



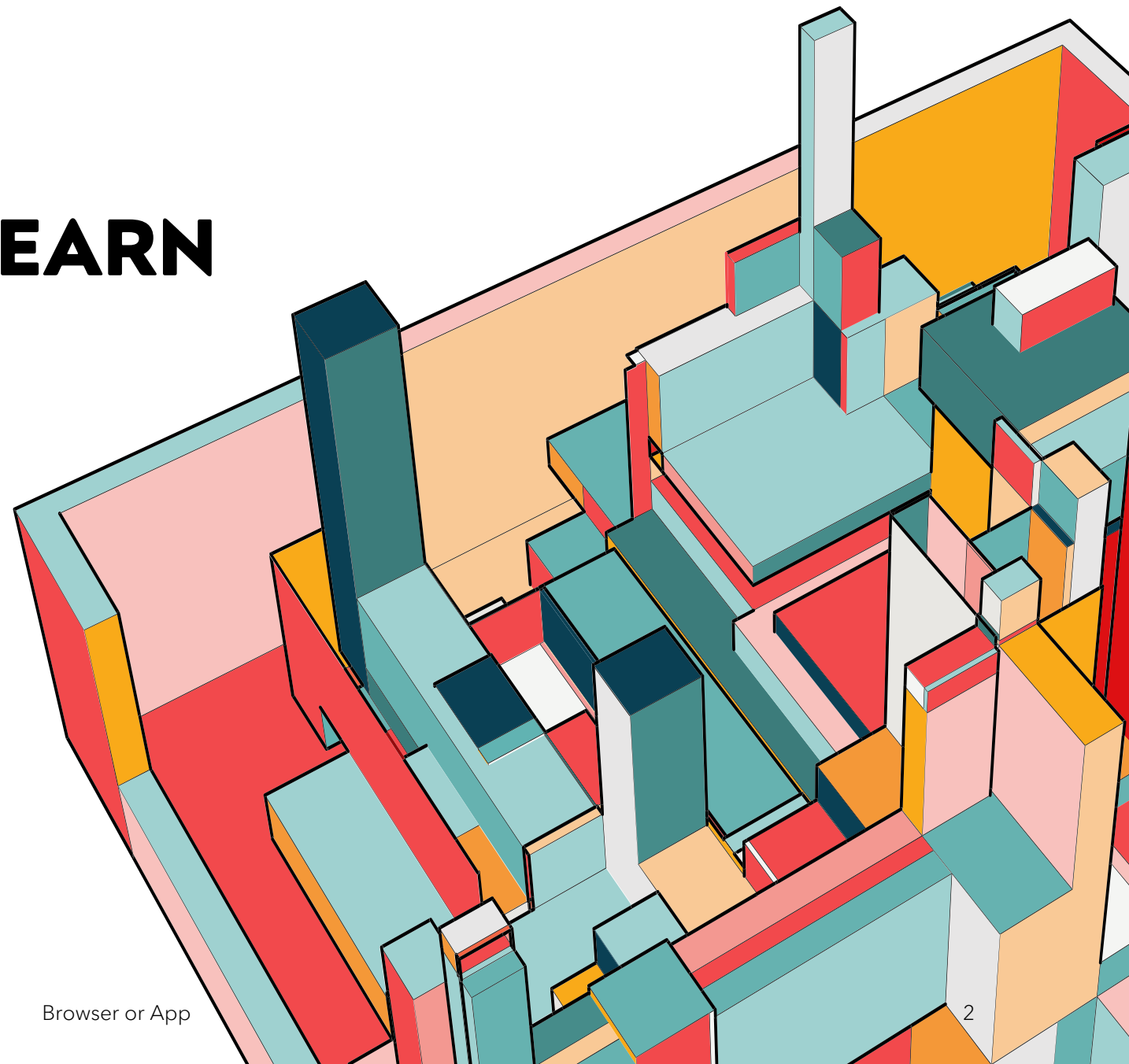
# **BROWSER OR APP**

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# WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- What is a Browser and what is an App.
- When should you use one or the other.
- Why are there both browsers and apps.
- Who made this so confusing...And how can we stop them?



# WHAT IS CONSIDERED A BROWSER?

## Definition:

A browser is any application that can go to multiple websites using a URL (Uniform Resource Locator) also known as a web address.

## Benefits:

Because browsers can go to any website they are more flexible.  
A browser can be enhanced to block ads or other unwanted behavior.

## Cons:

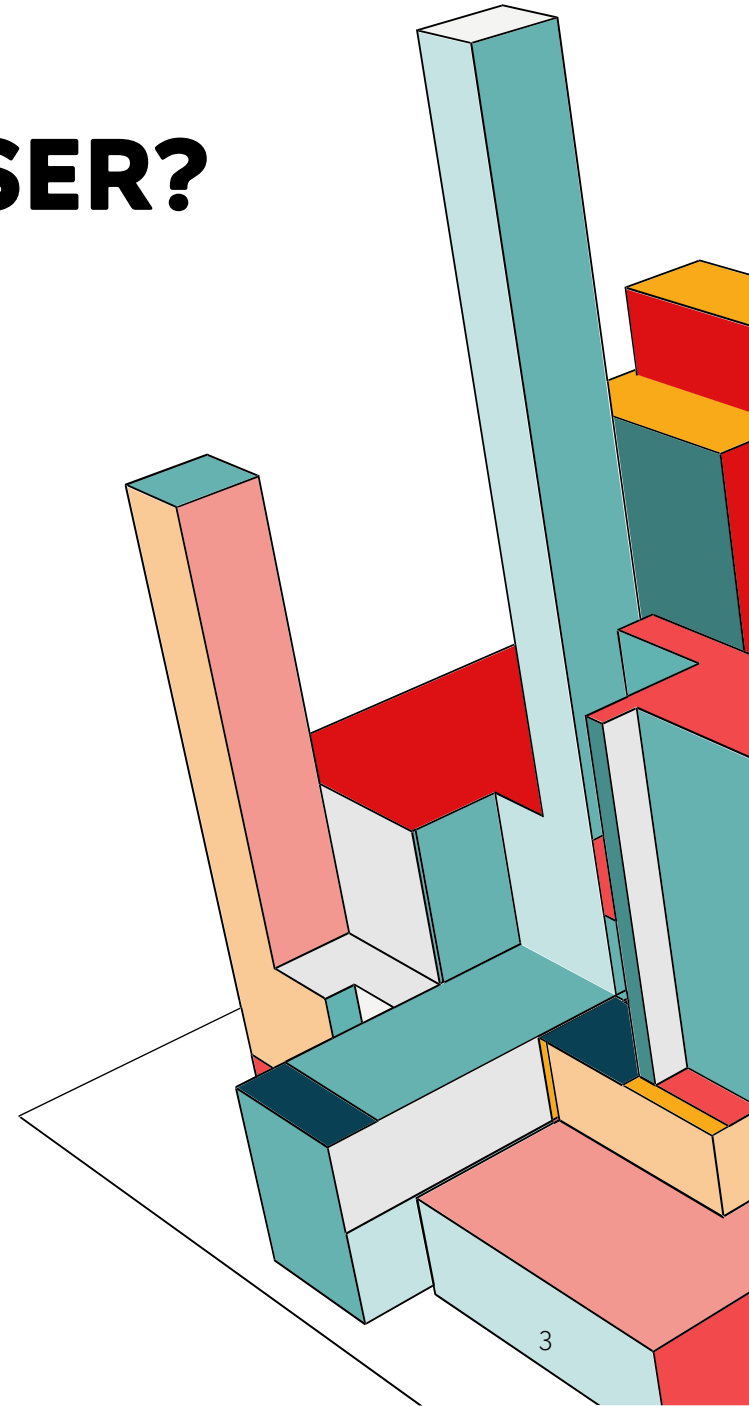
Everything is stored in the cloud so no offline viewing of data.

## History:

Browsers have been around since the start of the Internet as we know it (Circa 1990). The first web browser was simply known as WorldWideWeb.

## Modern Web Browsers:

Some common browsers are: Chrome (Google), Edge (Microsoft), Firefox (Mozilla), Opera, Safari (Apple), Brave.





# WHAT IS AN APP?

## Definition:

An App is short for Application. However, it typically refers to an application on a mobile phone or tablet.

## Why were they created?

Apps became a thing when mobile phones became so popular. Traditional web browsers are not as convenient when being used on a smaller screen like on a mobile phone. Apps were created in part to work better on smaller screens.

## History:

Apple is famous for making the slogan: "There's an App for that" for their App Store. These apps are programs that run on the iPhone. Google and Microsoft have also created their own Apps stores.



# WHAT IS AN APP?

## Pros:

- Apps are specific to individual sites, so they can offer more features.
- Only the App has access to the login info for the service.
- Apps can more easily store data on the user's device for offline viewing, so you only need internet access when getting new data.

## Cons:

- Poorly written or poorly maintained apps might be less secure, and could compromise the security of the device they are on.
- More apps on the device also means more updates and more clutter on the device.

# WHEN TO USE WHICH

There are no hard and fast rules for when to use an App or when to use a browser, but there are benefits and problems when using both...But:

## While on my laptop

I use a browser. The larger screen of the computer makes a browser more feasible.

## While on my phone

I use Apps more. The smaller screen means that things like menu bars take up too much of the smaller screen. Apps tend to be created with smaller screens in mind.

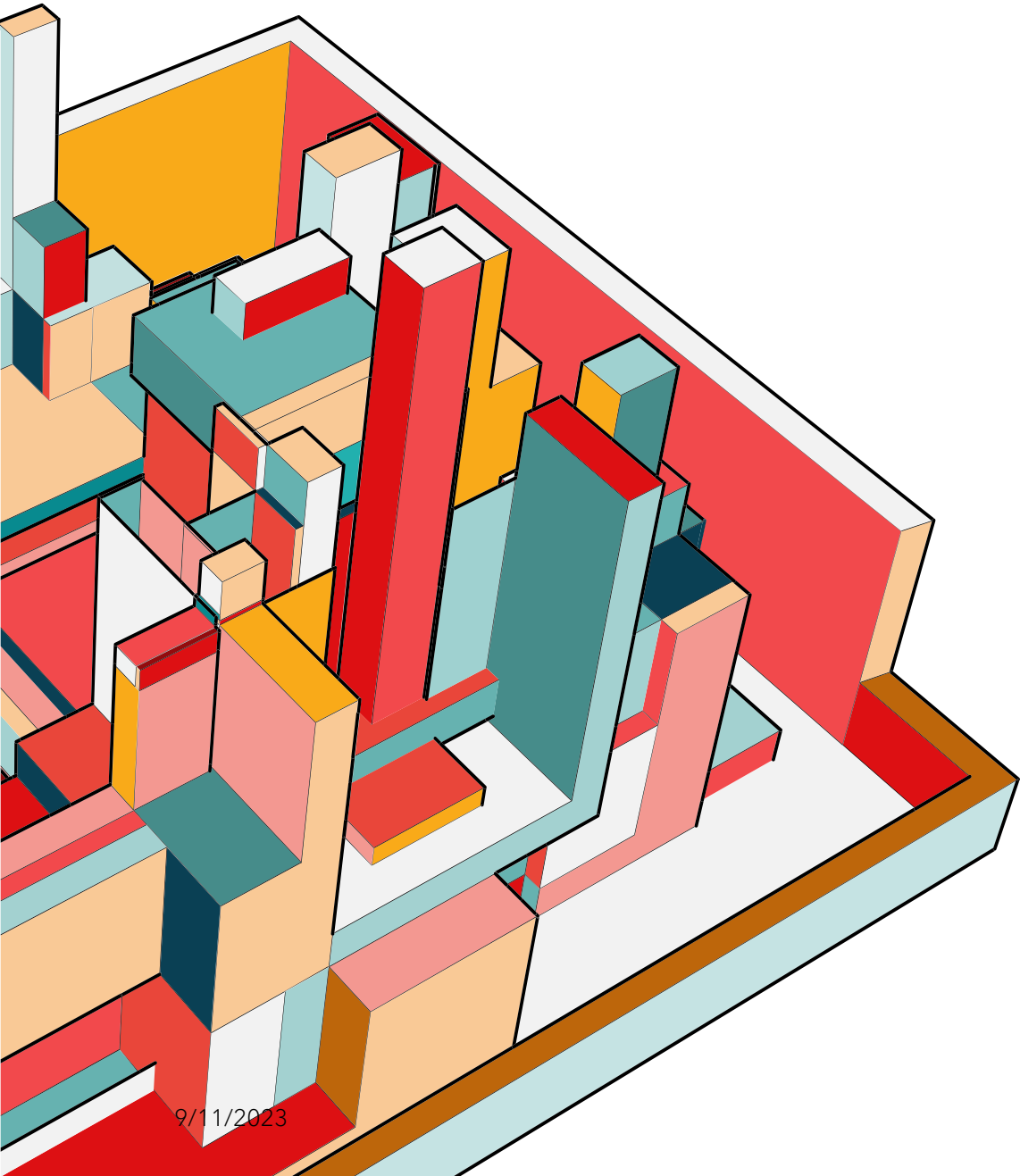
# USING A BROWSER

- A browser is like the Swiss Army Knife of the internet. If you don't want to be bothered with downloading and dealing with individual Apps then the browser makes good sense.
- Everything is stored in the cloud (A server somewhere), and the browser logs into each service to show you your data.
- A browser can use the built in password manager on the browser or operating system to streamline logins.
- You only need to verify that your browser is up to date regarding security, and most major browser makers are quick to patch security holes.

# USING AN APP

- Apps are highly specific to the job they are doing. An App typically will log into only one thing. The Facebook App only logs into Facebook. Your banking App will only log into that one bank. etc...
- Apps sometimes will offer more features than when using a browser to access the service. However, this is not always the case.
- Logins are often stored in the App so are not easily accessible to any other app. Apps can also utilize security features of the device they are running on, like Apple's FaceID or Window's Hello or Android's Fingerprint reader.
- Apps rely on someone maintaining the App, which might not happen often enough with smaller companies.





# SUMMARY

Browsers and Apps can offer different approaches to accessing your data. There are some key benefits to both depending on if you are using a desktop computer or a mobile device.

**My take:** As mobile computing becomes more popular, we can probably expect to see more Apps and less reliance on Browsers.

# THANK YOU

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