

# FIREFOX TIPS ©

Tested with FF ver 3.6.x

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Firefox.lwp

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## GET & INSTALL FIREFOX

- To download Firefox, you can either Google the word firefox, or go directly to: <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/>, and click the "Download Firefox" button.
- To install Firefox, simply double-click the downloaded file. The wizard will ask you if you want to import Favorites from Internet Explorer. Say "Yes". *Note: In Firefox, "Favorites" are called "Bookmarks".*
- *Note: Firefox version 3.0 and higher does not support WINDOWS 98 (use ver 2.0.0.20).*

**SETUP & CONFIGURE FIREFOX:** *Here are my recommended settings to enhance the convenience and security of Firefox. I only list items that vary from the default. If you don't see an item listed here, I suggest you leave it alone.*

1. Setup the Options: (*click Tools > Options*): For additional info, see: [http://www.tweakguides.com/Firefox\\_1.html](http://www.tweakguides.com/Firefox_1.html)

### General Icon

Home Page setup:

- Enter the desired page/s in the "Home page:" box. Multiple pages should be entered like this: <http://www.google.com/>|<http://www.epinions.com/>|<http://jimopi.net/>|<http://twitter.com/>
- You can also set up the page/s the way you want before going to (*Tools > Options*) and then just click the "Use Current Pages" button.

Downloads:

- show the downloads window when downloading a file.
- close it when all downloads are finished.
- ⊙ Always ask me where to save files. (*Note: Do not save files to the Desktop. This can cause memory usage issues in Windows*).

### Tabs Icon

- Open new windows in a new tab instead.
- Always show the tab bar.
- When I open a link in new Tab, switch to it immediately.

### Content Icon

- Block pop-up windows
- Load images automatically
- Enable Javascript

Fonts & Colors: Set the default font size to your liking. I like Size 16 or 18 for my eyes.

### Applications Icon

If you have trouble viewing PDF's, try this: Under each entry for Adobe Acrobat type Documents, select "Use Adobe Reader 9.x (default)" or "Use Adobe Acrobat x.x (default)". Do not select "Use Adobe Acrobat (in Firefox)". *It is better to have documents open in a separate instance of Adobe Reader or Acrobat than to open them inside Firefox.*

### Privacy Icon

Under History, select: Firefox will: "Use custom settings for history"

- Remember my browsing history for at least 365 days.
- Remember download history.

- Remember search and form history. (*Uncheck for added privacy*)
- Accept Cookies from sites.
  - UN-CHECK "Accept third-party cookies from sites".
  - Keep until: "I close Firefox"
- Clear history when Firefox closes. Then click the <Settings> button and choose what you want to delete when clearing your private data. (*I check all boxes except " Browsing History" and " Saved Passwords"*)

### Security Icon

- Warn me when sites try to install add-ons.
  - Block reported attack sites.
  - Block reported web forgeries.
- Passwords:
- Remember passwords for sites.
  - Use a master password. (*I do not use a master password*)

### Advanced Icon (*Note: Cache size can be small if you have a high-speed connection*)

#### General Tab:

- Warn me when websites try to redirect or reload the page. (*Note: This causes problems with some sites. If so, un-check it.*)
- Use autoscrolling
- Use smooth scrolling. Leave it unchecked. I do not recommend this option .
- Always check to see if Firefox is the default browser on startup. If you want.

Network Tab: Offline Storage: Enter a number in the "Use up to" field to specify the maximum size for the browser cache. *Note: From 10 MB to 50 MB is a good size if you have a fast connection. Note: To clear the cache immediately, click the "Clear Now" button on the right of the Offline Storage area.*

Update Tab: Under "When updates are found", I recommend setting it to: "☉ Automatically download and install the update" and " Warn me if this will disable any of my add-ons".

2. Import Bookmarks from IE, if desired. (*File > Import*). Under "Import Options, Bookmarks, history, Passwords and other data from". choose: ☉ Microsoft Internet Explorer.
3. Install the "LinkExtend" or WOT add-on for Firefox. (*see below*)
4. Install Adobe Reader and customize for Firefox as follows: Start Adobe Reader. In Adobe Reader, click: (*Edit > Preferences > Categories: Internet*). Un-check the box " Display PDF in Browser". Click OK to exit. Close the Reader and Restart the PC before continuing.
5. Install Spywareblaster and enable for Firefox and IE.
6. Install Flash on both Firefox and IE (test by Googling: Flash test)
7. If you use Quicktime, install the latest version (Test by Googling: quicktime test)
8. Install the latest JAVA (Test by Googling: Java test)
9. Verify Windows Media Player 11 is installed for XP (WMP 12 for Windows 7).
10. Test videos at [www.mp3.com](http://www.mp3.com) and [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) (Flash videos)
11. Run the Secunia Software-inspector online at [www.secunia.com](http://www.secunia.com).

## FIREFOX TIPS

- Firefox CACHE DISPLAY: To see the maximum size of your cache and how much of it is currently being used, type into the URL box: **about:cache**

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- Microsoft .Net Framework Assistant add-on. (Security vulnerability)
  - ✓ To disable the .Net Framework Assistant add-on. (*Tools > Add-ons > Extensions > .Net Framework Assistant > Disable*).
  - ✓ To remove the .Net Framework Assistant add-on: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/963707>

## RECOMMENDED ADD-ON'S

- NoSquint (Set large default text & image sizes) <http://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/2592>
- NoScript (For extra,extra security): <http://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/722>
- Fancy Numbered Tabs: <http://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/5861>
- LinkExtend (For extra security) <http://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/10777>
- Tree Style Tabs: <http://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/5890>
- WOT (Web Of Trust) <http://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/3456>

## "LINKEXTEND" ADD-ON TIPS

- This add-on does a great job of boosting your safety while browsing by identifying trustworthy sites. *I now use it instead of McAfee Site Advisor and AVG Link Scanner.*
- It combines the results from the following security sites: WOT (World Of Trust), Site Advisor, Web Security Guard, Browser Defender, RGuard, & Norton. (*Do NOT USE "Compete" or "Google Safe Browsing". See below for details*).
- It also provides indicators for Site Ethics and Kidsafe, if desired.
- It has a full set of customizable options simply by clicking the LinkExtend Icon at the left end of the LinkExtend toolbar. (Note: The LinkExtend Toolbar can be visible or hidden).
- LinkExtend enhances the results of my Google searches with little indicators to the right of each search result. The LinkExtend Search options are also fully customizable.
- When installing LinkExtend, be sure to un-check the boxes for "Compete" & for "Google Safe Browsing" on the Options > Services Tab. They both seem to mess up the search results.
- For more details on LinkExtend features, go to: <http://www.linkextend.com/help/>

## TROUBLESHOOTING FIREFOX:

### 1. FIREFOX FAILS TO START UP:

- a. If you have not already re-started your Windows System, then shutdown the PC and power back up. This fixes most Firefox startup issues. If Firefox still fails to start, continue with these steps.....
- b. Hopefully before starting this, you have a backup of your Firefox Bookmarks.
  - 1) If not, you can try backing up JUST THE BOOKMARKS using the MOZBACKUP Utility (This should work, even if Firefox will not start). Do not try to save the rest of the profile data.
  - 2) Otherwise, you can recover the Bookmarks by saving this file in a safe place (for XP) (*Note, the xxxxxxxx can be any random alphanumeric data*): C:\Documents and Settings\\ApplicationData\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\xxxxxxx.default\bookmarks.html
- c. Try starting up Firefox in "Safe Mode": (*Start > All Programs > Mozilla Firefox > Mozilla Firefox (Safe Mode)*). This disables add-ons, toolbars, and other stuff. If Firefox works in Safe-mode, try removing all the Addons & Toolbars, then start up Firefox in regular mode. If Firefox now runs, you can re-install the Add-ons one at a time.
- d. Note: "AVG Safesearch" and "McAfee Site Advisor" are common problems. Remove both of them.
- e. Try starting Firefox in another User Account. If that works, then Firefox is OK, but the Firefox Profile for your User Account is messed up. To make a fresh profile, do the following:
  - 1) Remove Firefox using Add/Remove Programs.
  - 2) For XP, go to (*C:\Documents and settings\\Application Data\*), and delete the Mozilla folder. (*Note: This destroys your profile including all bookmarks*)
  - 3) Re-install Firefox.
  - 4) If Firefox now starts up OK, import your saved Bookmarks, then re-install any Add-ons. Warning, if you restore using MOZBACKUP, a corrupted profile may still be corrupted. That's why I said to just backup the Bookmarks with MOZBACKUP and not the whole profile.

### 2. FIREFOX TAKES TOO LONG TO START:

- a. Note: A long startup is typical for Firefox on older PC's.
- b. Using "Live Bookmarks" can slow down the start up.
- c. Using Too many "Add-ons" can slow down the start up. Especially McAfee Site Advisor
- d. Multiple Tabs that are set up to auto-logon into sites (like iGoogle or Yahoo mail) will slow the start of Firefox.
- e. Reduce the Java cache size. *See the next tip under SLOW.*

### 3. SLOW:

- a. JAVA CACHE: Clear the Java cache and then set the Java cache size to 50 MB. (*Control Panel > Java > General tab > Temporary Internet Files "Settings" button . Click "Delete Files", then set the Disk Space = 50 MB. Click <OK>, <OK> to save the new value and exit.*) Note: Default is 1000 MB.

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- b. IPV6: For Firefox version 3.5 or 3.6, try disabling IPV6. In the URL Box, type: about:config, then enter a filter value = ipv6. Then double-click the resulting line called: "network.dns.disableIPv6". That will change it from "false" to "true".
- c. SLOW LOADING WEB PAGES. Try these tips:
  - i. In about:config, change the: network.http.keep-alive setting to false.
  - ii. In about:config, change the: network.prefetch-next setting to false
  - iii. In about:config, change the: network.dns.disableIPv6 setting to true.
  - iv. In about:config, change the: network.dns.disablePrefetch setting to true.
4. **LOST ALL BOOKMARKS:** For recovery Tips, see Smart Computing: Jan 2008, pg 80.
5. **QUICKTIME plug-in will not work from Firefox**, but "standalone" Quicktime videos work OK. Quicktime Videos also work OK inside IE7/IE8. FIX: (*Open the Quicktime Player, then click Edit > Preferences > Quicktime Preferences > Browser Tab > "MIME Settings" button > "Use Defaults" button > OK > Apply > OK*).
6. **AUTOMATIC SITE LOG-ONS DO NOT WORK WITH FIREFOX, BUT WORK FINE WITH IE.** (Symptom: You have to sign in to iGoogle and Yahoo Mail every time you start Firefox)
  - ✓ For an automatic logon to work with iGoogle, Yahoo Mail, Yahoo Groups, or any site, the following conditions must be met.
    - 1) In Firefox, cookies must be allowed and kept for the desired sites: (*Tools > Options > Privacy icon*): The box must be checked to: " Accept cookies from sites", and the box named "Keep until" must be set to: "they expire".
    - 2) If you use the "Clear history" option, go to (*Tools > Options > Privacy icon > Clear history when Firefox closes > "Settings" button*), and UN-CHECK both boxes for " Cookies" and for " Saved passwords".
    - 3) On the iGoogle, Yahoo, or other "Sign in" screen, the box called: " Keep me signed in" must be checked before you click the "sign in" button.
7. **PDF FILE PROBLEMS:**
  - a. Problems Viewing some PDF FILES with Firefox. Also may hang trying to open a PDF. Fix: Reconfigure Adobe Reader (or Acrobat) to display the PDF outside Firefox in a separate window:
    - 1) Start Adobe Reader (or Acrobat), and in the Reader, click on (*Edit > Preferences > Internet*).
    - 2) Un-check the box: " Display PDF in Browser".
    - 3) Click OK to exit. Close the Reader, Restart the PC.
    - 4) WARNING: Future updates to Adobe Reader re-check the box by default. You must manually uncheck the box after every major Adobe Reader update.
  - b. Cannot print PDF Documents. If you are viewing the document "inside" Firefox, be sure you are clicking on the correct Printer Icon. Adobe has its own toolbar inside the browser with its own Printer Icon. Use the Printer Icon on the lower of two Toolbars. *NOTE: It is better to set up Adobe to display the PDF documents outside the browser. See above.*

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