

Annotated Bibliography – Mozilla Firefox

FireFox Add-Ons

"Firefox Extensions." Firefox Add-Ons. 2006. Mozilla. 2 Mar. 2006
<https://addons.mozilla.org/?application=firefox>.

This website contains a lot of information about Firefox extensions. These extensions are small add-ons that add new functionality to Firefox. They can add anything from a toolbar button to a completely new feature. They allow the application to be customized to fit the personal needs of each user if they need additional features, while keeping Firefox small to download. Some of these extensions that are on this site are FasterFox, downTHEMALL, tab browser performance, tab mix plus, download status bar, del.icio.us, FireFTP, All-in-one-Gestures, download manager tweaks, and gmail skins. This site also gives the newest extensions as well and just like the other extensions it talks about what every one of the extension does. Also it gives the comments by the developer over every extension and user comments. This web page does not seem to be outdated so it will do well for our paper.

Top 10 Reasons to Switch

Perry, Jakob. "Top 10 Reasons To Switch." 2004. 2 Mar. 2006
<http://www.switch2firefox.com/whyswitch/>.

This website talks about one of the software programs provided by Mozilla which is called Firefox. Firefox is a web browser just like internet explorer but unique in its own ways. This website gives 10 reasons why one should switch their web browser to Firefox. The 10 reasons that it states that should make someone switch are its tabbed browsing, pop-up blocking, helps find stuff easier, simplified privacy/annoyance eliminator, better bookmarks and history, accessible/intelligent/responsive, customizable and extendable, modern download manager, built for standards, and KISS (Keep it simple and straight-forward). This is a good source because it just does not give the 10 reasons but it talks about each of the components and provides a picture of each of the components talked about. This web page is a little outdated since it is from 2004, but nevertheless it contains good information that should start us off.

Are Fewer People Switching to Firefox?

Evers, Joris. "Are Fewer People Switching to Firefox." PC World. March 1st, 2005. IDG Network. March 2nd, 2006 <<http://www.pcworld.com/news/article/0,aid,119849,00.asp>>

This article talks about the growth of Firefox's market share, which has hit around 8.45% of the total market (March, 2005). It also notes how growth rate is slowing down, primarily due to security flaws present in the browser and also the release of a beta version of Microsoft's IE 7. Market share growth (compared in five

week increments, starting Nov. 9, 2004) was initially at 34%, but slowed to 22% the next five weeks. The next five week period saw further decrease in growth rate, from 22% to 15%. The article is important because it raises questions as to how much growth Firefox can sustain, and if it will be able to stand up to the next version of Internet Explorer. It also raises concerns about Mozilla (developer of Firefox) claiming that it was targeting a 10% market share by mid-2005. Looking at the most recent data, Firefox is sitting at around 8% of market share (July 2005).

Firefox Is Heading Toward Trouble

Vaughan-Nichols, Steven J. "Firefox is Heading Toward Trouble." eWeek.com. March 8th, 2005. Ziff Davis Internet. March 2nd, 2005.

<<http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1759,1774091,00.asp>>

No, Firefox is not bulletproof. Many felt that Firefox would be the secure & safe alternative to Internet Explorer and its multiple bugs. Unfortunately, even though that might seem true at times, this article provides some tidbits about problems with Firefox development that would threaten the growth of Firefox. It quotes a Firefox developer who indicates that communications and developer commitment to the project has been shaky at best. Because of this, patches and newer versions of Firefox have taken a lot longer to release than originally planned, causing many advocates to fear that this project will go the way of Netscape and Opera, which maintain their presence with about 1% of market share each, largely thanks to legions of loyal followers. This article also mentions why a lot of promising companies do not meet their potential due to their inability to adapt to market forces. In order to keep Firefox developing at an acceptable pace, and also maintain its growth, the article suggests that the Mozilla Foundation start hiring more developers instead of relying on outside help. As of now, there are 6 official developers working on the Firefox project, and four of them are AWOL.

Inside Firefox

Goodger, Ben. Inside Firefox. 24 Feb. 2006. The Mozilla Foundation. 2 Mar. 2006

<<http://weblogs.mozillazine.org/ben/>>

This website contains some key insight. It is founded by Ben Goodger, the lead engineer for Firefox. On the website he personally blogs about a variety of topics all the way back to 1997, around the beginning of Mozilla. This shows you where he thought Mozilla was going to go, and his thoughts along the way. It is very clear that Ben also uses the sight to get feedback on his program. Many blogs on the sight refer to some small bugs within the browser. Also discussed are competitors to Firefox and how they stack up in certain areas. A browser called Camino for Mac is featured in a blog on the front page. Along with discussing other programs, other software creating teams are discussed. The main reason this will be useful is because of who created it and because it contains information about the first few days of Firefox.

Mozilla.org

Mozilla.org. 2006. The Mozilla Foundation. 2 Mar. 2006 <<http://www.mozilla.org>>

Mozilla.org is the main website for Firefox. The main page contains all of the software that Mozilla creates. It contains a place to learn more about contributing to open source Mozilla projects. This will be very useful to find out just what goes into creating an open source program. Mozilla.org contains an online store to buy Firefox and other programs. The next topic is an informative section about the Mozilla foundation as well as announcements on updates for all of their programs. The sites main goal is to sell its product. This means that they have to go into details about the features of the product. A couple sub pages in and you come to a page that has a paragraph about each feature. This will help us learn about how to use Firefox. Overall this will be our most useful website since it is straight from the main source.

Mozilla Firefox

"Mozilla Firefox." Wikipedia. 2 Mar. 2006.
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mozilla_Firefox.>

This article takes an in depth look at the history, features, criticisms, and market adoption of Firefox. The article examines how developers Dave Hyatt and Blake Ross began working on the Firefox project as an experimental branch of the Mozilla project. They believed that the commercial requirements of Netscape's sponsorship and developer-driven feature creep compromised the utility of the Mozilla browser. To combat what they saw as the Mozilla Suite's software bloat, they created a pared-down browser, with which they intended to replace the Mozilla Suite. The developers of Firefox aim was to produce a browser that just works for most casual users. Those interested can add extensions and plugins, many of the features not packaged with Firefox. The article details how developers put in a large amount of work towards simplifying Firefox's user interface. As a result, the interface appears less cluttered than that of many other internet suites. The article also details the market adoption of Firefox, which web-surfers have adopted very quickly despite the dominance of Internet Explorer in the browser market. In November 2005, Firefox had around 9.4% of global market share, and 10% for North America.

The Firefox Explosion

McHugh, Josh. "The Firefox Explosion." Wired. Feb. 2005. 2 Mar. 2006
<<http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/13.02/firefox.html>.>

This article discusses the multiple advantages of Firefox, and presents the cause for its recent explosion in popularity among pc users. The article details how over the past six years, internet explorer has become a third world bus depot, the gathering point for a crush of hawkers, con artists, and pickpockets. The recent outbreak of spyware which uses a bug in internet explorer to snatch sensitive data from an infected PC has prompted early adopters to look for an alternate web browser. According to the article Firefox's clean, intuitive interface, quick page-loading, and ability to elude intruders has elicited a thunderous response. In the month following its official November launch, more than 10 million people downloaded Firefox, taking the first noticeable bite out of internet explorers market share since the browser wars of the mid-'90s. Firefox the browser is an impressive piece of software. It's easy to use, easy on the eyes, and safer than internet explorer partly because it's too new to have amassed a following of evil hackers. Firefox the phenomenon is something much bigger. It's a combination of innovations in engineering, developer politics, and consumer marketing.