Browser looking retro

Why is D2L Brightspace telling me my "browser is looking a little retro"?

D2L Brightspace displays this warning when it detects you're using a web browser that has fallen a few versions behind. Please update your web browser or switch to another supported, up-to-date web browser.

If you continue on, and use D2L Brightspace through an older or unsupported browser, you may experience problems navigating the system or completing work. Please switch to using a supported browser, particularly for critical class activities such as quizzes.

If your web browser's version has fallen significantly behind, Brightspace will display an even stronger warning.

Do not use D2L Brightspace through a web browser for which it displays this warning.

D2L Brightspace thinks I'm using an old version of Chrome or Safari, but I'm using a completely different web browser. What gives?

Apple Safari and Google Chrome are each built upon open source software projects. Safari's underlying open source "engine" is named "WebKit". Chrome's is "Chromium". Because WebKit and Chromium work well and are free to use, numerous other web browsers are built upon either WebKit or Chromium.

Most WebKit-based browsers look like Apple Safari to Brightspace. And most Chromium-based web browsers look like Google Chrome.

So when you use a WebKit- or Chromium-based web browser made by someone who has allowed their "engine" version to fall behind the latest and greatest available from the open source project, Brightspace displays a warning, but can misidentify the problem web browser.

Despite the slight case of mistaken identity, the warning is legitimate. Please use a supported web browser.
Many apps that aren't web browsers nevertheless need to display web content, and often these apps use WebKit or Chromium to do the job. Brightspace might warn that your "browser is looking retro" while you're using an app that isn't a "browser"!