Reviewer's Guide

Firefox 3.6

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1. About Mozilla

Mozilla is a global community of people creating a better Internet. We build public benefit into the Internet by creating free, open source products and technologies that improve the online experience for people everywhere. We work in the open under the umbrella of the non-profit Mozilla Foundation. Everything we create is a public asset available for others to use, adapt and improve.

2. Introducing Mozilla Firefox® 3.6

With extensive under the hood work to support real world performance, Firefox 3.6 is the browser built for the way you use the Web. The newest version of Firefox is more than twenty percent faster than Firefox 3.5. Firefox 3.6 includes exciting features like improved Javascript performance, customizable browser skins called Personas, a ground-breaking Plugin updater, and performance tweaks to familiar favorites like the Awesome bar for a better, more personal, Web experience.

At the heart of Firefox is a global, open source development process driven by a large community of passionate contributors: thousands of experienced developers, security experts, localization and support communities in over 70 countries, and tens of thousands of active testers. Our transparency and active community of experts help to ensure our products are more secure and updated quickly.

More than 6,000 free add-ons are available to customize Firefox and make the browser your own by adding functionality or changing the browser's appearance. The Add-ons Manager now also lets you personalize the way you see the Web with thousands of community-created Personas that you can change with a click of at button.

Firefox 3.6 is available for Windows, Windows CE, Mac OS X, and Linux in over 70 languages, more platforms and languages than any other browser. You can download Firefox 3.6 at www.getfirefox.com.

3. What's New in Firefox® 3.6?

Choose Your Persona *new*

New Firefox themes called "Personas" let you change the look of your Firefox with a single click. Choose anything from simple designs to colorful patterns to content from community members and partners like Harry Potter, Bob Marley or Lady Gaga. With a gallery of over 35,000 to choose from, you can change your Persona as often as you like. Go to GetPersonas.com to start browsing our galleries and check out "Themes" in the Add-Ons Manager to manage your designs.

Detection of Outdated Plugins *new*

Some Web pages require that you install small applications called Plugins to watch videos, play games or view documents. It can be hard to make sure that all of your Plugins are always up to date. Since outdated Plugins are a security risk, Firefox will let you know when you have a Plugin that's vulnerable to attack and help you get an updated version. If you want to check your Plugins at any time, just select "Check for Updates" from the Help menu, or click on "Find Updates" in the Plugins page of the Add-ons Manager.
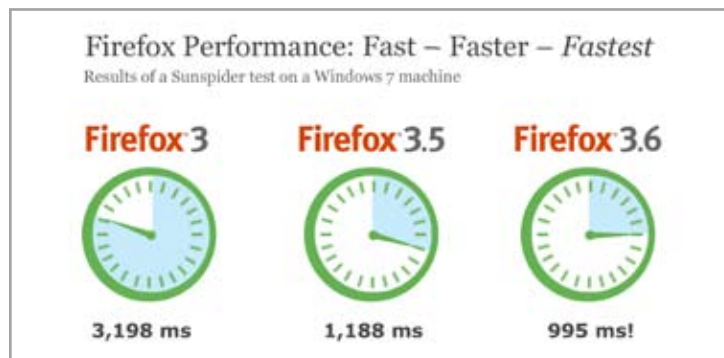
Firefox 3.6

Performance `improved`

We're constantly optimizing Firefox for the way you use the Web – making new tabs open up more quickly, or having the Awesome Bar provide results even faster. It's all about getting you where you need to go as quickly and easily as possible.

Form Complete `new`

It's like the Awesome Bar, but for forms. Now, when you're filling out an online form like your shipping address, Firefox will suggest information for each field based on your most common answers for similar fields in other forms (rather than just showing you an alphabetical list). Instead of typing out the same answers over and over, you'll be zipping through the forms in no time.

Firefox Performance: Fast – Faster – *Fastest*
Results of a Sunspider test on a Windows 7 machine

Firefox 3   Firefox 3.5   Firefox 3.6

3,198 ms   1,188 ms   995 ms!

4. Under the Hood

Firefox 3.6 gives Web developers more tools and features to create the next big breakthroughs in Web content. With the unprecedented speed of the TraceMonkey JavaScript engine, Firefox 3.6 is now twenty percent faster than Firefox 3.5. Features like the new drag and drop API and support for the newest Web technologies like Web Open Font Format, CSS Gradients and device orientation enable richer, more interactive experiences on the Web for you to enjoy.

Faster JavaScript   `improved`

The TraceMonkey JavaScript engine brings screaming fast performance to Firefox 3.6. With JavaScript that's more than three times as fast as Firefox 3 and 20% faster than Firefox 3.5, you'll be able to see the difference without breaking your stopwatch.

Open Video and Audio: Full Screen   `improved`

Firefox 3.6 includes the world's best implementation of HTML 5 audio and video support (Vorbis and Theora), allowing Web developers to include rich media that's controlled using JavaScript, HTML and CSS instead of by proprietary technologies. In Firefox 3.6, videos can be shown in full screen.

Location-Aware Browsing: Device Orientation `new`

Some laptops and mobile devices can detect the orientation of the laptop or device. Firefox 3.6 exposes this information to Web pages, allowing Web developers to build interesting and fun interactions—including games.

Font Support `improved`

In Firefox 3.5 we introduced downloadable font support for industry standard OpenType and TrueType fonts. Now in 3.6 we've also included support for the new Web Open Font Format, which is supported by a large number of commercial font foundries. This new format is often faster to download than raw OpenType and TrueType fonts and offers Web designers and developers new options for building beautiful Web sites.

CSS Gradients `new`

CSS gradients allow you to display smooth transitions between two or more specified colors. Use of CSS gradients can replace images and reduce download time, create a more flexible layout, and look better while zooming. Firefox 3.6 supports two kinds of CSS gradients: linear and radial.

Network and File Access `new`

Firefox 3.6 offers new network and file access capabilities to Web developers, including the ability to select multiple files for upload in the file picker, and a new drag and drop API that makes it easy for Web sites to accept new files. A new File API, based on emerging standards, now allows asynchronous event-based access to files. Mixed with cross-site XMLHttpRequests originally introduced in Firefox 3.5, these give Web developers the ability to build exciting mashups from multiple Web sites.