

Bug 1053890 - [UX] define user-experience when downloads are detected as malware

Prepared by Sevaan Franks and the Firefox UX team



Introduction

Firefox uses Google's Safe Browsing tool to identify unsafe websites and notify users so they can protect themselves from harm. The service allows us to flag malicious downloads that can hurt users computers.

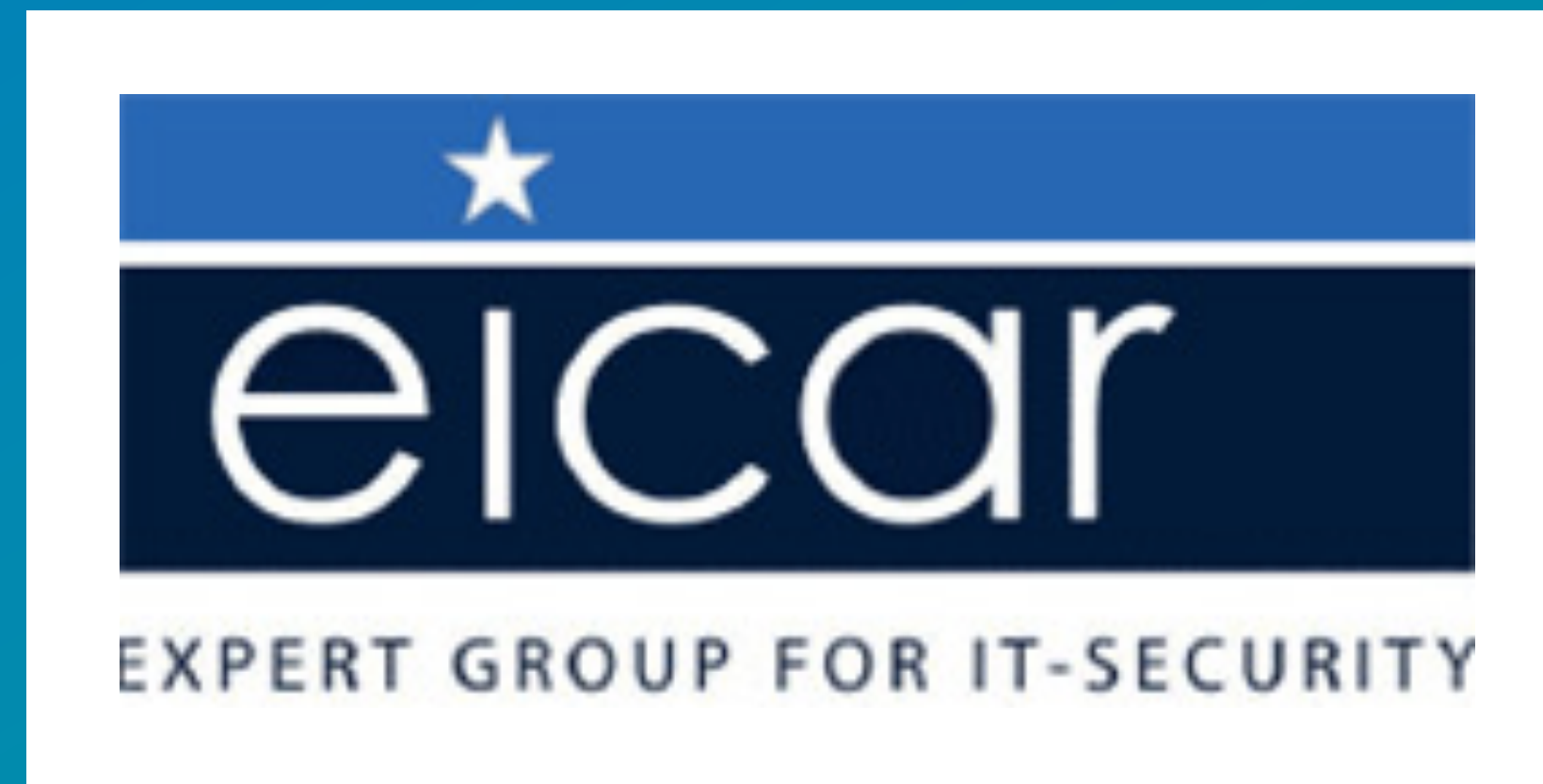
Now the Safe Browser program has expanded to also flag any “Potentially Unwanted” downloads that may be dangerous to users.

The work in this document shows a revised UX for malicious files, and introduces how potentially unwanted files should be handled as well.



Note: Testing Malware Downloads

The European Institute for Computer Antivirus Research (EICAR) and Computer Antivirus Research Organization (CARO) have developed a test file to trigger malware alerts which can be downloaded here: <http://www.eicar.org/85-0-Download.html>



Instead of using real malware, which could do real damage, this test file allows people to test anti-virus software without having to use a real computer virus.

Current State

If a user downloads a file that contain malware, Firefox blocks the file and displays the following error message in the downloads panel/window:



Right-clicking on the file allows a user to remove the item from their history, go to the download page, copy the download link, and clear the entire list of downloads.

Problems:

- We don't educate/inform the user as to why a download was blocked
- We don't offer a way to unblock the file

Design Principles

Earn and keep my trust

Look legitimate and polished

Perceived trustworthiness is just as important

Minimize scare tactics

Provide measured facts instead

Protect me upfront

If it keeps me safe, you don't need my permission

Help me make a thoughtful decision

Use consistent emotional cues

Positive cues emphasize safety, while negative ones, danger

Make safe choices easier to select

Make it harder to put myself at risk

Lower the impact of making mistakes

Reduce the pressure of making the "right" choice right now

Respect my time and task

Focus on the impact to my task

Spend less time explaining the technical issue

Flag threats; don't assume I notice

The absence of positive indicators isn't enough

Avoid interrupting me

Wait until I'm done or choose a safe default

Offer control without harming me

When I have no choice, explain why

Helping me understand stills gives me some control

Make the effect of each option clear

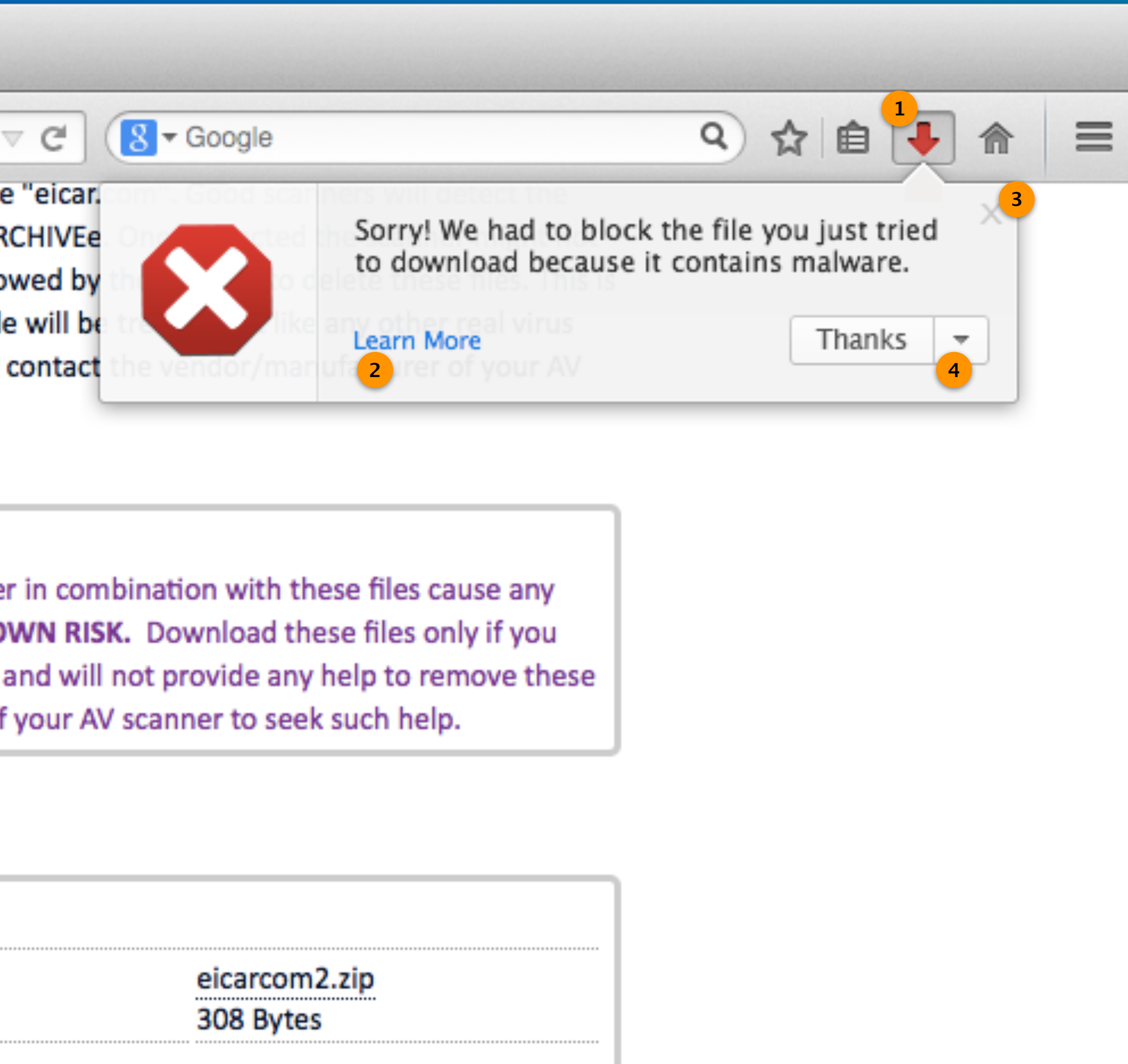
Novices want guidance, not a control panel

Give Pros configurable controls

Technical users want precision and flexibility

Suggested Changes

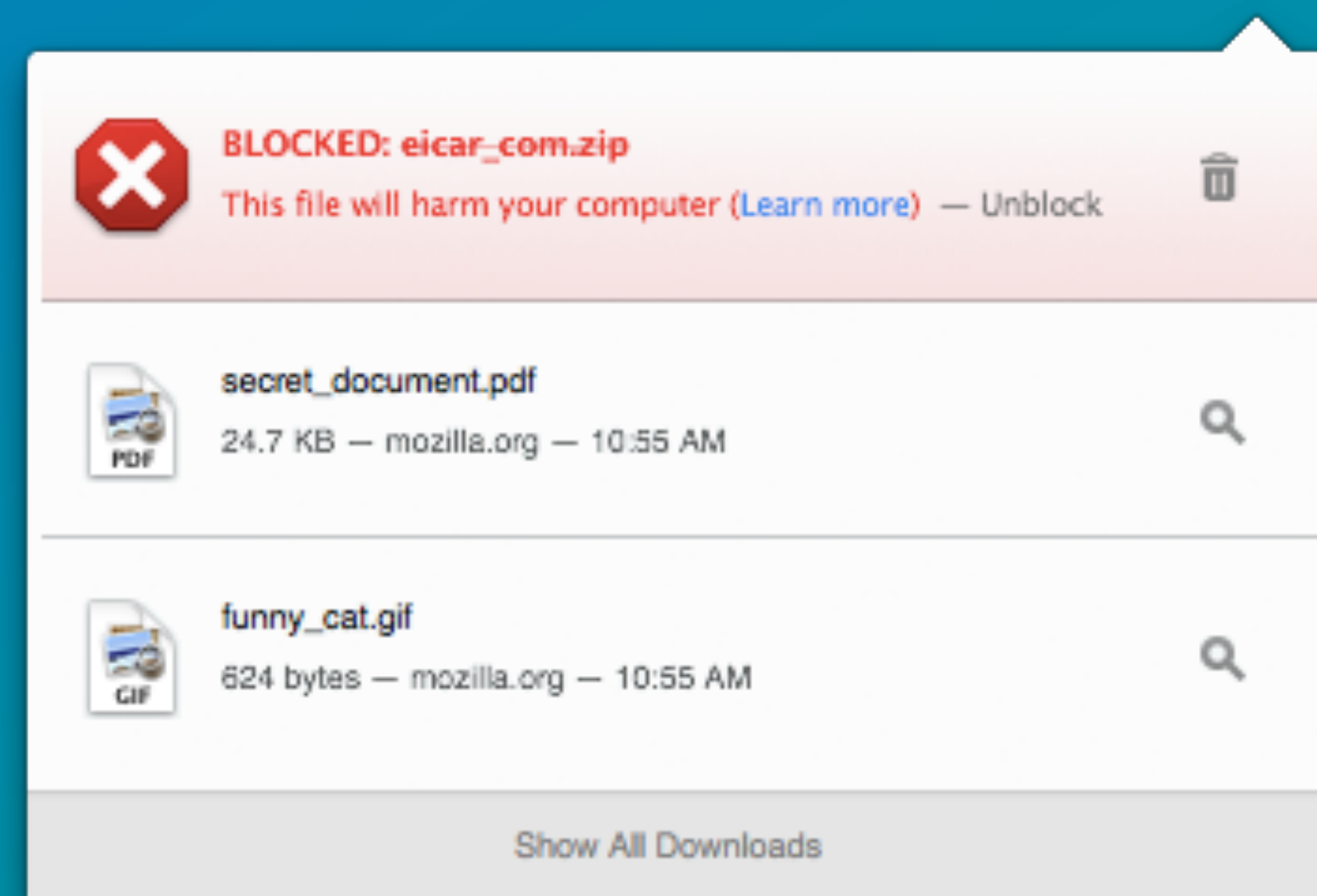
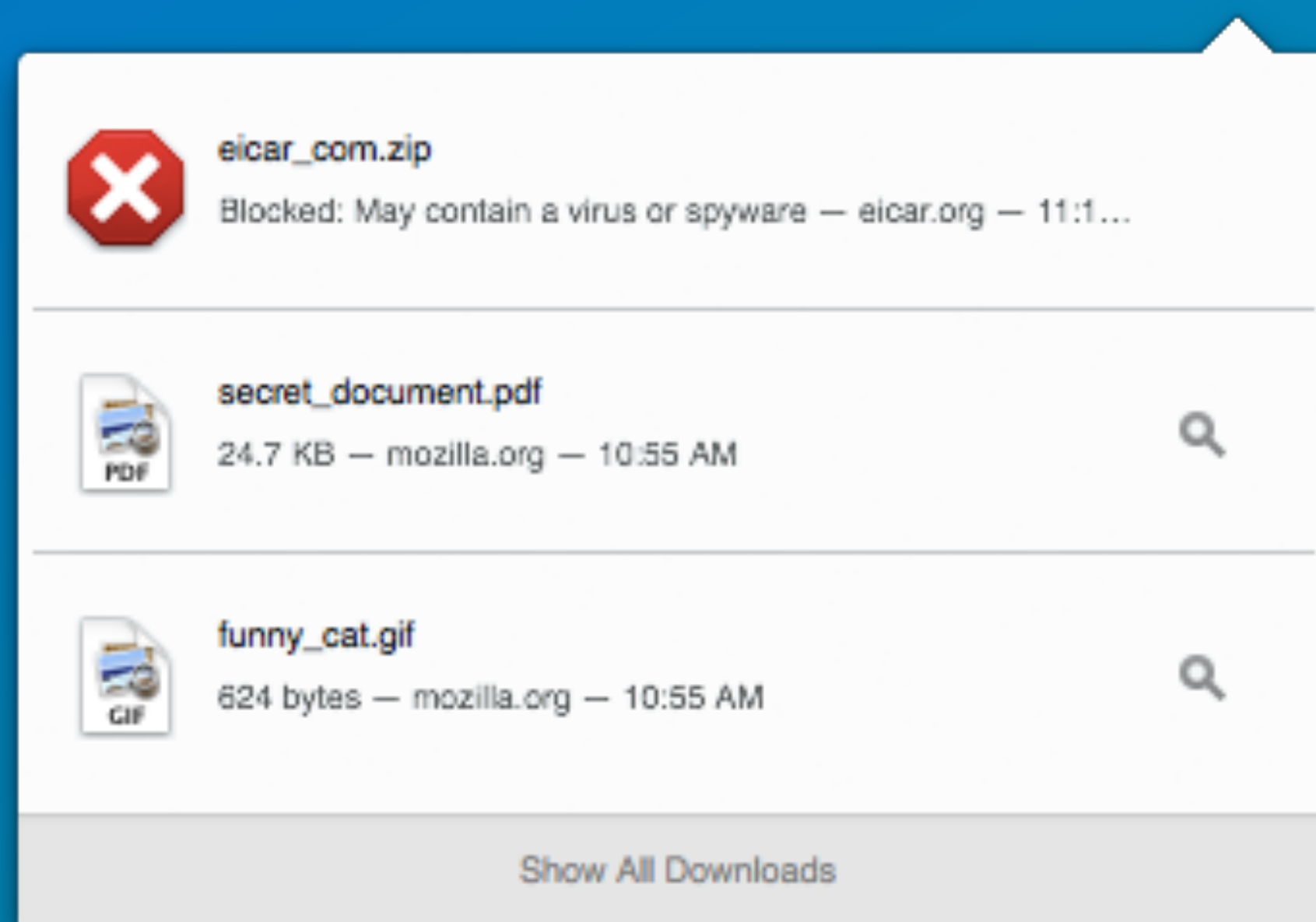
- When a download is blocked for containing malware, a doorhanger appears to alert the user.
 - Currently, the user has no way of knowing a download was blocked until they go to open the file, at which point it is a surprise. The user should be informed right away.
- A “Learn More” link in the doorhanger should take users to a page which explains why/how we handle malware blocking in Firefox.
- Highlight Downloads toolbar button red to indicate there is a contained alert.
- In the downloads panel the user should have a more apparent way to quickly delete the offending file.
- In the downloads panel the user should be able to “unblock” the malicious download.
 - This prompts a modal dialog the user must acknowledge which warns of the ramifications of “unblocking” the file.



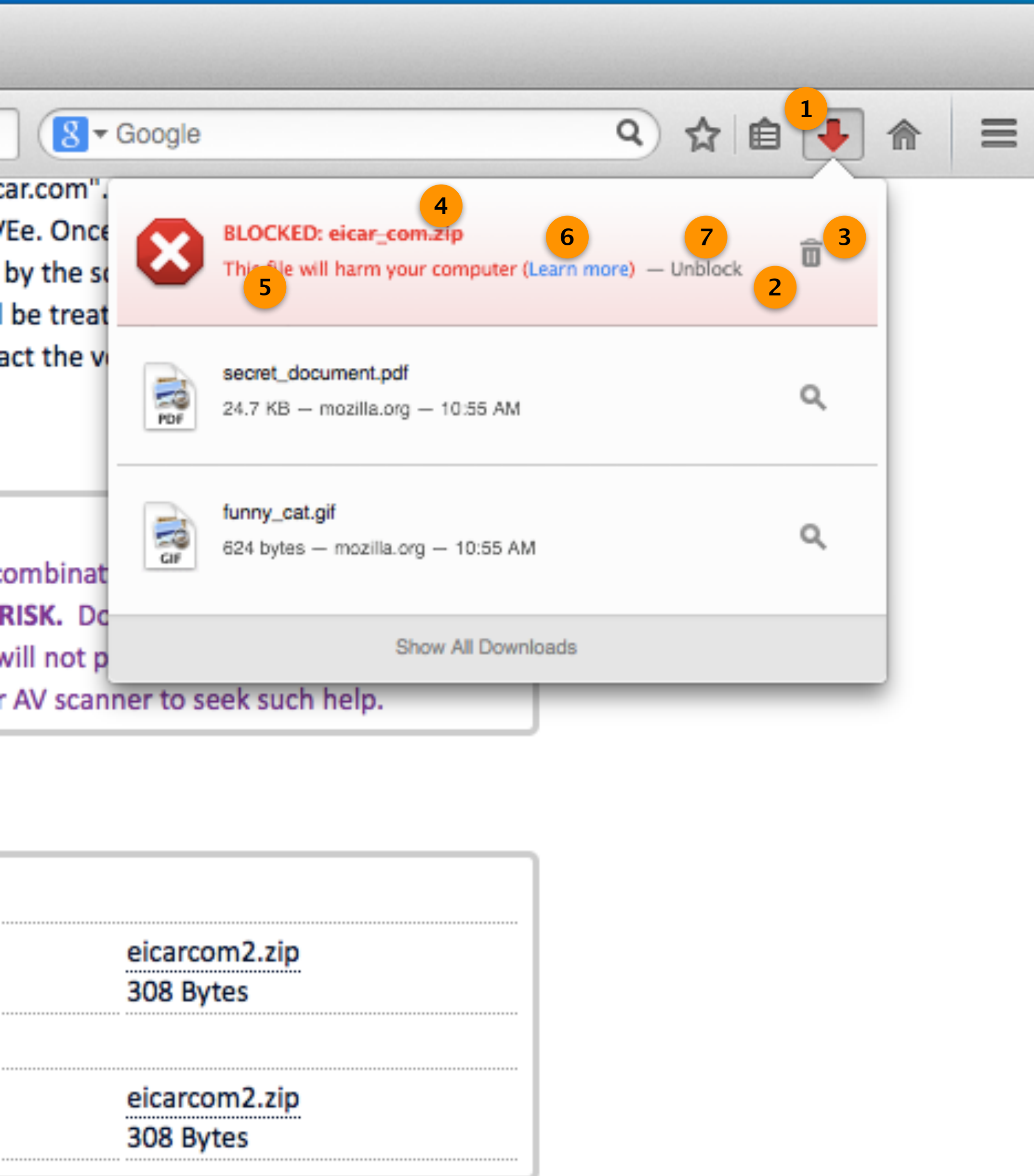
1. Icon turns red and pulses once when there is a malicious download in the list.
2. “Learn more” takes user to Mozilla help page regarding malicious and potentially unwanted downloads.
3. Dismisses doorhanger.
4. Dismisses doorhanger and opens download panel.
 - Sub-option: “Don’t show me this alert again”

Malicious Files in Download Panel (Before/After)

mozilla



Malicious Files Download Panel Anatomy



1. Icon turns red and pulses when there is a malicious download in the list.
2. Red gradient draws eye and indicates the dangerous nature of the file.
3. Trash can icon allows user to quickly dispose of offending file.
4. File name is struck through, emphasizing that it is blocked.
5. Clear messaging: "This file will harm your computer"
6. "Learn more" takes user to Mozilla help page regarding malicious and potentially unwanted downloads.
7. Unblock link underlines on mouseover and triggers modal popup confirmation

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load.html

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Are you sure you want to unblock this file?

This file contains malware that will harm your computer.

The website you downloaded this file from may have been compromised. Firefox recommends searching for an alternative source to download this file, or you can try redownloading the file at a later time.

[Unblock anyway](#) [Keep me safe](#)

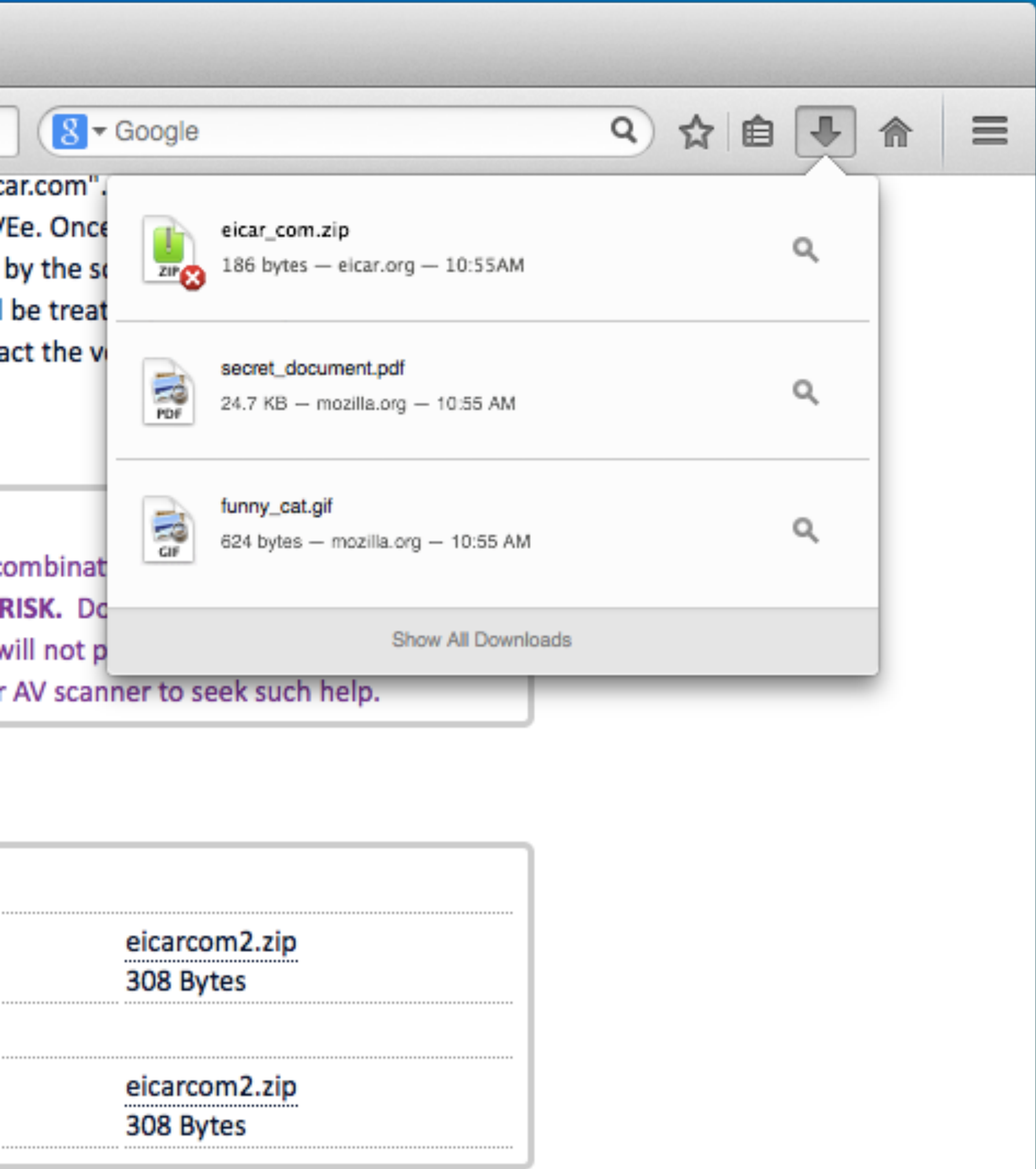
Download area using the standard protocol http

eicar.com	eicar.com.txt	eicar_com.zip	eicarcom2.zip
68 Bytes	68 Bytes	184 Bytes	308 Bytes

Download area using the secure, SSL enabled protocol https

eicar.com	eicar.com.txt	eicar_com.zip	eicarcom2.zip
68 Bytes	68 Bytes	184 Bytes	308 Bytes

Unblocked Malicious Files in Download Panel



When a user unblocks a malicious file, the download icon is no longer highlighted red and the row in the download panel changes format to look like a normal download.

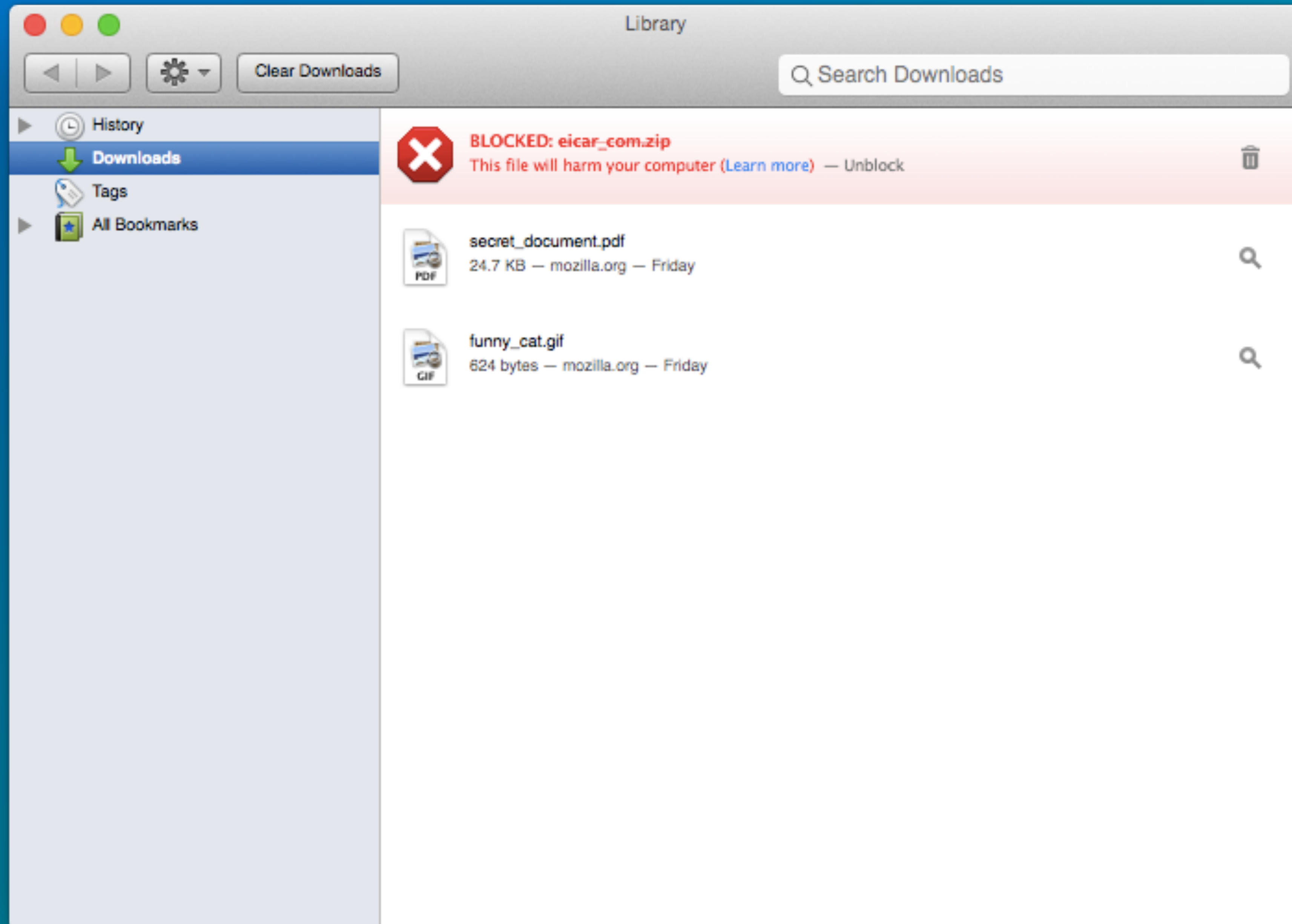
The only addition is a badge on the download icon which indicates to the user that the download was previously flagged.

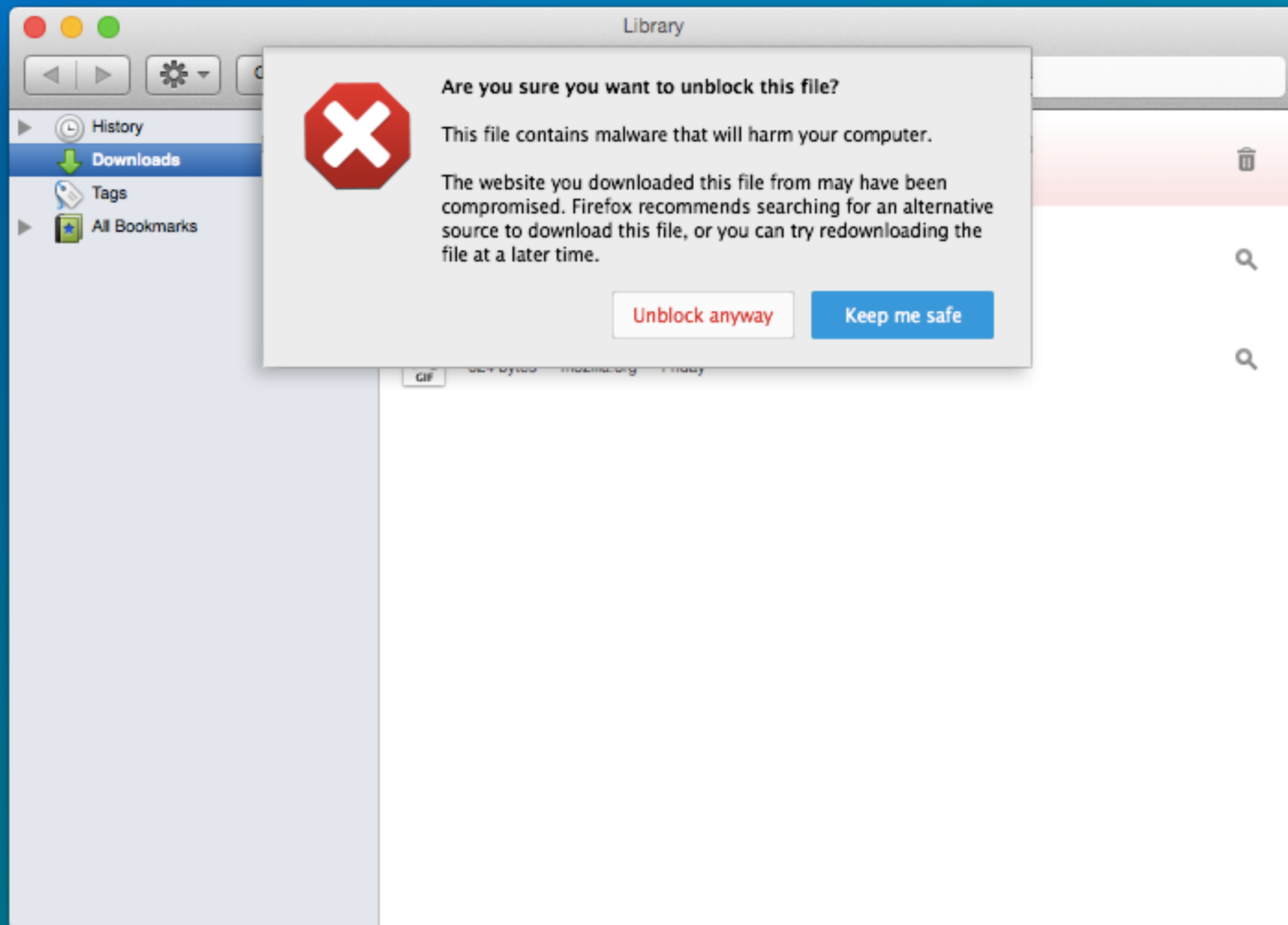
Hovering over the icon prompts a tool-tip stating that the file was flagged:

This file was flagged as being malicious

Download Library (Blocked Malicious Files)

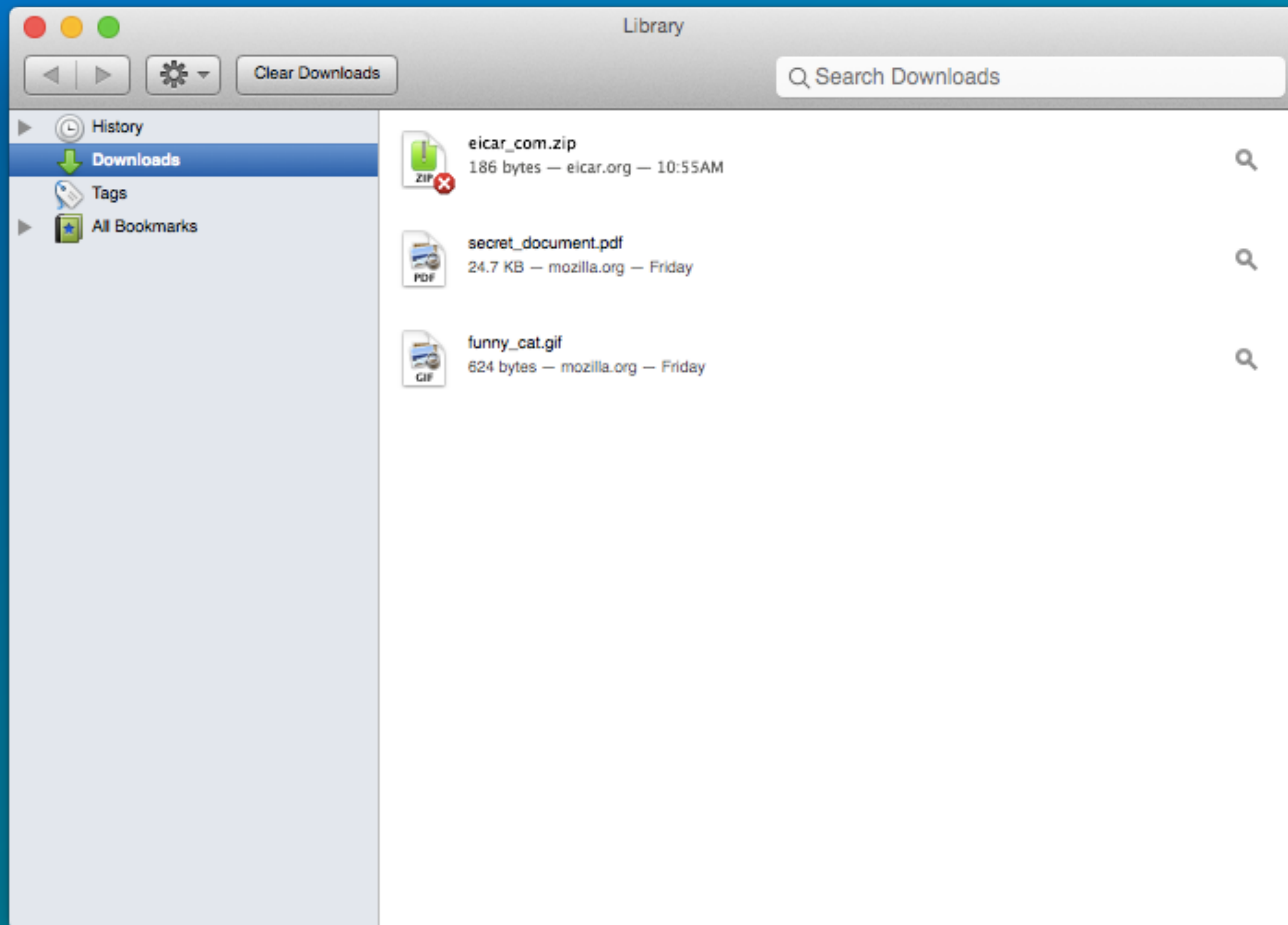
mozilla

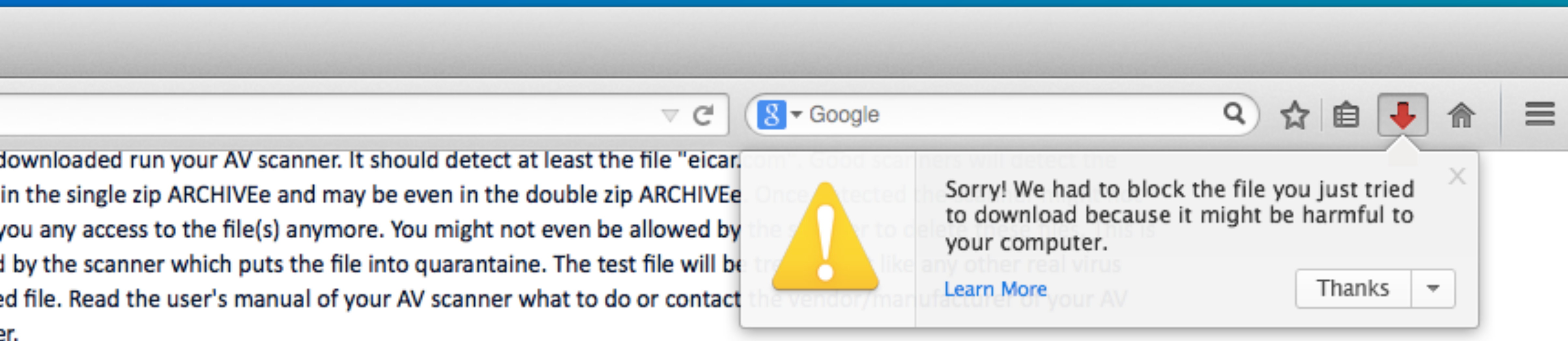




Download Library (Unblocked Malicious Files)

mozilla



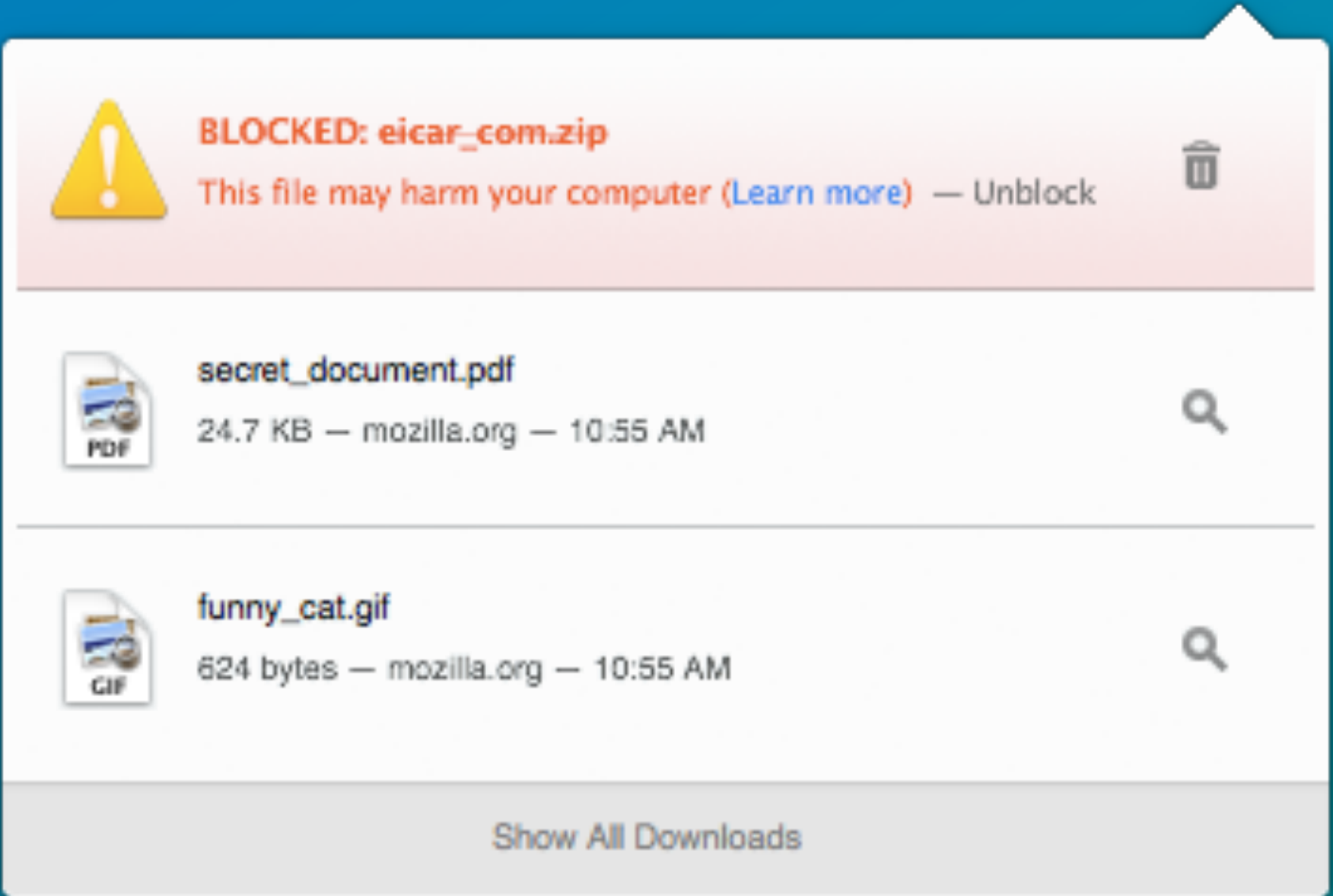
**IMPORTANT NOTE**

EICAR cannot be held responsible when these files or your AV scanner in combination with these files cause any damage to your computer. **YOU DOWNLOAD THESE FILES AT YOUR OWN RISK.** Download these files only if you are sufficiently secure in the usage of your AV scanner. EICAR cannot and will not provide any help to remove these files from your computer. Please contact the manufacturer/vendor of your AV scanner to seek such help.

Download area using the standard protocol http

eicar.com	eicar.com.txt	eicar_com.zip	eicarcom2.zip
68 Bytes	68 Bytes	184 Bytes	308 Bytes

Potentially Unwanted Files in Download Panel



Note: Text colour changed to orange to represent that this is one-step down from a 100% malicious file (red text)


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download.html

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Are you sure you want to unblock this file?

This file could harm your computer and/or make unwanted changes to Firefox.

The website you downloaded this file from may have been compromised. Firefox recommends searching for an alternative source to download this file, or you can try redownloading the file at a later time.

[Unblock anyway](#) [Keep me safe](#)

Google

file "eicar.com". Good scanners will detect the ARCHIVEe. Once detected the scanner might not allowed by the scanner to delete these files. This is t file will be treated just like any other real virus or contact the vendor/manufacturer of your AV

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Download area using the standard protocol http

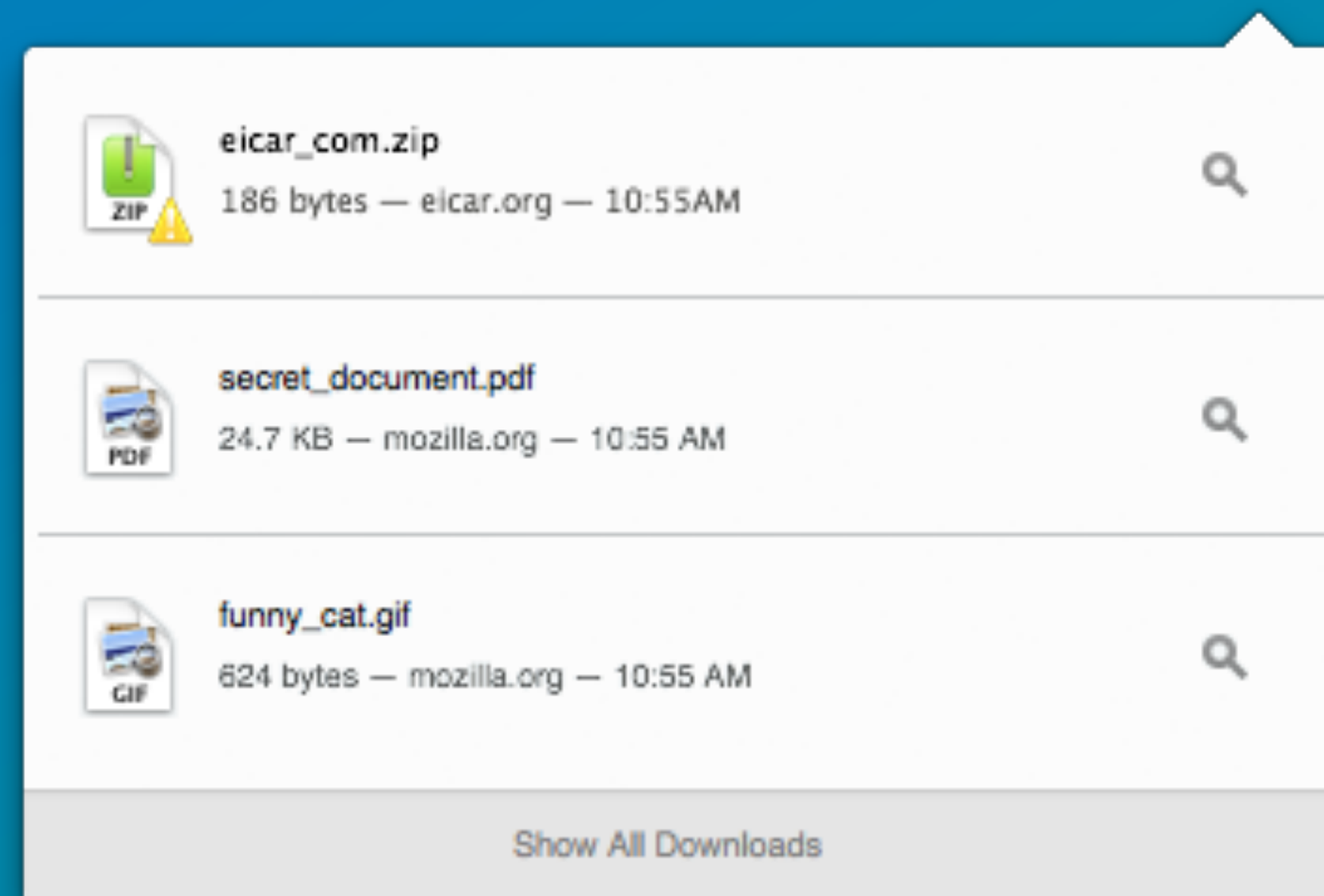
eicar.com	eicar.com.txt	eicar_com.zip	eicarcom2.zip
68 Bytes	68 Bytes	184 Bytes	308 Bytes

Download area using the secure, SSL enabled protocol https

eicar.com	eicar.com.txt	eicar_com.zip	eicarcom2.zip
68 Bytes	68 Bytes	184 Bytes	308 Bytes

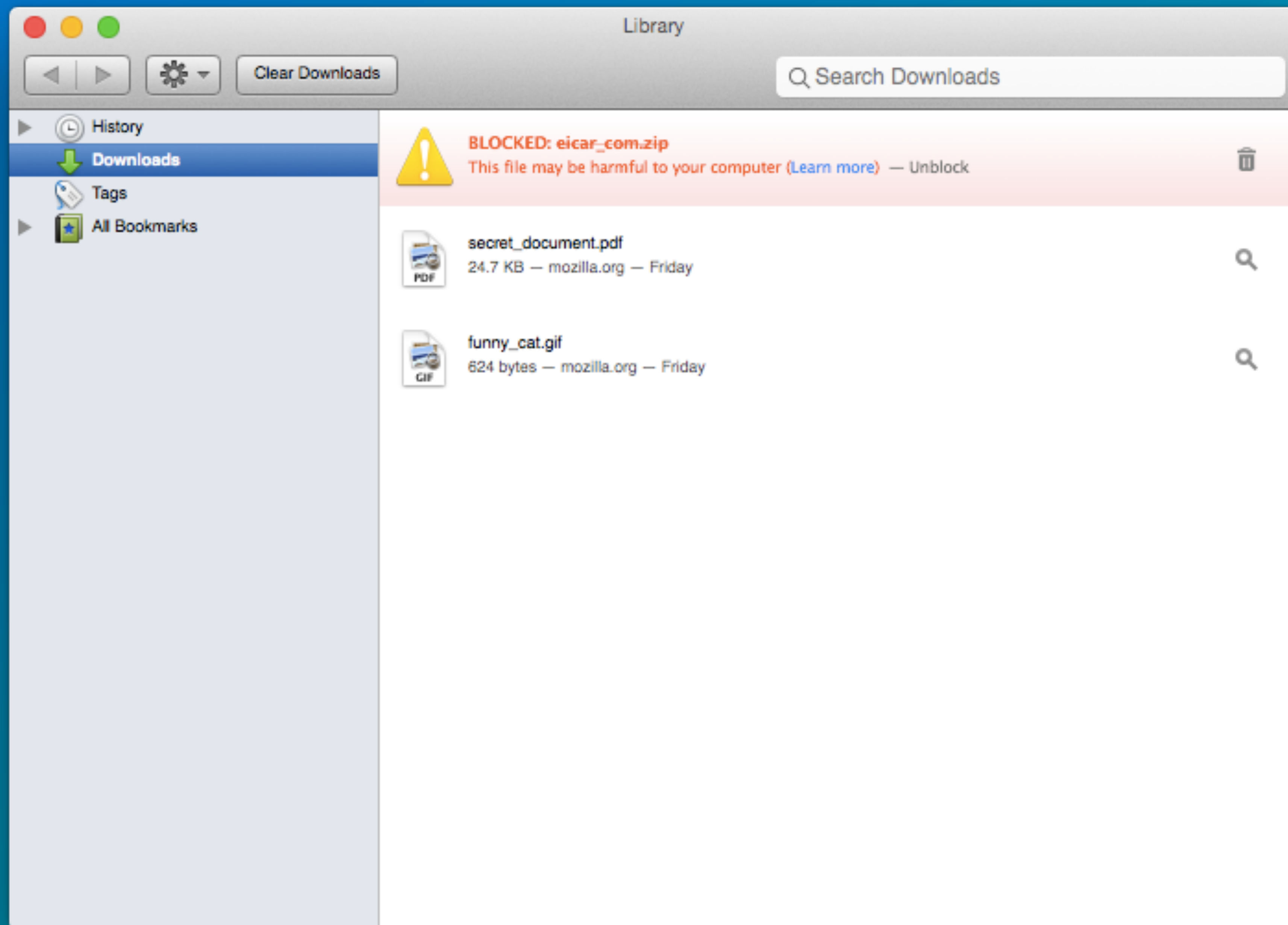
Unblocked Potentially Unwanted Files in Download Panel

mozilla

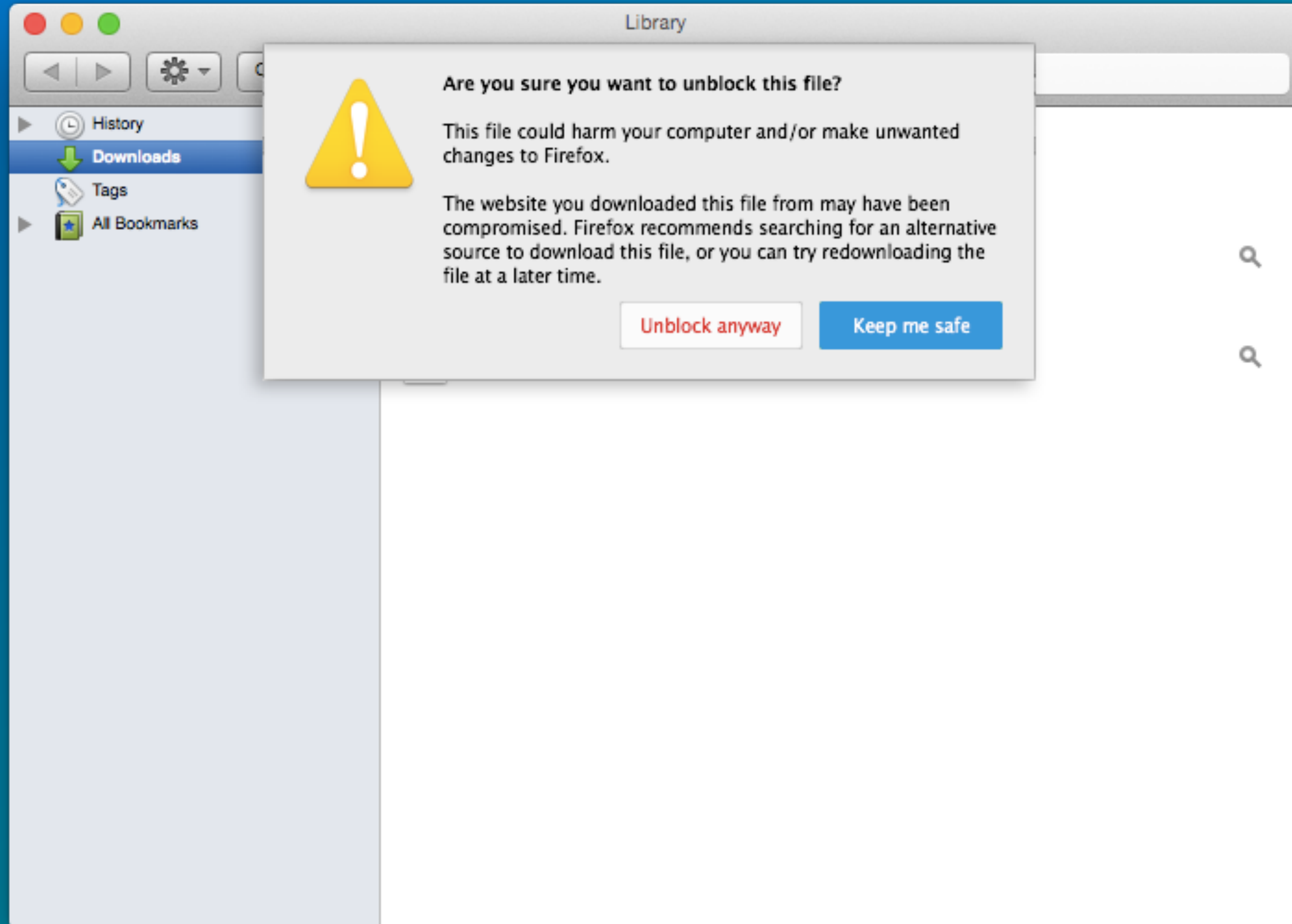


Download Library (Blocked Potentially Unwanted Files)

mozilla

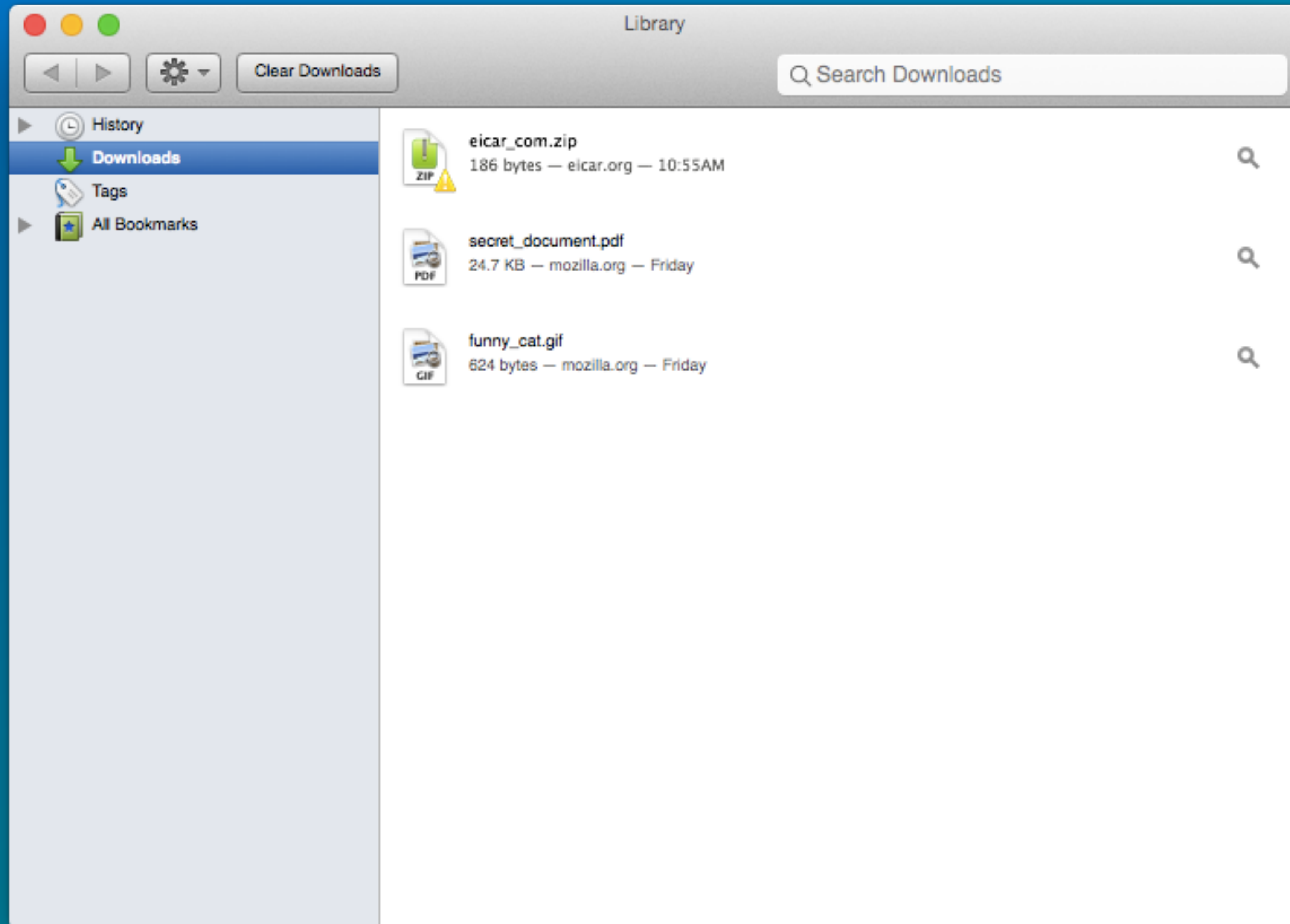


Download Library (Potentially Unwanted Files Modal)



Download Library (Unblocked Potentially Unwanted Files)

mozilla



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clear.com clear.com.txt clear_ com.zip clearcom3.zip

Malicious Downloads Strings

- Sorry! We had to block the file you just tried to download because it contains malware.
- Learn more
- Thanks
- Dismiss
- Don't show me this alert again
- Blocked
- This file will harm your computer (Learn more) – Unblock
- Are you sure you want to unblock this file?

This file contains malware that will harm your computer.

The website you downloaded this file from may have been compromised. Firefox recommends searching for an alternative source to download this file, or you can try redownloading the file at a later time.

- Unblock Anyway
- Keep Me Safe

Potentially Unwanted Downloads Strings

- Sorry! We had to block the file you just tried to download because it contains malware.
- Learn more
- Thanks
- Dismiss
- Don't show me this alert again
- Blocked
- This file may be harm your computer (Learn more) – Unblock
- Are you sure you want to unblock this file?

This file could harm your computer and/or make unwanted changes to Firefox.

The website you downloaded this file from may have been compromised. Firefox recommends searching for an alternative source to download this file, or you can try redownloading the file at a later time.

- Unblock Anyway
- Keep Me Safe



Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

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