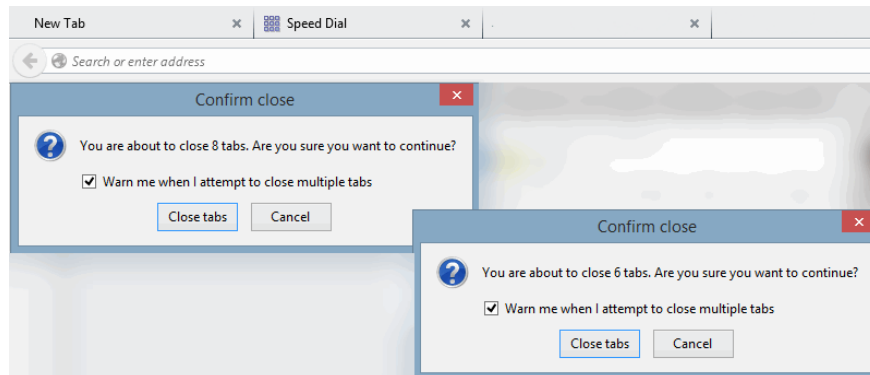


30+ tricks 'About: Config' improves Firefox browser

The following About: config tips will be quite useful for you when using the Firefox browser. You will feel more comfortable using this browser to surf the Web.

The **"Here be dragons"** message will appear when you type about: config into Firefox's URL address bar, warning you that adjustments in this area are mostly experimental and can cause instability for your browser.

Although it may seem a bit scary, in fact it is not so, it even improves and speeds up your browser. The following About: config tips will be quite useful for you when using the Firefox browser. You will feel more comfortable when surfing the web with this browser.



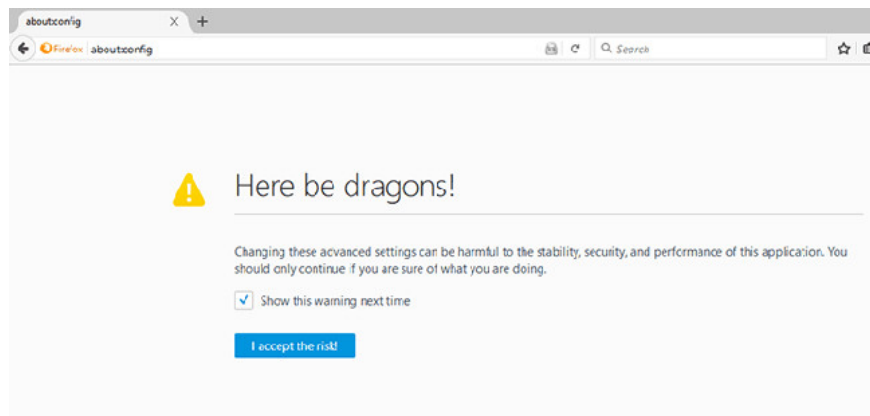
The tips about about: config you need to know

1. Visit about: config page
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3. 2. Close all tabs but do not close Firefox
4. 3. Display the full URL in the address bar
5. 4. Add preview feature like Windows 'Alt + Tab'
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10. 9. Turn off unnecessary animations
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30. 29. Change minimum tab width
31. 30. Reduce cache for session history, save RAM
32. 31. Disable compatibility testing of extensions
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Visit about: config page

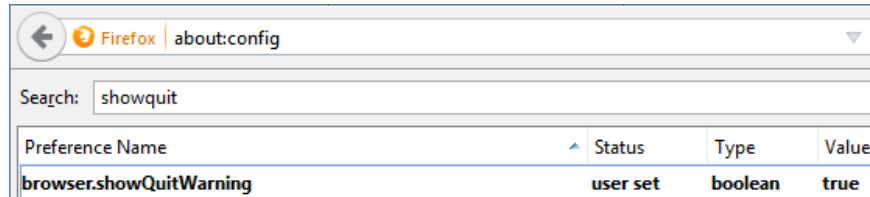
To access about: config page, first open a tab on Chrome browser, then enter **about: config** in the address bar. At this time, a warning window will appear.



Just click the **'I accept the risk!'** Button . and you will go to the homepage.

You will see a long list of configuration items. If you are looking for a specific item, enter its name in the **'Search'** bar above the list. To enable or disable different features, simply double-click the item under the **'Value'** column to switch between **'true'** and **'false'**. In some cases the value field will be a number, in which case change that number to another number that corresponds to what you want. (Don't change these numbers until you know what you're doing!). Now, let's change now.

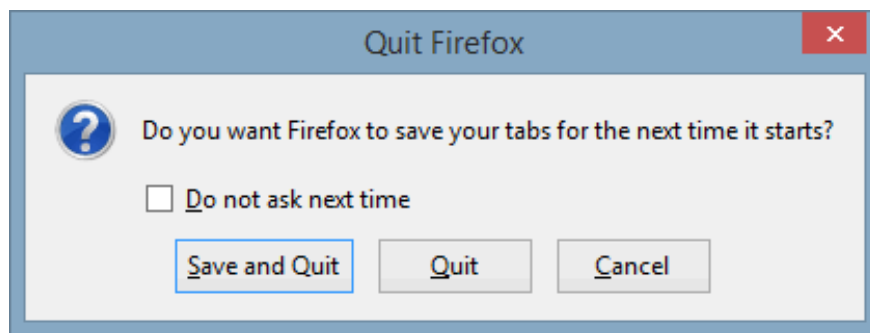
1. Save the browsing session



Closing the normal browser session means that the tabs you have opened will be lost.

To find the tabs you have opened, you can access your browsing history. However, each time you have to access your browsing history, it takes you time. To help save time and save time, follow the steps below:

In the text box along the top of about: config page, enter **showQuitwarning** to display the string "browser.showQuitwarning".

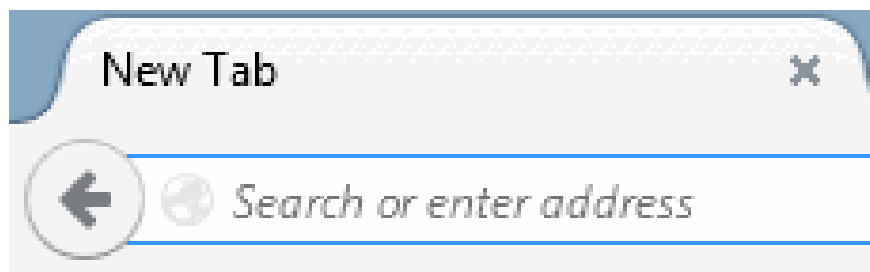


The default "string.showQuitwarning" string setting is " **false** ".

Double click on the text string; so that the bold part changes "**false**" to "**true**".

Next, close the Firefox browser and a new window will appear asking if you want to save the tabs for the next browsing session.

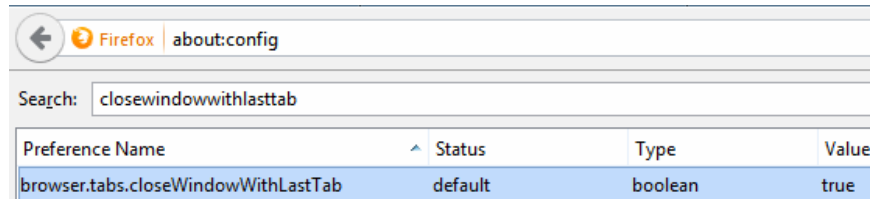
2. Close all tabs but do not close Firefox



If you used Opera or Vivaldi, you will feel a difference.

When closing all open tabs in Firefox, the browser will also close. However you can adjust to close all tabs but not close Firefox.

At about: config, enter **CloseWindowWithLastTab** .



This is a Boolean string, meaning it can only be " **true** " or " **false** " .

Its default state is " **true** ", meaning that when the last tab is closed, the browser will also close.

Double click on the string to change to " **false** " .

To check, you can close all tabs. After closing the last tab, it will refresh your homepage.

3. Display the full URL in the address bar

1.

www.maketecheasier.com

2.

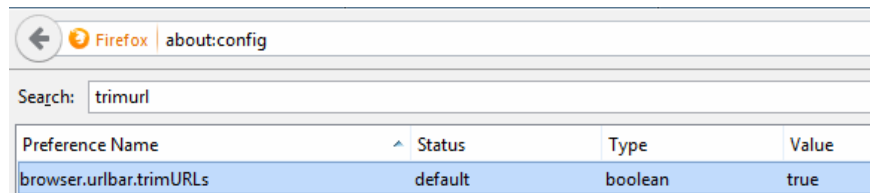
 http://www.maketecheasier.com

Have you ever encountered a situation when you share a link with a friend but can't they open the link?

In this case the most likely cause is that the URL prefix has been changed.

By default, Firefox does not understand the URL prefix, but you can set Firefox to fully display the URL on **about: config** .

Open `about:config`, then enter **trimURL** into the Search frame to display the `browser.urlbar.trimURLs` string.



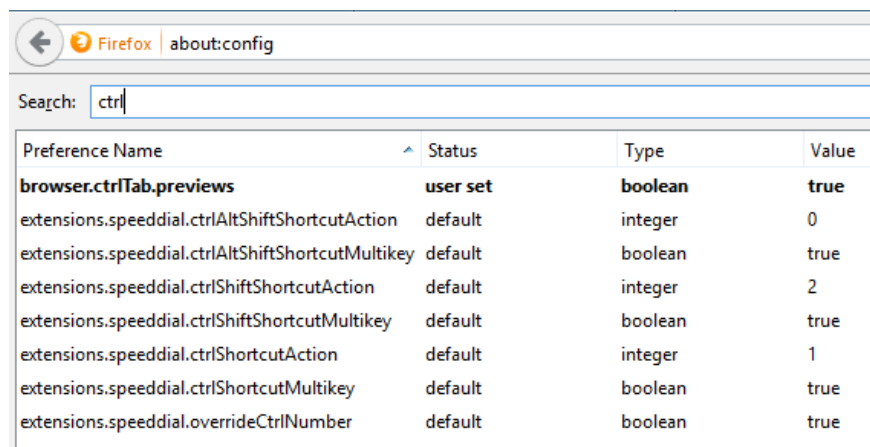
Double click on the text string; to make the bold part switch " **true** " to " **false** ".

4. Add preview feature like Windows 'Alt + Tab'

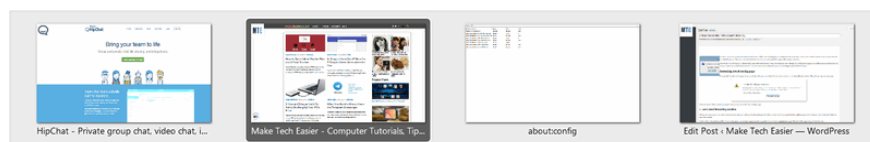
You can use the toolbar or press `Alt + Tab` to switch between programs on the Windows operating system.

In Firefox there is a similar feature. However, this feature is hidden, but you can set it to use this feature.

First, open **about:config** and accept the warning links.



Enter the search bar along the top of the window and type **ctrltab.previews** to open a Boolean string.



By default, the status of this Boolean string is " **false** ".

Double-click the string and change its status to " **true**".

When you press the "**Ctrl + Tab**" key combination, instead of opening the Bookmarks address bar, it will create an interface to quickly switch tabs.

5. Change download location from Firefox

By default, what downloads from Firefox will go to the Windows " **Downloads** " folder, but you can change this by changing the value of **browser.download.folderList** .

Default value : 1

Modified values :

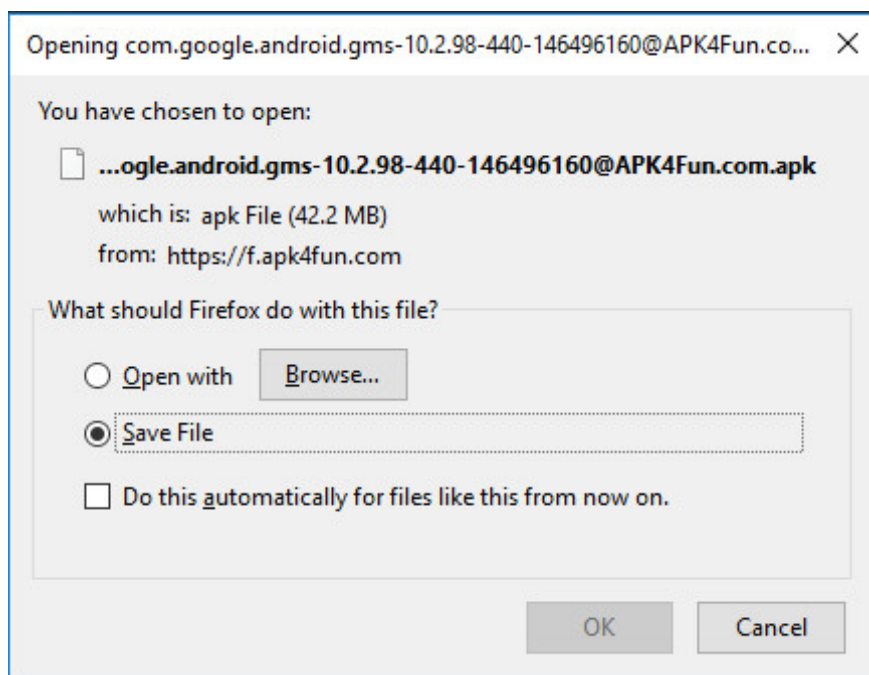
1. 0 - Save all downloaded files to the desktop.
2. 2 - Save the file to the same location as the previous downloaded file.

6. Receive a request to ask where to save the file each time you download

If you want to control the download process directly and decide which directory you want to save, change **browser.download.useDownloadDir** to ' **false** ' .

Default value : true

Modified value : false - prompts you where to save each download.



7. Open a new tab for the search box results

By default, the things you search in Firefox's search box will open in the current tab. To open a new tab, you need to modify **browser.search.openintab** .

Default value: false - opens the search result in the current tab.

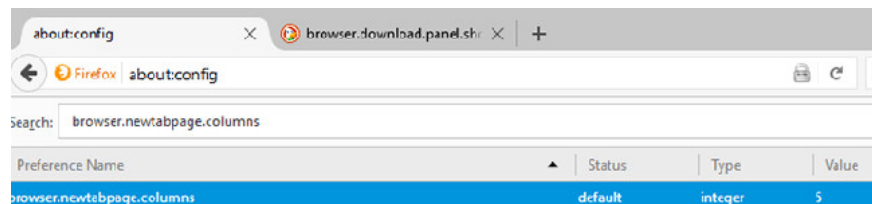
Modified value : true - opens the search result in a new tab.

8. Change the number of rows and columns on Firefox's new tab page

Firefox's new tab page organizes all the websites you've bookmarked and prioritizes which websites to visit. Moreover, you can fine-tune the size, default to 3 × 3 by **browser.newtabpage.rows** and **browser.newtabpage.columns**.

Default value: 3 is " rows ", 5 is " columns "

Modified value: any number you want.



9. Turn off unnecessary animations

Firefox animations are both witty and unique, but they can also be 'burdensome' for older computers. Here are two animation options you can modify to speed up the browser:

Browser.tabs.animate - turning ' false ' to " true " .

Browser.fullscreen.animate - convert ' false ' to " true " .

10. Adjust the number of suggestions of Smart Location bar

In Firefox when you start typing in the address bar (or URL), the drop-down list displays suggested sites. If you want it to show more (or less) than ten proposals, you can adjust the **browser.urlbar.maxRichResults** keys and make it show the number you want.

Default value: 10

Modified value: Set the number of suggestions you want. If you want to disable it completely, set it to -1.

11. Adjust the frequency of session saving

Firefox saves your session every 15 seconds by default, but you can change the value of **browser.sessionstore.interval** so that Firefox saves the session for a longer period of time.

Default value: 15000 (milliseconds, equivalent to 15 seconds)

Modified value: Set the desired value, 1000 means 1 second and 60000 means 1 minute.

12. Extend script execution time

In Firefox, a script only provides ten seconds to respond, then it will give an unresponsive script warning. If you are suspended due to a slow network connection, you can increase the script execution time via **dom.max_script_run_time** to reduce the frequency of warnings without scripts.

Default value: 10 (in seconds)

Modified value: 20 or any value greater than 10.

13. Handle JavaScript pop-up windows

When you come across a site that performs Javascript, open the new window function and if the pop-up does not have features like a normal window, for example, back, forward, reload, and status buttons. status, etc., Firefox will automatically handle it as a popup and will not open it in the new tab. However, if you find this annoying and want to open all new windows in new tabs, you can specify it through installing **browser.link.open_newwindow.restriction** .

Default value: 2 - Open all JavaScript windows the same way Firefox handles new windows unless JavaScript determines how to display the window.

Modified values:

1. 0 - open all links in the way Firefox handles new windows.
2. 1 - do not open any new windows.
3. 2 - open all links in the way Firefox handles new windows unless Javascript specifies how to display the window.

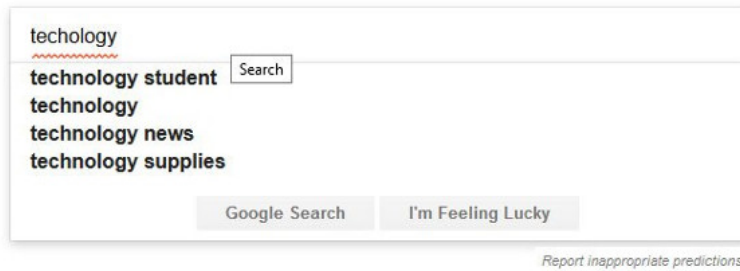
14. Allow spell checking in all text fields

The spell check function only checks multi-line text frames. You can change options in **layout.spellcheckDefault** to check spelling for single line text frames.

Default value: 1 (spell check for multi-line text frames)

Modified values:

1. 0 - turn off spell checking
2. 2 - turn on the spell check feature for all text frames



15. Lower memory usage when minimizing the window

This tweak is mainly for Windows users. When you minimize the Firefox window, it sends Firefox to your virtual memory and frees physical memory for other programs to use. When minimized, Firefox will reduce its physical memory usage to about 10MB and when you zoom in to Firefox it will regain the memory it needs.

Right-click on the background and select 'New> Boolean.'

Enter the name when prompted: **config.trim_on_minimize**

Enter the values: **true**

16. Speed ??up Firefox

Some adjustments are needed for this:

1. **Configuration name:** network.http.proxy.pipelining
 2. **Default value:** False
 3. **Value modified:** True
- **Configuration name:** network.http.max-connections
 - **Default value:** 30
 - **Value modified:** 96
1. **Configuration name:** network.http.max-connections-per-server
 2. **Default value:** 15
 3. **Value modified:** 32

17. Increase or decrease disk cache (Disk Cache)

When a page is loaded, Firefox will store it on the hard disk so that you do not need to download it again when you next visit. The larger the storage capacity, the more pages are stored.

Before you increase the disk cache size, make sure that **browser.cache.disk.enable** is set to " **true** ".

Configuration name: browser.cache.disk.capacity

Default value: 50000 (in KB)

Value modified:

1. 0 - Turn off storage to the drive
2. Any value below 50000 will reduce disk caching
3. Any value higher than 50000 will increase disk caching.

18. Select all text when you click on the URL bar

In Windows and Mac, Firefox marks all text when you click on the URL bar. In Linux, it does not select all documents. Instead, it places the cursor in the insert position. Regardless of which platform you are using, you can now tweak the **browser.urlbar.clickSelectsAll** to select all or place the cursor in the insert position.

Value modified:

False - place the cursor in the insert position

True - select all text when clicked

19. The same zoom level for each site

Firefox remembers your enlarged value for each site and puts it according to your preferences whenever you download the page. If you want the same zoom level for all web pages, you can turn on or off the **browser.zoom.siteSpecific** value from **true** to **false** .

Default value: True

The value is modified: False (allows the same zooming properties for every web page).

20. Set the zoom limit

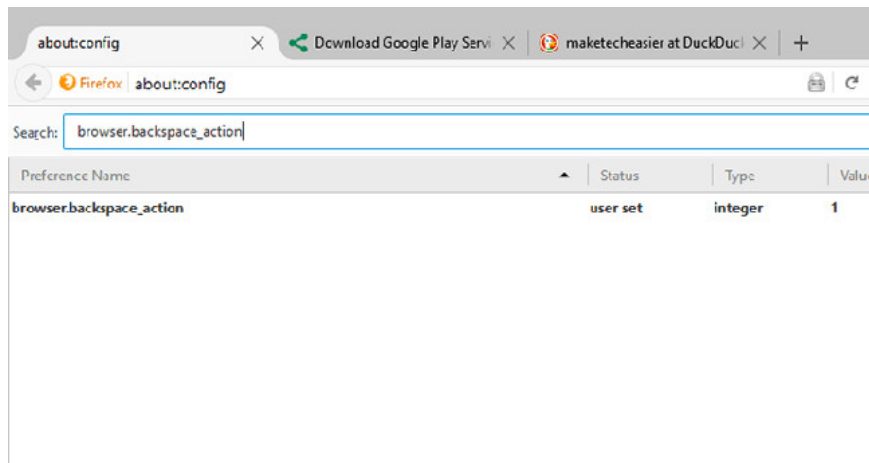
If you find that the maximum or minimum zoom level is still not enough for you to view the page, you can change the zoom limit or zoom in to fit your viewing habits.

1. **Configuration name:** zoom.maxPercent
2. **Default value:** 300 (percent)
3. **Modified value:** any value higher than 300
 - **Configuration name:** zoom.minPercent
 - **Default value:** 30 (percent)
 - **Modified value:** any value

21. Configure Backspace button

In Firefox, you can set backspace to go back to the previous page or scroll the page if it's a scrolling page. Holding **Shift** as a regulator will forward a page if the value is set to 0 and scrolls if the value is set to 1.

1. **Configuration name:** browser.backspace_action
2. **Default value:** 0 - return to a page
3. **Modified value:** 1 - page scrolling



22. Increase cache offline

If most of the time you don't have access to the Internet, you may want to increase your offline cache to continue working offline. By default, Firefox stores 500MB of data from supported offline web applications. You can change that value to the number you want.

Configuration name: browser.cache.offline.capacity

Default value: 512000 (in KB)

Modified value: any value higher than 512000 will increase the cache value

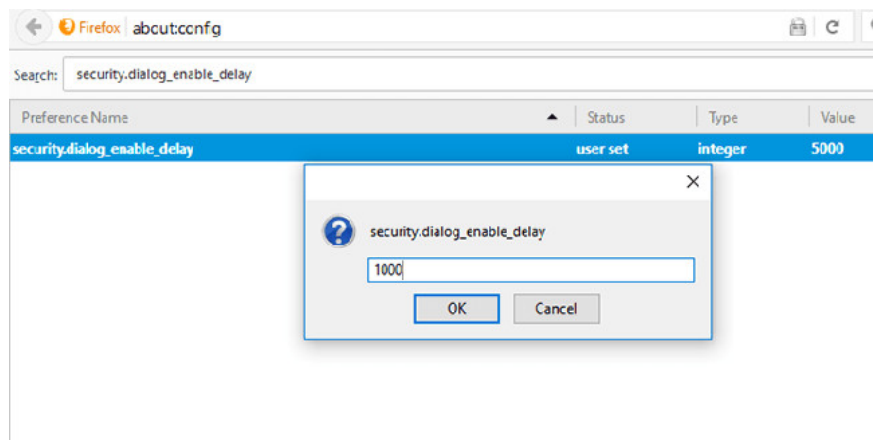
23. Disable waiting time when installing Add-on

Every time you install a Firefox add-on, you'll have to wait a few seconds before the actual installation starts. To reduce this wait time, you can turn off the **security.dialog_enable_delay** option so that the installation starts immediately.

Default value: 1000 (milliseconds)

Value modified:

1. 0 - start the installation immediately
2. Any other value (in milliseconds)



24. See the page source in the editor

This is useful for developers who always use the ' **view source** ' function. This tweak allows you to view the source code of a certain website with an external editor.

There are two configurations to be taken:

- **Configuration name:** view_source.editor.external
- **Default value:** False
- **Modified value:** True (allows viewing source code using an external text editor)

- **Configuration name:** view_source.editor.path
- **Default value:** leave blank
- **Modified value:** insert file path to your editor here.

25. Increase the value of the 'Save Link As' standby time

When you right-click and select ' **Save Link As .,** ' the browser will request the content title from the URL to determine the file name. If the URL doesn't send the title within 1 second, Firefox will give a timeout value. This can happen very often in a slow network connection environment. To prevent this problem, you can increase the timeout value by editing **Browser.download.saveLinkAsFilenameTimeout**.

Default value: 4000 (in 4 seconds)

Modified value: any value higher than 1000 (value in milliseconds)

26. The toolbar automatically hides in full screen mode

In full screen mode, the toolbar is set to automatically hide and appears only when you hover over it. If you want, you can choose to display it all the time by changing the **browser.fullscreen.autohide** value to " **false** " to always display the toolbar.

Default value: true (always auto-hide)

Value modified: False (always displaying the toolbar)

27. Increase search results Add-On

If you go to '**Tools> Add-ons> Get Add-ons** ' and perform a search there, Firefox will display fifteen matches. If you want more results, you can adjust **extensions.getAddons.maxResults** .

Default value: 15

Modified value: lower or higher than 15

28. Change the number of content processes

Would you like to work with multiple open tabs at the same time or do you rarely open 5 tabs at once? The more content processes you have, the more CPU resources for each tab (ie using more RAM).

If you have a powerful PC, you can set up a fairly high setting, to improve the stability and performance of each open tab in Firefox. The name of this setting in **about: config** is **dom.ipc.processCount**.

Default value : 4

Modified value : 7-12 (depending on the number of tabs you normally open)

29. Change minimum tab width

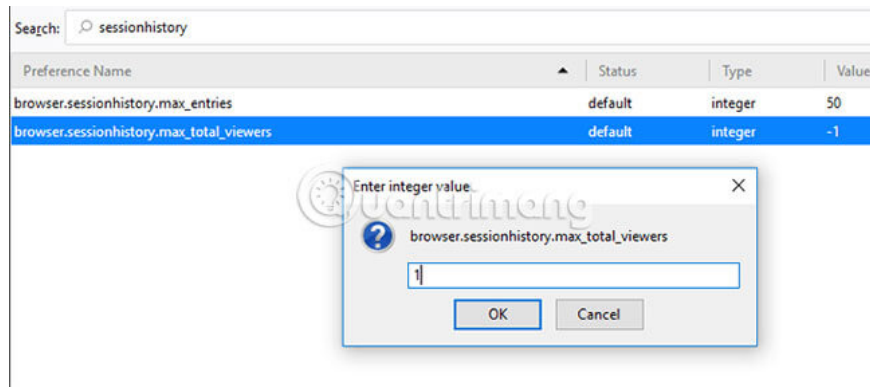
An eye-catching Firefox user will notice an adjustment Mozilla made for Firefox Quantum. The default tab width is now only 76 pixels, while the previous is 100. To adjust this width, visit **browser.tabs.tabMinWidth**.

Default value : 76

Modified value : 100 if you want to have the same tab width as in older versions of Firefox. However, you can increase or decrease to any desired value.

30. Reduce cache for session history, save RAM

If you are using an old computer, even using normal Firefox with default settings can slow down your PC. Part of the reason is the way Firefox stores web pages in short-term memory (or RAM) that you can access using **Back** and **Forward** buttons .



The **browser.sessionhistory.max_total_viewers** option affects the number of Firefox pages stored in such a way that they can load super fast.

Default value : - 1

Modified value : Any number, reflecting the number of pages to store. (You should choose a value less than 4 if your PC is slow, and those with more than 4GB of RAM can set a value of 8 or more).

The **browser.sessionhistory.max_entries** option affects the number of each page stored in the **Back / Forward history**.

Default value : 50

Modified value : If PC is slow, lower this level to 25 and check if this is helpful, then adjust accordingly, if needed.

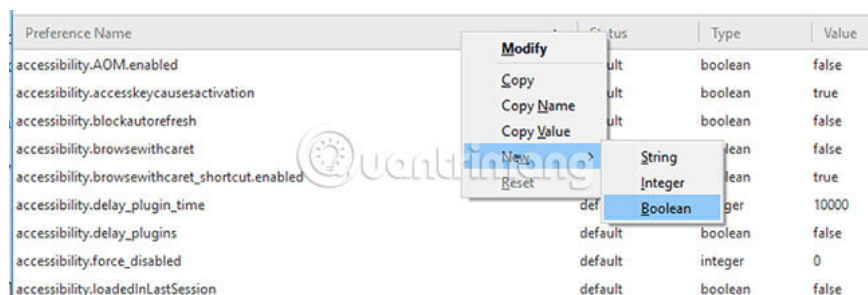
31. Disable compatibility testing of extensions

Looks like no one needs this compatibility check feature. In fact, this feature is very handy and acts as a general reference about which extensions will work with Firefox versions and utilities, but not always. it's correct. If you want to see if an extension that Firefox incompatible claims really works, do the following:

Right-click anywhere on the **about: config** page , then click **New> Boolean** .

Enter **extensions.checkCompatibility** in the box, click **OK**. Then select **'false'** and click **OK** again.

This option will exist in the list and you can disable it at any time by right-clicking and selecting **'Reset'**.



32. Change download location in Firefox

By default, Firefox downloads will be redirected to Windows **'Downloads'** folder, but you can change this by adjusting **browser.download.folderList**.

Default value : 1

Value modified :

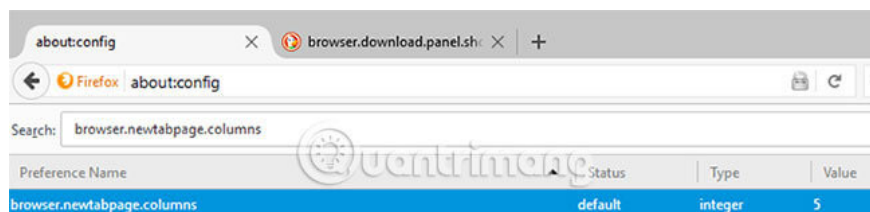
1. **0** - Save all downloads to the desktop
2. **2** - Save to the same location as the previous download

33. New Tabs page

Firefox's **New Tabs** page arranges all the web pages you've bookmarked and is conveniently accessible in a grid. Most importantly, you can adjust the size of this grid as you like. So even if the thumbnail is only 3×5 by default, you can change it thanks to **browser.newtabpage.rows** and **browser.newtabpage.columns** options.

Default value : 3 in 'row', 5 in 'column'

Modified value : Any number you like!



This **about: config** section provides a powerful way for users to fully customize the browser. The list above is definitely not a complete list, there are many tricks you can do with it. If you see any tricks that are not listed here, please discuss them here.

Refer to some of the following articles:

1. How to restore the browser to the default state?
2. Trick to turn off notifications from Facebook on Chrome browser
3. 7 browsers replace Safari on iPhone

I wish you all success!

You finished reading the article "**30+ tricks 'About: Config' improves Firefox browser**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.