

FirefoxFacts.com

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Track Your Online Time

Anything that helps me manage my time better is welcomed into my life. I have a lot of things going on. Twenty-four hours is just not enough time in a day. Well if you are like me, I have a Firefox extension that will help you out in that department.

Here is what the developer of the [TimeTracker](#) extension has to say about it:

Do you spend too much time on Firefox? Do you open tabs faster than you can close them? Cannot get things done? Keep track of how much you browse with TimeTracker.

Some of the features include: remembers time across sessions, pauses when you stop browsing, list "work" sites that should not count, and an animated clock.

This is perfect for folks like me who quickly loose track of time while browsing. I can't even count the number of times I have looked out the window and wondered how it got dark so quickly.

This Firefox extension is for versions 1.5 and up of the browser. If you want to give it a shot and install it yourself, you can [do so here](#) at the Mozilla Update Web site.

WeatherBug for Firefox

Want to track the weather via your favorite browser? Sure there is [ForecastFox](#). If you want to try out something different though, I have one of the best alternatives I have seen. The folks at WeatherBug have released a Firefox extension that is worth giving a look.

The [WeatherBug Firefox extension](#) get live, local weather conditions on the award winning Firefox web browser. Featuring detailed forecasts, radar, news and severe weather alerts from WeatherBug's proprietary network.

I have wondered to myself for a long time why there were not more extensions like [ForecastFox](#). Now there is at least one more alternative when looking for weather related Firefox extensions.

If you have any comments or want to give some suggestions, you can do so at the [WeatherBug Forums](#).

If you want to give it a shot and install it yourself, you can [do so here](#) at the WeatherBug Web site.

Too Many Tabs!

When writing the headline for this article, I couldn't help but be reminded of Susan Powter, the fitness guru from the early 90s. Even she must use Firefox, right? Well now it is time to "stop the insanity" and get control of your tabbing ways.

Here is what the developer of the Too Many Tabs! extension has to say about it.

Too Many Tabs! is an extension for Mozilla Firefox which solves the problem of tabs becoming inaccessible when too many are open, letting you choose between almost all the (sensible) solutions that have been proposed, and switch between them dynamically.

Here are just a few of this extensions features: tab scrollbar, tab scroll buttons, multiple rows of tabs, tab overflow menus, tab picker, easily adjust minimum tab width, mouse wheel tab scrolling, new tab button on tab bar, ridiculously configurable and changes applied immediately.

Almost every browser gives you the option to surf via tabs. The only problem is none of them deals with multiple tabs very well. If you deal with multiple tabs a lot, this extension is perfect for you. In my opinion, I'd like to see many of the options Too Many Tabs! gives you built into Firefox natively.

This Firefox extension is for versions 1.1 and up of the browser. Want to try it out for yourself? You can go [download it](#) at The Extensions Mirror or at the author's [extension Web site](#).

Gmail Skins

I'll be the first to tell you I don't even really like using Gmail all that much. Sure, I registered two dozen accounts just like the next guy when it first hit the scene. Since then, I haven't done much with those accounts. So why haven't I jumped on this band waggon? Well, the number one reason for me was the interface was just ugly. I now have a Firefox extension that will fix that problem.

If you don't find Gmail to be that user friendly right now, you will after you give this extension a shot.

Gmail Skins adds the following options: Change the color and skin of your inbox; Insert smileys and emoticons and images in to your E-mails; Make the navigation (Inbox, Starred, Sent Mail, etc) horizontal; Fix the navigation in place so that you don't have to scroll to the top of the page to see it; Zebra stripes on mailbox; Change the attachment paper clip (on inbox) to an icon indicating the type of attachment; Hide various page elements (invite panel, page footer, your email address from the top right of inbox - may be useful for public computers) and more.

If you want to do anymore Gmail customizations, get [Greasemonkey](#) and visit this [section of Userscripts.org](#).

This Firefox extension is for versions 1.5 and up of the browser. Want to try it out for yourself? You can go [download it](#) at The Extensions Mirror or at the author's [extension Web site](#).

Need More Buttons in Firefox?

One of my computer memories from when I was a kid was watching the movie where the hero was using a computer to save the world. Looking back, the funny thing was the computer had three times as many buttons as we have today. Both externally and internally, it all looked very complicated. Well, now I can get rid of whatever button fetish I need to work out of my system with the Button Pack Firefox extension.

So what does this extension do? It adds more options inside the Customize Toolbar dialog box in Firefox. After you install it, you will have a plethora of new options to drag and drop onto the browser.

Here are just some of the new buttons you can add to Firefox: Up, Add Bookmark, Manage Bookmarks, Search Sidebar, Media Sidebar, Related, Full Screen, Properties, Print Preview, Text Size, Delete, Undo, Redo, Extensions, Themes, Console, Clean Up, Internet Explorer, Show Images, Clear Location, Address Label and Links Label.

Adding a few buttons in the right spots can make your browsing experience a little better. Now you no longer have to dive through menus to get to the place you want to get. All you need to do is hit a button on the toolbar and you have what you need. Since I deal a lot with extensions and themes, I added those two buttons to my Firefox browser layout.

This Firefox extension is for versions .9 to 1.5 of the browser. Want to try it out for yourself? You can go [download it](#) at The Extensions Mirror or at the author's [extension Web site](#).

Easy Window Resizing

Your browser window can take many different shapes and sizes. Depending on the screen resolution you are using, it could be any size at all. Some people like to keep things maximized while others like for things to be minimal at best. Well, I have a Firefox extension for everybody to use to find that perfect browser size.

Here is what the developer of the Window Resizer extension has to say about it:

The Browser Window Resizer is useful for testing different screen sizes. It accurately resizes your browser so you can test to see what a web page looks like in all of the standard resolution sizes. Supports the 640x480, 800x600, 1024x768, 1280x1024, 1600x1200 resolutions. Resize the current page via the Context menu, Tool menu or Toolbar button.

Now sure, some people might say you can already do this with the [Web Developer](#) Firefox extension. As somebody who has used that extension, I have to say I never used seventy percent of it's functionality. For folks who need "more" you can use the Web Developer extension. For those of us who just want to resize our browser, then we have the Window Resizer.

This Firefox extension is for versions 1.5 and up of the browser. Want to try it out for yourself? You can go [download it](#) at Mozilla Update or at the author's [extension Web site](#).

Tab To Window

Some of the best tips and tricks out there for Firefox are the ones that are simple. I like for things to get done with as few steps as possible in the middle. Going from point A to point B on the shortest path is always better for everybody.

Well, how about a Firefox extension that lets you launch an already open tab into a new Window? That is about as simple and direct as you can get.

Once you have the Firefox extension installed, here are the keyboard shortcuts to use it:

Alt+N: Move to new window

Ctrl+Alt+N: Copy to new window

You don't have to worry about memorizing. The options are also available when you right click on a tab. Now why would you want to do this? Depending on your browsing habits, the possibilities are endless. Maybe you want to focus closer on that one Web site? Maybe it doesn't have anything to do with the other tabs you have open? No matter what your reason is, one thing is for sure. This simple extension helps you get the job done.

This Firefox extension is for versions 1.5 and up of the browser. Want to try it out for yourself? You can go [download it](#) at Mozilla Update.

Fission

Over and over again I have told you how you can add things to the external side of the Firefox browser. Adding buttons and forms, you can make Firefox pretty big as far as the visual layout goes. What if I told you I had a way to make the Firefox interface more simple?

The Fission Firefox extension combines your address bar with your Web page loading bar. Here is what the developer has to say about it.

Fission combines address bar and progress bar, making the progress bar more visible and allowing for a nice visual effect. Please visit this extension's homepage for information about how to modify the progress bar's appearance and how to make it look good for the theme(s) you use.

This is a great idea and hopefully as more time goes by it will only get better. There is one problem with the extension. Some themes might have a problem with this extension. Hopefully over time, this problem will be resolved.

This Firefox extension is for versions 1.1 and up of the browser. Want to try it out for yourself? You can go [download it](#) at Mozilla Update or at the author's [extension Web site](#).

Forecastfox Enhanced

Have you used Forecastfox before? If you used it, and thought it could be better, then I have some good news for you. Some folks have come together to create Forecastfox Enhanced. Think of it as the original on steroids. You are given many more weather tracking options and chances for customization.

Here is what the developer of the extension has to say about it:

This adds 12 improved radar images and the ability to supply a URL for your own radar image. It also allows for pausing, restarting and setting the frequency of automatic updates.

There are a few problems with using Forecastfox Enhanced, if you have used Forecastfox before. They recommend that you uninstall Forecastfox before installing Forecastfox Enhanced. If you decide to revert to Forecastfox after installing Forecastfox Enhanced, you must first uninstall Forecastfox Enhanced. With that aside, this is still one great Firefox extension.

Personally, living in north Texas, I won't be worried about the weather till the storm season comes back. There is no reason why you shouldn't be prepared for what Mother Nature has in store for you. This Firefox extension is for versions 1.0 and up of the browser. To give it a shot, you can [download it](#) at the Mozilla Update Web site.

Free eBook Search

Hey, I like free as much as the next guy or gal on the street. Getting free eBooks is one of the cheapest ways of finding some entertainment on a boring Sunday afternoon. It can also be your gateway into learning about a new subject or two. Information is priceless, so why not get a better tool to help you find it via Firefox?

That is where the Free eBook Search comes into play. This Firefox extension makes searching for price tag free eBooks as easy as pie. Here is what the developer has to say about the features:

Search with the highlighted text/right click for your favorite Free eBook in www.freebookzone.com. You may search using the Book Title, ISBN (10 Digit), Description, Book Author and even the eBook backward link. Just have a try and find how useful it is.

The next version of this extension will have a "results in the sidebar" feature as well.

There are hundreds, if not thousands, of different free eBook resources out there today. Why not make the best of what is out there to learn from? This Firefox extension is for versions .7 to 1.5 of the browser. If you want to download it for yourself and give it a shot, [you can do so](#) at the Mozilla Update Web site.

FunkyCache

No, this Firefox extension has nothing to do with that "Funky Town" song. If there is one place I will not be taking you today, it is that place. Nothing but weirdos and dweebs there. Instead we are going to take a trip to your FunkyCache. What, you didn't know you had a FunkyCache? Well just think of this Firefox extension as your one way ticket to visit it.

So what does this extension do? It is another cache clearing tool for your browsing experience. Once you have it installed, all you need to do is go to Tools and then select "FunkyCache". Once you do that, your cache will be cleared. I really like simple.

Here is what the developer of the extension has to say about the creation of it:

I took a look at the source code of another cache extension and realized that it didn't actually clear all the cache. So I figured I would make my own, that won't take much space on the toolbar either.

Now that the trip is over, I hope you enjoyed the ride. Oh yeah, make sure you remember what I said about Funky Town. It is no place to take the kids, that much is for sure. This Firefox extension is for versions 1.0 and up of the browser. To give it a shot and get funky with your cache, just download it over at the Mozilla Update Web site.

Live PageRank

Sure, you have seen dozens of Google PageRank Firefox extensions. They are all pretty much the same, right? Well I think I might have found the one that breaks that mold. It is called Live PR and it is a must have for anybody who remembers the PR of a Web site better than the name of the current United States President.

How is this Firefox extension different? Instead of counting the ways, I figured I would tell you how the developer describes it:

We have created a LivePR Firefox extension that is available for download at mozilla.org. The extension places a small icon in the status bar of the browser, and the Live PageRank value of the current page is displayed. The icon can be moved around and placed anywhere using drag and drop.

I really like the fact that the icon is not stuck in on the bottom of my Firefox browser. I already have enough junk down there already. I also like the fact that this is the future PageRank. There are not many tools out there that track future PageRank in a way that makes sense.

This Firefox extension is for versions 1.5 and up of the browser. To give it a shot, you can download it via [Mozilla Update](#) or the extension writer's [Web site](#).

Server Spy

Your mission today, if you decide to accept it, is to go under cover with a Firefox extension and find out what type of server a Web site is running. This mission will not be a dangerous one. Actually this process couldn't get more simple. If you have always wanted to know what is "under the hood" of your favorite Web site, this is the extension to get.

Want more information from headquarters? This is what the developer of this Server Spy Firefox extension has to say:

Server Spy indicates what brand of HTTP server (eg. Apache, IIS, etc.) runs on the visited sites. When a tab is selected, the corresponding server name is shown on the right-hand side of the browser's status bar.

Feeling like a secret agent man already? Well I know this should at least tickle the fancy of a few Web hosting folks out and around the world. They live for this type of geeky information.

This Firefox extension is for versions 1.5 and up of the browser. To try it out for yourself, be sure to sneak into the Mozilla Update Web site [and download it](#). If you are lucky, none of the secret Mozilla ninjas will notice you.

This article will self-destruct in ten, nine, eight... just kidding!

Speegle Define

Do you like to pretend you are important enough to have your searches read to you? Ok, maybe not everybody is so vain. Maybe you are blind? Maybe you are learning English as a second language? No matter what your reason is, this Firefox extension will help you in more ways than one.

So what does Speegle Define actually do? This is how the developer puts it:

Gives a spoken definition of a word using Speegle Speech Technology. You highlight the word you would like explained with highlight left click on any internet page you are reading. Right click and choose "Audio Definition" from the pop up menu and its definition will be read back to you in English through your speakers or headphones.

Personally I find some of the voices a little annoying, but one man's annoyance is another man's favorite feature. Some people say that this is a good tool to learn exact pronunciation of some words. The only problem with that is that words like Flickr (and other Web 2.0 companies) just sound strange.

Want to give this Firefox extension a shot? It is for versions 1.5 and up of the browser. To download this extension, visit the [Speegle Define Web page](#) over at Mozilla Update.

Tab URL Copier

When doing research on something Online, I usually have several tabs open in Firefox. For example, lets just say I was searching through Google for "Web hosting" and opened up the first five results in new tabs. Now I want to send those links over to my friend David, but don't want to copy each URL by hand. What am I to do? The answer to this problem is the Tab URL Copier Firefox extension.

Here is what the author has to say about this extension:

Copies the URLs of all open tabs. Puts 'Copy Tab URLs' item in right click menu of tabs and Edit main menu. Useful for bibliographies, quickly sending someone a list of pages to view etc.

Sounds pretty straight forward, right? This is also useful if you want to grab all your currently open Web sites before you close out the browser. Just use the Tab URL Copier, and your job is done. No more cutting and pasting back and forth, over and over again. Just think of all the minutes you are saving. In the time you save, you could learn a different language. You could learn a new skill. You could spend more time with your family.

Domain Finder

Finding the right domain can sometimes be tough. You have to find something that works for you, is relative to the content you are delivering and that sticks with the public's memory. Have you ever been reading something, come across a few interesting words and wonder if they are taken in domain name form together? If so, I have a domain name finder tool you are sure to love.

The Domain Finder Firefox extension does just that. You can highlight any word or words on a Web site and it will search to see if there is a domain name available with that word or words.

How does it work? Well, after you have it installed all you need to do is highlight the words you want to do a search on. Then you right click and go down to "domain finder". After a quick "Whois" search, you should have your results ready to view in the browser window.

I would like to see more "Whois" search options available, because it seems like not everybody does the search the same way. I would also like to see them add an option to add a "Whois" search to the search box in Firefox as well. Those might be two goals to set for a future release.

This Firefox extension is for versions .8 to 1.5 of the browser. If you want to give it a shot and install it yourself, you can [do so here](#) at the Mozilla Update Web site.

Customize Your Digging

Everybody I know loves [digg](#). It has become one of those Web sites I have to check in on several times a day. You just never know what type of links and content will make it to the front page. Are there any ways to make the digg experience better? Well that is what this new Firefox extension wants to deliver.

What is this [popTart - Custom Features for the Digg](#) extension all about? Here is what the developer had to say about it:

Allows you to preview articles in a resizable frame at the bottom of the browser and also optionally remove display elements from the website such as the header, footer and sidebars. You can also use your right/left arrow buttons to page through articles.

Some people might like what this extension ads a little more than I did. Personally I had problems with the bottom preview window working for me. It might have been fighting with another extension I have installed though, so I can't be too angry there.

This Firefox extension is for versions 1.5 and up of the browser. If you want to give it a shot and install it yourself, you can [do so here](#) at the Mozilla Update Web site.

Separe - Blank Tabs

Do you have a hard time keeping your tabs organized in Firefox? Sure you can sort them and move one from one place or another. Don't you wish you could space them out a little more? If so, you need to try out the Separe Firefox extension.

Here is what the author has to say about the Firefox extension, [Separe](#).

If you get used to tabbed browsing, you can find yourself with a large amount of tabs. With Firefox 1.5 you can reorder them by drag and drop, but when you have many tabs it's difficult to recognize them, since their width shrink as they grow in number. Furthermore the default behavior when opening a new tab or a link in a new tab is to append it to the list of tabs. If you are browsing different web pages and you open some links inside them alternatively, you end up with a messy sequence of tabs.

This Firefox extension adds nice little orange dividers between the tabs you want to separate. It doesn't get much more simple than that. You can drag your dividers around as well as your tabs, so you have no reason to get lost inside all those tabs ever again.

This Firefox extension is for versions 1.5 and up of the browser. If you want to give it a shot and install it yourself, you can [do so here](#) at the Mozilla Update Web site.

Clear Your Cache

I'm not sure exactly when it started, but clearing your cache has almost become a thing that folks do on a regular basis these days. Thanks to the [Clear Your Cache](#) Firefox extension, you can now do so by just one click on your toolbar. Clearing your cache has never been so easy.

After installing the extension, all you need to do is find the icon for it in your toolbar customization panel. Once it is there, click it and you are done. Recently they added the requested feature of transparency to icons to play nice with themes. So now you know it looks good as too.

As I said before, I'm not really sure when this trend started. I can remember a few years back when I didn't care about my cache. I didn't know if it was big or small. I didn't know if it was full or empty. What benefits do you gain by clearing this information out?

All those files stored in your cache take up space, so from time to time, you may want to clear out the files stored in your cache to free up some space on your computer. Clearing your cache has also been known to increase your browser speeds as well.

This Firefox extension is for versions 1.5 to 1.6a of the browser. If you want to give it a shot and install it yourself, you [can do so](#) over at the Mozilla Update Web site.

Image Toolbar

One of the few things I miss from using Internet Explorer is the image toolbar that comes up when you are viewing an image by itself in the browser. Firefox doesn't have the same functionality built in. Thankfully though, somebody has written an extension to bring this image toolbar to Firefox.

So how does the Image Toolbar extension work? Here is what the developer of the extension has to say about it.

Image Toolbar is a clone of one of Internet Explorer's features and provides quick and easy access to a handful of image functions in a highly customizable way.

The toolbar is activated by hovering your mouse cursor over an image. It will be displayed (by default) in the top left hand corner of the image, and allows you to save the image or perform other functions.

The extension does require you to have javascript enabled for it to work. Once you get past that, you should have no reason not to be using this great image toolbar.

This Firefox extension is for version 1.5 of the browser. If you want to give it a shot and install it yourself, you [can do so](#) over at the Mozilla Update Web site.

Who Are You?

How many times have you found yourself surfing Online, finding somebody you like but have no way to get to know more about this person? The Who Is This Person extension for Firefox takes care of that problem. With it you can search various places for more information on these people you wish to know more about.

So where are some of the places that you can search for your mystery man or woman? You can get results from LinkedIn, Wikipedia, Technorati, Yahoo Person Search, Google News, TailRank and more. There are more than enough sources here to guarantee a match in at least one of these searches.

How do you do so? All you need to do is highlight a name. That is as far as the technical know-how goes for this Firefox extension. I often see folks in Web hosting forums I'd like to know more about, but I don't want to jump through the hoops to copy the name and then go to search engine to search engine looking for results.

This extension really does take all the hard work out of the situation.

This Firefox extension is for versions .7 to 1.5 of the browser. If you want to give it a shot and install it yourself, you [can do so](#) over at the Mozilla Update Web site.

All Customized Links

We all like having a more customized experience when using Firefox. By using the All Customized Links extension I can promise you that you will have the most customized experience you have ever had. This great extension allows you to make short work out of common browser tasks.

What does this extension do? Well nobody will disagree that right-clicking is one of the easiest ways for you to get around the Web. The All Customized Links extension allows you to add customized URLs to your right-click menu. Each link can be set to whatever command you need it to be set to. You could have it open links in a new tab, a current tab, or whatever else you might come up with.

Think you can already do that? Well this is what the author has to say about the extension in question.

Well, someone might ask "all these can be done via bookmarks"; however, this extension helps cut down the number of clicks we need to go through to open a bookmarked link in the desire fashion and also make link management faster and more efficient.

Having said that, the best use of this is using in combination with bookmarking where bookmarking is for general purpose links whereas customized links are for more important and frequently used links.

This Firefox extension is for versions 1.0 to 1.5 of the browser. If you want to give it a shot and download it yourself, you [can do so](#) at the Mozilla Update Web site.

Yoono - Social Bookmarking

Ever wanted to share your bookmarks with the world? How about checking out the bookmarks the world has to offer? [Yoono](#) is a unique service that allows you to do just that. The only problem with this type of service is putting in all your bookmarks by hand would be really hard. Well, that step was just made a little easier with the All Yoono Firefox extension.

So what is this Firefox extension all about? Here is what the developer had to say about it.

Yoono is a bookmark manager which allows you to share bookmarks (social bookmarking) with the Yoono community. It is integrated into Firefox's bookmark manager, so you don't have to import/export or change your habits. If you use two or more computers, your bookmarks are automatically synchronized (see flash demo). There is also a collaborative search function - one click search, which returns web sites similar to the current page.

I always like seeing and sharing new Web sites I've found or old favorites I can not do without. Go outside the box and try this extension out.

This Firefox extension is for versions 1.5 to 1.6a1 of the browser. If you want to give it a shot and install it yourself, you [can do so](#) over at the Mozilla Update Web site.

zoomFox

We all like to get a little closer sometimes to pictures to see one thing or another. Maybe you are looking for Waldo? Who really knows. Zooming in Firefox isn't exactly easy though. It isn't a pretty interface. The Firefox extension, zoomFox fixes that problem.

So what is [zoomFox](#) all about? This extension adds functionality when zooming in and out on pictures you find on the Web. It adds a context menu selection for viewing graphics. You are also given advanced controls (such as thumb view, zoom, easy scroll and more) to make the job easier as well. This really comes in handy when you are looking at large pictures.

Here are some of the developer's comments on zoomFox:

The main reason I wrote this; is because viewing big (more than 2500 pixels) images in Firefox sucks. zoomFox provides an easy way to zoom, but it also provides an easy way to scroll around using click+drag on the red box of the thumbnail or on the main image.

May not work with NoScript, since it uses Javascript on an HTML page (not in XUL) to do all the zoom/scrolling.

This Firefox extension is for versions .9 to 1.5 of the browser. If you want to download it and try it out, you can do so at the [Mozilla Update](#) Web site. Get a better look at those pictures! Just promise me you won't zoom in on me too closely.

Easier Wikipedia Editing

Did somebody on Wikipedia classify you are one of the men who might have helped Elvis hide the UFOs under the White House? Well, you could go in and edit Wikipedia yourself, but all those special tags are really confusing to people who are new to the whole wiki experience. For those folks like myself who only know a handful of wiki tags, I give you the Wikipedia Firefox extension.

So what is this Firefox extension all about? This is what the authors have to say about it:

The Wikipedia extension makes editing of Wikipedia pages easier by adding a new toolbar to your browser and by providing new menu items in the context menu.

If you use Wikipedia at all, you will enjoy this toolbar experience. Some of the features include: Supports all standard MediaWiki formatting commands; Formatting works on selected text or without any selection; Commands available via toolbar and context menu; Dialog based creation of tables, image links and links; Many special characters available via menu; Locale specific templates and more!

This Firefox extension is for versions .8 to 1.5 of the browser. If you want to download it and try it out, you can do so at the [Mozilla Update](#) Web site.

Unhide Passwords

For some of us, hiding our passwords on the screen is just not that important. If you don't have people hovering over your shoulder, you shouldn't have to hide in fear. This Firefox extension gets rid of the asterisks when putting in your passwords.

Here is what the author of this Firefox extension has to say about it.

If you aren't concerned about someone looking over your shoulder and stealing your passwords, why hassle with those obfuscated password fields, where you never know whether you typed your 30 character code correctly or not...

This extension shows the contents of password fields in clear text (instead of the asterisks), to make that process a bit easier. This latest version (1.1) will only convert password fields when they have focus (to solve the compatibility issue with any password managers).

This Firefox extension is for versions .9 to 1.5 of the browser. If you want to download it and try it out, you can do so at the [Mozilla Update](#) Web site. Are you tired of hiding your passwords? If you are, then this extension is for you.

Linkification

Have you ever been through a [Linkification](#)? It sounds like something you would get at the doctor's office along with a flu shot. I can promise you it doesn't hurt, and it only takes a few seconds. You don't even have to bend over either! Linkification doesn't hurt at all, it is simply one of the best Firefox extensions out there.

So what does the Linkification extension do? It allows you to view plain-text URLs and E-mail addresses as actual links. When a Web page designer or blog poster hasn't linked up a link or E-mail address, this extension steps in and does that work through the browser for them.

Once you install the extension, you are given a plethora of options to play with. You can set the link color to be different so you don't give it confused with other links on the Web page. You can set up a list of Web pages that you don't want links to be created from. You can even set up how the newly created links open.

The Linkification extension is for Firefox versions .9 and up. If you want to pick it up and give it a shot, you can [download it](#) at the Mozilla Update Web site. No turning your head and coughing required.

Firefox Fables

No extensions for Firefox today. Instead I want you to sit down and listen as I tell you some [Firefox Fables](#). The Web page has to be the greatest [Firefox Myths](#) parody I have seen yet. I don't care if you love Firefox or you hate it, you will find these quotes from the Firefox Fables Web site very funny.

Fable - "Firefox was Designed and Programmed Primarily by Gandhi"

Reality - Mahatma Gandhi had absolutely no involvement in the development of Firefox. In fact, Gandhi died in 1948, 56 years before Firefox 1.0 was released. All of those Firefox fan boys that say otherwise are just making it up, which shows that you can't trust Firefox users. Meanwhile, Microsoft has been developing Internet Explorer since 1995, much closer to when Gandhi was alive.

Fable - "Firefox is Open Source"

Reality - Firefox is anything but Open Source with multiple project details hidden from the public. "There also plans for enhanced security, blacklisting and anti-phishing measures to be fitted to the new version. However, no details of what they might be have been released yet.

Fable - "Using Firefox will make you Attractive"

Reality - I hear this one all the time, but it's simply not true. In fact, some organizations, such as BeautifulPeople.net, have determined that Firefox users are actually very unattractive, as can be inferred from their site's notice: "BeautifulPeople.net is only supported by Internet Explorer. You are currently using version: Netscape 5.0. To be able to use. BeautifulPeople you need to update to a newer version of Internet Explorer."

[Read the Rest of the Firefox rumors at Firefox Fables!](#)

Want a Diggbar?

Why is it that most toolbar names make me think of a source of chocolate and sugar wrapped in a plastic sack rather than an enhancement to my browser that will change my daily surfing habits? Diggbar is a great companion to the Online social news Web site, digg.com. So what does Diggbar do that others might not? Let me break off a piece for you to enjoy here.

Now by default, the search is set to TheBizPlace.com, not really sure why that is happening. You have the selection in the search bar though to search Digg, Amazon and Google. You have a selection of front page news as well on the toolbar, 40 of them to be exact by my count as I review this. You should never be able to say that you don't have anything to read anymore, that is for sure.

Further on down the toolbar you are given other choices as well. You can listen to the [Diggnation](#) podcast (or episodes of [This Week in Tech](#)). You are also given a selection of the top stories on del.icio.us.

Now is this toolbar for you? No, probably not. It might be a good way to get somebody who isn't as tech savvy as you are though. Myself, I could replace this toolbar with a few well placed live bookmarks and get the same experience. If your wanting to try something else that I do like, you might try adding the [digg side bar](#) to your Firefox surfing experience.

This Firefox extension is for versions 1.0 through 1.5. If you are interested in trying it out for yourself, you can [download it](#) at the Mozilla Update Web site.

Copy All URLs

Are you the kind of person that likes to harvest interesting links on a Web page to check out later? Then you might already know about the Firefox extension, CopyAllUrls. What does that mean? That means you will have to stay silent till I finish telling everybody else how useful this extension can be.

So what does this Firefox extension do? [CopyAllUrls](#) is an extension for Mozilla-Firefox to copy all URLs of a browser window to the clipboard and back again. You can copy them as plain text, HTML or STX (structured text).

To use it, all you need to do is right click on the Web site in which you want to get the links from, and select "Copy All URLs As". From there, you will be given the choice to copy them as plain text, HTML or STX. That much is up to you. Another nice feature that is built into this extension is you can use [Tiny URL](#) on links that might be a little too long.

This Firefox extension is for versions .8 to 1.5 of the browser. If you are interested in picking it up, just visit the Mozilla Update Web site and [pick it up there](#). You can also pick it up at [Plasser.net](#). Now those of you sitting silently in the back can give your feedback, because as of now, class is dismissed.

Clippings

Do you find yourself typing in the same thing over and over again? Maybe it is your signature? Maybe you have a catch phrase? Well I have found a Firefox extension that will make at least your fingers happy. It will save you from having to type that catch phrase of yours over and over again.

The extension in question today is Clippings (Not to be confused with that [annoying Clippy](#)). What does it do? It allows you to keep a collection of saved short messages to paste into text boxes inside your browser.

Here is what the author of the extension has to say about it:

Saves and manages frequently-entered text for pasting later. Text can be pasted from Clippings into forms and input fields without having to retype it every time. Perfect for keeping frequently-entered text for forms, blog entries, forum posts, and Bugzilla reports.

I have really gotten a lot of use out of this extension on message boards the most. All I have to do to use it is right click in the text box, go down to "Clippings" and then choose the one I want to use.

The Clippings extension is for Firefox versions 1.0 through 1.5. If you want to give it a shot for yourself, you can [get it here](#) at the Mozilla Update Web site or at the [MozDev.org Web site](#).

Firefox Calculator

Sometimes it is nice to be able to pull up a calculator when you need it. Sure, Windows comes with a calculator, but can you get to it quicker than you can find a real one? I think not. The Firefox calculator extension provides you with a powerful and easy to find "numbers machine" you will love.

So what is this [calculating goodness](#) from Firefox all about?

What is Calculator? Calculator is an extension for Mozilla and Firefox. It has an interface similar to Microsoft Powertoy Calculator. And it's a great open source replacement to the calculator included in Windows accessories.

Sure there aren't many ways you can reinvent the calculator, but it does come with some nice standard features. Some of the features of this calculator extension are: history of calculations, many conversion functions, print calculations, easy to use interface, many functions and more.

This extension is for Firefox 1.5 at least, because I didn't see any other versions mentioned on the Web site for the extension in question. If you want to pick it up and try it out for yourself, you can do so [at the MozDev.org](#) Web site.

Give Your Spam a Blue Frog

No, I haven't finally jumped off the deep end and I know the headline for this article did not make one 'bit of sense. I promise you that all will be made clear though. You see, when you use Web mail, most of the time you don't have a good way of reporting spammers to a higher authority. That problem comes to an end though, as soon as you install the [Blue Frog Webmail Spam Reporting Tool](#) for Firefox.

Here is what the author of the Firefox extension has to say about it:

Filtering spam is not enough. Blue Frog protects your email accounts or your entire mail domain by making spammers delete you from their mailing lists. Blue Frog enables Firefox users with Gmail, Hotmail and Yahoo webmail accounts to actively fight spam reaching their webmail accounts .

Blue Frog finds all new spam messages in your webmail junk folder and reports them to Blue Security for analysis. It also allows you to easily report spam messages found in other folders.

Messages you report will be analyzed by Blue Security's Operations Center, that prepares special scripts instructing your Blue Frog how to post complaints on the web sites advertised by the spam you receive. Your Blue Frog desktop application retrieves the scripts and posts the opt-out complaints without interfering with your browsing experience.

This Firefox extension is for versions 1.0 to 1.5 of the browser. If you are interested in giving it a shot, all you need to do is visit MozDev.org and [get it there](#).

If you want to learn more about Blue Frog and other ways of reporting your spam into them, visit [BlueSecurity.com](#).

X-Ray Web Pages With Firefox

If you like to know what is going on behind the magic of a Web site's design, then I have the Firefox extension of your dreams. The extension in question is called [X-Ray](#) and it gives you an inside out view of what elements a Web site is made up of.

Here is some of the authors own thoughts on the Firefox extension:

Once installed the X-Ray command is available by right-clicking as well as in the Tools menu. When applied to a page it can help you see how the document was constructed without having to go back and forth between the source code and the page in your browser. Is that list made of li dd or p elements? Is that an h3 tag or just some bolded text? X-Ray shows you what's beneath the surface of the page.

While I create webpages all the time, there's something about writing a piece of code you have to install that's very satisfying. Even better was finding that it was actually something I'd find helpful myself.

This current version (0.5) of the Firefox extension supports the following tags: h1, h2, h3, h4, h5, h6, p, ol, ul, li, dt, dd, font, div, span, blockquote, pre, a, b, i, strong, em.

The X-Ray Firefox extension is for "at least" Firefox 1.5. There are no official version numbers on the Web site, but I am using 1.5 and it is working great. So download it [here](#) and let me know what you think about it.

A Ping

Could the Firefox ping attribute be a privacy concern or nothing to worry about at all?

I've been meaning to blog about a new web platform feature that we've added to trunk builds of Firefox. It is now possible to define a ping attribute on anchor and area tags. When a user follows a link via one of these tags, the browser will send notification pings to the specified URLs after following the link.

I'm sure this may raise some eye-brows among privacy conscious folks, but please know that this change is being considered with the utmost regard for user privacy. The point of this feature is to enable link tracking mechanisms commonly employed on the web to get out of the critical path and thereby reduce the time required for users to see the page they clicked on. Many websites will employ redirects to have all link clicks on their site first go back to them so they can know what you are doing and then redirect your browser to the site you thought you were going to. The net result is that you end up waiting for the redirect to occur before your browser even begins to load the site that you want to go to. This can have a significant impact on page load performance. [\[Read the rest\]](#)

Clipboard Save As

How many times have you had a link in your clipboard that you copied from somewhere? You know the drill, you have to copy it from one place and paste it into the browser. This just takes time I could be spending doing something else. I could be writing another book! I could be solving the common cold. I could be saving the world. Well, I've got a way you can get that time back.

The extension in question for Firefox this time around is Clipboard Save As. It simulates the usual right click then "save as" with an URL in the clipboard.

So what is this Firefox extension good for? Here is what the author of [Clipboard Save As](#) has to say about it:

This extension is useful when you have an URL in your clipboard pointing to a file (for example, a movie clip) you want to save to your hard drive. Many times, just pasting the URL in the address bar will lead to Firefox opening it instead of giving you the option to save it. With Clipboard-Save-As, an option is added to the Tools menu that allows you to save the file to your hard drive. Just make sure the URL to the file is in your clipboard and then select "Save File from Clipboard".

As you can see this is another helpful tool to have at your fingertips. This Firefox extension is for versions .9 and up of the browser. If you want to give it a shot, all you need to do is [download it](#) from the Mozilla Update Web site.

Back IS Close

I am a big Firefox fan boy, I love it to death. Sometimes though, even I can find a few things that might make my experience with Firefox a little better. Thankfully though, there are a few good Firefox extensions to fix these problems. One of these extensions is [Back IS Close](#).

What is this Firefox extension all about? Here is what the author of the extension had to say about it.

Back IS Close replaces the "Back" button with a "Close" button when the "Back" button is disabled because there is no page to go "back" to. That Close Button will close the tab or browser, as appropriate.

Back IS Close is the perfect complement to tabbed browsing: it closes the many tabs tabbed browsing opens. Back IS Close works most effectively when you map a mouse button (I use the right mouse button) to send "Alt-Left Arrow". Then one mouse button will either take you back to the previous page, or close the tab if no previous page exists, making for quick, convenient browsing.

As you can see this fixes a big annoyance that Firefox users sometimes have. It is an extension that is long overdue as well. It is handy for sure.

This Firefox extension is for Firefox versions 1.0 through 1.5. If you want to download it and give it a shot, you [can do so](#) at the Mozilla Update Web site.

Amazing Media Browser

I tend to watch a lot of media Online. Thanks to my DSL connection, I can take in a lot more media than I used to a few years ago. Does a better way to take in all this media exist? I think it does, thanks to the Amazing Media Browser. It is far from being another lackluster Firefox extension.

Here is what the author of this Firefox extension has to say about it:

Amazing Media Browser automatically searches for all embed objects in a website and shows you a list of the source links. You can then conveniently browse through each link to see the content of the source file. These usually are a Flash movie, a Window Media movie or a mp3 file link.

It can grasp pretty much all the file extensions that can be opened with Flash Player, Shockwave Player, QuickTime Player or Window Media Player. It even comes with a favorite links feature that lets you store unlimited links for later use.

As you can see, this Firefox extension is a "must have" for any media watching Firefox fans. This extension is for Firefox versions 1.0 to 1.5. If you want a new way to watch your Online media, download the [extension here](#) from the Mozilla Update Web site.

Aggregate Yahoo! and Google

There are a lot of ways you can get more out of your searches Online. There are a lot of different Web sites and a lot of different Firefox extensions that give you the ability to edit your searches in one way or another. The Aggregate Yahoo! and Google extension one more way to get the searching job done.

So how does this extension get the searching job done? When you search Google, it mixes in results from Yahoo! into the mix as well. You will be given one Yahoo! result, then one Google results, then one Yahoo! result and well, you get the idea.

Here is what the author of this extension has to say about it:

Search Yahoo and Google simultaneously! Just search Google as normal and get results from both engines displayed on a single page. Twice the number of comprehensive and relevant results!

Added "Options" where "Show Yahoo! results by default" option can be specified. Now the user can choose to expand (show) or not Yahoo results by default.

This Firefox extension is for versions 1.0 and up. If you want to give it a shot, all you need to do is [download it](#) and then let me know what you think. This is just one more way to get more out of your searches Online.

Trexy TrailBar

Trexy offers a unique service that is kind of hard to put into words. I guess the simplest way I can think of putting it is that it gives you the ability to search your searches. You can also search other people's searches as well. They also have a new [Firefox toolbar](#) that allows you to use the functionality of Trexy right inside of your favorite browser.

Enough of my trying to stumble over a description of this great service, here it is from the developers' themselves.

Stop searching for the same things twice. Remember your searches and the web pages you've visited by creating search trails. The Trexy TrailBar helps you to pinpoint information you've already found. So you'll never have to ask yourself, "where did I find that again?" You can blaze search trails on over 3000 search engines including Google, MSN, and Ask Jeeves. Remember your search trails, follow the search trails of others and blaze new trails with the Trexy TrailBar.

For those of you who might still be a little confused, there is a top ten list of reasons you should be using Trexy's services on the [Trexy.com Web site](#).

So do you want to become a better searcher? The Trexy TrailBar is for Firefox versions 0.7 and up. if you are interested in trying it out for yourself, you can do so at this [link here](#).

Sidebar Tabs in Firefox

Anyone who has used tabbed browsing can tell you, once you try it you never want to go back. It just makes life a little more simple. Is there a better way of displaying these tabs though? What if you had all the tabs (with thumbnailed pictures) in your sidebar? Well, that is what [Tab Sidebar](#) gives to Firefox users.

So what is this Firefox extension all about? Here is what the author has to say about it:

The tab sidebar extension, if you haven't heard of it already, provides a sidebar in the browser that can act as a replacement to the main tab bar, with extras. The most obvious extra is that each tab includes a preview of the web page that is continually updated, but you also get navigation buttons for each tab.

Since Tab Sidebar provides a replacement for the main tab bar, when the sidebar is visible, Firefox's main tab bar will be hidden. If you still wish to use the main tab bar then you can show it again from the Tab Sidebar options.

Here are just some of the many features Tab Sidebar has to offer: Provides navigation options for each tab including history, stop and reload; Allows you to move tabs around with drag and drop; You can drop links, local files and bookmarks anywhere you like in the tab list; Displays the security status of tabs; Automatically refreshes the tab preview whenever the page changes; Lets you hide the main tab bar when the sidebar is open; Bidirectional support making the sidebar work correctly in right-to-left languages; Works well with other tab-related extensions allowing you to use their context menu additions from the sidebar; and much more.

So does this make the browsing experience better or worse? I'll let you be the judge of that. One thing I can promise you though is it is something different. The Tab Sidebar 1.0 extension is for Firefox versions 1.4.0 through 1.6. Want to give it a shot? You can download it [here](#).

Flickr Sidebar

There are hundreds if not thousands of folks using Flickr each and every day. So why not use a Firefox extension that makes using Flickr just that much easier? I don't see a reason any Flickr fan shouldn't be using the [Flickr Sidebar](#) for Firefox. Once it is installed, you get all your Flickr needs right on your left and side of the Firefox browser window.

Here is the description from the authors about this Firefox extension.

This Flickr sidebar is used for viewing and searching photo lists. You can access it by the command key Ctrl+Shift+F, the toolbar button, or clicking on the menu option View|Sidebars|Flickr Sidebar. Once you have authorized the extension to work with your Flickr account, you can search through or view a full list of your photos, your favorites, everyone's photos, your individual contacts, or your groups. Double clicking a photo opens its page in the current tab. You can also use all the standard link modifiers to open in tabs and windows.

Anything that makes using Flickr a better and more enjoyable experience is alright in my book, and this Firefox extension ranks up there as one of the best Flickr accessories out there today.

The Flickr Sidebar extension is for Firefox versions 1.5 and higher. If you want to download it and give it a shot, you can do so [right here](#).

Coralize This!

Don't you hate it when you visit a Web site that is doing something really cool or new only to be turned away because everybody else in North America is trying to visit the Web site at the same time you are? I know I do. With the Coralize extension for Firefox, you won't have to find yourself waiting in line any longer.

This [">Coral extension](#) allows you to "Coralize this page" or "Coralize this link" by right-clicking a page and/or link. So what is all this Coral stuff about? Here is some information from the [Coral Content Distribution Network](#) Web site.

Coral is peer-to-peer content distribution network, comprised of a world-wide network of web proxies and name servers. It allows a user to run a web site that offers high performance and meets huge demand, all for the price of a \$50/month cable modem.

Publishing through Coral is as simple as appending a short string to the host name of objects' URLs; a peer-to-peer DNS layer transparently redirects browsers to participating caching proxies, which in turn cooperate to minimize load on the source web server. Sites that run Coral automatically replicate content as a side effect of users accessing it, improving its availability. Using modern peer-to-peer indexing techniques, Coral will efficiently find a cached object if it exists anywhere in the network, requiring that it use the origin server only to initially fetch the object once.

Don't be left in the dark any longer. The Coralize Firefox extension is for versions 0.7 and beyond. If you want to give it a shot and try it out, you can do so by visiting [this link](#).

Simple Clear Cache Button

Clearing your cache shouldn't be that hard of a job to do. Firefox 1.5 brought us some new security toys to play around with, but what if you need a button to clear your cache right now? You can turn that 30 second job into a 3 second job with the [Simple Clear Cache Button](#).

For those of you who might be lost as to what your cache really is, let me explain. Cache is memory that holds copies of recently accessed data and information. Several Web browsers out there keep recently viewed pages in a cache so users can return to them quickly without suffering network delays.

What does this extension do? It does one job and it does it very well. The Simple Clear Button extension adds a toolbar button to open the Clear Private Data panel from Firefox's main window. You can place this button anywhere you like by dragging it from the Customize Toolbar window. Now how hard was that?

I can tell you one thing for sure, this beats hunting through links and options to do the same job. The Simple Clear Cache Button is for Firefox versions 1.5 and higher. If you want to download it and give it a shot, you can do so [here](#).

Firefox Leftovers

Due to my wacky writing times the past two weeks, I've been left with a few stories that weren't big enough to dedicate too much space too, but they are still interesting. I guess you could call them the leftovers. They might be a little old, but they still taste great. Let me stick a few of these suckers in the microwave and see how you like them.

[Jux2](#), a meta search engine, has added a new Firefox search plugin to its lineup. What does Jux2 do? It compares Google's, Yahoo's, and Ask Jeeves's search engine results and tries to give you the best combination of them all mixed into one. If you want to pick up the Firefox search plugin, all you need to do is click the big Firefox logo [on the main page](#).

It seems like Firefox is making its way onto the screen more and more often these days. Over at one of the [SpreadFirefox.com blogs](#), there are some screenshots of Firefox's latest spottings on the small screen. As soon as Firefox turns up on WWE Monday Night Raw, that is when I'll start to get excited.

[Pearl Crescent Page Saver](#) is a free extension for Mozilla Firefox that lets you save an image of a web page to a file in PNG format. Options let you control whether images are saved at full size or scaled down to a smaller size (by default, images are saved at 25 percent of the original page size). The Page Saver extension uses the new canvas feature that was introduced in Firefox 1.5.

Have any Firefox leftovers for me to look through? Make sure you drop me an E-mail and let me know about them.

Useful and Useless Firefox Tricks

There are a few hidden features hidden away inside of Firefox that some people might not know about. There are other hidden features that people probably would not want to know about. By playing around with Firefox's chrome URLs, you can see some pretty nifty things inside of your favorite browser.

I'll share with you just a few of the ones I found to be kind of interesting. Make sure you aren't doing anything important before you start playing with these URLs. Once that is out of the way, just cut and paste them into the address bar for some nifty effects.

`chrome://browser/content/preferences/preferences.xul` Opens the Options window.

`chrome://browser/content/bookmarks/bookmarksPanel.xul`
Opens a list of your bookmarks.

`chrome://browser/content/history/history-panel.xul`
Opens a list of websites in your history.

`chrome://global/content/console.xul`
Opens the Javascript console.

If you want to see the full list of chrome URLs and what happens when you use them, make sure you [check out this article](#). All of these were done using Firefox 1.5 as well, so I'm not sure if it would react the same with an older version of the browser. Have fun, and let me know if anything useful comes out of this.

Another Google PageRank Checker

Yes, I have for you [another Google PageRank checker](#). It might just be me, but doesn't it seem like Google's PageRank numbers don't seem as important as they used to be? With all the new technologies and services coming out each and every day, I guess it is hard to keep track of anything anymore. This Google PageRank checker is a little different than the others. It doesn't live in your status bar inside of Firefox.

So where does it live? Well, it works more like a search engine plugin than an extension. Once you get it installed, you can select it from the drop down menu of search engine choices you have, type in the domain name you want to check and you will have that Google PageRank number you wanted to know about. On the Web site you get back, it will tell you:

The PageRank number is: 6

Replacing "6" with whatever PageRank the Web site might have.

The Web site in question also has a few other tools to use as well that might be of use for you. The [Site Rank Checker](#) tells you where you rank for certain keywords in Google, Yahoo, MSN and AltaVista.

So give it a shot, and let me know if you like this method any more or any less than the many other methods of getting your Google PageRank numbers. I'd be interested in hearing the results.

Performancing for Firefox

When you think of blogging, performancing isn't exactly the first word that comes to mind. If you do blog, and you are a Firefox user, the two words might be closer than you might think. The new [Performancing extension](#) for Firefox gives you browser a super charge of publishing power.

So what is this Firefox extension all about?

Performancing for Firefox is a full featured blog editor that sits right within Firefox. Just hit F8 or click the little pencil icon at the bottom right to bring up the blog editor and easily post to your Wordpress, MovableType or Blogger blogs.

Performancing for Firefox is for Firefox 1.5 and above only. We've made use of a number of cool new features within Firefox 1.5, so you'll need that version of Firefox to try it.

Thanks to this helpful extension, you no longer have to jump from your browser to your blogging client. You no longer have to run two Web pages just to get one task done. you can start blogging about something the minute you see it. All you need to do is hit the F8 key or use the status bar icon. From there your browser will split into two and you will be ready to write. The interface is clean and simple and shouldn't be a problem to learn.

The only place where I'd like to see them expand is to offer more choices when it comes to your blogging engine of choice. I would really like to use this extension, but at the time of writing this I didn't see any support for [Blogware](#). There are a few more engines that are missing from the list as well.

All in all, this is a great tool for any publisher out there to use. Anything that increases your productivity is alright in my book, so give it a shot and let me know what you think.

The DivX Browser Plug-In

Now as far as video formats go, I am no expert. I couldn't tell you my WMV from my MP4. With that said, anything that makes watching things easier though is alright in my book. The DivX browser plug-in is just that. It makes watching DivX movies even easier for those of us who might not be video encoding experts.

This browser plug-in isn't just for Firefox. They also support Internet Explorer (5.0 and above), Mozilla (1.7 and above), and Netscape (8.0 and above). So what about the features? Here is what the author of the plug-in has to say about them:

This beta version of the browser plug-in is already very fully featured. Here are just some of the things you can do with it:

Playback DivX AVI files (DivX 5/6 video + MP3 audio) stored on a regular web server live in your browser

Save files to to disk so that you can replay them later with the free DivX Player

Monitor your connection speed and the download buffer during playback

Watch video in windowed mode or blow it up to full screen

Seek and trick play into the download buffer

Change preferences for the download behavior

Check for updates and instantly update the plug-in (with prompting)

Awesome playback performance

What else could you really ask for? There are a few more features and known issues on the Web page for the plug-in you might want to [read through](#) before you try it out as well. As far as using it on Firefox (1.0 and above) I have to say I love it. I can't wait to see how the development of it goes next.

Select Search

Have you ever wanted to make your right click more powerful than your left click? Now I have to admit this isn't a factor of clicking that stays on my mind that often. Actually I can promise you this is the first time I have ever thought about it. This is the dream that the author of the [Select Search](#) Firefox extension is promising.

So what does Select Search do that others don't do?

Select Search is a Firefox extension to enhance your right click. You will have the power to select any text on any page and use that text to:

Map it with Google Maps, Compare prices, Shop, Search jobs ,Read Product Reviews, Look up Definitions and Acronyms, Search Health Information, Find Movies and TV shows, Look up Music, and more..

This version is the first one. It includes the following features: Map it with Google Maps, Compare prices, Shop, Search jobs, Read Product Reviews, Look up Definitions and Acronyms, Search Health Information, Find Movies and TV shows, Look up Music, and more to come in the next version!

I would say he is on the right start if he is really wanting the right click to over power the left. This extension brings a lot of tools and options to your right clicking pleasure, so give it a shot.

This Firefox extension is for Firefox versions 0.9 and up.

ImageBot

There are a lot of free file hosts out there to choose from, so why not use a Firefox extension that makes using them just that much easier? ImageBot allows lets you upload your images to a free image hosting service. Think of it as a bulk uploading tool for your favorite Internet browser.

So how easy is it to jump in and use this Firefox extension? This is how the author explains [ImageBot](#):

There are 2 ways to upload images.

The first and easiest way is to use the "Upload Images" button. After clicking the button, a file picker will pop up from which you choose the desired images to upload. The file picker is especially easy because it only shows you images of the types that ImageShack allows.

The second way is Drag N Drop. To upload files using Drag N Drop, simply drag the files onto the tree in the Upload Center. ImageBot will automatically start to upload the files that were dropped.

Sounds easy enough, right? This Firefox extension is for Firefox versions 1.5 and up. If you at any time get lost while using the extension, make sure you go back and check out the extension's [tutorial and change log](#) to get a few pointers.

Gmail Space

We have all wished for a little more space, haven't we? It never hurts to have a little extra room for everything from backing up to just storing a few things somewhere else. Well now if you have this Firefox extension and a Gmail account, you should be ready to have at least that one dream come true.

The Firefox extension, [Gmail Space](#), allows you to use Firefox to turn that Gmail account into 2GB of storage space for you to use. This extension turns your Gmail account into a remote machine, much like some of the other Gmail storage programs out there do. It allows you to transfer files from your computer hard drive to your Gmail account.

How does it work? Your Gmail account looks like a FTP host (thanks to the extension) and you can upload and download your files. After you install, you get an option called "GSpace" in your "Tools" menu. Once you click on that new option, it opens the window for transfer of files and folder.

Before you get started, there are a few tips to follow from the developer of the extension:

- * Please disable "NoScript" extension (if you use) while using this extension as there is a conflict with "NoScript".

After installation, click on "GSpace" from the "Tools" menu. A new tab will be opened with GSpace window.

Give your user name and password to login. The remote view will be empty until you login. Once you login into the system, the remote view should say "gs:/" in the textbox.

If you are logging in for the first time, the remote view will be empty as there are no files uploaded yet.

So, select a folder or file you wish to add and click the "Upload/Right" arrow. That's all your files are uploaded. Similarly, the files or folder can be downloaded.

There is a button called "Filter" which filters the files based on the file size. When enabled, it shows only the files less than 10 MB as the max attachment size is 10 MB in gmail. All other buttons are pretty straightforward. Tooltips on each button show its description.

This Firefox extension is for Firefox versions 1.5 and up.

FormFox

Form boxes are all over the Web. Any time you enter in some sort of data into one of these boxes, you are sending it through the Web site to somebody else. Are you always sure about the destination of the information? Would you like to get more information about the destination? If so, then you need [FormFox](#).

So what is this extension all about? This is what the author had to say about it:

Do you know where your form information is going? This extension displays the form action (the site to where the information you've entered is going.) In any place where you can enter data, from search boxes to order forms, mouse over the final Submit button to reveal the destination.

You never think about this type of security problem that often. I guess most folks take it for granted that they know that they are on the right Web site and the information they are typing in is going into the right hands. In my opinion, I like having this little reminder just in case I might run into the wrong side of the Web.

This extension might not make you more secure, but it will make you more aware of where your personal data is being sent. By making you a smarter surfer on the Internet, the hope is that you will surf more securely. This Firefox extension is for Firefox versions 1.5 and up.

DownThemAll!

We all consume media. We want it, we get it and we take as much of it in as we can. With the [DownThemAll](#) Firefox extension, you can consume all the media you can get from one source. With a few short clicks of the mouse, you can start downloading all the media you can find via any Web site out there today.

Here is what the author of the Firefox extension has to say about it:

DownThemAll lets you download - literally in a click - all the files filtered from any web-page, increasing download speed up to 600 percent, and letting you pause and resume the files any time you want!

Why do we have to load a slow external download manager/accelerator, when we can just have DownThemAll inside Firefox? No AdWare, no waits. Just the files you want, in a click.

This extension also comes with fully customizable filters, so you can decide which content you want. If you love media as much as the rest of the human race, then you need to get DownThemAll up and running on your version of Firefox.

This Firefox extension is for Firefox versions 1.0 and up.

Edit Your Firefox Menu

After installing a few dozen Firefox extensions, your menus start to get more and more confusing. Everything wants to make sure it makes its mark after you download and install it. The end effect you are left with is a road map that looks like it is written in a different language. Want to edit your Firefox menu without having to learn anything about the insides of Firefox itself?

Happy you are still with me. I've wanted to get rid of the mail options inside of Firefox's menus because I don't use a mail client to check my E-mail. It is a distraction to any browsing perfectionist like myself, so I wanted to get rid of it. What did I do? I downloaded the [Firefox Menu Editor extension](#).

After you install it, it gives you a list of menu items which you can turn on or off. It goes through each of the menu bar's selections as well. File, Edit, Go, Bookmarks, Tools, and Help, they are all there and they are ready for you to tweak. Afraid you might mess something up? Just go back into the menu editor and turn it back on. It's just that simple.

For those of you who might be afraid to try anything after installing the newest version of Firefox (1.5), I can tell you it has worked for me with no problems at all.

From now on, this extension is going to be one that I recommend that everybody tries out and installs as soon as they get Firefox up and running. It is just one more way of making the browsing experience your own.

OperaView

Opera really hasn't made too much news after they decided to stop charging for the browser experience that they deliver. I'm sure that since they are still around more than just a few folks like using Opera for viewing things Online. Well, I have some good news for those folks and it is called [OperaView](#).

Here is what the author of the extension has to say about it:

OperaView is an extension for Mozilla, Mozilla Firefox, Flock and Netscape Browser 8 which is very similar (and actually based on) IE View.

Even if you using Mozilla browser all the time, sometimes it is need for view the page, you are looking at, in Opera browser (especially if you are a web developer). OperaView extension makes that process easier by adding item View This Page in Opera to the page context menu and item Open Link Target in Opera to the link context menu. So if you would like to quick view page in Opera, just right click somewhere on the page and choose new menu item.

OperaView works fine under Windows and under Linux (where would be necessary to manually type path to Opera browser). It is currently not working with Mozilla Suite under Linux.

So now feel free to switch over to Opera anytime you feel the itch to. There is no reason why you should bound yourself to one browsing experience. Give it a shot, and let me know what you think.

Blogger Web Comments for Firefox

Do you find yourself using the combination of both Blogger and Firefox a lot? Apparently Google hopes that you do, because they have written a new Firefox extension that ties directly into that idea. The [Blogger Web Comments extension](#) for Firefox makes it easier to see what folks are saying about entries your viewing, as long as the entries your viewing are coming from Blogger.

Here's what the folks at Google say about it:

Blogger Web Comments for Firefox is an extension that makes it easy to see what bloggers are saying about a page you're viewing in Firefox and even make your own blog post about it, all without leaving the page you're on.

I'm not exactly a big fan of the Blogger service, but with those feelings aside, this Firefox extension does make dealing with those accounts a little easier.

If you have a Blogger blog, then I would say you definitely should try out this extension. For the rest of the world though, it might not be your cup of tea.

Google Safe Browsing for Firefox

One day Google will rule the Internet with an iron fist of glory, or at least that is what a lot of people think. Google seems to be on the leading edge of a lot of innovations, but can they really make us safer? They are giving it a shot at least with the new [Google Safe Browsing extension](#) for Firefox.

Here is what the minds at Google have to say about it:

Google Safe Browsing is an extension to Firefox that alerts you if a web page that you visit appears to be asking for your personal or financial information under false pretenses. This type of attack, known as phishing or spoofing, is becoming more sophisticated, widespread and dangerous.

That's why it's important to browse safely with Google Safe Browsing. By combining advanced algorithms with reports about misleading pages from a number of sources, Safe Browsing is often able to automatically warn you when you encounter a page that's trying to trick you into disclosing personal information.

Hey I am all for anything that will help me become more safe while I surf around the Internet. As with many things that Google does though, there are always some people who tear it apart to look for issues. For one example of this, you can [read Nitesh Dhanjani article](#) on O'Reilly's Web site.

SearchStatus for Firefox

I've been using a Google PageRank status bar extension in my installation of Firefox for some time now. Since I work on a lot of Web sites, it is a handy thing to have. I think I have found one better though. The [SearchStatus](#) extension not only gives you Google's PageRank number. It also gives you a lot more information as well.

Here is what the author of the extension has to say about it:

SearchStatus is a toolbar extension for users of both Mozilla and Mozilla Firefox, designed for the highly specialized needs of search engine marketers. The toolbar provides extensive search-related information about a site, all conveniently displayed in one discreet and compact toolbar.

For every site you visit using Firefox or Mozilla, SearchStatus lets you view its Google PageRank, Google Category, Alexa popularity ranking, Alexa incoming links, Alexa related links and backward links from Google, Yahoo! and MSN - all in one place. This combined search-related information means you can view not only the link importance of a site (according to Google), but also its traffic importance (according to Alexa), so providing a balanced view of site efficacy.

With an unobtrusive status bar icon, nobody can say this extension is going to get in your way. Just give it a right-click and you have a plethora of information and links right at your fingertips.

The SearchStatus extension is for Firefox versions .9 and up, so nobody should have a problem getting this one up and running. So keep a better record of a few of your favorite Web sites and give [SearchStatus](#) a try.

Viamatic foXpose

When you spend enough time looking at something, you sometimes feel the need to have a different view. Eventually we all get bored of doing things one way, and we want to try something different. Some people take to the change automatically, while others might not. [Viamatic foXpose](#) offers a very different way of viewing your tabs inside of Firefox.

The Viamatic foXpose Firefox extension loads all of your tabs in one single Web site. You see dozens of little screenshots of Web sites that you are currently browsing, right there in front of that view of yours.

Why is this helpful? Well, lets say you want to compare layouts of more than one Web site? Maybe you just need a new way to navigate through your tabs? No mater what your reasons are, one thing can be said for sure. Viamatic foXpose is definitely something different.

How do you use it? Just click on the icon in the status bar to view all the browser windows. Yes, it is just that easy.

In the next version of this Firefox extension they will be offering the ability to select a background color, and an easier way to customize the keyboard shortcut. Viamatic foXpose is for Firefox versions 1.5 or higher. Want a different view of things? Give it a shot!

Adding an Aardvark to Your Browser

If I said I wanted to toss an Aardvark in your lap, you'd probably look at me with a very confused look across your face. Well, what if I told you that this Aardvark in question would do more work than any other Aardvark that you have seen before. Would I have your attention then? Do I have your attention now? The [Aardvark Firefox extension](#) is very unique and very useful as well.

So what can you do with this Firefox extension? You can clean up unwanted banners and surrounding "fluff," especially prior to printing a page, see how the page is created, block by block and view the source code of one or more elements.

Once you get Aardvark up and running as an extension in Firefox, all you need to do to start it is right-click on any Web page and choose "Start Aardvark". The extension will keep going, till you tell it to stop by leaving, refreshing or by hitting the "Q" key to quit.

As you navigate around the Web page you will notice a red square over some of the Web site sections. If they exist, you will also see a little yellow caption telling you the HTML element type and its class or id if it has one.

It might take a while to get a grasp on how Aardvark works at first. It definitely deserves some personal time as you learn how to use it and what all you can do with it. On the [Aardvark Web page](#), they have some keyboard shortcuts that should help you manage what you want to do as well as find out what all this little Firefox extension can do.

So now that you have this Aardvark tossed into your lap, make the best of all the work that it will do for you.

Restart Firefox in a Snap!

We live in a world where things need to get restarted after being installed or tinkered with. The Firefox browsing experience is no different here. There is no easy way of restarting Firefox from within the browser though. Well, there isn't unless you download the [Restart Firefox](#) extension.

Still lost on what Restart Firefox does? Restart Firefox adds a "Restart Firefox" menu item to "File", and a toolbar button for easy restarting. This comes in real handy when you are installing new themes or extensions. It takes a lot of the pain away from the task of restarting the browser when you want to make a change.

There is not much else you can say about this lovely extension. It does one simple job and it does it well. Some have said that using the Restart Firefox extension and the SessionSaver extension have lead to some good results. With them both working together you can restart Firefox and have all your current tabs and Web sites saved as well. A really neat side effect if you ask me.

Restart Firefox is for Firefox versions 1.5 or higher. Give it a shot and get to restarting your latest Firefox with no fuss and no mess at all. Restart Firefox is the best restarting option you have inside of your favorite Internet browser.

Tell Web Sites to BugMeNot!

Sure BugMeNot is something that has been covered just about everywhere lately. I like the ability to quickly log into Web sites that I shouldn't bother me when I want to read an article. The [Firefox BugMeNot extension](#) allows quick and easy access to those Web sites that make you create a "free reader account" before you can access the content inside.

Still confused about what BugMeNot is? This explanation I found at the [Extensions Mirror](#) does a great job at tell you what it is and what it does.

BugMeNot.com was created as a mechanism to quickly bypass the login of web sites that require compulsory registration and/or the collection of personal/demographic information (such as the New York Times).

The extensions enables a context menu to access the community maintained database of user names and passwords of BugMeNot. It will automatically fill in the web site's fields with the first user name and password combination it finds, the BugMeNot pop up will automatically close, and the information will be automatically submitted. If it isn't a valid combination, just right-click, select BugMeNot again, and this time, the window will stay open to ensure you get a valid combination. The script will still automatically transfer the information to the web site's fields and submit it after you close the pop-up window.

This extension is for Firefox versions .8 and higher. So stop being bugged by Web sites! Try the Firefox BugMeNot extension!

Firefox 1.5 Versus Internet Explorer 6

When you compare two objects, you always want to make sure one of them exists, right? Comparing my left foot with Big Foot wouldn't be much fun, because nobody has easy access to the big hairy guy. So if this is the case, why are people comparing Firefox 1.5 to Internet Explorer 7? That just doesn't seem to right or too fair at all.

[Asa Dotzler](#) makes one of the best arguments about this that I have seen in a long time. Take your fan boy hats off on both sides and read his thoughts with an open mind. He does make a lot of sense.

I've seen a number of articles comparing the currently available Firefox 1.5 with the still not available and probably not released for some time Internet Explorer 7. What's wrong with this picture? Firefox 1.5 should be compared against the competition, not against something that may or may not be released sometime in the future.

Where are all the Firefox 1.5 versus IE 6 articles? It does no service to users to tell them how Firefox stacks up against some future offering from Microsoft. How about telling users how Firefox 1.5 stacks up against the outdated, insecure, and difficult browser they're using today? (or if they just have to report about IE 7, then how about comparing it to the equally unreleased Firefox 2 or Firefox 3?)

I guess the browser reviewing press really don't care about actual users who are suffering an increasingly painful and dangerous web. Microsoft announced IE 7 in February of 2005, very nearly a year ago. They claimed at the time that it would be available in the Summer of 2005 and here we are about to enter 2006 with nothing close to a finished browser from Microsoft.

Why isn't this being reported properly? Why the preferential treatment for Microsoft and such an unwillingness to point out the obvious -- that while Firefox continues to ship high-quality, secure, and usable browsers on a regular basis, Microsoft has left its user base of hundreds of millions of people helpless against a deteriorating web for nearly 5 years.

[[Read the Rest of Asa's Thoughts!](#)]

Findbar Basics

We all like using the find bar in Firefox right? It makes it simple to find a string of text or maybe even just a word on a Web site. It is clean and simple. I love how it just comes up at the bottom of the screen when I need it as well. Is there a way to make the find bar experience any better? Findbar Basics tries to do just that.

The [Findbar Basics](#) extension does a few things. Some of these include: a status bar button that opens the find toolbar; a clear button inside the find toolbar for clearing all text from the input box, an optional toolbar button that opens the Find Toolbar, Ctrl-F toggle to switch the Find Toolbar on and off.

There is something to be said about the ease of use of the find bar. Since it was moved down to the bottom of the screen, it has become one of my favorite Firefox features. Any windows that pop up at me make me angry. Why pop up a box in front of the text I am trying to search through?

Many other programs could learn from Firefox in that department.

This extension is compatible with Firefox versions 1.0 through 1.6. Download it today and find what it is you are really looking for.

New and Improved Search Engine Page via Firefox

With the 1.5 Firefox release, maybe there wasn't too many improvements to the search bar in the upper right of your browser window. They have made advancements by leaps and bounds by making it easier to add a search engine to your browser.

The new [search engines Web page](#) is welcome change from the look of [MyCroft site](#). The choices haven't been improved any on the new Web page. That isn't the exciting part. The exciting part is I am now not afraid to send somebody to that page to get a few new search engines without being afraid they would get lost.

Some of the front page included searches are: A9, Flickr tags, MSN, AOL, WebMD, Market Watch, and Wikipedia. Now if they could only make the rest of the search engine experience more friendly for the rest of the folks who might be scared of the trip down Mozilla Lane.

Another nice feature of this new Web page is they link [to a Firefox extension](#) that makes it really easy to remove search engines from the drop down menu. It allows uninstalling search plugins - just right click on a search plugin and choose "Delete". I'd like for that to be something built into Firefox 2.0, but I know they might have more important things to worry about right now.

So give the new search engine [Web page](#) a shot and try out the [Search Plugin Hacks extension](#). You'll be searching various places like a pro in no time at all.

PayPal Firefox Extension

It seems like just about every company out there today has an extension written for Firefox. When I heard that there was now a PayPal Firefox extension, I had to raise my eyebrows and think. What could you really add to Firefox that has to do with PayPal? Well, how about an easier process of making payments with the [PayPal Send Money](#) Firefox extension.

Here is what the author of the work has to say about this Firefox extension:

The PayPal Send Money extension provides a quick way to send money to anyone with an email address. Enter the recipient's email address and the extension opens a quick link to PayPal's Website Payments Standard checkout page so you can log in and make a quick payment to a friend.

When sending money to a friend's Personal Account, use your PayPal funds or a bank account and avoid any fees.

With the holiday season upon us, don't we all need an easier way to send a few bucks to our favorite people and our favorite Web sites? Since I do most of my professional work Online, I have to deal with PayPal a lot. Anything that makes that experience better, quicker and easier is perfectly OK in my book.

So check out the [PayPal Firefox extension](#). It is compatible with Firefox versions 1.0 - 1.5 and really does make it easier to combine your browsing and PayPal experiences.

Need a LinkedIn Companion?

Have you visited [LinkedIn](#) lately? How about at all? LinkedIn has become one of my favorite places to visit Online. It is a great resources for professionals like myself to find new and interesting business contacts. I like to think of it as MySpace for adults. Now you can bring some of LinkedIn's functionality to your Firefox browser with the [LinkedIn Companion](#).

Here is what the author of the extension has to say about it:

Take advantage of this network every day with the LinkedIn Companion for Firefox. Use the Firefox Companion to easily search for professionals or jobs on LinkedIn and bookmark the most interesting results in a clear and organized format. Our powerful JobsInsider feature instantly shows you the inside connections you have at the companies you're interested in while you browse job listings on the major job boards.

LinkedIn is an online social network of more than 4 million experienced professionals from around the world, representing 130 industries. LinkedIn helps you be more effective in your daily work and opens doors to opportunities using the professional relationships you already have.

The [LinkedIn Companion extension](#) is for Firefox versions 1.0 through 1.5. If you are a LinkedIn expert or you haven't tried it before, give it a shot and feel free to look me up if you need a few contacts to get you started.

Make Firefox Del.icio.us

Everybody has tried del.icio.us at least once. Some people like it, and some people find it confusing. There is no doubt that a Firefox extension would play a good part here in making it easier to use for everybody out there. That is what this [del.icio.us Firefox extension](#) does.

So what is del.icio.us? [Google tells us](#), "Del.icio.us is social bookmarking, social software web service for storing and sharing web bookmarks. The site came online in late 2003 and was developed by Joshua Schachter, co-maintainer of Memepool. According to del.icio.us/doc/about: Everything posted to del.icio.us is publicly viewable; it is not a tool for storing private bookmark collections. Many people use del.icio.us to publish 'linkblogs' on their weblogs."

Here is what the author has to say about this del.icio.us Firefox extension:

The del.icio.us extension for Firefox offers everything you need to seamlessly integrate the del.icio.us service with your Firefox browser. Included in the extension are two buttons which allow you to easily post items to del.icio.us, and access your saved items from del.icio.us.

In addition to the buttons, the extension allows for right-click posting functionality. A del.icio.us menu is also installed which allows for quick access to common pages on del.icio.us as well as keyboard shortcuts. The extension also installs the del.icio.us search plug-in right into the existing Firefox search toolbar.

[This extension](#) is for Firefox versions 1.0 - 1.5 and once you install it, you will not find an easier way to sink the functionality of del.icio.us with your everyday life.

Learn More About a Site

Ever find yourself wanting to know more about the Web site that you are on? If you are one of these people, this is the Firefox extension for you. Maybe you own a few of your own Web sites and you want to track all there is to know about it out there Online. No mater what the reason is, just about everybody can use the About This Site extension.

[About This Site](#) is a Firefox extension by Gina Trapani which gives you one-click access to various services that provide information about the Web page you are viewing.

If you were to look up all the information they give you by hand, you would be working for hours. Here you have quick and easy access to a plethora of options.

What do you find out about a Web site after installing this extension? You can find more information about: Alexa traffic detail and related sites; Del.icio.us link backs; Google related pages, cache and link information; Kinja site readers; Netcraft reports; Open Directory site listing; Popdex search for citations; Technorati link cosmos; Wayback Machine archive; Whois query; and Yahoo linkdomain.

Personally I like using this extension to track some details about my own various Web sites I run. You could do the same, or just find out a little more information about one of your favorite places to visit on the Internet.

No mater what the reason is, I can promise you that this extension will save you a lot of time.

Firefox Driving Directions

Who ever knew that Firefox could be so handy when you are lost? Well, let us not get lost before we get good use out of this Firefox extension. [MapIt!](#) highlights an address and gets a map and driving directions using your favorite online mapping Web site.

What mapping Web sites are included? Currently this extension supports MapQuest, Maps.com, Yahoo!, and more! Currently only maps via the United States are supported with this extension as well.

Using the MapIt! extension could not be any more simple. After you install it, all you need to do is right-click on any Web site and scroll down to the "MapIt!" option.

From there you can show a map, get driving directions to a location, get driving directions from a location or configure the options for the extension itself. From the options, you can set the map or directions to come up in a new tab, a new window or the same window you are in right now. It is just that easy.

So never find yourself lost or looking for directions again. As long as you have Firefox and [MapIt!](#) you should never find yourself not knowing where you are at or where you want to go.

Writers - Keep a Firefox ScrapBook!

There should not be one writer out there today that doesn't have this extension plugged into Firefox. ScrapBook is the perfect tool for any writers, both offline and online, who do a lot of research before they write. This extension isn't just for the writers out there. Even non-writers will find this tool helpful and neat.

What does it do? The [ScrapBook Firefox extension](#) allows you to save Web pages in easily managed collections. So how is this different from bookmarking a Web site? Well, when you bookmark something, you are saving the entire Web page. With ScrapBook, you are only saving the part of the Web page that you wanted to save.

Here is what the author of ScrapBook has to say about it:

ScrapBook is a Firefox extension, which helps you to save Web pages and easily manage collections. Key features are lightness, speed, accuracy and multi-language support.

Some of the features include: the ability to save Web page, save snippet of Web page, save Web site (In-depth capture), organize the collection in the same way as Bookmarks tree, highlighter, eraser and various page editing tools, full text search and quick filtering search, and text edit feature resembling Opera's Notes.

Do you see why I love this extension yet? As I said before, this is the perfect companion when it comes to writing on the Web. It makes research for stories and ideas just that much easier. Try it out for yourself, and let me know what you think of it.

Have Your Pick With ColorZilla

I do a little Web design on the side for a few friend and a few of my own side projects here and there. Every so often, I visit a Web site that has a great color layout. All the colors are smooth and work so well with one another. Instead of hunting through a CSS file or trying to recreate the color myself, I use [ColorZilla](#) to point out the best colors that are inside my Firefox browser window.

Here is what the author of the Firefox extension has to say about it:

Advanced Eyedropper, ColorPicker, Page Zoomer and other colorful goodies. With ColorZilla you can get a color reading from any point in your browser, quickly adjust this color and paste it into another program. You can Zoom the page you are viewing and measure distances between any two points on the page.

If you are a Web site designer or work on graphics via your personal computer, this is the Firefox extension for you. The built-in palette browser allows choosing colors from pre-defined color sets and saving the most used colors in custom palettes. DOM spying features allow getting various information about DOM elements quickly and easily.

Some of the new features with ColorZilla 0.8.3.1 are: fully compatible with Firefox 1.5, added %url-full%, %url-path% and %url-file% status bar fields (useful for frames), added RGB percentage status bar field, added 'Export palette' option to palette manager, and more.

There really isn't a better right hand man when it comes to color selection on your computer. [ColorZilla](#) has everything you could ever want or need and the best part is, it is totally free.

Testing Your Bandwidth With Firefox

Don't you want to know how fast you are going today? The [Bandwidth Tester](#) extension for Firefox does just that. It gives you the bandwidth of your current Internet connection. This extension is about much more about bragging rights over your friends. Sometimes you need to know if you are getting exactly what you paid for from your Internet service provider.

Here is what the author has to say about this Firefox extension:

This tool is more accurate than many of the website testers because it downloads several files at different sizes to find your average connection speed. However, this is also dependant on where you are in relation to where the test files are being served from. You can change the test files used in the Bandwidth Tester options.

Now the Internet speeds that were advertised to you by your ISP are very rarely the speeds you travel through the Internet with. This Firefox extension should give you a better idea of the speeds you are getting though. The default test files are hosted by APlus.net located in New York, so that might be something to keep in mind as well.

One of the exciting new features that has been promised is active background bandwidth monitoring which will watch your bandwidth in the background and report it in the status bar at all times.

So there you have it. Testing your bandwidth has never been so much fun. Oh, and forget what I said earlier about not bragging. If your speeds are amazing to you, go ahead and brag a little to your friends.

SpellBound - Spell Check in your Browser!

I will go ahead and let it be known now. I am a writer and I suck at spelling. There really should be more support groups out there for folks like me. You would think there are more that are out there. I just think that many of them are ashamed to let it be known. That might be the case. Maybe though, these folks have found the SpellBound spell checker for Firefox.

Here is what the author of the [SpellBound](#) Firefox extension had to say about it:

SpellBound is a port of the spell checker code and user interface from the Mozilla Suite's Composer that enables spell checking in web forms such as html text area / input elements (html input password elements are not checked by SpellBound) and rich text form elements.

This allows you to spell check forms (e.g. message board posts, blog entries, wysiwyg, etc.) before submitting them when using your Mozilla Firefox or Mozilla Suite browser.

The [install Web page](#) for the extension makes the process almost painless, so there is no worries about getting it onto your computer the right way. They also have a [few screenshots](#) available for you to view as well, before you put it on your machine.

So what is the moral of the story? These days it is perfectly acceptable for a writer to not be the best speller in the world. We all make mistakes, and SpellBound helps us check for those mistakes before our words are taken to the outside world.

Scribe - Save Text Fields as Documents

Find yourself hitting Ctrl-S when you are typing in text areas on the Internet? You aren't alone. Many folks suffer from this each and every day. Now with Scribe, you clicking can really come to some good use. The Scribe Firefox extension allows you to save text fields as documents on your computer.

[Scribe](#) really does add word processor functionality to your Firefox browser. You can open and save form entries as files. You can also quickly save to a local file as you type.

Some of the features include: Save form entries to a local Scribe XHTML file; Load form entries from a Scribe XHTML file; Overrides Ctrl-S so you can quickly save as you type; The Scribe html file is a normal XHTML document - You can edit long posts in your favorite HTML or text editor then use Scribe to load it back into the web form.

Thanks to Scribe, you will never lose a post again due to your internet connection being dropped or laptop battery going out. After using it for a while, I am convinced that this functionality should be built into every browser out there in the market.

Still not convinced? Go check out some [screenshots](#) of it in action. This one extension nearly doubles the usability of Firefox. If you write on the Web as much as I do, you almost don't need a secondary text editor. It really is that good.

Get Resizeable Text Areas

Don't you hate it when a Web site leaves you only a tiny little box to type in your comments, suggestions or feedback? Sometimes you need a little more room to put your thoughts down, but the Web site creator doesn't realize this at the moment that you need it. Thankfully, like with most problems Online, there is a Firefox extension that will solve the problem.

Here is what the author has to say about the [Resizeable Text Area](#) extension:

A lot of forums and boards provide very small text areas for new postings. If you type a longer posting, you have to scroll up and down, to read, what you have wrote and to proceed. This situation is annoying.

I couldn't agree with him more. I want my Online experience to be more comfortable. You can drag your text box to the left or to the right. You can drag your text box up or you could drag it down.

This is all about giving you more room to put in your thoughts. Think of this extension as the elastic in your favorite pair of underwear. No mater what size you grow to or shrink to, it fits around all your needs.

It might not solve world hunger or be the most popular extension at the homecoming dance, but it is one of the best I have found in a long time. This is one of those extensions that you don't realize how many times you will use it, till you have it installed on your version of Firefox. So give it a shot, and make sure you have plenty of typing room for your next text submission to this lovely think we call the Internet.

Citation Saving Via Firefox

When you spend much of your Online life in notepad writing your little heart out, you tend to copy and paste a lot. You want to get quotes. You want to get information. You might even want to save a block of text to read later. With the citation extension for Firefox, you can do all of that and more.

Here is what the folks working on [the extension](#) have to say about it:

The Citations project is a simple extension that allows the user to select a text in a Web page and put it in a special bookmark file. Citations are stored in a RDF file and can be browsed in a HTML view.

It is easy enough to use. All you need to do is highlight the text you want to save, then select "Save citation". After that, fill in an author link if you want, then hit save.

Managing your citations is just as easy. All you need to do is right click and select "Mange citations". After that a window should come up with all your citations in a neat table for you to view. From there you can either navigate back to the Web site where you found the quote or you can delete the quote from the citation manager.

Now the extension itself could save to a prettier back end, but that will probably come in a future release. Other than that, I see no reason at all why [the Citations project](#) should not be installed. It adds loads of functionality to everybody's favorite browser, and it is totally free to use.

Alt-Text for Links

Don't you hate it when you visit a Web site and you are afraid to click on any of the links? OK, so maybe "afraid" isn't the right word. It would be nice to know what Web site or Web page you were going to before you click on the link. Thanks to the [Alt-Text for Links](#) extension for Firefox, now you can.

So what does this Firefox extension do? It displays a link's destination URLs in a "tool tip window". Well, it displays it in a tool tip window if the link hasn't been already defined by the HTML code on the Web page.

Have no fear though, you can also find out what link you are about to visit by looking at the bottom left of your screen.

Now as I said before this could be helpful if you are on a Web site where you might be afraid to click on a link. It is also handy to have to see where the next link is leading you. I know on some Web pages out there, going from link to link is tricky business. At least with this extension, you should be ready to get what you click on.

There are some improvements to be made to the extension.

I'd like for the text to come up as a tool tip as well as at the bottom of the browser. My eyes don't always focus toward the bottom of the screen a lot while I'm surfing around the Web. Other than that, it is a perfect fit if you are looking for a way to find out where you click, before you click.

Make Firefox More Like Opera

So are you an Opera browser fan who isn't sure about the jump to Firefox? What if you could have the same theme, features and functionality you found in Opera while using Firefox? That is what Andrew Gregory has attempted to recreate with his Web page on the subject.

In the introduction to the [Web page](#), its purpose is made pretty clear:

It should be obvious that my preferred browser is Opera. Not that there's anything wrong (much) with Firefox/Thunderbird/Mozilla. I just prefer using an internet suite. The best suite (in my opinion) is Opera. The Mozilla suite is just too big, fat, and ugly. This section of my site is dedicated to anything I have to say about Firefox, Thunderbird and other Mozilla projects.

Personally, I would say all the things he said about Firefox to the folks who use Opera. It is always good to hear all sides in debate though. The more fighting that goes on, the better product everybody produces. Now with that said, he does list a long list of extensions you can install to give you that "Opera-like" feeling while using Firefox.

So want to make the change? Check out this [Web page](#) first, to see if you can comfort your browser changing blow you might take.

FoxyTunes

I like to listen to music while I surf around and work Online. It just seems to help pass the time better for me. Some people like more music, some people like no music at all. There are all kinds of flavors of music, but not a lot of ways to listen.

Usually you have a standard media player on your computer. Well, [FoxyTunes](#) take some of the work of going back and forth to a media player. It brings the media player into your Firefox browser.

Some of FoxyTunes features include: Multiplatform - works on MS Windows, Linux and Mac OS X; Supports many popular media players, will support more players in future versions; Also supports the Mozilla Suite and Mozilla Thunderbird; Position anywhere in the browser - on the status bar or on one of the toolbars; Volume controls; Seek Slider; Configurable keyboard shortcuts; Currently playing track information; Customizable and collapsible; Auto-hide; Skinnable and localizable; Automatically launch your player when needed; Pop up and hide the player window with a click and more.

It also supports a plethora of players out there as well, such as: iTunes 4, Winamp, foobar2000, Windows Media Player, and Musicmatch Jukebox. There are also a [number of skins](#) you can download and use as well with the Firefox extension.

Like listening to music while you surf with Firefox? Then give [FoxyTunes](#) a test drive. You'll be head banging your way through the Web in no time at all.

Cacheout Extension for Slow Web Pages

It happens to everybody. You want to see the Web page that is making all the news, and once you finally get the link to go there it times out on you. You can't see the content and you will have no idea what folks will be talking about around the water cooler tomorrow. What is a geek to do?

The Firefox extension this time around is called [Cacheout](#). What does it do?

Too frequently on sites such as Slashdot.org and digg.com, articles that are posted are flooded with thousands of people trying to simultaneously access the same Web site. Unless the article is being hosted on a provider that has the infrastructure to support massive hits, the server essentially stops responding to any more web requests.

The service they use to bring the Web sites back up is the [Coral Content Distribution Network](#). Coral is very reliable for distributing the server loads around so that you can view a Web site that is in very high demand. Right now they are only using Coral for the back end, but if you know of any other content distribution networks out there, let them know.

Although the content for the Web page hasn't gone too in depth with the extension just yet, I have high hopes for this extension in the future. Go check it out, and never be left out of the conversation at work again.

BetterSearch for Firefox Browsers

I hate it when I lose a sock. No matter where I look I can't find it. No matter what kind of way I look, I can't find it. After a few hours, it is just a lost cause. That is the same way I feel about using most Online search engines as well. Well, that was until a BetterSearch came knocking on my proverbial door.

[BetterSearch](#) delivers many more choices and flavors when it comes to Online searching. It enhances Google, MSN Search Yahoo Search, A9, and many more by adding thumbnail previews, Amazon product images and information, and a preview feature.

It doesn't stop there. It also lets you choose to "Open in a New Window", find out more about the "Site Info" and a "Wayback Machine" link so that you can search the previous versions of the Web site as well.

Now there is one simple reason why none of these search engines do this on their own right now. It would mean they would have to work together with these other companies. That just ain't going to happen. What it takes is imagination from outside the box to make these Web features and support work together as one.

We all want more form and functionality from an Online search, right? If you fall onto that wagon or one even close, then you should give BetterSearch a shot. With better searching tools at your fingertips, then you will hopefully be able to get out of the searches quicker and find what you are really looking for.

Searching Your Library via Firefox

I remember in my youth when I used to go to the public library every Saturday morning to go check out a new book. Sure, the city I live in is small so chances are I probably got the same book more than once. These days, you don't have to be bothered with the searching and hunting for the book you want. You can do that all from the comfort of your own home. Well, that is if you have a search plugin via Firefox for your local library of choice.

The Web page that makes all the magic happen is [Library Search](#). Here is what they have to say about the project on the front page:

Library Search is a collection of Mozilla Firefox search plugins that search online library catalogs. There are currently search plugins available for 51 libraries, however this number is constantly growing. If you would like to be notified when new search plugins are ready, join our mailing list. To see if a search plugin is ready for your library [and/or] to install a search plugin, click the Downloads link at the top of this page.

I stumbled upon this Web page not too long ago, and I have to say I am very impressed. What does the Web page deliver to you? Well it gives you a long list of libraries to choose from. On the end of each link, you will find a Firefox search plugin to tap into your browser and bring the library home to you.

Here is only a small sample of some of the libraries they have listed: San Francisco Public Library, Santa Clara County Library, Ada Community Library, the Orange Country Library, San Antonio Public Library and many more.

Sure, not every library in the world is listed here. That is where you come in. If you know of one that isn't on the list, let them know. That way if that library has an Online system that would allow for searching, a Firefox search plugin could be written.

Colorful Tabs

Do you sometimes get your tabs all mixed up inside of Firefox. Is it hard for you to tell which one you are currently on? Maybe you are just tired of your gray on gray interface and you want something prettier to look at when it comes to the tab department. No matter what your problem is, I have a solution just for you.

The [Colorful Tabs](#) Firefox extension is really unique. From some of the feedback I have seen already, I have noticed people giving this extension a bad shake. While I might not use it on a day to day basis, I do see one area where it would and could be used much more.

For people from an older generation, the colored tabs might be easier to look at than your standard gray on gray color scheme. When your eyes get older, it might be harder to tell where that 1 pixel wide tab border is on the browser window.

So give a few new colors in your browsing experience a chance. While some might see this as a rainbow of pain, others might find it very useful. I'm not saying it is the perfect solution to every problem that is out there today, it is just the solution to the problem of telling where one tab starts and the next one stops.

Firefox Fan Base Growing

It should be no secret to anybody out there that Firefox's fan base is growing by leaps and bounds every time you turn around. With Internet Explorer's future looking bleak at best, people want something better to use that fits around them rather than using something that tells them the best way to browse the Web.

Here is a flash of news on the subject from [BBC News](#):

The figures, gathered from a sample of more than two million web users, show that Firefox's market share has grown by almost three percentage points since April 2005.

One Stat said that some of this growth has come at the expense of Microsoft's browser, but it has also stolen users from other browsers such as Opera and Netscape. One Stat also reported that users of Apple's Safari browser for the Mac was also recording good growth figures.

It is thought that continuing news stories about security problems in Internet Explorer are helping to fuel the move away from Microsoft's program.

Now don't get me wrong, Microsoft still has a stranglehold on the world of Internet browsing with around 85 percent of the market. The good news is that number is dropping while Firefox and other alternative browsers are rising.

Firefox 2.0 Will Have Feedview

I have said it before and I will say it again, Feedview is one of my favorite Firefox extensions out there today. It makes the world of RSS, XML, and syndication a little easier for new folks to understand and for that I am very happy and grateful. Now it looks like [Feedview's usability](#) will be built into Firefox 2.0.

Via Feedview's [author's Web site](#) I learned this:

My tiny Firefox extension will be included in the main browser.

Originally it would be part of Firefox 1.5, but because of the urge for perfection the Mozilla developers needed more time.

The new Feedview will include most features that people have been asking for. Like correct date handling, better html viewing, the rss icon will show Feedview instead of a livemark dialog. I will keep the Feedview installer on the site up, but I will not update it anymore. Let's just hope Firefox 2.0 will be here soon.

So the bad news here is we will have to wait till Firefox 2.0 to see a pretty interface to the XML in RSS feeds via Firefox. The good news is that once it does roll around it will be an interface worth looking at.

Embedding IE into Firefox Tabs

If you could open Internet Explorer inside of one of Firefox's tabs, you'd have the perfect mix of browsing perfection, wouldn't you? Well the new thing that everybody seems to be excited about is the new Firefox extension that lets you do just that.

This is great for viewing some Web sites out there that don't come out very well in Firefox. One of them that comes to mind is [Yahoo's Music Launch](#) Web site. You can open up the IE Tab from a right-click on a link or by clicking the Firefox logo in the taskbar of the browser.

All and all, it seems like a good idea but there are parts of it that just bug me right now. One issue I noticed was the Web page would load fully via Firefox, then it would reload using IE's display engine. Little problems like that will probably keep me from keeping this extension for too long.

If you are still using Firefox 1.0.x, you will need to install another script into Firefox to get it to work. I have noticed a lot of people getting hung up at this part of the extension install. You can find it and more information on the [IE Tab Web site](#).

Right now I'd say the extension isn't exactly perfect just yet. I ran into a few problems when using it, but it is the talk of the town. For another alternative, you should check out [IE View](#).

AdSense, Google, Firefox Equals Good News

Google is now offering to pay you for suggesting Firefox to other folks Online. Now that is a money making scheme that shouldn't be too hard to profit from. Google has started a new program that allows AdSense publishers to gain fees for referring users to the Google mother ship.

So what does the small print have to say about all of this? If a referral signs up for [Google AdSense](#) and earns \$100, Google will credit publishers with a US \$100 referral fee. If a referral downloads and runs Firefox, publishers receive up to \$1.

That sounds like a pretty sweet deal, right? I've been suggesting people check out both AdSense and Firefox for a long time now. The benefit of being paid for doing what I would normally do for free makes me very happy. The catch with the Firefox download is that it will be downloaded with the Google Toolbar already installed. Hey, it's a nice toolbar and even if you don't like it. It is easy enough to remove.

So go ahead and make some money doing something you'd already be doing for fun.

A More Deviant Link for Firefox

I love browsing through [Deviant Art](#) to see what other folks are uploading and creating on a daily basis. The interface of the Web site can sometimes be a little confusing though. Sometimes it is nice to have a helping hand when it comes to navigating or adding content to a Web site.

That is where [DeviantLink](#) becomes helpful.

Now Deviant Art's design isn't bad. I think there is just so much good content there, anybody would have a hard time finding the perfect way to navigate through all of it.

Some of the features include: Instant access to all parts of a deviant's pages - gallery, journal, etc; Works on highlighted text, links, avatars, and front-page thumbnails; Entirely user-configurable through easy-to-use preferences panel; Add a selected deviant to your friends list or send them a note; Open pages in current tab, new tab, background tab, or new window and so much more. View more features on the Deviant Art [page for the extension itself](#).

It is a really impressive feature that makes life on Deviant Art so much easier.

Bookmarks Management

When it comes to bookmarks, you always want to make sure your list is organized and up to date. Many of us though bookmark Web sites and never return to them again. Some poor saved pages have to go without human eyes for days, weeks and even months before we return again. I have a couple of Firefox extensions that will help you manage your growing list of bookmarked Web sites.

The [Bookmark Links Checker](#) does a great job at checking redirected, broken and updated bookmarks. Think of this extension as a spring cleaner for your bookmarks list. It goes through and lets you know what to keep, what to update and what to toss away.

The [Bookmark Duplicate Detector](#) lets you know when duplicate bookmarks are added. If your list of bookmarks is as big as mine, you might not remember if you have saved a Web site to read later or not. Maybe you saved it many moons ago and forgot about it.

See, now that wasn't so hard now was it? A little cleaning up and deleting a link or two might do you a little good. That way you can get to your bookmarks quicker and you reduce any clutter you might have.

Backup Your Bookmarks

For some folks out there, a good list of bookmarks is a lifeline to the outside world. No matter how long you have been Online, just about everybody has a nice stash that they do not want to lose. So how do you back them up in Firefox? The location might change in future versions, but this is the way I do it within Firefox 1.0 inside of Windows XP.

You need to get into your main hard drive, and then look inside Documents and Settings. In there click on your user name for the account in Windows XP that you are logged into. From there you will need to go into your Application Data folder. This one might be hidden depending on your file folder settings.

Now keep digging, we are almost there. Next look for the Mozilla folder, then Firefox. Next you should see a Profiles folder to dive into. Now you might get scared by the next folder, because the name is a little funky. Go ahead and click your way inside of there and you have hit a gold mine of information.

Inside the folder with the odd name, you will see a lot of data. I want you to look for the file called "bookmarks.html". Once you have located it, I want you to copy it and save it to your desktop. Now you can move that version that is sitting on your desktop to a backup method of your own choosing. Make sure you don't delete or get rid of the original one though, because you might kill off your bookmarks for good.

Copying and saving this bookmarks file from time to time should help out in the war against backing up your personal data.

[Update] Here is another helpful bookmark backup tip from Robin Khor. As opposed to searching for bookmarks.html in some location that might change in the future, it's a lot easier to just do the following:

1. On the main menu, select Bookmarks->Manage Bookmarks.
2. In the Bookmarks Manager dialog box, select Export.
3. Just choose your backup location.

Make URLs Shorter

Don't you hate it when you want to share a link with somebody and it is too long to remember? Maybe you don't want to send them a link via E-mail that is three lines long. Maybe you want something quick to cut and paste into your blog. No matter what the case is, if you have Firefox, I have a solution for you.

All you need to do is download the [Orz.NET Firefox extension](#). Once you do, you will have two ways of making shorter URLs via the Firefox browser window. One way would be to add a button to the main Firefox interface that would allow you to click and create the URL.

The other would be to add a "right-click" function that would let you minimize the URL of a link as well. No matter which method you pick, you can not deny that this is something very handy to have. The simple interface at [Orz.net](#) makes it easy to make a short URL from the Web site as well. If you did it that way though, you wouldn't need the extension. I am all about making your browsing habits just that more easy for you to handle.

So give the Orz.Net Firefox extension a shot. Do you know of any other services that allow you to do the same thing within a Firefox extension? Be sure to let me know so I can add them to the list as well.

Firefox Skin for Cat Lovers

I hate cats and personally I would never want to see cats on my desktop. I think they are horrible animals and if I never saw another cat in my life it would be too soon. I guess you could say I am much more of a dog person. Well, I like geese too, but that is a whole different conversation all together.

I do realized though that I am outnumbered by cat lovers in this world we live in. In an effort to put out the olive branch, I give you a Firefox skin for all the cat lovers out there.

[The Red Cats theme](#) is another one I found while skimming through the themes over at Deviant Art. It is fully compatible with Firefox 1.0.x through 1.1 and if I liked cats I would have to say it looks very nice. Maybe I am just happy to see an alternative skin to Firefox that has nothing to do with Macs? That could be the case as well.

So no mater if you are the creepy old lady who has a million cats or you just have a few you should fall in love with this Firefox theme. The question I have is why no dog themes? I think the public demands it.

TabBrowser Preferences Firefox Extension

The [TabBrowser Preferences](#) extension gives Firefox the options and customization for tabs that it should have been born with. There are even a few perks to having this extension that I probably wouldn't have thought of before using it as well. So what does it do? It gives you full and total control of your tabbed browsing experience.

Here are only some of the features included: open URLs in the URL bar and searches from the search bar in new tabs, open the homepage in every newly created tab, select tabs by moving the mouse onto them, instead of clicking on them, moving the tab bar to the bottom of the browser window, opening URLs from the Extension/Theme Manager and the Help window in new tabs, opening the throbber in a new tab, control the focusing/unfocusing of various tab-creating functions, such as the File, New Tab command, per-tab locking, to force left-clicked links to open in new tabs, compatibility with Tab Clicking Options, and ability to drag and drop URLs on the new tab button on the tab bar.

[TabBrowser Preferences](#) makes using Firefox a better experience. For those folks out there who are picky about having only one browser window open, it gives them the options to control that type of surfing better than before.

So try something new when it comes to tabbed browsing and put this extension inside your version of Firefox. I bet after you do, you will not know what you ever did without it.

Bookmark Viewing in both IE and Firefox

One reason I do not use multiple browsers unless I have to is the fact that my bookmarks are all in one place. I don't want to have to sync these bookmarks by hand with every browser that might be on my machine. I use Firefox and I am happy with Firefox. The folks over at Chipmark.com have a new service though that will allow you to back up your bookmarks Online so you can sync them inside Firefox and Internet Explorer via the Web.

Here is what Chipmark.com explains it's experience as:

Take your bookmarks anywhere! Welcome to chipmark.com, a free online bookmark manager that allows you to access your bookmarks from any Internet-connected computer.

Chipmark allows you to bookmark pages with our easy-to-use browser extensions. Our Firefox extension and Internet Explorer toolbar will fit right into your browser just like your old bookmarks or favorites would. You can also just use chipmark.com, and login to have access to all of your bookmarks from any computer in the world.

Now how is that for a trick? I do wish that Chipmark.com would support other browsers as well, but I am sure that will come in the future. The fact of the matter is I now have a quick and easy way of switching between browsing experiences. Sure, I'll still stay on Firefox most of the time but what will you do?

Feedview

Don't you hate how confusing an RSS link looks after you click on it? You have XML coming at you from every direction, and to somebody new to the experience, it can be the difference of finding the usability of RSS and not finding it at all. That is where [Feedview](#) comes in handy for your Firefox browsing experience.

What Feedview does, is it makes that XML mess a little prettier and a lot less scary to folks who do not know what they are looking at. Here is the author's own words about what else it can do:

Feedview is a Firefox extension that shows newsfeeds/blogs in a more stylish way. Without the extension Firefox just shows the default xml stylesheet. It also adds the ability to add a livemark (even if the is not set) and the ability to switch article lengths.

Sounds pretty neat hu? This is even handy for me, because I don't always like to look at the ugly XML code that comes with a RSS feed. So make sure XML experience a littler better and give [Feedview](#) a shot in Firefox.

Skype Toolbar for Mozilla Firefox

Some time ago I showed [you a Firefox extension](#) that would let you access your Skype information from inside of Firefox. At that time I told you I wanted to see more. Well the folks at Skype must have been listening because they now have a Skype Toolbar for Firefox. How does it look?

Well I have to say as far as toolbars go, it seems like everything is there and in working order. Some of the features include: call and chat to your existing contacts, change your online status, see how much Skype Credit you have left, and automatically send a contact a link to the web page you're viewing.

With this type of functionality built in, it makes it much easier to use the Skype product in my opinion. There is now one less step you need to take to call folks. Anything that makes it easier for folks to use a program or service is alright in my book.

So give the [Skype Toolbar](#) a test drive and let me know what you think.

NoScript Firefox Extension

Who should be in control of giving Web sites access to things such as JavaScript, Java, and other plugins out there? Most folks would say that they would like the power. Unfortunately, most of the time that decision is not up to you. It is up to the person behind the Web page you are visiting. Well not anymore, as long as you are a Firefox user.

Here is what the author has to say about the [NoScript](#) Firefox extension:

Extra protection for your Firefox: NoScript allows JavaScript, Java (and other plugins) only for trusted domains of your choice (e.g. your home-banking web site). This white list based pre-emptive blocking approach prevents exploitation of security vulnerabilities (known and even unknown!) with no loss of functionality.

I've got to say I wish this was built into Firefox by default, but the fact that there is an extension for it is nice as well. It is one of the few extensions out there that gives more than just a few new tricks to the Firefox browser interface.

So do you want to be put back in control? Then go download the [NoScript](#) Firefox extension.

Customize Google

Everybody would like to make searching Google just a little better right? The only problem is that what I think would be better and what you think would be better is probably different. That is where this Firefox extension comes into play. The [CustomizeGoogle](#) extension does all the Google tweaks you would ever want, and then some.

Here is what the folks at [CustomizeGoogle.com](#) have to say about it:

CustomizeGoogle is a Firefox extension that enhance Google search results by adding extra information (like links to Yahoo, Ask Jeeves, MSN etc) and removing unwanted information (like ads and spam).

Some of the features include: use Google Suggest (suggest words while you're typing), Add links to competitors, rewrite links to point straight to the images in Google Images, removes image copying restrictions in Google Print, secure Gmail, switch to https, remove ads, anonymize your Google user id, add a result counter in search result, filter spammy websites from search results, add links to WayBack Machine (web page history), and remove click tracking.

So try it out and let me know what you think. Along with some of the other search results, I'd really like to see them add links back to [Gada.be](#) as well. Maybe we will see this feature in the future?

Firefox Keyboard Shortcuts

Using keyboard shortcuts is second nature to any geek who is worth his weight in pocket protectors. For the rest of us, remembering what key combination does what can be more than a little hard. That is why I am happy to say that the folks at Mozilla have put together a great chart outlining all the Firefox shortcut keys there are.

The [keyboard shortcuts](#) Web page doesn't waste time with a lot of fluff. It gets right to business with all your key combinations. It also has a few notes for Mac OS X users so they don't get confused either. There is a lot of information here. Who knew there were so many keyboard shortcuts for this little browser?

Some of them are easy to remember. What does the "Ctrl key" plus the "B key" do? It opens and closes your bookmarks sidebar. Did you know though that if you hit the "Ctrl key" plus the "T key" you will open up a new tab? Pretty nifty stuff.

Internet Explorer and Opera users aren't out in the cold either. The folks at Mozilla have even listed keyboard shortcuts for both of these other browsers as well. For the most part I think it is to show how many more shortcut key combinations there are in Firefox compared with the other two browsers.

So toss your mouse out the window and get to becoming more friendly with your keyboard.

Firefox Tweaking Guide

I love to tweak things as much as the next geek around me here. Sometimes, though, I can admit I don't know everything, and I have to look at outside sources to get my information. One tweaking guide I have grown to love is the [Firefox Tweak Guide](#) over at TweakGuides.com. It has twelve pages of tips and tricks that will keep you busy on a slow weekend afternoon.

This guide is filled with a plethora of information for folks new to the Firefox experience and people who know what they are doing with the Firefox browser. Here is only a short sample of the introduction.

Mozilla Firefox, or simply Firefox for short, is just a free Internet browser. It's not a cure for cancer. It doesn't wash your car or make you a frothy coffee. So why all the fuss and hype over Firefox? In a nutshell, the reason is simple: Firefox is a true open source competitor to Microsoft's Internet Explorer.

Sounds great already, huh?

So check out the [Firefox Tweak Guide](#) and let me know how you do after tweaking up your Firefox install some. Hey not every browser is perfect, but at least Firefox gives you the ability to change what you don't like about it.

The Firemonger Project

Firefox is a great browser, nobody can say that fact is false. For somebody just getting into the Firefox world though, alot of the options, extensions, and features can be scary. How do they know what themes to install, what extensions to start out with, what features to use. That is where the [Firemonger Project](#) comes in. It is there to make jumping into the world of Firefox simpler.

Here is what the [Firemonger Project](#) is all about:

The Firemonger project is an attempt to create a multilingual easy-to-use compilation CD with Firefox, Thunderbird (more about Firefox) and the best extensions, themes and utilities. Both of these programs have been created through collaboration overseen by the Mozilla Foundation and are free for use by anyone.

Over time it has been created and contributed to by many people who enjoy using Firefox and Thunderbird and want to spread the word. As most people interested in the Internet and software already know about Firefox we especially aim to make our CD easy for the average person to install and learn everything they need to know about Firefox and Thunderbird. Our CD has become a way for Firefox users to convert their friends.

The idea is simple, it creates a file that you can burn on a CD and give to a friend. That friend will then install Firefox and Thunderbird. Along with the programs they get a plethora of extensions and themes to choose from as well. This takes some of the "geek" out of having to run Firefox and knowing what to do with it. Want to know what will be on CD you burn? Take a look at all the [features that are included](#).

View in Firefox or Internet Explorer

A lot of folks might say that Firefox is good. Many more folks would say that Firefox is great. One thing that we can not ignore though is that not every Web page looks good inside of Firefox. Due to some companies only supporting some browsers, Firefox has been left out in the rain on more than one occasion. There is hope though. You can make it easier to switch from Firefox to Internet Explorer and back again.

This tip came to me via a Lockergnome reader. Chuck told me that he often uses these two extensions to switch back and forth between Firefox and Internet Explorer. The first extension is [IE View](#). IE View adds an option inside of Firefox so that you can "View in IE".

From within the IE View extension, you can also set that certain pages always open in IE. So if you know a Web page is never going to work in Firefox, put it in that box and every time you launch it, it will launch in Internet Explorer.

What if you want to go back to Firefox from Internet Explorer? Well that is where the second extension comes into play. [Firefox View](#) is to Internet Explorer what IE View is to Firefox. Once you install Firefox View, then you will have an option from within Internet Explorer to view a Web page inside of the Firefox browser.

By installing both of these, you are able to switch between the two browsers. You might not be solving world hunger, but you will be letting two browsers who don't usually work well together both exist side by side on your machine. Many thanks to Chuck for the tip, and if you have one you'd like to share just get ahold of me.

Control Your RSS Links In Firefox

Feed Your Reader is one of my most favorite Firefox extensions to date. You see, much like the rest of the geeky crew here at Lockergnome, I love my RSS feeds. Right now I have around 50 to 100 inside of my feed reader of choice, FeedDemon. How would you like to have Firefox automatically launch your feed reader of choice whenever you click on that orange RSS logo in the bottom right of the screen? That is what Feed Your Reader lets you do.

After you install [Feed Your Reader](#), all you need to do is set your favorite feed reader in the options.

Feed Your Reader currently works with: AmphetaDesk, Awasu, Bloglines, Bot A Blog, Bottomfeeder, FeedLounge, Fyuze, Headline Viewer, IzyNews, mobilerss, My Yahoo!, NewsGator, NewsIsFree, NewsMonster, nntp//rss, Radio Userland, Syndic8, Wildgrape NewsDesk, and WinRSS.

Now every time you click that RSS button in Firefox, it will automatically launch your feed reader which will be ready to add the RSS feed for the Web page you wish to subscribe to. No more copying, cutting and pasting URLs over and having to do more work than it should take. Feed Your Reader is the RSS lover's dream come true.

So take control of how Firefox handles your RSS feeds and try out [Feed Your Reader](#)!

Control Your Firefox Links

Wouldn't you like to have more control over how other programs open up links inside of Firefox? Sometimes it is annoying to see that some programs open up a new Firefox window, while others replace a Web page I might already be looking at inside of Firefox. This is how you control where links from other applications open Firefox.

At the top of Firefox, you need to click on Tools, then Options. This should open up a new window where your Firefox options are. Now navigate over to the Advanced section. Under the section for tabbed browsing, you should see a few options. What I want you to look for is "Open links from other applications in:".

Once you find that, you are given three choices. You can have them open up in a new window. This means that a new Firefox browser window will open to display the link. You can have it open up in a new tab. This means that the link will open up in a new tab inside your current Firefox window. The last option is to open in the most recent tab or window. This is when the link opens in whatever tab or Firefox window you might currently be running.

Personally I like to have mine open in a new tab in the most recent window. That way I don't have to worry about multiple Firefox windows running with different tabs. It is all about how you like to organize. Some other folks might like to have it different. The important thing to remember here is that you have the choice. So play around with the options and see which one you like best.

Also, if you have any other Firefox tips that you'd like to share with the rest of the world, make sure you let me know!

Longhorn Inspiriat For Firefox

Here is a different sort of theme for all the Firefox users out there. At first this [Longhorn Inspiriat theme](#) didn't warm up to me. The more I use it though, the more I seem to like it. Unlike the other skins I have featured here, this one I found over at DeviantArt.

It [has a lot more](#) to browse through as well if you are looking to give Firefox a face lift.

Back to this [Longhorn Inspiriat](#) stuff, putting aside the fact that it is hard to type and probably even harder to say, it looks pretty nice. It has that nice future "Vista" look to it. The only place where fluff comes into play are the really large back and forward buttons. I am not too sure if I like that at all.

All the icons also have that "Vista" look to them as well. It is pretty, but is it functional? I am still not too sure about that. I am fairly picky with my theme choices on Firefox, and the really big back button just bugs the heck out of me. Maybe I am just being overly anal about it though.

To install it, you need to download the .zip file from the Web site, unzip it, and then drag one of the .jar files into your "themes" window. It is as easy as that.

In any case, I think it is a theme that the entire family can enjoy. Check it out, let me know your feelings on this new look for Firefox, and if you have any favorite themes of your own, make sure you let me know!

Get Web Page Info Quickly

We all like to snoop on Web sites from time to time, right? Maybe you want to download a video or image that is embedded inside of the Web site. Maybe you just want to see what all the links are on one Web page. Well you can find out this information and more by using the "Page Info" information from within Firefox.

First I'll show you how to find the Page Info pop up box. Right click on any Web page out there, then click on "View Page Info". It should be under "View Page Source" but it might be somewhere different on the list depending on which extensions you have installed. Once you find that link, click on it and a new box will come up with lots of good information.

In the first tab, you will see all the general Web page information such as the URL, type of page, source, size and all that good stuff. On the next tab you will see information about the forms on the page. This tab is probably the least exciting of all of them. In the next tab, you will have listed for you all the links on the Web page. This could be helpful if you are looking for something specific within the Web page.

In the second to last tab, you have all the media that is on the page. By media, I mean all the video, audio and pictures that are seen. Scroll down to find the one you want to save, then click the "Save as..." button around the middle of the window. This will allow you to save audio, video and pictures from the Web site right to your computer. The last tab is for security information.

You see all this information is easy for you to find as long as you know where to look. Have any other Firefox tips you'd like to share? Make sure you let me know.

FireFTP

There are a lot of Firefox extensions out there that bring Firefox together with another program or another idea. Think of it like mashing together two ideas and making them into one. [FireFTP](#) is one of those ideas. What is FireFTP? It brings the worlds of browsing the Internet and FTP clients together as one.

Now personally, I am very picky about what I use and don't use as my own personal FTP client. There are a lot out there and a lot of them do the same thing. The interesting thing here is breeding Firefox and FTP into one big program.

Here is what the developers have to say about it:

Introducing fireFTP, a cross-platform FTP client for Mozilla Firefox which provides easy and intuitive access to FTP servers. NOTE: This program is still in 'beta' meaning that while it works just fine, it is still in development and there are still features and improvements to be made.

Since it is still in beta, I don't know if I would rely on it to be my default FTP client. It does have a lot of promise and I'll be interested in seeing how it develops in the future. Want to see FTP in a new light? Then go give FireFTP a shot.

Play Tetris Inside Firefox!

Did I say Tetris? I really should have said Blockfall. Yeah it is another Tetris-clone that you can run from within Firefox. Unlike most games you can run inside the browser itself, this one is really addictive! Need a break from surfing the Internet? Then all you need to do is install this Firefox plugin and get ready to get your block on!

[Blockfall](#) has a few simple rules, if you have never played Tetris before. You need to get rows of blocks to fill up all the way across the window. Once you do, they will be cleared out and more blocks will fall. You keep doing this over and over till you run out of room in the window, or your fingers go numb.

The neat thing about Blockfall is you are not stuck with your average square colored bricks falling down in the window. You can change them to triangles for an even harder challenge. You can also change them to hexagonal blocks for a real workout. You can control the blocks by hitting the arrow keys and pause the game with the "P" key. Anything else you need to do, I am pretty sure you can figure out on your own.

So have some fun for a change! We all need a break from what we are doing, and what better way to waste time than with Tetri.. I mean Blockfall!

Forget Me Not

Who knew that Firefox could help you remember things? I sure didn't till I did some hunting through the Firefox extensions. There are actually two different extensions that help you remember things in Firefox. They are ReminderFox and QuickNote. So toss out your yellow sticky pads and join us in the twenty first century.

[QuickNote](#) is more like your traditional sticky notes you might find at your office supply store. You can set it up as a window that floats above Firefox, as a sidebar inside of Firefox or as a tabbed window in Firefox. There you are given a simple text form that you can fill with all the reminders and notes that you want to write down. It is as simple as that.

Now [ReminderFox](#) is a little more advanced. ReminderFox is a Firefox extension that displays and manages lists of date-based reminders and tasks. ReminderFox does not seek to be a full-fledged calendar system. In fact, the target audience is anybody that simply wants to remember important dates (birthdays, anniversaries, etc) without having to run a fat calendar application. You don't get the note taking abilities of QuickNote, but you do get to write your to do lists and reminders.

So which one do you like more? Heck, if you want to be super organized, then you might pick up both extensions.

Search Engine Ordering

This isn't the usual SEO we talk about here in Lockergnome's Web Developers. Usually when you see the letters SEO, you are thinking about search engine optimization. This time around I am talking to you about search engine ordering. When you have a lot of search engine plugins installed inside of Firefox, it becomes a pain. Why? It is because you have no way of organizing which one is first on the list, second on the list and so on. This Firefox extension takes care of that problem.

The [Search Engine Ordering](#) Firefox extension allows you to sort your search engines alphabetically, reverse alphabetically or in your own personal organizational ways. After installing it, you can move search engines up or down, and even remove one or two from the list.

That is the feature I like the most. No longer do you have to hunt through your program files to find the search engine folder to delete the search engines. The Search Engine Ordering extension does it for you in the browser. Very nice indeed.

So give it a shot, because it does one job and it does it very well. The Search Engine Ordering extension gives you more control over your search engines inside of Firefox. Want more Firefox search plugins? If you do, then check out the [Mozdev.org Mycroft](#) Web page.

PimpZilla 2.0

Hey, sometimes even sad white boys like to pretend they are pimps. I might not have the big furry coat or the long gold chain. I might not even have the ladies chasing me and my pimping ways either. I'll tell you what I do have. I have one of the best looking Firefox skins there has been, is or ever will be. That is right, I am using [PimpZilla 2.0](#).

One of the big turn ons about this skin is it isn't another Apple clone! To any designers out there who might be reading, if I wanted things to look like I was running an Mac, I would go out and buy a Mac. The skin is very well done in the sense that it doesn't hurt my eyes to look at it for too long. A lot of the time I use the basic Firefox theme because some of these other ones out there are just ugly. PimpZilla finally designs a skin that other skin designers should be copying. It is slick and light, which I like as well. It doesn't slow down my browsing either.

Here is what the folks at the [PimpZilla 2.0](#) Web site have to say about the skin:

PimpZilla is probably the most tacky & overdone piece of GUI design out there, aimed solely for true internet-connoisseurs. It's inspired on the blaxploitation pimps of the seventies. If you are a pimp, or if you just fancy fur and lot's of bling, this is the theme for you.

So what are you waiting for? [Go and download it](#) for yourself and see what you have been missing! We all have a little pimp in all of us.

Quick Firefox Shortcuts and Tips

Giving you the information you requested at the speed of light, here are a few Firefox shortcuts and tips that I use on a daily basis. Ever since I started doing these Firefox articles, a lot of folks have been asking for more Firefox tips I could share. Here are three of my favorites that should help you boost productivity or at least impress your friends.

Here is a tip to change your font size within Firefox with your shift key and scroll wheel mouse. To increase your font size in Firefox, all you need to do is hold down your Ctrl key, and then scroll your mouse wheel up or down. Moving it up will increase the font size and moving it down will decrease the font size. Want to go back to normal? All you need to do is hold the Ctrl key and hit the 0 (zero) key.

Do you have multiple tabs open and you don't want to worry about moving your hand back to the mouse? Then just hold the Ctrl key down and hit the numbers one through nine. Depending on the number you hit, you will go to that tab. If you have three tabs, then if you hit the number three then you will go to the third one. If you hit the number two then you'll go to the second tab.

Want to go quickly move backwards or forward from the Web pages you have visited? Then just hold down the Shift key, and scroll up and down on your scroll wheel on your mouse. If you scroll up, then you move forward. If you scroll down, then you move back.

Have any other quick Firefox shortcuts or tips that you would like to share? [Let me know!](#)

Yahoo! Mail and Firefox

Sure, you knew there was a [Gmail](#) notifier extension for Firefox to let you know when you have new E-mails in your Gmail account. Did you know you could do the same thing with Yahoo's mail? You can with the [ymnotifier](#) Firefox extension. Now I too can keep track of my Web-based E-mails!

You can set ymnotifier to check for new mail in your Yahoo account for any number of set minutes. By default it is set to check every five minutes for new E-mails. Personally, I have mine set for every fifteen minutes. You can select how it opens up as well depending on which key you hit on the mouse. The options for opening are in a new window, in a new tab or in the same tab you already have open.

You can also set it to show a icon in the status bar, display a pop up for new E-mail, display an alert with new E-mail, or play a sound when you get a new E-mail. I am really looking forward to seeing what else they can do with this extension in the future. The only thing I wish it had that it doesn't right now is the ability to check my POP3 E-mail accounts from the extension as well, since I use Yahoo! Mail to manage those as well.

So check it out, and let me know how you like having your Yahoo! Mail right there at your fingertips!

Scroll With Your Space Bar

Who knew your space bar could be so much fun? Well maybe fun isn't the right word in this situation. It is handy though for those of use who kind of sit funny at the keyboard and don't always have the mouse handy. You can scroll down a Web page quickly by using your space bar in Firefox.

Yeah, that is pretty much it. When you are on a Web page that is very long, just click your space bar button when you want to go down. Click it again to go down a little more. Click it some more, and you will find yourself at the bottom of the Web page in no time at all. Want to know what [Wikipedia](#) has to say about the space bar key?

Space bar is a key on an alphanumeric keyboard in the form of a horizontal bar in the lowermost row, significantly wider than other keys. Its main purpose is to conveniently enter the space, e.g., between words during typing. Users typically use their thumbs to press it. It is large enough so that a thumb from either hand can use it easily.

Depending on the operating system, the space bar used with a modifier key such as the control key may have functions such as resizing or closing the current window.

In computer games and other applications the key has myriad uses in addition to its normal purpose in typing.

See you got a two for one deal here. I gave you a Firefox tip and a good definition for a key on your keyboard you use everyday. Have any other Firefox tips worth mentioning? Let me know!

My Right Click Died In Firefox!

Don't you hate it when some Web site disables the right-click option on a Web site through java script? So do I. Now I know some folks do this to try to keep people from copying things or saving things from the Web site in question. There are other ways around saving things that are there, though. Now I am not going to teach you how to steal. I am going to teach you how to get around this annoying little problem.

The first thing you have to do is open up Firefox, then go to Tools and choose to go into "Options." Once you are inside of there, you need to click on "Web Features." This should be on the left side of your options box. Once you are inside there, then we get to see the magic happen. Now I want you to click the "Advanced" button next to the "Enable JavaScript" check mark box. Here you will see a new pop up box that gives you a few more options to play with. Yes, you can tell your browser how to handle certain java script commands.

I want you to uncheck the box next to "Disable or Replace Context Menus," then hit the OK button. You might need to restart Firefox for the new options to go into effect, but once they do you will no longer have disabled right clicking via those annoying Web sites that enabled such a feature. There are a few more options under the "Advanced" button you might want to turn on and off as well. Play around with it, and see how you can make your browsing experience that much better.

Ctrl Key Copying in Firefox

Now I spend a lot of my time copying and pasting within Firefox. I like to copy URLs to browse to them later. I like to copy articles to read them later. Now there are several ways you can copy within Firefox. Have you ever used your Ctrl key though? I didn't think so.

When you hold down on the Ctrl key and then click on a section of a Web site, you will then see an outline come around that section of the Web site. Right click that selection, and you will see a few commands. You want to hit, "Copy..". Once you do, you will have copied everything on that side of the Web page. Now for me, this is quicker than highlighting text, or even hitting the Ctrl plus the "A" key to copy everything.

So give it a shot, and let me know how natural it is to you. Personally I just found this little secret command inside Firefox a few days ago. I wonder how many other hidden jewels there might be? If you know of anymore, send them on over to me! I would love to hear about them.

Downloads In The Statusbar

When you are downloading things in Firefox, do you ever become annoyed with the fact that you have to keep opening up the download manager pop-up window to see the progress of those downloads? If you find yourself in this situation, then worry no longer. The [Downloads Statusbar](#) extension for Firefox is the one extension you have been waiting for.

I have to say I am really in love with this extension. Now when I am downloading any file out there, it just gives me a small bar at the bottom of my Firefox window letting me know how far the progress of the download has gone. If the progress bar is too big for you, then you can shrink it down even more. In it's smallest running mode, it sits in your status bar with just one tiny icon. That is it.

Other features include: auto-hides when not in use, single-click pause and resume, pause all, Resume all, Cancel all, and Remove all finished - available from the context menu of the bar itself, run a completed file with a double click on its finished box. Open containing folder, remove, and rename from the context menu, in-line view of percent done, speed in KB/sec, KB downloaded so far, and remaining time, can be customized in the options, updating tooltip provides a more detailed view of the current download, including source, destination, size of the download and the remaining time, option to automatically clear files after a specified number of seconds, copy source URL from the context menu, stop downloads and save them for the next browser session, delete a file from your system from the context menu and more.

So if you want a better way of controlling how Firefox handles your Internet downloads, give it a shot! Once you try the [Downloads Statusbar](#) extension, you will not know what you did without it.

OutSidebar

I know what you are thinking. This Firefox extension has to have something to do with the outdoors right? It gives you statistical information about how many trees have been cut down in your favorite forest, right? Wrong. [OutSidebar](#) brings your sidebars to the outside of the browser.

When you usually open up a sidebar within Firefox, your content window gets resized so that you can see the sidebar, right? Well with [OutSidebar](#), your sidebar no longer resizes your content. What it does is brings your sidebar out to the left of the window, leaving your main content window alone.

This is a nice extension for folks that have a lot of desktop space and don't like to feel like Firefox is cluttered with lots of different windows, pop ups and extensions flying at them from every direction. Yet another Firefox extension that does a simple task and does it well.

Customize Firefox's Toolbars

One option in Firefox that I think a lot of folks take for granted is the fact that you can customize Firefox's toolbars. You can do more than just make the icons smaller and drag and drop a few things here and there. With a little free time and some imagination you can really make a better browsing experience for yourself.

The first thing I usually do on a new Firefox installation is make all the icons "tiny". Personally, I just don't like big icons. To do that, all you need to do is right click the main toolbar, then select "Customize...". After you have done that, you should see at the bottom of the pop up window a place to change your icons at the bottom.

From here you can: show icons, show icons and text or just show text. I have that set to just icons. To the right of that you see a check mark box that says, "Use Small Icons". I have that selected as well.

Now that isn't the only thing you can do from here. You can drag and drop new icons onto any of the existing toolbars you have set up. you could also take away icons you don't use that often. You could take away everything, and just be left with the file menu if you want to be hardcore.

You can also create new toolbars or take some of the existing ones away. It is totally up to how you want to use Firefox.

Better URL Copying in Firefox

Sure copying a URL to save or post somewhere else is nothing new right? We have been doing it for years now, and there is no better way of getting it done. On that point, I have to say you are wrong. There is a better way to do it, and with the Firefox extension [Copy URL Plus](#), you can do just that. Just what? You can get it done in a "better" way.

Still a little confused? Here it is, so easy anybody could understand it.

The Copy URL Plus extension enables you to copy to the clipboard the current document's address along with additional information such as the document's title, the current selection or both.

You might find this behavior useful when you want to send (IM, email) an interesting link to a friend and out of convenience you don't want to copy the link and an explanation of what the link is in a single step. The explanation can be as short as the document's title or it can be a descriptive text from the document.

You never would realize how much you have been missing this tool till you finally have your fingers on it. After using it, I can't remember how I survived without it. This is definitely one Firefox extension that has not gotten its proper time in the spotlight.

Fireexplorer

If Internet Explorer and Firefox had a love child, then it would look a lot like [Fireexplorer](#). This marriage made in Mozilla labs is an odd one to say the least. What if you wanted all the form and functionality of Firefox, but you wanted it to look like Internet Explorer?

Here is what the creators had to say about the project:

The Fireexplorer began when Andy (Cobaltfish) and I were working at a large accountants, we wanted to install Firefox on a batch of new PCs yet still have our users think they were using Internet Explorer. It was a real pain in getting it to work, and we eventually gave up but started adding our findings to this website. From there corporate sponsors became interested, and we currently have a version of Firefox 1.0 repackaged very nicely.

This is a good idea if you have friends that are not ready to make a big shift in the way they surf the Internet. It is also nice for those folks out there who might actually like IE's interface better than the standard Firefox one. The [screenshots](#) are well worth check out if you are interested as well.

Google's Firefox Goodies

Did you know that even Google has jumped onto the Firefox band waggon? Maybe it isn't with both feet riding all the way to browser town, but it is a good start. There are many Google created and Google related toolbars and extensions for Firefox out there.

[Google Toolbar Beta](#)

This is the same old Google Toolbar we once knew and loved when we were using Internet Explorer. It comes with all the fixings as well, such as: Spell Check, Auto Link, Auto Fill, Word Translator, Page Rank, and more! So if you want a lot of Google functionality right at your fingertips, the Google Toolbar is the way to go.

[Googlebar](#)

If you want to use the Google Toolbar, but want something that feels a little more "home grown" then you might check out the Googlebar. The Googlebar was created before Google released a Firefox version of its own Google Toolbar. It comes with lots of the same features, so you aren't losing anything there. Some might even say it is better than the Google Toolbar!

[Google Send to Phone](#)

This extension from Google made for Firefox is pretty cool. The extension enables you to send short text messages of Web page content to your mobile phone. For example, you might text message yourself a phone number, an address, or directions that you find on the Web.

[Google Suggest for Firefox](#)

Google Suggest for Firefox is an extension that completes your search terms as you type them into the search box located to the right of the address bar. I have always had fun playing with the Google Suggest features, I don't however find it very useful though. Usually when I search for something, I know what I want to type in. I don't need Google to hold my hand there.

Have any more Google related Firefox goodies that I might have missed? Let me know, and I'll make sure I check them out and let you know what I think!

Most Popular Firefox Themes

There are a lot of different ways you can extend the look of Firefox. If you get tired of your basic icons, all you have to do is find another theme you like and you are ready to start a new browsing experience. I know folks that change Firefox themes once a day, once a week or even once a month. I even know folks that have never changed the basic Firefox themes.

There are a lot of pretty ones out there, so let's have a look at some of the more popular Firefox themes out there today.

[Noia 2.0 \(eXtreme\) 2.88](#)

I used this theme myself a few weeks ago because I thought it had a very "fun" feeling as far as the icons go. It is very colorful as well. So if you like for your Firefox themes to be screaming out at you, this should be your pick.

[Aquatint](#)

Aquatint goes to show you that if you "keep it simple" you can go a long way in the pretty theme department as well. With blue globes on every button, how could you not feel more complete? Think of it as your yin having a party with your yang until you feel at peace with yourself.

[Silver Skin](#)

I am sorry. I know this is one of the most popular skins out there for Firefox, but I just think it is one of the ugliest ones that I have ever seen. Don't get me wrong, I love silver, but the mix with the colorful buttons and the silver background just makes me want to gag myself.

Have a Firefox theme that you love that I didn't mention here? [Let me know about it.](#) I am always willing to try a few new looks for my favorite little browser.

Adding Search Engines to Firefox

If you have used Firefox, then you know that one of the best features that it offers is the ability to extend your searching ways. By default, on the right hand side you have a small search menu set up. It has a few search engines in there already, but what if you want to do more with it? What if you want to add a few more, or take some away? I promise you, this is nothing hard.

I am sure you have all clicked the "Add Engines..." link at the bottom of that drop down menu in question. It takes you to the [lower half of the Firefox Web page](#), where you see a few more search engines listed. If you still do not see the search engine you want to add, don't worry I have one more place for you to look.

Over at the [Mozdev.org Web site](#) they have hundreds of other search engines for you to choose from. Chances are if it is some sort of popular search engine, it will be listed here. From Google to MSN, you have plenty of choices to choose from. Feel like you want a lot more resources at your fingertips? Then you can download the Mozdev.org top 30 search engines list. That will give you many more options when it comes to searching.

Now to get rid of a search engine, that is a little harder. You need to find the directory that your Firefox installation is sitting in. Once you get yourself inside of the Firefox folder, then look for a folder called "searchplugins". To delete a plugin, find the .src and the .gif (or any other graphic format the icon might be in) and just delete them. Lets say you want to get rid of Google. All you would need to do is delete "google.src" and "google.gif" then restart Firefox. Google will be gone!

Have any more Firefox tips you'd like to see here? Make sure you let me know! Just [drop me an E-mail](#) and I'll check it out and then share it with the entire world.

IBM Helps Firefox Help Disabled Users

The folks at IBM have reached out to disabled computer users who might want to make [Firefox](#) more user friendly. IBM has contributed 50,000 lines of code to make the browser more accessible to the blind and motor impaired. Web developers can create pages that reduce, for example, the amount of tabbing required to navigate a document, tabbed sections and spreadsheets, to help minimize keystrokes for users with mobility disabilities.

I am happy to hear IBM putting forth this effort to help out Firefox users. Between 750 million and 1 billion of the world's 6 billion people have a speech, vision, mobility, hearing or cognitive disability, according to the World Health Organization. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, one quarter of the U.S. population will reach 55 by 2008, and about two-thirds will experience a disability after age 65. Many are working past age 65.

While many of us do not think about these issues from a day to day basis, it is nice to know that somebody out there is.

What does this mean for the Web in general? It means that companies, businesses and regular folks will be able to expand the number of people using their services and Web sites. Being able to hear more voices on the Internet is definitely a good thing for all of us.

A Letter to My Favorite Browser

This article is not for you or for me. This isn't even for the Firefox developers. This is something special between my favorite browser and myself. Instead of sharing something about [Firefox](#) with you that I love, I thought today I would take a little time to write my favorite browser in the world a letter. I recently had to go through a total reinstallation of Windows on my personal machine, and while I was doing it, I really missed my Firefox. So now, before I have to tear myself apart from it again, I thought I'd let it know how much I care.

Dear Firefox,

Although I might have missed you while you were away, you are now back on my computer and I couldn't ask for a better companion to be surfing the Internet on. The glow in your icon when I launch you every day is enough to put a smile on any man's face, especially mine. When I think of those cold and lonely night when you weren't around, I am afraid. I am afraid that someday you might not be as great as you are right now. You do have some growing to do, as any great browser should.

[In the next version](#) of you that I get my fingers on you will have a menu selection where I can clear you of all the forms, passwords, history and all that other stuff I don't want you to remember once I shut you down. You will also have tabs that I can move around and reorganize. Although this might not sound like much now, I am sure by the time you hit 2.0 you will be as solid as ever. You will still have a special spot on my quick launch bar as well.

As something special for you and me to share, I thought I might download a [few new themes](#) for you to wear. I hope you like them! With that said though, I really must get going before folks start to question my sanity, or lack there of. Keep up the good work, my sweet little Firefox and I will keep clicking through your tabs for many more years to come.

Your "Special" Clicking Friend,

Mitch

Now as you can see, I love my [Firefox](#)! I honestly do not know what I would do without it.

Merge Firefox and Skype into One!

Remember going to see the magic shows when you were a kid, or even seeing them on television. I used to like when they would saw the woman in half, and then put her back together again. Now what if we did an experiment and sawed off some parts of Skype and put them into Firefox, as an extension? Then you would have [Skyfox](#).

What Skyfox does is by no way going to revolutionize the way you use a computer. Not everything you read has to be that life changing though. This extension does one simple job and it does it well. After you install the [Skyfox](#) extension, you just need to give it your login name to Skype and it will give you a drop down menu of all your contacts. Want talk to somebody? Just select their name, and you are good to go.

Now I would have liked to of seen a sidebar for Skype to sit in and maybe a little more merging of the two. Maybe in the next release we will see a little more functionality. Another thing worth bringing up is the fact that you do have to have Skype running in the background to get the full use of the [Skyfox](#) extension. For now though, Skyfox does a good job at making my Skype contacts a little more handy.

Extreme Tech's Ways of Hacking Firefox

All Firefox books are written equal, right? Well that is not always the case. Some have just left me wanting more. I do have to say that if you want to write a good long book, Firefox should be your subject matter. Why? There is so much that hasn't been said about the Firefox experience. The folks at Extreme Tech come close to getting just about every inch of the Firefox world covered with it's newest release, [Hacking Firefox](#).

Hacking Firefox is not for people who want to know how to use Firefox. It is for people who want to know how to use Firefox better. Inside the pages of this book there are more than 150 solid hacks, mods and customizations you can do to make your Internet surfing experience just that much better.

From basic hacking all the way down to creating your own themes and extensions, [Hacking Firefox](#) leaves no stone unturned. The information doesn't fly at you from every direction either. Just like it's subject matter, this book breaks things down and makes them easier to digest or wrap your mind around. It is one of the best, if not the best Firefox book out there. Thanks to it, I have even decided I might try to make a few extensions and themes of my own. The explain things in a way that makes it sound easy enough.

Want more? Hacking Firefox covers: settings hacks, content hacks, extension hacks, Hacking the interface and themes, Performance boosters, Anti-phishing and security hacks, toolbar and status bar tweaks, navigation, download, and search hacks, hacks for common plugins, extension and theme creation and so much more.

So be sure to pick up your own copy of [Hacking Firefox](#). It is the one book that any Firefox lover must have in their collection.

Firefox Hacks from O'Reilly

Firefox is slowly becoming the standard Web browser for a lot of folks out there. Who could blame them? It offers many things for many users. One of the best features it has is that it can be warped and twisted into a Web browser that fits your browsing habits best. The question is, do you know all the tips, tricks, and hacks you can do to Firefox to make it your own?

Most people do not. Others would say go to several hundred different Web sites to get all the best hacks and all the best features. I can do you one better. Thanks to the new book from O'Reilly, [Firefox Hacks](#), you now have a one stop place to find out all the ways you can get better use out of Firefox.

Want to customize the way things look? [Firefox Hacks](#) shows you the best ways to edit the exterior of the program, download skins or make your own. Want to customize how things work on the inside? [Firefox Hacks](#) covers that, as well.

Through 100 hacks, tips, and tricks, Nigel McFarlane teaches you the best way of going about going in and making Firefox your own browser. Why would you want to use a browser that doesn't take your browsing habits into consideration? With Firefox and the book [Firefox Hacks](#), you have a tag team combination that cannot go wrong.

Don't want to believe me yet that this book is that good? Go take a look at some of the [sample chapters](#) for yourself.

Out of all the books in the "Hacks" series, I do believe that this one is the best of the best so far. So pick it up and let me know what you think!

Tips from the Firefox Folks

Now you can hunt for books or Web site that will tell you different ways you can hack or change Firefox to fit your needs. Before you spend the cash though, make sure you haven't found it on Firefox's Web site.

The folks at Firefox have put together [a great tips section](#) that any Firefox fan should check out. Who knows, the tweak you might want to achieve might already be listed there.

All the tips are broken down into four different sections, Browser Appearance, Browser Behavior, Web Page Appearance, and Other Tips. Under each category you can learn about such things as, "Speed up page rendering" or "Ad Blocking".

So take a look at the list of tips they have there. If you have one that isn't on the list, make sure you let me know and I'll be sure to share it with the rest of the Gnomies, right here.

Rip it, Rip it Good

Okay, I could not write this article without a small reference back to Devo. I promise you I'm not wearing a funny hat while I am writing this though. Now that is out of the way, I can tell you about the Firefox extension, [Rip](#). What does it do? It remove it permanently. "Removes what?" you might be asking yourself. It will remove just about anything from a Web site.

Lets say you have a favorite Web site, but you don't like the side bars. Maybe you don't like something about the top or the bottom of the Web page in question. What Rip allows you to do is edit down the Web site to something your eyeballs would enjoy viewing. Now I am not the world's biggest fan of editing somebody else's Web site. However, you are the only ones seeing your changes, and once the information gets in the hands of the user, how can I really tell them not to do something? So I'll embrace it.

If you are looking for something to remove the ads on a Web site, you might want to take a look at the [AdBlock extension](#). If you just want to remove a few things that annoy you about a Web site, then download the [Rip extension](#) for Firefox.

I Love Linky

I Love Lucy? Sure lots of people loved Lucy, but how many folks out there love linky? Hopefully after reading this, I will convince a few more of you to jump over to loving linky a lot more. What is linky? It is a Firefox extension that gives you more control over the links on a Web site. Sure, that might not sound like the most exciting thing to read about, but hang in here with me.

[Linky the Firefox extension](#), doesn't give you a reason to get up in the morning, but it does do a lot with the links on a Web page. After installing it, you can reach it by right clicking on any Web page. There you will see a few options. Linky will tell you how many links and images are on the Web page. It will also let you open up all those links or pictures up in new tabs or new windows.

Now where is this a useful thing to have? Well let us just say you were searching in Google. Now instead of having to open up each search result one by one, you can now open them all up at once, and then navigate your way through them. Linky has the power to open up 99 images or 99 links. That is more than enough power for me. Who would look at more than 99 Web pages at a time? So get to loving your links again, forget about the Lucy woman, and install the linky Firefox extension.

View a Web Page in IE From Firefox

Now Firefox fans may not like the idea, but every so often you still need to view a Web page in IE due to some goofy developer working for some big company that doesn't think they should have to bother to check to see if the Web site in question works with Firefox, or any other alternative browser out there. Putting my anger aside, there is a simple way of switching over to Internet Explorer from inside of Firefox.

That is where the [IE View extension](#) comes into play. After downloading it and setting it up, you now have the power to right click any Web page from within Firefox and select, "View This Page in IE". If you know you will always have to open up a certain Web page in Internet Explorer, you can add it to the "Always Open in IE" list. That way no mater when you go to the page, it will always pop up in the browser of the big blue "e". At the moment, this extension only works for Windows. Now when is the Internet Explorer team going to build in a "View This Page in Firefox" addition to Internet Explorer 7? I would not hold my breath.

So there you have it, although a little bit of me dies inside every time it is done, you now have two options to take when a Web page will not work correctly inside of Firefox. You could create a riot and scream at the company in question to work with Firefox, or you could take the easier route and install the [IE View extension](#). The call is yours to make.

Save a Web Page with Firefox

We have all found a few Web sites we'd like to save to read later or read offline. You could just bookmark the Web page and come back to it later. You can also save the Web page to your own hard drive. [Firefox](#) makes it easy and simple to save any Web page, anytime you feel the need.

Say you are on a Web site you really like, and you want to save the text of the Web site to read later. All you need to do is open it up in Firefox. Next click on "File" and then "Save Page As...".

That will bring up a box that lets you select where on your computer you'd like to save the Web page in question. Select where you want to put it, and the file name, then hit save. That is all you have to do!

Now navigate yourself into the folder where you saved the Web page. You should see the HTML document and a folder with almost the same name. It might be a little different depending on the Web page you saved.

Inside that is all the CSS and images that were on the Web page you saved. Double click the HTML file, and there you have the Web page you saved. It is no longer Online, it is saved onto your computer.

Firefox Extension FAQ

Not everybody understand exactly what Firefox's extensions are about or what they really do. Thankfully the folks over at [The Extensions Mirror](#) have written up a great FAQ for anybody wanting to know how to do a task with a Firefox extension. Instead of listing the extension first, and then describing what it does, they take the backwards approach. They list problems and questions first, and give extension solutions as the answer.

[The Extensions Mirror's Firefox Extension FAQ](#) has everything listed from "Enhancing the Firefox UI" to "Site Specific Extensions". With Firefox, there really is pretty much an extension for every situation already. There are hundreds if not thousands of gifted and talented folks writing new Firefox extensions each and every day. Here is just one sample from the FAQ over at The Extensions Mirror:

Some pages simply don't work in Firefox, is there anything I can do about this?

First of all, it is not Firefox's fault that some pages are not displayed correctly. Some web designers code their pages in such a way that only Internet Explorer can display them. Your best solution is to email the web master of the page and ask him to rewrite his site using standards compliant code. If you must use this page, you might consider the IView extension. It allows you to quickly open pages in Internet Explorer via the context menu. For a more 'complete' solution read the next question.

Know of any more helpful Firefox resource Web sites? [Let me know](#) and I'll be sure that they too get a day in the sun.

Firefox Hacking

The folks over at I-Hacked.com have written up an article with several "hacks" for Firefox itself. In my opinion, hacking into Firefox, adding things and taking them away is what separates Firefox from the rest of the browsers out there. You can totally customize it to fit your needs. You can make it your own, to where it will fit you perfectly like a glove.

Ok, its no secret..Firefox is my favorite browser.. in fact, if you are not using it (for example using... Gasp, IE) you need to change. Well I decided to write an article on how to "hack" Firefox to make it even better. Using a few tweaks here and there, we can make FireFox considerably faster, enable advanced tab options, make newer versions compatible with older extensions, run directly from a flash disk, and on and on.

I-Hacked.com - Firefox Browser Hacking

The hacks mentioned in this article cover everything from making Firefox faster to playing around with ChromEdit. So don't be scared to do a little Firefox tweaking yourself. Who knows, you might even come to like doing it.

Make Your Firefox Bookmarks Your Homepage

Tired of your Firefox's homepage? What if you could create a Web page that lists all of your bookmarks? That way you could go right where you need to go, and skip that step of loading up your start page every time you open up Firefox. With the Firefox extension, [bookmarkshome](#), it can be done.

BookmarksHome makes a pretty startup page out of your bookmarks. The layout of this page is highly customizable. Items high in the bookmarks tree (as you see it when you open the Bookmarks menu) will appear at the top of the page. Changes in your bookmarks will be visible after reloading the BookmarksHome page. Take a look at the screenshots to see what BookmarksHome is about.

With customizable CSS, you can change the look and feel of your home page as well. Check out [this page](#) to see a few styles that have been posted already. Another nice feature is you can select which bookmark folders are shown on the customized home page. So try it out, and let me know what you think!

Backing Up Firefox

You back up just about every other type of file on your computer, why not back up your Firefox extensions, bookmarks, and history? You probably spend more time in your browser than you do in any other part of your computer, so losing that data is just as dangerous as losing any other files on your computer. You always want to be prepared for the worst, and thanks to [BackupFox](#), now you can be.

BackupFox creates a backup of your Firefox profile. It dives deep into Firefox itself and pulls out your bookmarks, extensions and history and then saves them all in one tiny .zip file that is ready to be moved to another hard drive or burned onto a CD. This tool could also be helpful if you are wanting to run an experimental version of Firefox, but don't want to lose any of the settings you had on your old install. If something goes wrong, you can uninstall that version of Firefox, reinstall the old version then load up your backup and you are back to normal.

If you are a [Thunderbird](#) user, it also backs that information up as well. This is good news, because sometimes backing up Thunderbird can be a little more confusing task than backing up Firefox. BackupFox is only for Windows for now as well. [So read up](#) about it, and then give it a shot. Your Firefox will thank you.

Open Multiple Web Sites in Tabs

Did you know you can set Firefox to open multiple Web sites at once? This would be helpful for skimming all those Web sites you check out when you turn your computer on in the morning. No longer do you have to go to each one, one by one. You can now load them all up, get them read then move on to more important tasks.

Here is how it is done.

First, go ahead and open up those five or six Web sites you check out every single morning. Once you have them all loaded up in their own tabs, this is where the magic happens.

Now right-click on the body of one of the tabbed Web sites, and select "Bookmark This Page...". Once you do that, a new window should pop up, asking you where you want to save the bookmark. At the bottom you should see a new check mark box that says, "Bookmark all tabs in a folder". Mark that check box, select where you want to save it and then hit the OK button. There you go!

That should have created a new folder with the name of the first Web site you had opened up. If you want you can right click that folder and rename it to something such as, "Morning News". To get them to all open up, you can navigate to that folder in your bookmarks, then click "Open in Tabs".

As a bonus tip this time, you can also do this with any set of bookmarks you have inside a folder. The "Open in Tabs" option should be there inside any bookmark folder you have.

Firefox 101

It seems like everybody knows about Firefox these days. Do you know everything there is to know though? Probably not. Also, what about those folks who are new to the alternative browser way of thinking? How are they suppose to wrap their minds around how to best use Firefox and what it is all about?

That is where Wikipedia saves the day once again. Before today, I had never looked at all the content [Wikipedia has on and about Firefox](#). They have just about every bit of information you could ever want to know about it. Here's just one example:

With Firefox, the Mozilla Foundation aims to develop a lightweight, fast, intuitive, and highly extensible standalone browser based on the Navigator component of the Mozilla Application Suite. Firefox has become the foundation's main development focus (along with its Thunderbird email client), and has replaced the Mozilla Suite as their official main software release.

Pretty cool? Well go read more and study up on your Firefox information over at Wikipedia. There will be a test on the material next week!

Firefox on the Go!

Don't you hate it when you are over at a friend's house and he or she is not using Firefox? Now you could slap them on the back of the head then force them to download the cute little browser. What if they are bigger than you though? What if you can't take a punch? Then you need to bring your own version of [Firefox](#) with you on the road.

Portable Firefox is a shrunk down version of everybody's favorite browser. It is so small that it will fit on a USB thumb drive. The folks at MozDev.org also say, "It will also work from a CDRW drive (in packet mode), ZIP drives, external hard drives, some MP3 players, flash RAM cards and more".

To download it and try it for yourself, visit the [Portable Firefox Web page over at MozDev.org](#). They will have all the links, help, and information you will need to know to get started.

Now you have no need to fear using other people's computers to get Online. Just plug in your Portable Firefox and you will be ready to browse in no time.

Spread the Firefox Love!

Love using Firefox, but don't know the best way to tell your loved ones about your new addiction? Sure, an E-mail to them might work. You might even give them a phone call. Who has time for all of that though? Not us busy Firefox users, that's for sure. Get help from [Spread Firefox](#).

Spread Firefox has dozens of different ways you can show your appreciation for the best browser out there today. They invite anybody who is a Firefox lover to come and join in on the fun as well. Here are only a few examples they give when it comes to spreading the Firefox love:

Tell the world what you think: Help us encourage other people to use Firefox by reviewing and rating it at popular download sites such as cnet Download.com (Windows Mac), ZDNet (Windows Mac), Windows Marketplace and BetaNews (Windows Mac Linux).

Print a stack of flyers and leave them somewhere accessible to people. For example, if you're a college student, leave them by your dorm's door. If you work in an office, leave them in your mail room. (Get permission if necessary.)

So what are you waiting for? Go join [Spread Firefox](#) and let the entire world know why you love that simple little browser.

Load Web Sites in Firefox Sidebar

Did you know that inside of [Firefox](#), you can set any of your bookmarks to open up in the sidebar of the browser? This would be useful if you had a list bookmarked, or something else that would scale down nicely to fit vertically.

The first thing you must do is create a bookmark. If you are already an avid user of Firefox, I think I can skip that step. Pretty much, all you have to do is drag a link from your address bar and drop it into your bookmarks folder.

Next, you need to right-click on that bookmark and select "Properties". That should bring up a new window that has a lot of options for you to choose from. Around the bottom of the window, you should see a check mark box. Beside that check mark box, you should see a phrase that says, "Load this bookmark in the sidebar".

Click the check mark, then hit the OK button. Now click your bookmark again. There you go, now it should be opening up, right inside your sidebar!

Using Keywords With Firefox

There are lots of great tips and tricks you can learn about Firefox. One tip that I just picked up on the other day was the use of marking your bookmarks with keywords. Now why would you want to do this? It saves you time! No longer will you have to hunt through your folders to find a bookmarked Web site. No longer will you have to type out really long domain names.

Now all you have to do in step one is find one of your bookmarks. As an example, I will use my Yahoo! Mail bookmark I have on my links bar. Now sure, I could just click the bookmark to get into my mail. I have an easier way to do it though.

Right-click the bookmark in question, then click on properties. Under "Location" you should see an empty area for you to type in a keyword. In my case, I would put in there "ym" for Yahoo! Mail. After you have done that, click OK and you are good to go. Now type that keyword inside of your address bar. Now every time I type in just "ym" I will be taken right into my Yahoo! Mail. How cool is that?

Do you have any Firefox tips that make your life easier? Let me know.

ForecastFox - Weather Updates

Do you live in an area of the country that has a lot of wicked weather? Up in north Texas, we see a lot of thunderstorms, hail, rain and even the occasional tornado or two.

One of the reasons I started using the [ForecastFox](#) extension inside of Firefox was because of the alert feature. Now I get a pop up when my county has been put in a watch or warning.

That is not the only great feature within ForecastFox. I am also a big fan of the mini radar picture I can access from my status bar as well. This way I can at least tell some big blob of blue and green is coming my way. Being linked in with [AccuWeather.com](#) is another nice feature as well. Out of all the weather Web sites out there today, AccuWeather.com is still one of my all time favorites.

Did I mention that it will give you a weather forecast as well? To those folks who say, "Hey, I can look outside for my weather reports" all I ask is to try ForecastFox once. I can almost promise you that once you do, you will never turn around to look out that window ever again.

Really Odd Firefox Extensions

There are some really helpful Firefox extensions out there today. That is what the whole extension experience is supposed to be about right? Things that help you out in one way or another. Things that make your life easier. Well, there are some twisted folks out there, and I guess they have needs as well. These are some of the oddest Firefox extensions I have ever seen listed.

[Abe Vigoda Status](#)

We all love Abe Vigoda right? How many of us can say we are just waiting to see him kick the bucket though? Apparently folks want to keep up to date with old Abe in Firefox. The Abe Vigoda Status extension does only one simple thing. It tells you that Mr. Vigoda is alive or dead.

[Clines](#)

Stupid games have also made it into Firefox extensions. Clines is only one of many out there today. The point of Clines is to "move balls from one square to another one in order to build lines". Yeah, that is it. Funny thing is, I can do the same thing with a sheet of paper and a pen. I could make lines go up and down. I could make lines go from left to right. If I felt really motivated, I could even make lines go diagonally.

[TickerFox](#)

I like Firefox, don't get me wrong. I don't like it so much though that I feel motivated to know that four more people have downloaded it though. TickerFox allows folks to see the latest download count directly from the status bar of your browser. Do I have to ask where the "watch paint dry" extension is?

So these are only a sample of some of the odd Firefox extensions out there today. Do you know of one that is even more odd than these. Let me know!

Skinning the Fox

There are hundreds if not thousands of Firefox themes out there today. How do you know the best from the worst? Well I have decided to go through a few of my favorites. Some of these you might know, and some of them you might not have seen yet.

[Orsa](#)

I like themes that are small, pretty and not distracting. I think those few words sums up my feelings about the Orsa theme. Even with the odd name, it has a beautiful arrangement of colors, icons and style that you just do not see in any of the other Firefox themes out there today.

[Qute](#)

If you like your Firefox themes to be a little more elegant, then Qute might be the pick for you. Much like Orsa it is small, clean and pretty. On the [Qute theme's Web site](#), they even give you help when it comes to editing the theme itself to suit your needs.

[Black](#)

For my last pick today, I pick Black. It does not get much simpler than this. You have black icons, white background and that is pretty much it. For those of us who have our creepy drama student drop out moods, this is our theme. You do not always have to have 365 colors flying into your face while browsing.

Agree? Disagree? Let me know, and send me a few of your own favorites that I did not mention. I would love to see what other folks out there are using.

Firefox's Web Developer

The [Web Developer extension](#) for Firefox is a tool that any respectable web master can not live without. It gives you all the gadgets and gizmos you might need to do any number of tasks. The best thing about it is that it is so small yet so powerful.

The features for the Web Developer extension go on and on. From disabling certain Web page services to re-sizing your browsing window to a new size, there is nothing missing from this package. One of my favorite features though has to be the built in CSS editor.

By just a few clicks, you can view all the CSS in a side frame. If you were working on a Web page that was currently saved to your own machine, you can use this feature to edit the Web page quickly all inside one browser window.

So if you have [Firefox](#) and you spend as much time as I do buried inside of HTML code, give it a shot. I promise that once you use it once, you will never be able to live without it.