

# How To Make Firefox The Most Useful Web Browser There Is

by [heyzuphowsitgoi](#)n on March 5, 2008

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## **Intro:** How To Make Firefox The Most Useful Web Browser There Is

If you are already not convinced that firefox is better than everything out there, here are a few tips and tweaks that will make you want to switch. If you are using firefox, maybe you still didn't know about these.



## **step 1: Getting Firefox**

Just download and install firefox... Works with just about every operating system there is... But don't get the beta, there aren't as many themes and plugins for those

<http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/>



## step 2: Speed 'er Up!

Do this if you have high speed internet, it won't work as well if you are using dial-up.

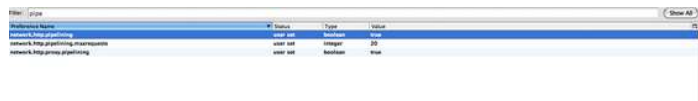
In the address bar, type in about:config

Once you are there, in the filter bar, type in pipe. You will come out with 3 results, network.http.pipelining  
network.http.pipelining.maxrequests  
network.http.proxy.pipelining

The first and the third should normally be set to false, and the middle one should say 2.

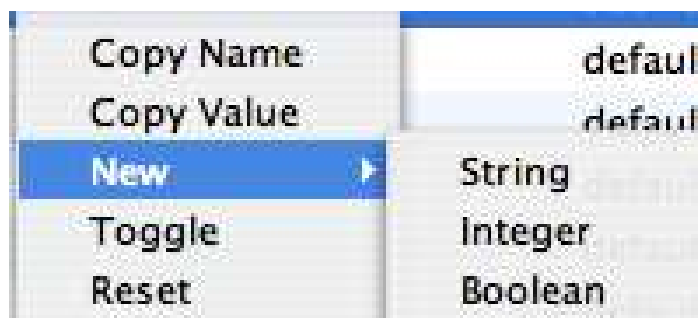
Double click the first and last one to set them to true, and double click the middle one to set it to 20 or 30. Try each out or even different numbers and post your results, because i did not really notice a different between 20 and 30, but then again I have satellite internet.

That 20 means it will make 20 requests at once, now you know why this is only for people with fast internet.



## step 3: Still Movin' Fast!

Now, right-click anywhere in the window, select new, then select integer. Name it nlayout.initialpaint.delay and set the value to 0. This is the delay to open a web page.



## step 4: MORE MEMORY

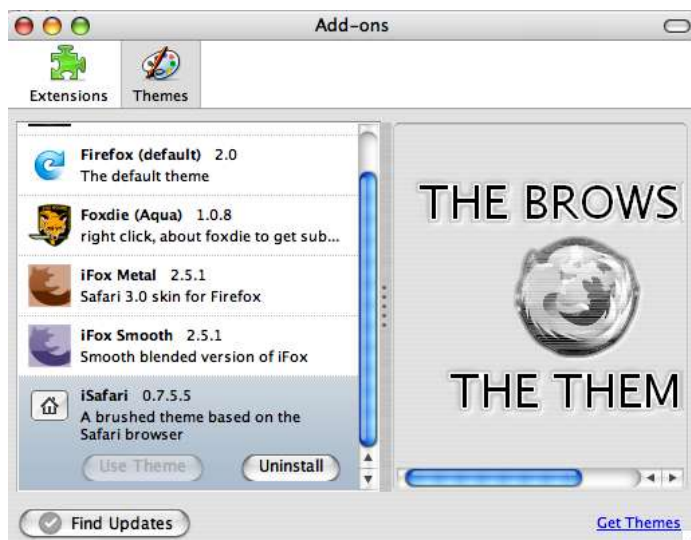
Now, to give firefox more memory, make a new integer, name it browser.cache.memory.capacity and depending on how much memory you have, give it anywhere above 8 megabytes. To do that, set the integer anywhere above 8,192. It's in kilobytes... I have mine set to 90,000 which is i guess around 90 megabytes...

Firefox seemed to respond faster after doing this...

## step 5: Adding The Themes

Depending on what operating system you are using, there are different themes to make it match, but of course most people like firefox to look unique, so it does not have to match your os. Mine looks almost like safari.

To add a theme go to tools, select addons, go to the themes tab, and you will find a little link that says "Get Themes" You can browse around the themes, then just install one. If you like the way mine looks, it is "iSafari". You can search for it. Once it is installed, Go to the theme tab again, select Use Theme, then go back to the install tab and select restart firefox.



## step 6: Adding Addons

Go to the tools menu again, select add-ons, and then go to the extensions tab of the window this time. Select "Get Extensions" And browse around. Install them the same way you install themes.

Here is a list of my favorites:

Meebo-Instant messenger without having to download anything... works with aim, google talk, msn, and a bunch more

BugMeNot-If you have to log in to something, for instance the New York Times to view an article, right-click, select BugMeNot, and it will log in for you with an already registered name.

DownThemAll-Massive Downloader...

Flagfox-Shows location of a site's server

Forecastfox-Weather in firefox

Remove It Permanently-Remove ads from a website, so whenever you go back \*kapoof\* no ads!

Look at the picture below to see how well Flagfox works...



## step 7: Adding Search Engines

Now, if you noticed, there is a little search bar in the upper right hand corner of firefox. There should be a small G in it, the google symbol. Click on it, and you will get a list of search engines. To add a search engine, click on the G, select manage search engines, and then click "Get More Search Engines" You can then install the search engines from there.

But, let's say you want a search engine that is not on the list, like an instructables search engine. Go to <http://mycroft.mozdev.org/>, type in the name of the site, in this case instructables, select it from the list, and press add when prompted.



## step 8: Done

Ok, you're done! Now, post anything else you know about firefox, such as other ways to make it faster, cool themes, cool extensions, or just overall tweaks here for everyone to try out.

## Related Instructables



**Apple iTouch/iPhone Hacks and firmware rollback** by erckgillis



**Vista-lizing your old XP computer: the ultimate tutorial** by 4\_t477\_guy



**Make Windows look like OS X 10.5** by steven93



**Read 70 FREE Magazines Online + view iPhone Sites w/ Firefox** by pyro222



**How to upload & tag multiple files using drag & drop to your Instructable** by lebowski



**The Windows XP Optimization Guide** by crestind



**Use your iPhone's data connection on your computer** by qmega




**A Guide to The best and the safest Freeware out there (Collaboration)** by robots199

# Comments

50 comments [Add Comment](#)

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 **ampaxx** says: May 27, 2009. 2:41 PM [REPLY](#)  
a nice add on, if you use gmail, is gspace. it allows you to easily store files using the storage space in your gmail

---

 **Lftndbt** says: Mar 7, 2008. 6:01 AM [REPLY](#)  
bah!!  
Internet explorer > Firefox >>> **OPERA**  
Nice Instructable though... ;)

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 **Skate6566** says: Apr 6, 2008. 2:21 PM [REPLY](#)  
WHAT??!!?!?  
IE<Opera< =Firefox!!!=

---

 **Gamer917** says: Mar 16, 2009. 10:29 AM  
(removed by author or community request)

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 **Skate6566** says: Mar 16, 2009. 10:55 AM [REPLY](#)  
Erm... placing IE above firefox... epic fail.


---

 **Gamer917** says: Mar 24, 2009. 7:49 PM [REPLY](#)  
sorry, i messed up, i deleted that

---

 **Skate6566** says: Mar 25, 2009. 6:13 AM [REPLY](#)  
Ah, I see.


---

 **heyzuphowsitgoin** says: Mar 16, 2009. 6:39 PM [REPLY](#)  
I think you two are looking at it different ways.  
Nonetheless, Firefox still seems to be best, although chrome is catching up.  
If any of you use a mac, try out Sunrise. Fastest browser ever. Unfortunately, it has no add ons and is very basic.

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 **heyzuphowsitgoin** says: Mar 7, 2008. 6:12 AM [REPLY](#)  
thanks  
I;'ll try opera out! thanks for the advice :p


---

 **john 621** says: Feb 24, 2009. 2:43 PM [REPLY](#)  
will tweak work with firefox 3.0.6 ? cant get past step #4 or this info does,nt applie i reset verrything back to there defaults

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 **camel flag** says: Nov 18, 2008. 6:57 PM [REPLY](#)  
because u have a proxy on  
chalky

---

 **Dms12444** says: Oct 19, 2008. 5:08 AM [REPLY](#)  
Thanks, I am using firefox right now (although I have been for 4 years now)  
and i just made it better.  
ps:seriously nice job, In my opinion though I do like Opera web browser as well.

---



**chalky** says:

in the "speed her up" category of your instructable you said they were only three options but i have four so what gives??

Sep 27, 2008. 5:07 PM [REPLY](#)

```

network.http.pipelining      true      true      true
network.http.pipelining.maxrequests  20      true      true
network.http.proxy.pipelining true      true      true
network.http.pipelining.ssl  true      true      true

```



**daniel24** says:

yeah i have 4 options too, just modify the:  
network.http.pipelining-----true  
network.http.pipelining.maxrequests---20 or 30  
network.http.proxy.pipelining-----true

Oct 6, 2008. 8:38 PM [REPLY](#)

and ignore the fourth, or in mine it says  
network.http.pipelining.ssl



**chalky** says:

network.http.pipelining.ssl is the third option in my pipe config??  
see enclosed clip i have already changed it from false to true,so should i change it back??  
thanks in advance  
sean.

Oct 7, 2008. 4:28 AM [REPLY](#)



**daniel24** says:

i also dont know. well if your firefox is still working i dont think you need to change it back... even if you ignore it (back to false) firefox still runs very fast. you decide.

Oct 7, 2008. 5:39 AM [REPLY](#)



**chalky** says:

PS/firefox roxxxxxs

Sep 27, 2008. 5:10 PM [REPLY](#)



**cs12345** says:

everyone who likes this should take a look at google chrome it is a cool web browser

Sep 18, 2008. 2:23 PM [REPLY](#)



**daniel24** says:

from years ago.....  
i **KNEW FIREFOX IS THE BEST**  
and now my firefox is even **BETTER**  
thanks for the **GREAT** instructibles  
*ps, i rate this instructibles with 5 star :-P*

Aug 14, 2008. 6:52 AM [REPLY](#)



**LemonyPotatoes** says:

FIREFOX ROX! Anyways, I knew about the pipelining, but not the rest.

Jul 26, 2008. 1:03 PM [REPLY](#)



**nomax** says:

I recommend the add-on fast-dial, you can have your favoured websites as thumbnails for faster access (like in opera):

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/5721>

Jun 4, 2008. 5:13 AM [REPLY](#)



**hotrodrincoln** says:

Holy crap, I have had Firefox for ever, and didn't know you could speed it up. Just tried it, and its like moving from dial up to hi speed all over again. This thing is on some serious speed now. Thanks!

May 15, 2008. 8:49 PM [REPLY](#)



**martymunch** says:

I just got a new Mac and started using Firefox (about two weeks ago) after someone else had recommended it. Good ideas, I did steps two through five and there is a definite noticeable difference. Thanks!

May 15, 2008. 6:37 PM [REPLY](#)



**enza99** says:

"This sets the maximum number of requests that can be sent to a server via pipelining before anything is sent back to the browser. You can choose between 1 to 8."  
Making Firefox faster: editing your about:config

Apr 26, 2008. 3:58 PM [REPLY](#)



**enza99** says:  
forgot to say thats for network.http.pipelining.maxrequests  
btw i was looking for this i havnt seen it on here yet =P

Apr 26, 2008. 3:59 PM [REPLY](#)



**shammallamaman** says:  
Fasterfox makes firefox soo much better, and sorry to tell you but Opera sucks, it goes  
IE>Opera>SAFARI>**FIREFOX**

Apr 25, 2008. 9:24 PM [REPLY](#)



**tjsdaname** says:  
safari is also good for windows..... but firefox rules!!!!

Apr 19, 2008. 11:00 PM [REPLY](#)



**Monkey T.** says:  
Okay, another add-on i tottally LOVE! is yoono, try it!

Apr 18, 2008. 5:09 PM [REPLY](#)



**Monkey T.** says:  
never mind, whoops

Apr 17, 2008. 4:46 PM [REPLY](#)



**Monkey T.** says:  
my firefox doesn't have any different themes, how to i get them, r they free?

Apr 17, 2008. 4:45 PM [REPLY](#)



**chuckr44** says:  
I also use Infolister to list all my add-ons and their versions. Very handy as I can save the output then post into a forum if you are having browser problems.

Mar 7, 2008. 8:43 AM [REPLY](#)



**chuckr44** says:  
I use Adblock to block regular and flash ads in Firefox. It works great.

Mar 7, 2008. 8:41 AM [REPLY](#)



**onlyonebowman** says:  
sorry to say but themes slow it down alot

Mar 6, 2008. 6:05 PM [REPLY](#)



**heyzuphowsitgoin** says:  
really? i didn't notice that i wouldnt think they would noticibly slow it down becasue they are all made for firefox... ill keep that in mind  
thanks

Mar 6, 2008. 9:12 PM [REPLY](#)



**whasisface** says:  
I'm rockin 20 add ons and alternating between 3 themes =]

Mar 6, 2008. 9:33 AM [REPLY](#)



**crestind** says:  
This is a great guide! +

Mar 5, 2008. 5:45 PM [REPLY](#)



**heyzuphowsitgoin** says:  
thanks! glad you like it

Mar 5, 2008. 8:06 PM [REPLY](#)



**rimar2000** says:  
YES, Firefox (3.0 b3) is more fast after this procedure.  
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Mar 5, 2008. 4:15 PM [REPLY](#)



**heyzuphowsitgoin** says:  
thanks... and no prob!

Mar 5, 2008. 8:05 PM [REPLY](#)



**GorillazMiko** says:

Adblock Plus is the best thing.  
Foxy Tunes rules too.  
I don't use Foxy Tunes anymore, but Adblock plus is the best.  
Also Fasterfox. I use that too, it's so small, and it helps!

Mar 5, 2008. 3:35 PM [REPLY](#)

Yes, I know. My list was the same as heyzuphowsitgoin's list, but I don't use STOP! Hammertime... I do use Adblock Plus, Foxy Tunes (did), and Fasterfox. Themes are awesome too!



**Erik Lindemann** says:

Funny, a lot of the stuff in config that you had talked about I had already done. Except network.http.pipelining.maxrequests for me was at 15. I decided to try it at 30, don't really notice much of a difference though.

Mar 5, 2008. 2:59 PM [REPLY](#)



**heyzuphowsitgoin** says:

here is a list of a few more of my favorite extensions... thanks for the posts everyone

Mar 5, 2008. 1:54 PM [REPLY](#)

Adblock Plus-Blocks all the adds!  
Foxy Tunes-control itunes or any other player from firefox, great if you play an instrument and are playing from tabs.  
STOP! Hammertime-Yep, what it sounds like, plays it ever time you press stop.  
Fasterfox-Really does make firefox faster, also easier to use than the about:config way.



**arnoldt** says:

Love firefox, I really enjoy FoxyTune

Mar 5, 2008. 10:14 AM [REPLY](#)



**heyzuphowsitgoin** says:

I just got foxy tunes... its great! thanks!

Mar 5, 2008. 11:25 AM [REPLY](#)

wow these extensions keep on coming... thanks everybody for posting them!



**dchall8** says:

I, too, am a confirmed Firefox user. Internet Explorer has added tabs and recently updated their software to include advertising blockers and a spell checker. Too late.

Mar 5, 2008. 10:32 AM [REPLY](#)

I use three add-ons.

1. Adblock Plus and subscribe (free) to a service that has already done the research on how to block ads. With the exception of Google I have not seen an ad for years.
2. I also have the add-on called Faster Fox. It makes a few adjustments like those described here, but different.
3. Download Helper allows you to download any multimedia file to your computer. Originally I got it to download from YouTube. Works great.



**heyzuphowsitgoin** says:

great thanks i'll check those out too!

Mar 5, 2008. 11:18 AM [REPLY](#)



**ironsmiter** says:

Let's face it... The internet is for porn ( <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=5430343841227974645> )

Mar 5, 2008. 10:42 AM [REPLY](#)

As such Have a gander at <http://www.squarefree.com/pornzilla/>

It has many useful add-ons. Even for non-porn surfing.

My favorites are Increment, Decrement, and Hide visited Links.

Very useful for graphic searches, and stock-photography sites that post their images in incremental numbered names(25.jpg, 26.jpg, 27.jpg... etc.)



**heyzuphowsitgoin** says:

umm... thanks? :pjk thanks ill check them out the more addons the better! :D

Mar 5, 2008. 11:17 AM [REPLY](#)



**cool!** says:

ROCK ON!!!!

I am a die-hard Firefox user, and i did not know most of these things. I do have two things though: download status bar is a really useful add-on, and fasterfox (search it on Google) also is pretty nice. Again, VERY nice instructable!

Mar 5, 2008. 9:10 AM [REPLY](#)



**heyzuphowsitgoin** says:

thanks :D

Mar 5, 2008. 10:11 AM [REPLY](#)

I'll check those out...