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Skyfire 1.0 mobile browser available now

Skyfire was a cool but unpolished mobile browser in beta a year ago when I [first laid eyes on it](#).

Now with, with Skyfire 1.0 launching today, the product looks like the real deal, offering a mobile web experience that provides good navigation, social networking integration and best of all, glorious web video.



Skyfire

The browser works by having Skyfire, the Mountain View company of the same name, run the web traffic through its servers and then streaming it to your phone. That's how it can provide cool things like Flash and Silverlight video and AJAX for sites like Gmail.

You can watch shows on Hulu.com with a pretty good picture. It's not 30 frames per second but it's a smooth enough and the audio is intact. This is a trick we're still waiting for on browsers like the iPhone's.

The early versions of Skyfire could do most of the basic stuff but 1.0 brings a lot of polish and clever thinking to the game. The first Skyfire beta browsers were slow to launch and slow to navigate. You couldn't click on a link until you zoomed in. And the thing ate up your battery when you weren't using it but still had it running.

The 1.0 version starts quickly and allows you to enter web addresses almost immediately. Navigation is easy and when you zoom in there's a cool swoosh effect as you drop into a closer view of the page. You can click on links without zooming too. Double clicking on text fits it to your page.

Also, as you move back and forth between pages or even when you come back to Skyfire after doing other things on your phone, the browser recalls where you were and what you were zoomed on. When you have Skyfire in the background, it disconnects to conserve battery life.

You can customize a start page with RSS feeds and update Facebook and Twitter accounts from the same place.

Skyfire can run on Windows Mobile and Symbian phones and is in alpha for the BlackBerry. More than 1 million smart phone users have already downloaded the Skyfire browser.

You can upgrade to 1.0 at get.skyfire.com. Existing Skyfire beta users with Skyfire .85 or earlier will need to uninstall Skyfire before installing 1.0.

- Posted by [Ryan Kim](#)

Posted by **P-I/New Media** at May 27, 2009 11:35 a.m.

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