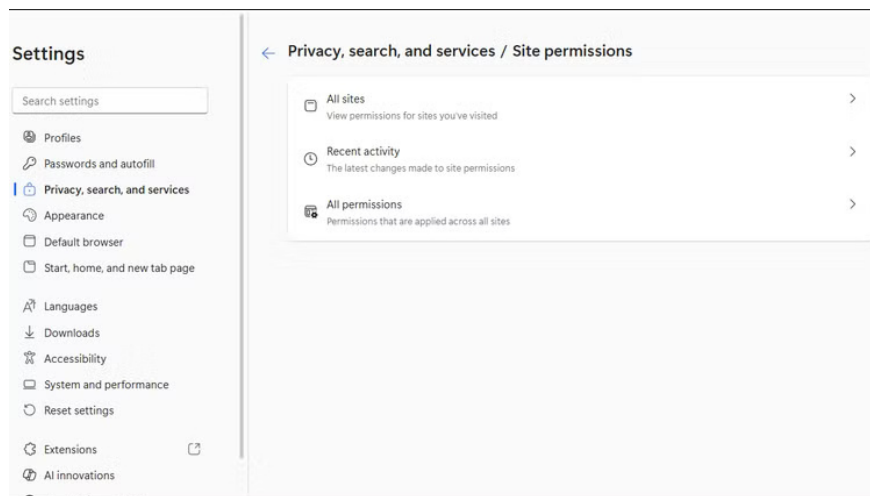
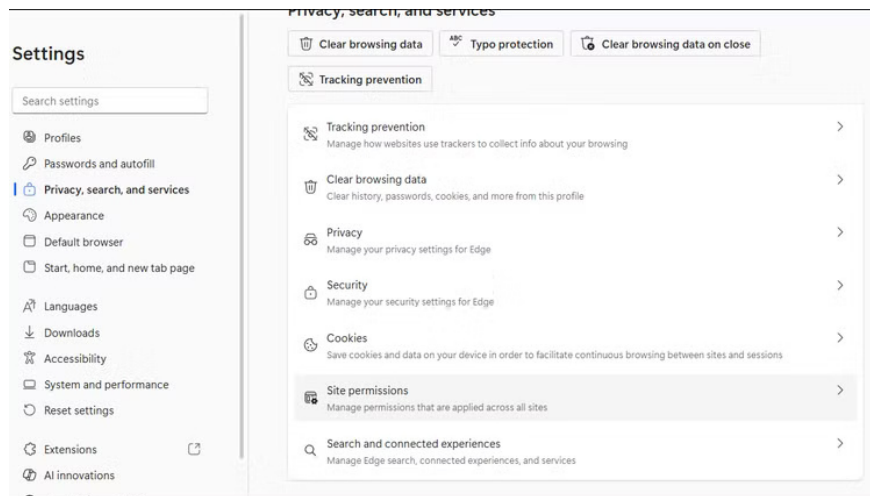
You're almost done increasing your productivity!

3. Manage notifications to avoid triggering

Just like apps on your phone, almost every website wants permission to notify you of updates. News sites want to notify you of breaking news, e-commerce sites want to notify you of promotions, and social media platforms would love to pull you back with interactive notifications.

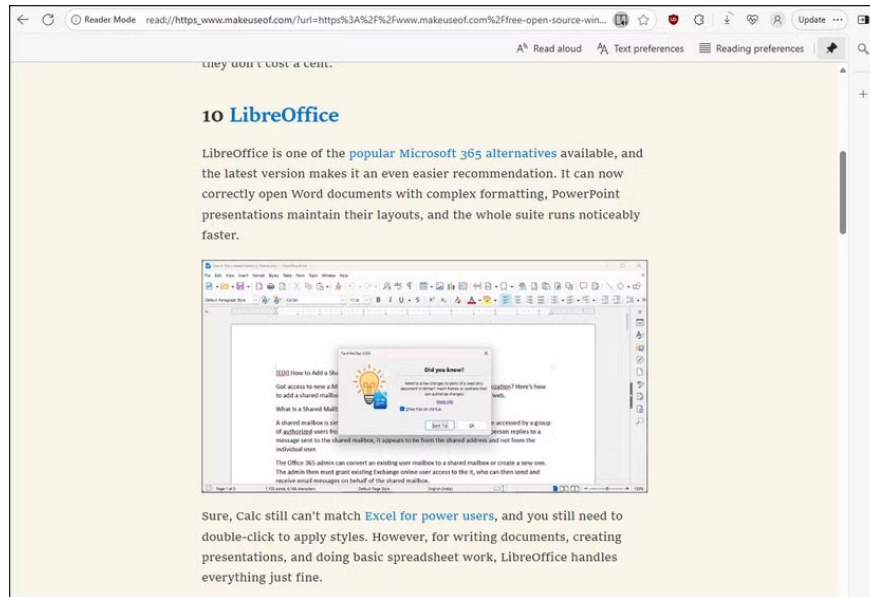
To prevent these interruptions, you can turn off browser notifications completely.

1. Click the three-dot menu in Edge and select **Settings**.
2. Navigate to **Privacy, search, and services > Site permissions**.
3. Then, click on **All permissions** and select **Notifications**.
4. Turn off **Ask before sending** to automatically block all notification requests.



2. Use Immersive Reader to Eliminate Distractions

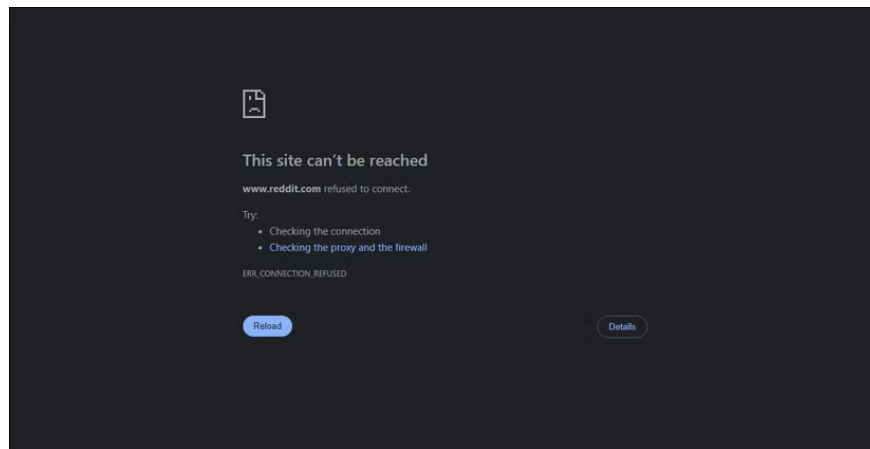
Immersive Reader removes all of this, turning cluttered web pages into clean, e-book-style documents to improve your reading experience on Microsoft Edge. When Immersive Reader is available on a page, you'll see a book icon in the address bar. Click the icon once to turn on immersive mode, or press **F9** to quickly activate it from your keyboard.



On the Immersive Reader toolbar, you can adjust text size, switch between light and dark themes, and even enable reading tools that highlight sentence types or break words into syllables.

1. Block time-wasting websites

No matter how hard you try, muscle memory still takes over. In boring tasks, you'll type twitter.com (or Reddit, YouTube, or Instagram) without thinking.



Browser extensions can block these sites, but they're too easy to turn off or offer snooze or pause options that let you use the sites for 5 to 10 minutes. You need something harder to ignore.

The solution is to edit your computer's hosts file to redirect time-consuming domains to a dead end. Here's how to do it:

1. Click **Start** , type **Notepad** , right-click **Notepad** and select **Run as administrator** .
2. Click **File > Open** and navigate to **C:WindowsSystem32driversetc.**
3. Change the file type drop-down list from **Text Documents** to **All Files** .
4. Select the hosts file and then click **Open** .
5. Add the websites you want to block as follows:

127.0.0.1 twitter.com 127.0.0.1 www.twitter.com 127.0.0.1 reddit.com 127.0.0.1 w

1. Finally, click **File > Save** .

When you visit any of these sites, you'll see **the This site can't be reached** error. This method is inconvenient to undo, which prevents you from bothering with regular browsing, but can be easily restored when you actually need to visit any of these URLs.

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