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Wednesday June 23, 2010

Skyfire Browser for Android Updates, Challenges Adobe for Flash Performance

Categories: Free Downloads, Mobile Apps  
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In the world of alternative browsers for [Android](#) phones, you have dozens to choose from but only one that supports Flash video. The [Skyfire browser for Android](#) made waves [when it was released](#) and fully supported playback of Flash video from Web video sites that don't host mobile versions, and today users can update to the 2.1 version that still supports Flash video, but boasts speed improvements and support for more Web sites that use Flash video.

Additionally, the [developers](#) behind Skyfire are claiming that the new version of their browser outperforms Adobe's own Flash 10.1, which will be included in Android 2.2 "Froyo" when it's released later this year.

Skyfire supports Flash video by transcoding it on the fly to HTML5, but it doesn't support Flash for navigation or games, so Skyfire isn't a panacea for Android users looking for a Flash fix. According to Adobe, Flash 10.1 will support text input, gestures, and multi-touch, so it stands to reason sites that use Flash for navigation, image galleries, or games will be supported as well. Still, Skyfire is available now, while Android users are still waiting for a firm release date for most of their devices.



The new version of Skyfire expands support for more Web video sites that weren't supported before (Skyfire claims over 750,000 additional sites) and additional speed and battery life improvements. Skyfire doesn't require Wi-Fi to transcode video; the app allows you to watch high-quality flash video over [3G](#).

Additionally, the developers behind Skyfire claim that the new version outperforms Flash 10.1 on the devices that have it installed. Since Skyfire transcodes video to HTML5, the developers state that once the video is converted users have the ability to control playback without

stuttering or needing to buffer and load while playing, which results in less processing time and longer battery life.

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