

Go Beyond Google: The Best Alternative Search Engines for 2024

By Michael Muchmore, [pcmag.com](https://www.pcmag.com), Updated August 8, 2024

A judge has ruled that [Google has a monopoly on online search](#) because it paid partners to make its search engine the default on phones and mobile browsers. But you don't *have* to use [Google](#), and there are many reasons not to.

These 15 search engines beat Google in many ways, from anonymous browsing to curated content.

Though Google is familiar to everyone, it doesn't need to know [every detail about you](#) and [profit from your information](#).

Alternative search engines often give you more privacy and sometimes come with other benefits as well, such as rewards or donations to worthy causes based on how much you search.

The quality of results between Google and other search engines used to be a real issue, but now you'd be hard-pressed to find much difference. The greatest contrast you're likely to notice is the ranking of the top results..

Best for Curated Interest Content

AOL Search: AOL is still in the web portal game, giving you a start page showing curated hot topics in the news, entertainment, health, sports, food, and finance. But you can use it just as a web search engine as well.

This offering features a slick interface, optional content filtering of potentially offensive material, and good image search filters.

It's not the most private search in the world: location and activity tracking are turned on by default, but you can disable those from a Privacy Dashboard.

AOL and Yahoo are one in the same company, so your web results will likely be the same in both, but they have different interface tools.

Note: Curated interest content refers to **a carefully selected and organized collection of relevant and engaging content from various sources, tailored to a specific audience or niche**. It involves identifying high-quality content that resonates with the audience's interests and presenting it in a way that adds value, often accompanied by personal commentary or insights.

Best for Privacy, Customization, and AI Summaries

Brave Search: Coming from the innovative creators of the privacy-focused Brave web browser, Brave Search claims “unmatched privacy.”

In my testing using the EFF’s Cover Your Tracks Tools, [Brave was the most private browser](#), so the claim has some weight behind it.

Brave gets its results both from its own web crawling index and “anonymous API calls to third parties.” Brave now gives you a choice of AI-powered or standard web results via its Answer With AI button.

Finally, Brave's Goggles feature lets you filter your results with parameters like No Celebrity content or News from the Left or Right.

Best for Anonymity

DuckDuckGo: The biggest name in private search deserves your attention. DuckDuckGo (DDG) has a simple privacy policy: “We don’t collect or share any of your personal information.”

The search interface is simple, and results are on target, though they lack the extensive info panels found in Bing and Google. DDG lets you search for images, videos, news, maps, and shopping results.

Best for Tracking-Free Google Results

Gibiru: Gibiru may not have the slickest interface, special tools, or unique search features—or revenue sharing—but in its bare-bones interface, you can get your familiar old Google results without the activity tracking that Google engages in when you use its site.

Best for Rich Results and AI Tools

Microsoft Bing

For a search experience that's as close to Google in terms of richness of information on the result page—and in many cases even more useful instant result cards—Bing is it.

[Bing receives less than 4% of search traffic worldwide](#). You could say that Bing has vaulted past Google in capabilities, with the introduction of [Copilot](#), an astonishing AI search bot powered by ChatGPT.

Bing is the most full-featured contender in this group, with new AI Bing Chat search and content generation, strong news, image, video, and map searching capabilities

Best for Maps and Music Search

Qwant: From the EU comes the anti-Google search service Qwant. Qwant has an appealing design and uses its own indexing robots to scan webpages for results, though it makes use of APIs from Microsoft Bing, Twitter, YouTube, and iTunes.

Maps are based on the open-source [OpenMapTiles](#), and you can privately save your map history.

When using Qwant, users can be certain that their browsing history isn't stored, they aren't profiled, and they aren't targeted through personalized ads.

Best for Showing Reliability and Political Leaning of Results

Seekr: Seekr has an original take on search, but now it's just for news stories. It uses machine learning to rate results on reliability and ideology. The result pages show whether each link leans right, left, or center. It also shows a result's reliability. For news results, you can use sliders to filter for higher reliability or left or right political leans.

The company claims it's building its own web index, but it uses Bing for map results.

Link: news.seekr.com

Best for Music Search

Swisscows: Switzerland-based Swisscows offers a privacy-focused search site a donates to worthy causes when you use it.

Swisscows has a Music option, which lets you play tunes from the free Soundcloud service.

Best for News and Financial Information

Yahoo!: The once-dominant and later-derided Yahoo Search has gotten its act together lately. The main Yahoo page has a search box at the top and panels for news, weather, sports, and trending searches. If you head to search.yahoo.com, you now see a simpler page with trending searches and buttons for Yahoo's other services, including the highly regarded Yahoo Finance.

Yahoo uses Bing to power search results, though it also has its own technology for a panel of Trending searches and other features.

A few more that you can check for yourself

Best for Supporting the Environment: Ecosia

Best for Emotion-Ranked Results: Mojeek

Best for Web3 Fans: Presearch

Best for Team Charity Fundraising: Seva

Best for Anonymous Proxied Results: Startpage