

Glossary

Mozilla and Open Source have added an entirely new set of buzzwords, acronyms, and definitions to the world of computers. Many are only of interest to programmers and developers (okay, geeks), but others are useful to the general user.

A

#anyname An IIRC chat channel. If you have ChatZilla installed, clicking these links opens ChatZilla and logs you in to the channel.

about:buildconfig A special link that, when typed into Firefox's location bar, displays information about the build.

about:cache A special link that, when typed into Firefox's location bar, displays cache (both memory and page) settings and information.

about:config A special link that, when typed into Firefox's location bar, displays the user's preferences and allows preferences to be modified easily.

about:credits A special link that, when typed into Firefox's location bar, displays a list of all those who have contributed to the Firefox project. This list is automatically downloaded from the Internet to ensure it is up-to-date.

about:Mozilla A special link that, when typed into Firefox's location bar, displays an interesting message.

about:plugins A special link that, when typed into Firefox's location bar, displays information about the plug-ins that are currently installed.

aboutDialog.xul An about dialog box definition file.

AdBlock An extension for Firefox that blocks many advertisements on a web page.

adware A malicious program installed on a user's computer that causes the computer to constantly display pop-up advertisements. These programs usually make the computer unusable.



AFAIK Acronym for *as far as I know*.

alpha An alpha build of the next release comes before a beta build. Alpha builds are not considered stable enough to distribute to ordinary users.

AppData A folder in a user's documents and settings that is used to store data for applications. Each software vendor installs subfolders for each product as they desire.

AskJeeves A popular Internet search site.

ATM Acronym for *at the moment*.

Aviary The keyword used to label Firefox branches. Aviary is sometimes used to refer to Firefox.

AWK A UNIX utility that allows text files to be reformatted and processed with a simple command structure. It's part of Cygwin.

B

baud rate The speed of a modem used for a dial-up connection to the Internet. Higher baud rates translate into faster performance.

beta A beta build of the next release, released to users so they can help test the new product version. Early beta releases can be unstable, whereas later beta releases might be almost identical to the final release.

blog A web log, which is a way users can publish articles on a regular basis. Blogs are user centric.

blogging The act of creating a blog or reading blogs.

Bonsai Bonsai is tree control used to manage the source code for various versions of products.

bookmarking Making reference to a web page to allow easy navigation to the page at a later time. It's the same concept as Internet Explorer's Favorites.

BRB Acronym for *be right back*.

BugMeNot An extension for Firefox that fills in password/userID prompts with data that is not specific to you. Saves you the trouble of registering at many websites.

bugspam Unnecessary comments in bug reports, such as "me too" and so on. Also email messages sent by the Bugzilla mailer.

Bugzilla The database system used to track bug reports and fixes in Firefox. Also called BMO or b.m.o, Bugzilla is at <http://bugzilla.mozilla.org/>.

buildsetup.bat The batch file used to configure a Firefox build environment.

Buildtools Various tools provided by Mozilla, such as LXR, Bugzilla, CVS, Bonsai, and Tinderbox.

Bugzilla server A bug reporting database; see <http://www.bugzilla.org>.

C

Camino Mozilla's high-performance browser specifically designed for Mac OS/X.

canconfirm Bugzilla privilege that allows the user to confirm a bug.

chrome.manifest A listing of files found in a theme.

chrome:author The name of the author of a theme.

chrome:authorURL The URL for the author of a theme.

chrome:description The description of a theme.

chrome:name The theme name.

chrome:settingsURL The URL for the theme's settings.

ChromEdit An extension for Firefox that lets you edit `user.js`, `userChrome.css`, and `userContent.css`.

classic.jar The JAR file for the Classic theme.

client.mk The Firefox make file used to (re)build Firefox. It's used with the `make` command and either builds or fetches source from CVS.

ColorZilla An extension for Firefox that enables a user to determine a color's RGB color index.

console.css A Cascading Style Sheet used to describe or define how the console will look.

contentLocale The locale (country or ethnicity, for example) of the content. This might be the language, the font, or how items are supposed to look in that locale.

Contents.rdf The RDF file that lists the contents of a package.

copyleft A term used to describe open source; somewhat the opposite of a copyright.

CreateProfile The option to create a user profile.

CVS Concurrent Versions System, the dominant open-source network-transparent version control system. It's used to manage source code, for example.

cygwin.bat The batch file that starts the Cygwin console.

D

darkstar A domain name used by the book's author.

devmo <http://developer.mozilla.org/>, a developer documentation site for Mozilla.

dockable A window, toolbar, or sidebar that can be locked to a certain position in the parent window. Many toolbars can either float or be docked.

Document.open Opens a document.

dupeme Means "I believe this is a duplicate bug, but I cannot find it at the moment."

E

editbugs Bugzilla privilege that enables the user to change almost all the fields in a bug. It's given only to trusted users.

ER <http://extensionroom.mozdev.org/>, the place to download extensions for Firefox, Thunderbird, Mozilla, and Netscape

example.css A sample Cascading Style Sheet file.

extension.jar The JAR file for an extension. JAR is a JavaScript Archive.

Extensions.RDF RDF file that lists the installed extensions.

F

Firebird (FB) The old name of Firefox, the standalone web browser.

fileutils Cgywin file management utilities needed to build Firefox or Thunderbird.

findutils Cgywin searching utilities used to build Firefox or Thunderbird.

Firefox The standalone Mozilla browser, which was spun off from Mozilla Suite. It was once called Firebird and Phoenix. The earlier names were dropped because of conflicts with other product trademarks.

FireTweaker A Firefox extension that allows configuring user preferences more easily than by using `about:config` or editing `user.js`.

FireWire Has nothing to do with Firefox; it is a standard for a special communications port.

Flexbeta The maker of the FireTweaker extension.

folder pane The display of folders in Thunderbird, usually on the left side of the Thunderbird main window.

G–H

Gecko The codename for the layout engine in Mozilla browsers.

Google A popular Internet search site.

Google bar A toolbar add-on to Firefox for using Google. It allows easy searching.

googlebar.js The Googlebar default preferences.

GRE Gecko Runtime Engine; *see Gecko*.

grep A UNIX search for text in a file's utility.

GUID Globally unique identifier, an identifier that is always unique and that is used to identify programs and components.

GUIDGen Used to generate a GUID.

gwak A utility to format and process text files. *See also AWK*.

gzip A file archiving utility that compresses and creates a Zip file.

I–J–K

IIRC Acronym for *if I remember (or recall) correctly*.

install.js JavaScript file used to help with an installation of a theme or an extension.

install.rdf The RDF file for an extension.

iTunes Part of Apple's QuickTime package.

JAR JavaScript Archive file. Basically, it's a Zip file that is renamed.

JavaScript JavaScript (<http://devedge.netscape.com/central/javascript/>) is the browser-based scripting language from Netscape (<http://netscape.com/>).

L–M

Livemark An RSS bookmark that is used to manage RSS feeds in Firefox.

maxVersion The highest or latest version of Firefox that an extension will work with.

menu bar The menu found at the top of Firefox or Thunderbird.

menu item Any item in a menu bar.

menu pop-up A menu that appears when either a right-click (context) is done or when a menu item that is designed to display a pop-up menu is clicked.

- menu separator** A line in a menu separating menu items.
- milestone** A release of a product based on a criteria or goal.
- minVersion** The minimum or earliest version of Firefox that an extension will work with.
- MaxTokenProcessingTime** A user preference used in Firefox to help tune performance.
- mo or m.o** mozilla.org (<http://www.mozilla.org>).
- MoFo** The Mozilla Foundation.
- Moz or Mozilla** The Mozilla Suite and, sometimes, Mozilla (<http://mozilla.org/>) as an organization.
- MozillaTest** Tinderbox test tree for Mozilla. Various computers and operating systems are used for automated testing.
- MozillaZine** An online magazine for Mozilla users (<http://mozillazine.org/>).
- MRE** Mozilla Runtime Engine, the former name for GRE (Gecko Runtime Engine).
- my_theme.jar** The jar file that holds the theme named `my_theme`.
- my_theme.zip** The Zip file that would be renamed to create `my_theme.jar`.
- MyExtension** The name of this book's sample extension.

N

- netscape.public.mozilla** <http://groups.google.com/groups?q=netscape.public.mozilla>, the newsgroup hierarchy at news.mozilla.org.
- NGLayout** Next-Generation Layout was the project codename for the layout engine.
- nglayout.debug.disable_xul_cache** A user preference to improve Firefox performance.
- nglayout.initialpaint.delay** A user preference to improve Firefox performance.
- nightly build** Builds of Firefox or Thunderbird created on a daily basis that contain fixes to bugs.
- NP** Used to mark a bug as “No problem.”

O–P

obfuscate To hide the meaning. Used with computer source code to hinder the understanding of what the code does. Open source is never obfuscated.

p.m.o <http://planet.mozilla.org>, an aggregator of Mozilla-related blogs.

PageRank A value assigned to a search return that indicates how well the page matched the search criteria.

patch A fix to a bug.

pkZip The original, or first, archive (Zip) program.

plug-in A small add-on program to help a browser display special content.

pop-up An item that appears on the screen. For menus, pop-ups appear when a right-click is made. For web pages, a pop-up generally is an ad that appears in a new window on top of the browser window.

port The process of moving products such as Firefox to different platforms. Typical platforms are Windows, Mac OS/X, and Linux; however, ports are made to other systems and variants of the previously mentioned systems.

prefs.js The file where Firefox stores preferences. This file should not be manually edited or modified; use `user.js` instead for changes.

ProfileManager The Firefox option to display the profile manager.

Profile Wizard The Firefox profile generator wizard.

%ProgramFiles% The Windows environment variable pointing to where programs are installed. Usually, it's `C:\program files\`.

pst The Microsoft Outlook mailbox storage file.

Q–R

quirk.css A Cascading Style Sheet that describes how to handle certain HTML that browsers did not handle properly in the past.

rasterization The creating of an image that will be drawn in a window.

release candidate (RC) A candidate for the next major release; it follows beta releases.

review Review granted to a patch before it will be implemented. It's used in Bugzilla and also in CVS check-in comments.

RFE Request for Enhancement—a feature request.

S

Seamonkey The project name for the Mozilla Suite. The Mozilla Foundation has announced that there won't be any more official releases of the Mozilla Application Suite.

SelectProfile Firefox parameter that displays the select profile list before starting Firefox.

sheriff Every day a person from the Mozilla community, called the sheriff, is selected to watch over the build tree.

smoke test A minimal set of test cases that are required to pass/work for the latest changes to be considered accepted.

spam Unwanted commercial (advertising) emails, always from disreputable companies. Doing business with a spammer is roughly equivalent to giving your credit card to a complete stranger.

spybot *See spyware.*

spyware A malicious program that gathers information about the user and relays that information to a third party.

super-review (or sr) See <http://www.mozilla.org/hacking/reviewers.html>; a second, more demanding review of a patch.

stderr The UNIX standard error output stream, usually sent to the terminal.

stdout The UNIX standard printed output stream, usually sent to the terminal; however, it can be redirected to a file or printer.

style sheet *See Cascading Style Sheet.*

%systemroot% The Windows environment variable, usually C:\windows.

T

tab browser An extension to improve Firefox's tabbed browsing support.

tab group A group of related tabs.

Thunderbird (TB) The standalone Mozilla mail client.

test case A (as small as possible) demonstration of the bug that testers and bug fixers could test by.

Testerbox A Tinderbox component, Testerbox tests builds for minimal performance. Usually fewer than 10 computers make up Testerbox.

throbber The (usually animated) icon at the right end of the Firefox menu.

Tinderbox The Mozilla build system state monitor for Mozilla, Firefox, and Thunderbird builds.

TUGZip Another freeware archive-generating program.

U

UMO (or u.m.o) The Mozilla Extension, Theme, and Plugin web page (<http://update.mozilla.org/>).

UNCO An unconfirmed bug that can't be or hasn't been reproduced by testers

URI Uniform resource identifier. *See also URL.*

URL Uniform resource locator, a type of URI. It is the address of a page or file on the Web.

Usenet Collective term to refer to NNTP news servers.

user.js The Firefox configuration file, intended to be modified by the user. Firefox then uses this file to update `prefs.js`.

userChrome.css The Cascading Style Sheet used to configure the look and feel of Firefox or Thunderbird.

userChrome-example.css An example of the Cascading Style Sheet used to configure the look and feel of Firefox or Thunderbird.

userContent.css The Cascading Style Sheet used to configure the look and feel of content in Firefox.

userContent-example.css An example of the Cascading Style Sheet used to configure the look and feel of content in Firefox.

V–W

Venkman A JavaScript debugger extension for Firefox.

VirusScan A program (or running the program) to check for virus infections in emails, on computer drives, or in computer memory.

weblog *See blog.*

WFM Acronym for *works for me*, which is Bugzilla speak for *not broken for me*.

WIKI A composition system, discussion medium, repository, mail system, and tool for collaboration. Really, we don't know quite what it is, but it's a fun way of communicating asynchronously across the network.

X–Y–Z

XPCOM Cross Platform Component Object Model, a Mozilla technology that is somewhat similar to Microsoft's COM.

.xpi A cross-platform installable file.

XUL XML User Interface Language; it's used for creating user interfaces.

XULRunner XULRunner is a single installable package that can be used to bootstrap multiple XUL+XPCOM applications that are as rich as Firefox and Thunderbird.