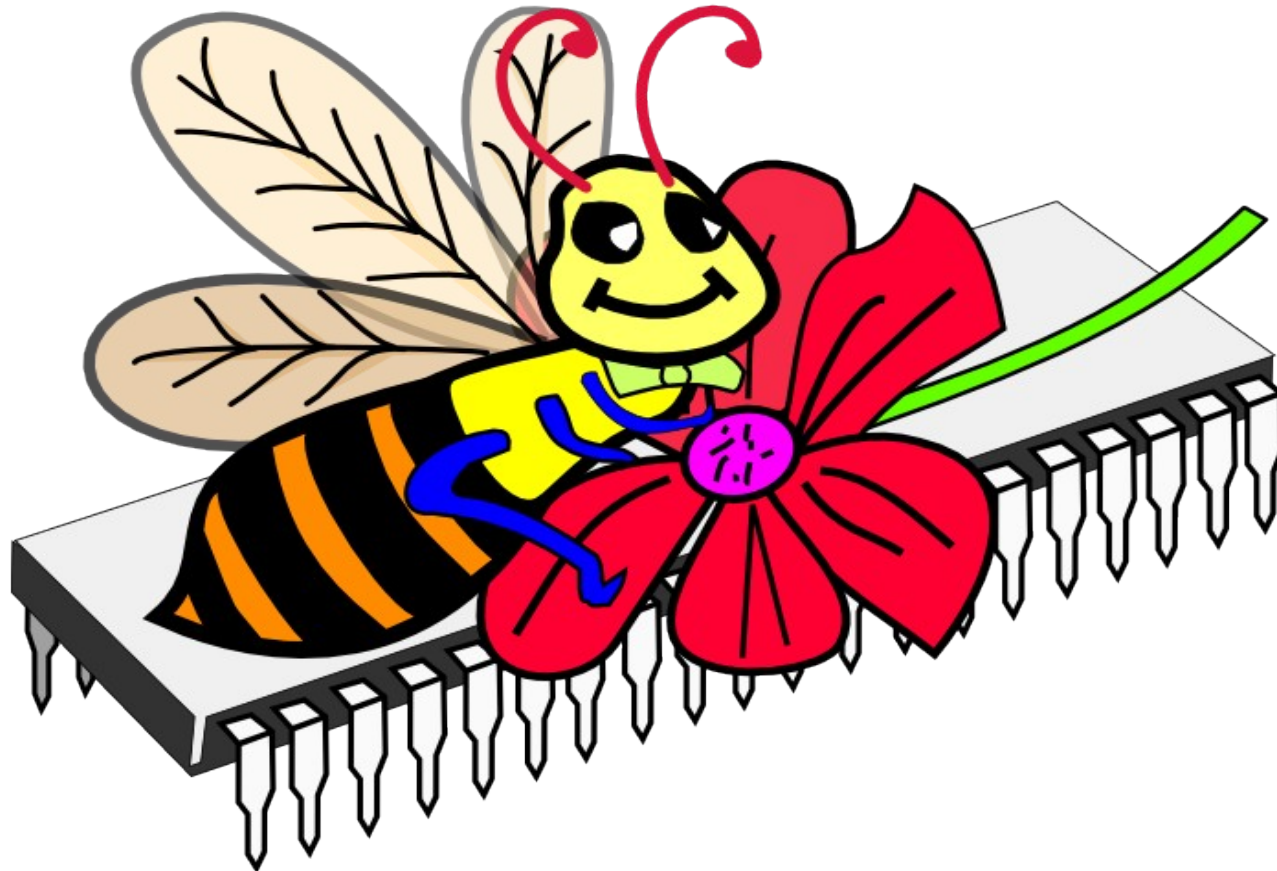


BCUG Internet Workshop 2009-12

Internet Web Browsers

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<http://www.bcug.com/>



Disclaimers

Information prepared for casual workshop on a quick effort basis and intended to supplement the presentation. Use at your own risk. Also some wording has been crunched down to fit the page/slides better.

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2 Major Browsers

Browser	URL	Ver	OS	Acid Test	Engine	Security	Strengths	Weakness	Recommendations
Chrome (Google)	www.google.com/chrome		WM	100 / 100	WebKit		Lightweight Simplified options. Semiopen source	Fewer options Security weaknesses in 3.x and earlier. Bit Torrent	For those that want something fast, light, and simple.
Chrome USB	http://stadt-bremerhaven.de/?s=launchy	3.0.19 5.27 Rv2	W						
Fire Fox	http://www.mozilla.com/firefox	3.5	LMW	93 / 100	Gecko		Open Source Medium weight Lots of public add ons.	Some bit Torrent. USB does not save options separately.	If you want a powerful browser, but not IE.
Fire Fox USB	http://download.cnet.com/X-Firefox/3000-2356_4-10858806.html	3.5.2	W						
IE (Microsoft)	http://www.microsoft.com/windows/Internet-explorer/default.aspx		W M?	20 / 100	Trident	IE8	Minimal setup	Following Web standards Bloated Slowest.	For those that want brain dead easy setup or run with the majority.
Opera	http://www.opera.com/		LMW	100 / 100	Presto		Lightweight Bit Torrent Follows web standards. Open source	Lightweight	A very good browser if you are not using Fire Fox.
Opera USB	www.opera-usb.com	10.10	W		Presto				
Safari (Apple)	http://www.apple.com/safari/		MW	100 / 100	WebKit			No Bit Torrent. Partial ftp.	THE browser if you are on a MAC. Up and coming Windows browser. Give it a try, but only
Safari USB			W						
Flock	http://flock.com/	2	LMW		Gecko	Less	Social network connections.	Security	For social network addicts.

<http://internet-browser-review.toptenreviews.com/> - Top Ten Comparisons

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_browser_comparison for additional information – Wikipedia comparisons

3 Improving Security Of Browsing

http://news.cnet.com/8301-13880_3-10402239-68.html - setting up your web browsers.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_web_browsers#Vulnerabilities

<http://bcheck.scanit.be/bcheck/> - browser security test.

Going to an unknown site, or not sure you have the spelling? Type the basic web name (www.bcug.com) to a major, trusted, search engine. If you misspelled it a good name is likely to be suggested along with navigation aids to popular areas. If the site is bad lots of warnings are likely to pop up (and your are using Web Of Trust, as described, under Fire Fox Power Ups, aren't you).

3.1 Fire Fox Power Ups

SECURITY

Various Add-ons can make Fire Fox highly secure.

1.No Script (not shown here): stops all avenues of browser attacks unless you explicitly mark the site as safe. These marks can be temporary or permanent.

- ✓ No Script provides a menu button in the lower right that shows the sites being blocked in a page.
- ✓ You can enable sites temporarily or until you decide otherwise.
- ✓ Early navigation is a pain until you get all of your regular sites marked as being trustworthy.
- ✓ If the blocked site list is long, maybe you don't want to be on that site at all.

1. Ad Blocker: blocks a lot of known ad sites.

2. Web Of Trust (WOT): places markers in your web pages showing the trustworthiness of many sites. Green are known goods. After that it becomes less clear cut, though solid red sites can be considered evil. Some honest web sites can get temporary red markers if someone cracks the site; the site must stay clean for awhile to get its green markers back.

✓ Look for the green markers on the pages you browse and avoid the red (unless you check them out).

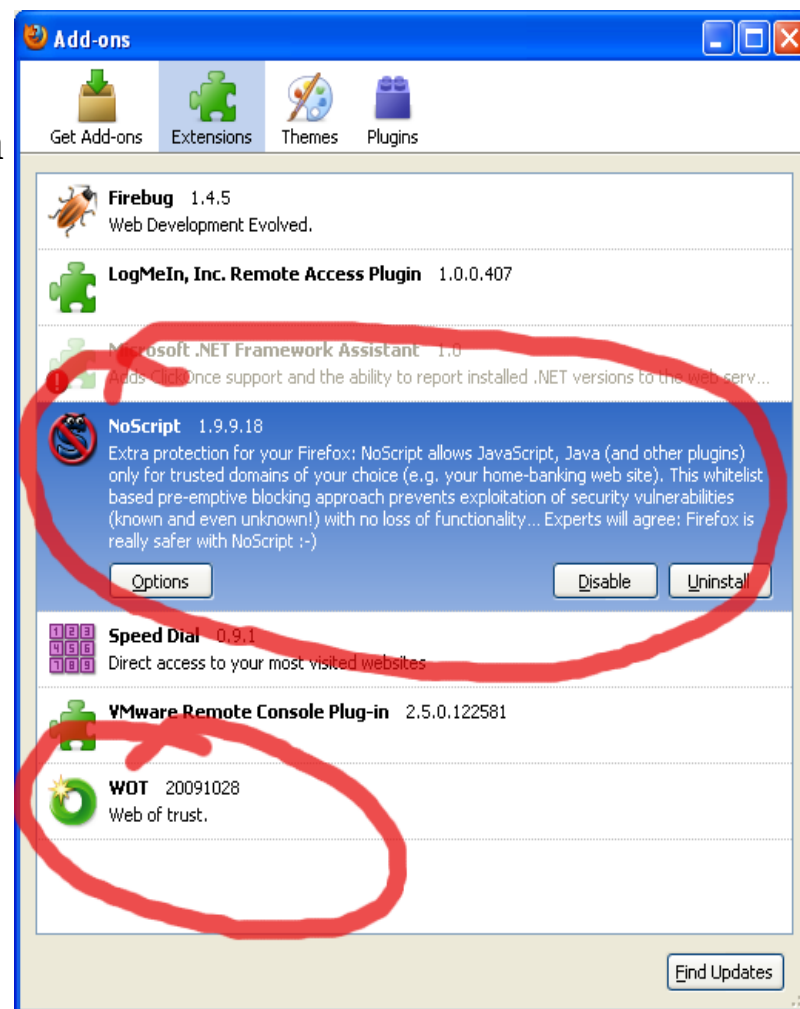
USING FIREFOX

The Speed Dial add-on is very useful as it allows you to set up a series of quick links to places you commonly go to.

1. In the “First time configuration” be sure to check “load in blank windows”.
2. Defaults >> Group Defaults >> set rows and column count of icon windows.
3. Main >> Speed Dial Shortcuts >> set all check boxes to get easiest navigation.

4 Making Web Pages

- <http://www.w3schools.com/> to learn lots of things.
- <http://finalbuilds.edskes.net/iecollection.htm> – install IEs of many vintages on a single system to find the many IE traps.
- <http://www.netmechanic.com/> - test your web pages. □ <http://validator.w3.org/> Aggressively test your web pages.
- Want a web name? Use [domain index](#) of <http://www.v3whois.com/> to quickly, *and safely*, look up potential names.
- Use Google as spell checker and Thesaurus. 1) Just type word. 2) “definition: someword”; 3) “synonym some word”.



□ Do not post Microsoft Word, or other word processor, documents on the web. If you must post something like that, save it as a PDF file as everyone can read that. Word processor documents have security and portability issues. Open Office includes a free PDF converter.

5 Web Search Tips

✓ Web Search: put phrases you want to search for in quotes.

Gilbert Heaton: loose search. Any page with Gilbert or Heaton, though better hits tend to be toward the top.

“Gilbert Heaton”: tight search. Only Gilbert Heaton together.

✓ Normally search engines look for ALL of your words on a page. But you can use “OR”:

“Gilbert Heaton” OR “Gilbert C Heaton” OR “ghealton@healton.net” OR
“ghealton@exit109.com”

bcug (“Gilbert Heaton” OR “...”)

(search engines limit the number of words they accept... and it's not that many words... about 20(?)).

6 Due Diligence Tips

✓ Have a site you are not sure of? Use <http://www.who.is/> , using the last two parts of the name:
“bcug.com” for www.bcug.com.

- Is it a new site? Give it low trust unless you have reasons to trust it.
- Look at country of owner... is it trustworthy. Evil sites tend to spread themselves over many countries to maximize jurisdiction problems for people trying to stop them.
- Look at “dns” or “domain name server”. Are those countries trustworthy? (repeat whos is brain dead way to find out). Many DNS entries in many countries is a good sign of hostile sites.
- Open a different web page and give the address of the first DNS server to www.who.is again. Compare addresses. The DNS servers should belong to either
 - ◆ the “Registrar” (company reserving the name you searched for), or
 - ◆ The website owner, or
 - ◆ The company hosting the website (this can be difficult to puzzle out).