What is a ‘Hard Refresh’ on my browser?

CDN - Content Delivery Network · https://computancy.co.uk/kb/what-is-a-hard-refresh-on-my-browser/

Caching is used by browsers to improve loading times and reduce bandwidth usage by storing copies of visited web pages in the browser memory. However, when developing or updating a website, cached versions can hide recent changes as you are viewing a historical version of the page, making a hard refresh nesessary.

A "hard refresh" is the process used to clear the cache for a specific webpage, forcing your browser to retrieve the latest version of that page from the server, rather than using stored (cached) data, ensuring that you are seeing the most current version of a page.

Here's how to perform a hard refresh on different browsers across various operating systems:

Windows and Linux:

- Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, and other Chromium-based browsers: Press `Ctrl` + `F5` or `Ctrl` + `Shift` + `R`.
- Mozilla Firefox: Press `Ctrl` + `F5` or `Ctrl` + `Shift` + `R`.
- Opera: Press `Ctrl` + `F5`.

macOS:

- Safari: Press `Option` + `Command` + `E` to empty the cache, then `Command` + `R` to reload the page.
- Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, and other Chromium-based browsers: Press `Shift` + `Command` + `R`.
- Mozilla Firefox: Press `Command` + `Shift` + `R`.

Why You Need It:

A hard refresh is necessary to bypass the cache for a specific page, ensuring that your browser loads the most recent version that you have just updated or re-built. This is crucial for web development and testing, as it allows you to immediately see changes without the interference of outdated cached data.