Classilla

Classilla is a Gecko-based Internet suite for PowerPC-based classic Macintosh operating systems, essentially an updated descendant of the defunct Mozilla Application Suite by way of the Mac OS port maintained in the aborted WaMCom (http://wamcom.ku ix.de/) project.[2] The name is a portmanteau of *Classic* (the classic Mac OS, as defined by the Classic Environment), and *Mozilla*.[3]

Like the Suite it is descended from, Classilla offers E-mail (POP/SMTP), Usenet (NNTP), Gopher, FTP and World Wide Web (HTTP) access, using a modified version of the Gecko layout engine called *Clecko*. Classilla also includes its own versions of the DOM Inspector, Mozilla Composer and Venkman components; the former IRC ChatZilla component was removed in version 9.1. Classilla is the last updated major browser for classic Mac OS systems, and the only Mozilla-based browser for that environment in maintenance as well, as iCab 3's final update was 3.0.5 in January 2008,[4] Opera's Mac OS 9 support ended with version 6.03 on 20 August 2003,[5][6] Internet Explorer for Mac on the classic Mac OS ceased development with 5.1.7 in July 2003[7] and Mozilla itself ceased support in 2002 (see History). The primary maintainer is Cameron Kaiser.

The project shares administration with TenFourFox, a fork of Mozilla Firefox for older versions of Mac OS X.

Classilla	
Screenshot of Classilla 9.2 rendering the Wikipedia Main Page, on Mac OS 9.2.2.	
Developer(s)	Cameron Kaiser
Initial release	June 30, 2009
Stable release	9.3.3 / October 28, 2014[1]
Operating system	Classic Mac OS (Mac OS 8.6 and Mac OS 9) Mac OS X (10.1.5 Puma - 10.4.11 Tiger)
Platform	PowerPC
Type	Web browser
License	Mozilla Public License, GNU General Public License, others (see *about:* within the browser)
Website	classilla.org (http://classill a.org)

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History

Official support for Mac OS 9 (and Mac OS 8.6) in the Mozilla Application Suite ended with the release of Mozilla 1.2.1 in 2002,[8] coincident with Apple ending support for their legacy operating system. However, many enthusiasts discovered that Mozilla 1.3.x would still generally build and run on the old Mac OS with modification apart from its dependencies on CarbonLib, leading to builds such as Unofficial Mozilla for Mac OS 9 (http://www.depublic.com/mozilla-macos9/), WaZilla 1.3f (http://wazilla.sourceforge.jp/index-en.html), and WaMCom (http://wamcom.kuix.de/). Of these, WaMCom was the arguably longest maintained, with its final release on 23 July 2003.[9]

In May 2009, Cameron Kaiser announced his intentions to start porting later Mozilla updates back to the 1.3.1-based version used in WaMCom,[10] christening his modified version as *Classilla*. This first version, given the version number 9.0 to match Mac OS 9 (with subsequent numbers matching OS 9 version numbers),[11] was released on 30 June 2009.[12]

The developers consider the project to be alpha quality software.[13]

As of 2019, no updates have been released to Classilla for 5 years, indicating that development may have stopped.

Features

Owing to Classilla's unusual provenance (being essentially a heavily patched version of Mozilla 1.3.1; vestigial proof remains in its verse from The Book of Mozilla), it has more limited support for web standards than do later Gecko-based browsers such as SeaMonkey and Mozilla Firefox, and its layout compared to iCab 3.0.5 is objectively inferior[14] as the latter browser is Acid2 compliant and Classilla is not. Similarly, it only scores 31/100 in Acid 3. On the other hand, its layout capability is more current than WaMCom or Mozilla 1.3.1, and Classilla has a more modern JavaScript interpreter than iCab and better support for the Document Object Model although it is also still deficient compared to mainline Gecko-based browsers. It is perceived by users to be more stable and quicker to render than iCab,[15][16][17][18] important as the classic Mac OS relies on cooperative multitasking and has very limited support for memory protection—any application crash could hang the entire system. However, known problems in the browser and issues with performance on older machines led the developers to implement their own limited version of NoScript as a built-in part of the browser so that users had the ability to enable JavaScript only where it was safe or necessary to do so.

Classilla also adds support for user agent spoofing, which was not part of the original Mozilla suite, and repairs various Mac OS-specific bugs. In addition, Classilla 9.3.0 introduced the Byblos HTML rewriting engine that can rewrite individual pages at the source code level with browser- and user-provided "stele" scripts, with the intent of lightweight adaptation of complicated content to the capabilities or quirks of the browser. Starting with 9.3.0, Classilla presents a mobile user agent by default.[19]

Apart from its upgraded support for Web pages, Classilla supports most of the same features that Mozilla of the same generation did, with similar feature sets and bugs in its support for E-mail, Usenet, FTP and Gopher, although the latter received token upgrades. In a likewise fashion, Classilla also inherits many of the security failings of earlier versions of the Application Suite, many of which are still not patched and openly warned of by the developers.[20] The presence of NoScript, along with the unusual nature of the classic Mac OS, is thought to add some level of protection, although it is the avowed goal of the developers to reach security parity with modern Mozilla-based releases[21] and repair outstanding bugs.

See also

- Mozilla Application Suite
- Mac OS 8 and Mac OS 9
- TenFourFox
- List of web browsers
- List of news clients
- List of HTML editors
- Comparison of web browsers
- Comparison of email clients
- Comparison of HTML editors

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External links

- Official website (http://www.classilla.org)
- Classilla Google Code (https://archive.is/20130124205526/http://classilla.googlecode.com/) - wiki, source code and downloads