

# Computer Corner

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**Q:** *"Any comments about Firefox"*

## **A: Mozilla Project's Firefox Web Browser**

"Mozilla Project" was established in 2003 with start-up support from America Online's Netscape division. The Foundation is currently a California not-for-profit corporation to provide a vehicle which allows individual programmers an opportunity to participate in open-source software projects while limiting legal exposure for issues and errors caused by publicly released products.

Mozilla was the original code name for a web browser product that came to be known as Netscape Navigator, and later, Netscape Communicator. Today, it is a generic name for the technologies of Internet client software developed through the Mozilla Group's open source project(s) (Open source means the underlying program code is free for all to see, change and generally meddle with).

### **Mozilla Offers Several Products Free to The Public:**

- Firefox – Internet Web Browser
- Thunderbird – email client
- Mozilla Suite – Web browser, email and newsgroup client, Chat client and HTML editor

There are a number of people who will tell you Firefox is a far better browser when compared to Internet Explorer because it is more secure, better at blocking Spyware and Isn't Microsoft (all the way down to buttering your toast for you in the morning).

Mozilla product users are very passionate about their "superior" product. When you find someone using Mozilla products ask this question, "How do you feel about Microsoft products?" The answer will give you insight to why they feel so strongly about Firefox and Mozilla.

### **Firefox vs. Internet Explorer**

The biggest difference between Firefox and a properly configured Internet Explorer is that Firefox does not run ActiveX (or ocx) programs. While this can be a bonus in some cases, it can work against you in other instances.

#### **Example:**

You cannot use Windows Update site with Firefox, so no matter what browser you use, you will need to keep Internet Explorer on hand to download and install Windows Updates

Based on our independent testing, the two browsers work about the same for normal users.

### **A Big Plus For Firefox – Tabs**

Instead of opening another browser window with Internet Explorer, Firefox allows you to browse separate pages or separate websites through unlimited "tabs" with a single browser interface.

### **Few Differences Between Firefox and Internet Explorer**

No matter which browser you decide to use, the functionality and interfaces for normal users will remain basically the same. There are very few differences for the normal user.

### **Learn More About Firefox and Mozilla:**

- Firefox Central - <http://www.mozilla.org/products/firefox/central.html>
- Firefox Product Page - <http://www.mozilla.org/products/firefox/>
- Mozilla Web Site - <http://www.mozilla.org/>
- MozillaZine - <http://www.mozillazine.org/>
- Mozilla Store - <http://www.mozillastore.com/>

### **Last Thoughts!**

Internet reviewers speak of Firefox's superior security vs. Internet Explorer, but remember this...

When "Script Kiddies", "Hackers" and "Spyware Warriors" design their code, they are working toward the largest audience. As Firefox takes off, the same people who are singing its security praises, will be harping on where Firefox developers dropped the ball in keeping up security". - It's the nature of the game!

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