



Issued 7/26/18

Mozilla Engineer says Google Slowed YouTube Down on Non-Chrome Browsers

YouTube has allegedly been slowed down on Mozilla's Firefox and Microsoft's Edge browsers. A Mozilla engineer says Google's redesign has made YouTube slower on Firefox and Edge. Chris Peterson, the software community's technical program manager, tweeted on Tuesday that the video sharing site loads at a fifth of the speed on non-Chrome browsers due to its architecture, as first reported by Sofpedia. YouTube page load is 5x slower in Firefox and Edge than in Chrome because YouTube's Polymer redesign relies on the deprecated Shadow DOM v0 API only implemented in Chrome. You can restore YouTube's faster pre- Polymer design with this Firefox extension: <https://addons.mozilla.org/firefox/addon/youtube-classic> ... "YouTube serves a Shadow DOM polyfill to Firefox and Edge that is, unsurprisingly, slower than Chrome's native implementation. On my laptop, initial page load takes 5 seconds with the polyfill vs 1 without. Subsequent page navigation perf is comparable." Peterson suggested fixes for both Firefox -- Mozilla's browser -- and Microsoft's Edge that revert YouTube to a previous version using add-ons. In May, YouTube revealed that it has 1.8 billion registered viewers every month and previously said that 400 hours of video are uploaded to the site every minute -- so its performance is a vital factor in people's choice of browser.