

DUMP IE, GET FIREFOX

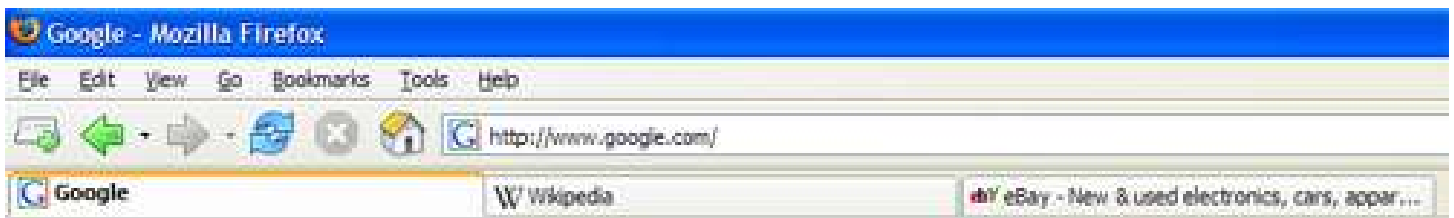
Short Article by Illya Lapko

The following is a personal opinion from me. I have been using Firefox for the past year, and I have been enjoying the program and will definitely be using it until something even better comes along.

So why should a normal web surfer like you use Firefox as your primary internet browser? Here's why. I've been using Microsoft's Internet Explorer ever since I had broadband, about 4 years ago. I was happily using it and back then I didn't really know all the technical things about software and the internet. About a year ago, I was introduced to MYIE2, another browser, and it had tabbed browsing, lots of add-on features, had an ad-blocker and seemed safe. It was quite a good browser, the only downfall; it was based off of Internet Explorer and still had the main functions of it. I was still what you might call, a loyal IE user. I liked IE and I didn't think there was anything wrong with it, but was I wrong or what. When MYIE2 started acting up, and every time I opened up IE, I would get popups and spy-ware coming up all over my screen, I had to face it, Internet Explorer was no longer of use to me. And at the beginning of this year, I switched to Mozilla Firefox. I am just a normal internet surfer, but I do develop my own website, and I want people to see it in the way it should look.

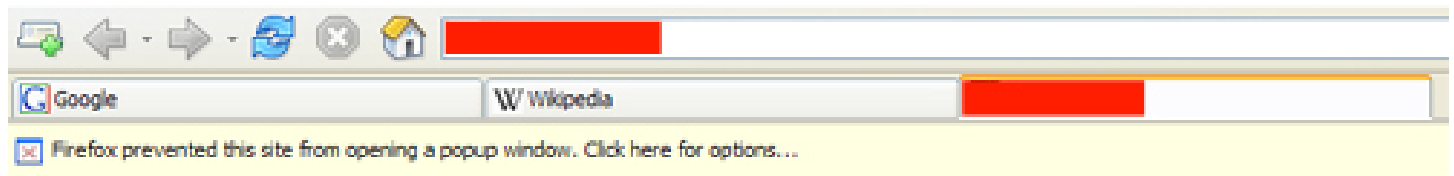
Now, every program has its ups and downs and this goes for Mozilla Firefox too. Below are the main advantages of using Firefox, with some images from Mozilla Firefox running on a Windows XP PC.

Tabbed Browsing



As you can see from the image above, I have three different pages open in Firefox. If I wanted to open three different pages in Internet Explorer, I would have three different instances of the program running and wasting space in my taskbar. With Firefox, I can have as many pages as I want open at the same time in things called tabs. Above I have Google, Wikipedia and eBay opened in the same instance of Firefox. I can switch between the websites by clicking on the different tabs or using keyboard shortcuts.

Block Those Popups!



Now you know when you go to some website, and you get bombarded with popups saying things like: "You won \$100, Collect Your Prize by Clicking HERE!" Those are definitely annoying and you have to waste time closing them. You might have a third-party ad-blocker/popup blocker installed on your computer, but with Firefox, you don't need to download one, it's there and it works great! And you won't be missing out if some popup is blocked (in case you want that window to pop up), because Firefox will show you a message that says it blocked this certain popup and lets you configure the options so that for whatever reason you want to see that popup. Smart.

Plugins and Extensions

MYIE2 was a browser that had way too much, most of it useless to me. Firefox doesn't try to be a browser that can do everything; it tries to become a browser that you would like to use and one that fits what you need to do. You can download plugins and extensions to make Firefox better for *you*.

The Real Look

Try opening my website in Internet Explorer, and then compare it to my site open in Firefox. Instantly, you should notice some differences, the right sidebar is off, the search box doesn't look as nice, when you hover over the number of comments, it doesn't say "# comments" and more things that are harder to spot. My website looks like what I styled it to be in Firefox. This doesn't just go for my website, go to some other websites and see what they look like. You know when you sometimes see a triangular error box in the bottom-left corner of IE saying "Error with Page"; this means that the JavaScript of the page is wrong. Firefox doesn't show you this, it's not my fault that some site has JavaScript errors, and I don't care about them anyway.

The Bottom Line

Over 64 million users can't be wrong. Mozilla Firefox is easy to use, safe, has a boatload of plugins ready to be added, fast and it's beautiful in its simplicity. The only disadvantage I've known is that you have to install the Flash Player and sometimes that can be a pain, but that's on older Operating Systems and doesn't seem to be a problem on Windows XP. And Firefox is not only for Windows, it runs great on Mac OS X, Linux and Unix Systems and there are versions for other less known Operating Systems like Solaris and OS/2. So go and get Firefox and browse happy