

Would You Rather Make Your Internet Browsing History For The Past 12 Months Accessible to Anyone Or Live Without The Internet – In Its Entirety – For A Full Year?

I could almost hear the screams from the Internet trolls on this one. I, myself, had serious problems with this question. Did I really want people to see the bizarre and twisted things I look up on a daily basis or did I want to live without Internet. I decided a little experiment was in order to help make my decision clear. Living without Internet seemed the easier of the two and in the South, especially where I happen to live, we have tremendous thunderstorms. I just needed a storm large enough to kill the power and I could gauge my reaction. I figured I'd start at four hours and measure my tolerance from there, but I was pretty sure I could live without the Internet. As luck would have it, I didn't have long to wait, a huge storm rolled in, so all I needed to do was note what time the power went off and note my reactions. I know, not very scientific, but I live alone, what can I do?

I'm happy to relate that the experiment was a huge success. Power went out, I turned off my smartphone and was left in the proverbial Stone Age. I noted the time the power went off and came back on and will briefly relate my findings for you all. Power died at 1:47pm EST. I decided to read a book to pass the time, unfortunately the candle glow wasn't enough so this pursuit was quickly dropped. Music, television and even writing were out of the question, so I searched for something else to pass the time. A shower! Nope, electric water heater, damn. I gave in to my more primitive urges. I admit, that at this point it turned into a little more monkeys at the zoo flinging poo than gorillas in the mist. And yes, there was a copious amount of alcohol involved, but no actual poo.

Finally, after what seemed an eternity without civilization, the power flickered and things started humming back to life. I thought, how will I ever go back to civilization after being in the

wild so long. I eagerly anticipated the clock loading to note the time. It felt like it had been hours, surely more than the allotted four hours I had given. And then the time lit up, 1:58pm EST... Eleven minutes?? Hmm... Browsing history it is. I'm sorry Mom... people are going to think I'm a psychopath, deal with it; I really can't help the weird things I look up online.

It's safe to say I'm not the only one addicted to technology, as a whopping 72% of the 565 respondents preferred to share browsing history over giving up the Internet.

	Browsing History	Give Up Internet
Males 18-24	189	65
Males 25-29	48	9
Males 30-34	23	8
Males 35-54	2	5
Males 35-39	6	2
Males 40-44	3	1
Males 45-49	1	0
Males 50+	2	2
Totals	274	92
Percentage of 366 respondents	75%	25%

	Browsing History	Give Up Internet
Females 18-24	83	15
Females 18-34	7	25
Females 25-29	22	8
Females 30-34	4	2
Females 35-54	5	11
Females 35-39	3	0
Females 45-49	1	0
Females 55+	0	4
Totals	125	65
Percentage of 190 respondents	66%	34%

	Browsing History	Give Up Internet
Other 18-24	2	1
Other 25-29	0	2

Other 30-34	1	0
Other 50+	2	1
Totals	5	4
Percentage of 9 respondents	56%	44%

After looking at the information gathered I wondered why are we so reluctant to give up our Internet? I devised a little experiment to see what was so bloody interesting on the Internet. I mean, it's got to be more than cat memes and Facebook... right? So, I got a group of friends to monitor their Internet usage for 5 days: I asked them to note what websites they visited and what they were looking up when they went there. I, too, tracked my Internet usage and was astonished – nay, blown away – to see just how much time I spend online. Even removing ‘work-related’ searches browsing history is just an overload of information, but if anyone has the time and is utterly bored, feel free. I’m including a small sample of my own browsing history – simply put there was enough information in 5 days to fill a book by itself.

My browser history on a typical day – or better known as – “weird shit I look at on the internet”:

- 20 most profound things people thought of in the shower
- Game of Thrones news and spoilers
- Star Wars news
- 7 things that happen when you stop having sex
- Random celebrity news
- Zodiac sign tattoo ideas
- Memes – yes, I love posting sarcastic and ridiculous pictures on social media; I’m known for it, deal with it.
- Writing prompts
- Huffington Post random articles
- New movies
- News on my favorite shows (Game of Thrones, Walking Dead, Fear the Walking Dead,

True Detective, Outlander, etc.)

- Facebook break
- Twitter break
- What's Lady Gaga up to now?
- Shopping on Amazon
- Check the bank account
- What's fire glass? Wait, that shit is cool.
- Facebook
- Shit, Facebook quiz... OOO I'd be an ultimate survivor on the Walking Dead... that's right.
- Email check
- 3 Quick and Nutritious Mason Jar Breakfasts... mason jars? Mason jars are for moonshine people... moving on
- How do you spell shellac? That doesn't look right, meh.
- New novel review request, hm, sounds interesting, what am I doing this weekend?
- Almost lunchtime, not really hungry, maybe I'll eat later.
- HARO query
- More cute cat pictures
- What does "Union of the Snake" mean? Why do I know that phrase?
- Netflix!
- Book tour, interview, guest post request, meh.
- Google images "you will be assimilated"
- Google images "danger Will Robinson"
- Word of the day "chauvinism". Ha! Ironic.
- Email
- Dancing with the stars
- Lil' Bastard on Adult Swim (damn addictive games)
- Aqua Teen Hunger Force (MEATWAD!!)
- 27 hilarious test answers that aren't technically wrong
- Robert Downey Jr.
- Nerdgasm and Geeks are Sexy (hey, they are websites)
- Ebay
- Google Play
- Resources for writers
- I have 227 browser tabs open and my computer runs fine
- The 50 most well-known serial killers
- Physicist Hawking says there's a way out of a black hole – um, didn't he just say there was no such thing as a black hole? Moving on.
- Goodreads.com

- Paypal
- 23 delicious ways to cook a pork shoulder
- Vintage books
- Etsy
- The Devil on Instagram
- YouTube random videos
- The Inked Boys <insert purr>
- 21 warning signs someone is bipolar – hm, how many do I have?
- Email
- Facebook

This was the before lunch list – I would continue, but I believe my point is made.

Information overload.

Final Thought

It's easy to see from the simple experiment we have grown into a society far too addicted to technology. I fear the day the Zombie Apocalypse is upon us. Not due to the Zombies, but because I fear there will be a large number of Zombie-selfies posted to Twitter and Instagram. Oh, and Facebook will look like Skittles are attacking. And if they are Zombies, do we still call them Internet Trolls?