

FIREFOX TIPS

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CONTENTS:

- o GET & INSTALL FIREFOX
- o FIREFOX TIPS
- o LINKEXTEND ADD-ON TIPS
- o SETUP & CONFIGURE FIREFOX
- o RECOMMENDED ADD-ON'S
- o TROUBLESHOOTING FIREFOX

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".*

SETUP & CONFIGURE FIREFOX ver 9.0.x: *Here are my recommended settings to enhance the convenience and security of Firefox. I mostly list items that vary from the default. If you don't see an item listed here, I suggest you leave it alone.*

1. MENU BAR: I like the old fashioned Menu Bar to show. To do this, click the "Firefox" button in the far upper left hand corner of the Firefox window. Then click Options > Menu Bar. *(Note: When you turn on the Menu Bar the Firefox button will disappear.)*
2. OPTIONS setup: *(click Tools > Options): (For additional info, see: 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://www.jimopi.net/><http://www.twitter.com/>
- You can also set up the tabs pages 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. *(If desired, leave this unchecked)*
- 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.
- Warn me when closing multiple tabs.
- Warn me when opening multiple tabs might slow down Firefox.
- 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, Make sure Adobe Reader is at Version 10 or higher, then try this: Under each entry for Adobe Acrobat type Documents, select "Use Adobe Reader x.x (default)" or "Use Adobe Acrobat x.x (default)". NOTE: The Action to: "Use Adobe Acrobat (in Firefox)" is more secure, but can be problematic.

Privacy Icon

Tracking

- Tell websites I do not want to be tracked.

History - Select: Firefox will: "Use custom settings for history"

- Remember my browsing history.
- 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*)

Sync Icon: "Sync" is for synchronizing Firefox settings with all your devices. For help with Sync, see:

<http://support.mozilla.com/en-US/kb/how-do-i-set-up-firefox-sync>

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

General tab:

Accessibility

- Warn me when websites try to redirect or reload the page.

Browsing

- Use autoscrolling
- Use smooth scrolling. Leave it unchecked. I do not recommend this option .
- Use hardware Acceleration when available
- Check my spelling as I type.

System Defaults

- Always check to see if Firefox is the default browser on startup. If you want.

Network tab:

Connection:

Click the <Settings> button, and choose Use system proxy settings

Offline Storage:

- Override automatic cache management. ***Make sure this box is unchecked.***

Note: To clear the cache immediately, click the "Clear Now" button on the right of the Offline Storage area.

Update tab:

Under "Automatically check for updates to:", check all the boxes.

Under "When updates to Firefox 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".

3. Import Bookmarks from IE, if desired. (*File > Import*). Under "Import Options, Bookmarks, history, Passwords and other data from". choose: Microsoft Internet Explorer.

4. Install the WOT add-on for Firefox. (*see below*)

5. Install Adobe Reader ver 10 or higher and make sure that Firefox opens a PDF file properly.

6. Install Spywareblaster and fully enable it for Firefox and IE.

7. Install Flash for both Firefox and IE (*test by Googling: Flash test*)

8. If you use Quicktime, install the latest version (*Test by Googling: quicktime test*)

FIREFOX TIPS

9. Install the latest JAVA (*Test by Googling: Java test*)
10. Verify Windows Media Player 11 is installed for XP or WMP 12 for Windows 7.
11. Test videos at www.youtube.com (The videos are Flash videos)

FIREFOX TIPS

- **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**
- **Microsoft .NET FRAMEWORK Assistant add-on.** (Security vulnerability)
 - ✓ To disable the .Net Framework Assistant add-on. (*Tools > Add-ons > Extensions > .Net Framework Assistant > Disable*). (*Automatically disabled in Firefox Ver 7 and higher*).
 - ✓ To remove the .Net Framework Assistant add-on: (*Tools > Add-ons > Extensions > .Net Framework Assistant > Remove*). <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/963707>
- **WORK OFFLINE MODE:** To disable Work Offline Mode from automatically turning on when Internet is not available (Ver 3.6 and higher).
 - ✓ Type into the URL box: **about:config** then verify that network.manage-offline-status is set to: false (*This setting should already be there by default*).
 - ✓ If it is not, then type into the URL box: **about:config** Right-click anywhere, click New > Boolean. Name the new preference: network.manage-offline-status , then set the new preference to: false (*This setting should already be there by default*).

RECOMMENDED ADD-ON'S

- **WOT** (Web Of Trust) <http://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/3456>
- NoSquint (Set large default text & image sizes) <http://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/2592>
- NoScript (For extra, extra, extra security): <http://www.mywot.com/en/support/tutorials>
- 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" ADD-ON TIPS (*Web Of Trust for more secure browsing*)

- 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 or the AVG Link Scanner*).
- WOT enhances the results of your Google searches with little colored circles to the right of each search result. Green is good. Yellow or Orange is suspect. Red means do not go to this site.
- To install WOT in Firefox either google WOT, or click (*Tools > Add-ons*) and put WOT in the search box. Select WOT, click Install, then Restart.
- When installing WOT, you will be asked to accept the terms of service and you will be taken to the mywot.com website to set up your settings. Just click "Apply settings" for now. You can change the settings at any time by right-clicking the WOT circle on the Firefox toolbar.
- For WOT tutorials, go to: <http://www.mywot.com/en/support/tutorials>
- For help with WOT, go to: <http://www.mywot.com/en/support>

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. TRY FIREFOX SAFE-MODE:
 - 1) Safe-mode disables add-ons, toolbars, and other stuff. If Firefox works in Safe-mode, try disabling or removing all the Add-ons & Toolbars, then start up Firefox in regular mode. If Firefox now runs, you can re-install the Add-ons one at a time.
 - 2) SAFE-MODE Firefox 3.x: Try starting up Firefox in "Safe Mode": (*Start > All Programs > Mozilla Firefox > Mozilla Firefox (Safe Mode)*).
 - 3) SAFE-MODE Firefox 4.x and HIGHER: With Firefox fully shutdown, hold the Shift-key down while double-clicking the Firefox Icon.
- c. REMOVE THESE ADD-ONS: "AVG Safesearch" and "McAfee Site Advisor" are common troublemakers. Remove both of them. Use the WOT add-on for security.
- d. BAD FIREFOX PROFILE: Try starting Firefox in another User Account. If that works, then the Firefox program is OK, but the Firefox Profile for your User Account is messed up. To make a fresh profile, do the following:
 - 1) BOOKMARKS: Hopefully before starting this, you already have a backup of your Firefox Bookmarks. If not:
 - a) If Firefox will open, save your Bookmarks: Click the "Firefox" button in the far upper left hand corner of the Firefox window. Click Bookmarks > Show all Bookmarks, then use the export function to save all the bookmarks. Use safe-mode if necessary.
 - b) If Firefox will not open, 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.
 - c) Otherwise, you can recover the Bookmarks by saving the **bookmarks.html** file in a safe place: (*Note, the xxxxxxxx can be any random alphanumeric data*):
 - i) For XP: C:\Documents and Settings\ - ii) For WIN 7: C:\Users\
 - 2) Make a list of all installed Add-ons.
 - 3) Remove/uninstall Firefox using Add/Remove Programs (XP) or Programs and Features (Windows 7).
 - 4) For XP, go to (*C:\Documents and settings\), and delete the Mozilla folder. (Note: This destroys your profile including all bookmarks)*
 - 5) For Windows 7, go to (*C:\Users\), and delete the Mozilla folder. (Note: This destroys your profile including all bookmarks)*
 - 6) Re-install Firefox.
 - 7) If Firefox now starts up OK, import your saved Bookmarks, then re-install any Add-ons.

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.

FIREFOX TIPS

- 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.*
- 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:
 - 1) In about:config, change the: network.http.keep-alive setting to true
 - 2) In about:config, change the: network.prefetch-next setting to false
 - 3) In about:config, change the: network.dns.disableIPv6 setting to true
 - 4) In about:config, change the: network.dns.disablePrefetch setting to true
 - 5) In about:config, change the: network.http.pipelining setting to true
 - 6) In about:config, change the: network.http.proxy.pipelining setting to true
 - 7) In about:config, change the: network.http.pipelining.maxrequests" to a number like 25. This will allow it to make 25 requests at once. (The default is 4)
 - 8) Make sure Firefox connection is set for NO PROXY. (*Tools > Options > Advanced tab > Network tab > Connection settings > No Proxy*)
 - 9) Try disabling all add-ons and see if that helps. If so, then determine which add-on is the culprit one by one.

4. **LOST ALL BOOKMARKS:**

- a. For recovery Tips, see Smart Computing: Jan 2008 issue, Page 80. You can search the smartcomputing.com site for: firefox lost bookmarks (*select a date range of after 12/2007*)
- b. Look in the "BOOKMARKSBACKUPS" folder to see if any automatic backups are there. (*Note, the xxxxxxxx can be any random alphanumeric data*):
 - 1) For XP: C:\Documents and Settings\<<UserName>\ApplicationData\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\xxxxxxx.default\bookmarkbackups\
 - 2) For WIN 7: C:\Users\<<UserName>\AppData\Roaming\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\xxxxxxx.default\bookmarkbackups\

5. **QUICKTIME plug-in will not work from Firefox:** "Standalone" Quicktime videos do work OK. Also Quicktime Videos work OK inside IE7/IE8/IE9. *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-ON's DO NOT WORK WITH FIREFOX, BUT WORK FINE WITH INTERNET EXPLORER.** (In other words, sites like iGoogle and Yahoo Mail make you sign-in every time you start Firefox). The cause is that your site cookies are being deleted.

- ✓ For an automatic logon to work with iGoogle, Yahoo Mail, Facebook, or any site, the following conditions must be met.
 - 1) In Firefox, Cookies must be allowed and kept for the desired sites. There is no way to keep cookies just for certain sites, so you must set up Firefox as follows:
 - 2) Go to the (*Tools > Options > Privacy Icon*) and make sure the box is checked to: " Accept cookies from sites. Also, make sure it says Keep until: "they expire".
 - 3) If you use the "Clear history" option, go to (*Tools > Options > Privacy icon > Clear history when Firefox closes > "Settings" button*), and **UN-CHECK** the delete boxes for " Cookies and " Saved passwords".
 - 4) On the iGoogle, Yahoo, Facebook, or other regularly used "Sign in" screens, you must first check the box called: " Keep me signed in" or " Remember Me" before you click the "sign in" button. (*Warning: Never check "Remember me" on a public computer*)
 - 5) If you use the CCleaner utility, you can specify those same sites on a list of cookies to NOT be deleted. That way CCleaner will never delete them. (*In CCleaner, run Analyze, then click Options > Cookies. Highlight the desired Cookie in the delete column and click the "->" button to move it to the Keep column*).

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". Note: Adobe Reader version 10.x is best left with this box checked for protection against malware.
 - 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.
 - 5) If this does not work, then in Firefox, go to (*Tools > Options > Applications tab*). Scroll down to the "Adobe Acrobat Document" entry (There may be several slightly different entries). Make sure the Action is what you want for each entry. *I choose "Adobe Reader x.x" for each one.*
- 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 and less confusing to set up Adobe to display the PDF documents in a stand-alone Adobe Reader window. See the previous step for details on setting this in Adobe Reader.*
- c. For problems opening PDF's in Firefox version 7 and higher; first make sure you are at Adobe Reader version 10 or higher. If you still have problems, go to (*Tools > Options > Applications tab*), and try different Adobe options to find which Action works for you.