The Mozilla Organization
At A Glance
Feedback
Get Involved
Newsgroups
License Terms
Newsbot
Developer Docs
Roadmap
Projects
Ports
Module Owners
Hacking
Get the Source
Build It
Testing
Download
Report A Bug
Bugzilla
Bug Writing
Tools
View Source
Tree Status
New Checkins
Submit A Bug
FAQ
Search

Mozilla Release FAQ

Release 21 November 1999

Distribution: This document may be distributed and modified freely. No guarantee of factuality in this FAQ is made, and it is maintained by Pat Gunn, who is not affiliated with Netscape. Various other people have contributed to this FAQ in one form or another. A recent version is kept here.

Sections:

1. General Questions about the Mozilla Project
2. Building Mozilla
3. Features, Patches
4. Common topics
5. How to help
6. Meta-information

--- Section 1: General Questions about the Mozilla Project ---

1.1) What is Mozilla?

Mozilla is a cousin to Netscape Communicator that is being developed by the Free Software Community with the cooperation and support of Netscape.

1.2) On what is Mozilla based?

Mozilla is based on a very early version of Netscape Communicator 5.0 with all of the code that Netscape is unable to release due to license or export restrictions removed.

1.3) When was Mozilla released?

The first release of Mozilla was on 31 March 1998. Since then, the code has been available vis CVS (see section 1.8) and FTP, with occasional binary releases for some platforms.

1.4) What is the current version of Mozilla?

It would probably be best to refer to a given version of Mozilla by the date it was retrieved, e.g. August 7th (CVS). Milestone releases have their own numbering system (e.g. M7). June 5th (CVS) release.

1.5) Who is working on Mozilla?

Several Netscape engineers, as well as plenty of people who have no affiliation with Netscape. You too can work on Mozilla, provided you have some necesary skills and software. See section 5 for details.

1.6) What resources are available to the Mozilla community?

Webpages:

- Mozilla Project Homepage

- Netscape Developer Program Website
- Netscape plans for Future versions of Communicator
- Mozilla Cryptology Group (ancient)
- Big Resource site (dated)
- MozillaZine (News service)

IRC:

- Server: irc.mozilla.org channel **#mozilla**

Usenet:

- All newsgroups in the *netscape.public.mozilla.** hierarchy. If your news server doesn't carry these, you can use the Mozilla news server. (Some people receive the newsgroups via a mailing list. Take this into consideration when posting things)

FTP:

- See the Mozilla FTP Mirror section for FTP sites

1.7) Under which license terms was Mozilla released?

Mozilla is released under the NPL (Netscape Public License) which is in some ways similar to the GNU GPL, and in some ways similar to a BSD-style license. Take a look at mozilla.org's NPL area for details.

1.8) What's CVS, and what does it have to do with Mozilla?

CVS is a system which is used to synchronize source code between developers. It's used to distribute changes to the Mozilla source without requiring frequent huge tarballs to be downloaded. Check out Cyclic Software's site for more info on CVS. For specific info on updating your current mozilla source with CVS, see mozilla.org's CVS area

1.9) What are all of the codenames given to various Netscape/Mozilla projects?

NGLayout (formerly Raptor) is the new HTML rendering engine in Mozilla. It features more speed, a more modular nature, and significantly less platform-dependant code. It is more suitable for being embedded in other applications than the previous rendering engine.

Gemini was a previous rendering engine project, renamed NGLayout
Aurora is the Navigation Center in Mozilla and Navigator5
Mercury/Gromit is Communicator 5
Apollo refers to the Suitespot servers (v4)
SeaMonkey refers to versions of Mozilla based on XPFE and NGLayout
Normandy refers to the Mail/News branch of Mozilla

1.10) What are all these acronyms people are using in the newsgroup?