

# 5 ways to fix when Firefox becomes sluggish

The more you use it, the slower Firefox seems to be. So what do you do when Firefox is slow while other browsers still run fast?

Mozilla Firefox is still one of the most popular web browsers today. But the more you use it, the slower Firefox seems to be. So what do you do when Firefox is slow while other browsers still run fast?

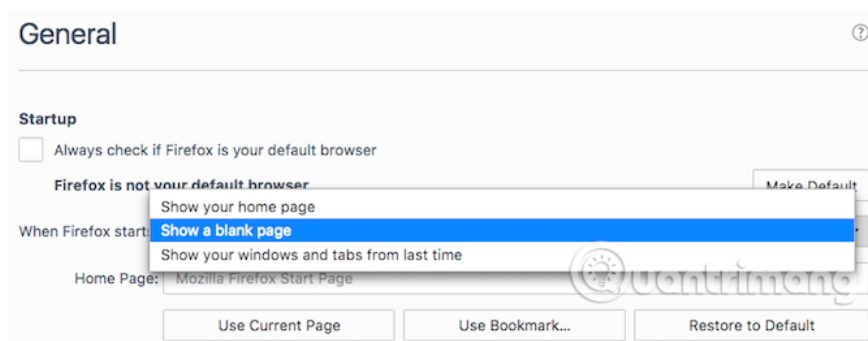
We have introduced some simple ways to speed up Firefox, you should try them first. Although these changes will make Firefox faster, is it as fast as other browsers? If not, what can you do? Here are 5 solutions to make Firefox less "sluggish".

**Note:** Before doing any of the following edits, you should download or update to the latest version of Firefox by visiting About Firefox.

## Fix Firefox slow down

1. Firefox takes a long time to boot
2. Firefox uses too much CPU or RAM
3. Firefox is slow even on top hardware
4. Change the settings or fine tune the download speed
5. Frontal attack: reinstall Firefox

### 1. Firefox takes a long time to boot



Once you've installed Firefox for a while, you may notice that Firefox starts up a lot while other browsers like Chrome, Edge and Safari seem to start up immediately. Follow the way below to make Firefox start faster.

1. Access **about: preferences** and in **General** , uncheck the box **Always check if Firefox is your default browser** .
2. Access **about: preferences** and in **General** , go to **When Firefox Starts** and select **Show a blank page** .

## 2. Firefox uses too much CPU or RAM

After using Firefox for a while, the browser started using more CPU or RAM. To find out why Firefox has become sluggish, try restarting Firefox in Safe Mode. This mode will run Firefox without any add-ons or plugins. To do this, go to **Options** (three-way icon to the right of the URL bar) > **Question Mark**> **Restart with Add-ons Disabled** .

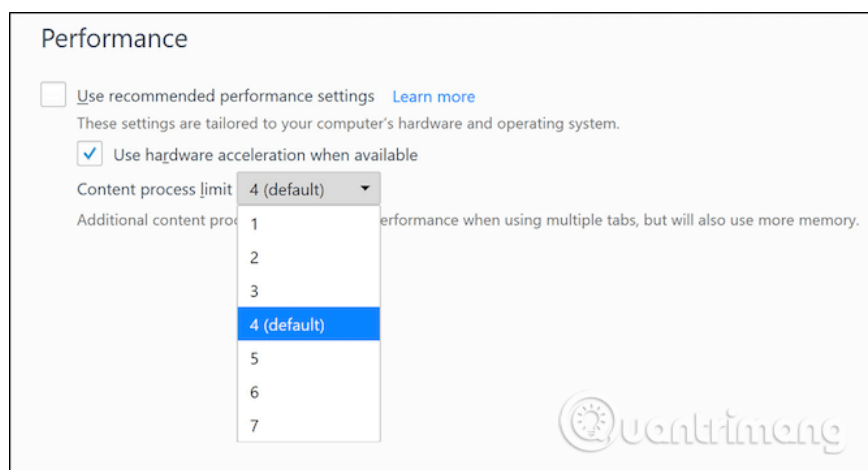
Firefox will restart and display two options: **Start in Safe Mode** or **Refresh Firefox** . Choose **Start in Safe Mode** .

If Firefox runs faster in Safe Mode, you know the problem is in one of the add-ons or plugins. Disable all these add-ons and restart Firefox. Then activate each add-on and see which utility causes the problem.

In case, booting in Safe Mode doesn't bring any changes, it may be due to Firefox tabs. Install the Auto Tab Discard extension to automatically remove the resources used by inactive tabs. You can use bookmarks to save pages instead of leaving them open without using them.

Download Auto Tab Discard for Firefox (Free)

## 3. Firefox is slow even on top hardware



Sometimes Firefox can run slowly even on machines with good hardware. This is because the browser is "cautious" in ways to improve performance. However, you can speed up by:

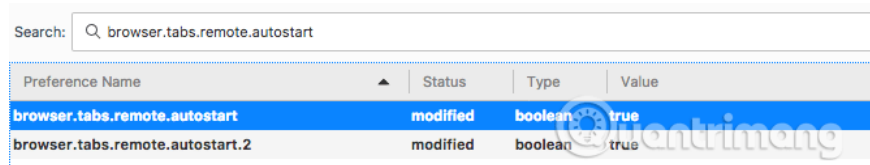
**Step 1.** Go to **about: Preferences**> **General**> **Performance** , uncheck the **Use recommended performance settings** box.

**Step 2.** Check the **Use hardware acceleration when available** box . With this tweak, Firefox will use the graphics card instead of the processor for the main images. So when watching YouTube or playing games on the

browser, you also get much better performance.

Change **Content Process Limit** to 4 or higher. Firefox recommends that this number is higher than 4 if you have at least 8GB of RAM.

Content Process Limit is a function of new multi-process architecture or new Electrolysis of Firefox. This feature makes each tab run as a separate instance of Firefox, thus accessing more hardware resources. In addition, it activates sandbox for security.



The image shows a screenshot of the Firefox 'about:config' page. A search bar at the top contains the text 'browser.tabs.remote.autostart'. Below the search bar is a table with the following columns: Preference Name, Status, Type, and Value. Two rows are visible in the table:

Preference Name	Status	Type	Value
browser.tabs.remote.autostart	modified	boolean	true
browser.tabs.remote.autostart.2	modified	boolean	true

In case the Content Process Limit option is grayed out, you need to enable it by:

**Step 1** . Switch to about: config.

**Step 2** . Search **browser.tabs.remote.autostart** .

**Step 3** . Double click on it to change the **Preference** value to **true** .

**Step 4** . Restart Firefox.

## 4. Change the settings or fine tune the download speed

If you've learned and mastered about about: config in Firefox, you'll be able to change some things to speed up Firefox. However, if you are unfamiliar and concerned about causing problems, the extension for Firefox will be the solution for you. Speed ??Tweaks changes some settings such as resolving DNS entries, removing unused tabs and blocking ads.

1. Download Speed ??Tweaks for Firefox (Free)

## 5. Frontal attack: reinstall Firefox

Set recommended values for all preferences:	<input type="button" value="Apply"/>
Reset all preferences back to the factory values:	<input type="button" value="Apply"/>
network.http.pipelining Recommended value is True	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
network.http.pipelining.abtest Recommended value is False	<input type="checkbox"/>
network.http.pipelining.aggressive Recommended value is True	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
network.http.pipelining.max-optimistic-requests Recommended value is 4	<input type="text" value="4"/>
network.http.pipelining.maxrequests Recommended value is 32	<input type="text" value="32"/>
network.http.pipelining.maxsize Recommended value is 300000	<input type="text" value="300000"/>
network.http.pipelining.read-timeout Recommended value is 60000	<input type="text" value="60000"/>
network.http.pipelining.reschedule-on-timeout Recommended value is True	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
network.http.pipelining.reschedule-timeout Recommended value is 15000	<input type="text" value="15000"/>



If the above does not make Firefox faster, consider reinstalling Firefox. But you do not need to perform a new installation from scratch.

Like operating systems, the browser now has a one-click option to return to the default Firefox state before you make any changes. Specifically, it will delete all additional utilities, customize and restore browser settings to default.

**Step 1 . Visit [about: support](#) .**

**Step 2. In [Give Firefox a tune up](#) , click **Refresh Firefox** .**

**Step 3 . In the dialog box that appears, click **Refresh Firefox** again.**

Firefox will turn off and restart after a few seconds. Although performance and settings return to their default state, Firefox will store personal information including bookmarks, history, passwords, cookies, auto-fill information and your dictionary. So it's like a new Firefox with all your data already loaded.

### **Remove antivirus software**

This last way caused a lot of controversy. Former Firefox developer Robert O'Callahan says your antivirus software is the reason why Firefox is slow and he advises users to disable it completely. In a blog post, he explained how antivirus software affects performance and even slows down updates.

However, this way you should consider, if you do not need anti-virus software can remove it but this can make the computer unprotected.

I wish you all success!

You finished reading the article "**5 ways to fix when Firefox becomes sluggish**" 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.