Firefox early version history

The project that became <u>Firefox</u> today began as an experimental branch of the <u>Mozilla Suite</u> called *m/b* (or *mozilla/browser*). Firefox retains the <u>cross-platform</u> nature of the original Mozilla browser, using the <u>XUL</u> <u>user interface markup language</u>. The use of <u>XUL</u> makes it possible to extend the browser's capabilities through the use of <u>extensions</u> and <u>themes</u>. The development and installation processes of these add-ons raised security concerns, and with the release of Firefox 0.9, the Mozilla Foundation opened a Mozilla Update website containing "approved" themes and extensions. The use of XUL sets Firefox apart from other browsers, including other projects based on Mozilla's <u>Gecko layout engine</u> and most other browsers, which use interfaces native to their respective platforms (<u>Galeon</u> and <u>Epiphany</u> use <u>GTK+</u>, <u>K-Meleon</u> uses <u>MFC</u>, and <u>Camino</u> uses <u>Cocoa</u>). Many of these projects started before Firefox, and probably served as inspiration.

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Phoenix and Firebird

Hyatt, Ross, Hewitt and Chanial^[1] developed their browser to combat the perceived <u>software bloat</u> of the <u>Mozilla Suite</u> (codenamed, internally referred to, and continued by the community as <u>SeaMonkey</u>), which integrated features such as <u>IRC</u>, <u>mail</u>, news, and <u>WYSIWYG HTML</u> editing into one <u>internet suite</u>. After it was sufficiently developed, <u>binaries</u> for public testing appeared in September 2002 under the name <u>Phoenix</u>. This name carried the implication of the <u>mythical firebird</u> that rose triumphantly from the ashes of its dead predecessor, in this case <u>Netscape Navigator</u> which lost the "<u>First browser war</u>" to <u>Microsoft</u>'s <u>Internet Explorer</u>. The name <u>Mozilla</u> began as the internal <u>codename</u> for the original 1994 Netscape Navigator browser aiming to displace <u>NCSA Mosaic</u> as the world's most popular <u>web browser</u>. The name for this would-be "Mosaic killer" was meant to evoke the building-crushing Godzilla. The name

Mozilla was revived as the 1998 open sourcing spinoff organization from Netscape.

The name *Phoenix* remained until April 14, 2003, when it was changed because of a trademark dispute with the <u>BIOS</u> manufacturer <u>Phoenix Technologies</u> (which produces a BIOS-based browser called Phoenix FirstWare Connect). The new name, *Firebird*, met with mixed reactions, particularly as the <u>Firebird database server</u> already carried the name. In response, the Mozilla Foundation stated that the browser should always bear the name Mozilla Firebird to avoid confusion with the database software.



Phoenix 0.1, the first official release

		Release	history of Phoenix
Version	Codename	Release date ^[3]	Release type and highlights ^[t 1]
0.1	Pescadero	September 23, 2002	First release. ^[1] Gecko version 1.2 Customizable toolbar Quicksearch
0.2	Santa Cruz	October 1, 2002	Official version 0.2 release. ^[4] Web form auto-complete Sidebar Downloads Sidebar Bookmarks Sidebar History Sidebar Extension management Toolbar customization Search bar Improved preference defaults Speed improvements Ctrl+Mousewheel to resize fonts
0.3	<u>Lucia</u>	October 14, 2002	Official version 0.3 release. ^[5] Image Blocking Pop-up Blocking Whitelist Bookmarks Changes Global Go Menu and Other Menu Changes Tabbed Browsing Improvements Size and Speed Improvements
0.4	<u>Oceano</u>	October 19, 2002	Official version 0.4 release. ^[6] Gecko version 1.3 Improvements to pop-up blocking Improvements to toolbar customization Improvements to tabbed browsing and shortcut keys Type ahead find returns Address bar gets smarter Themes
0.5	Naples	December 7, 2002	Official version 0.5 release. ^[7] Multiple homepages Intellimouse 5-button support Sidebar remembers its state across sessions Download fixes History improvements Accessibility improvements Size and memory reduction Performance improvements Stability improvements

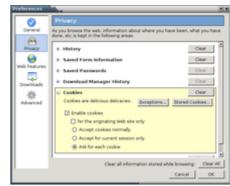
- Better Windows appearance
- Many more new themes

	Release history of Firebird			
Version	Codename	Release date ^[3]	Release type and highlights ^[t 1]	
0.6	Glendale	May 17, 2003	Official version 0.6 release. ^[8] Gecko version 1.5 New default theme (Qute) Redesigned Preferences window Improved Privacy Options Improved Bookmarks Talkback enabled to tell Mozilla why the browser crashed Automatic Image Resizing Smooth Scrolling Access to more preferences through about:config Custom profile save location Mac OS X compatibility	
0.6.1		July 28, 2003	Bugfix release. ^[9]	
0.7	Indio	October 15, 2003	Technology Preview. ^[10] First publication on October 26, 2003 ^[11] Advanced preferences panel Download/helper applets preferences panel Cookie whitelisting New password manager (all passwords now stored encrypted ^[12]) Web panels (like Mozilla's sidebar panels) Alternate stylesheet support (through a status bar button) Send Page, Send Link, and Send Image menu items Autoscroll	
0.7.1	Three Kings	October 26, 2003	Bugfix release for Mac OS X only. ^[13]	

Due to continuing pressure from the Firebird community, $^{[14]}$ on February 9, 2004 the project was renamed again to $Mozilla\ Firefox$. The name "Firefox" (a reference to the $\underline{red\ panda}$) was chosen for its similarity to "Firebird", and its uniqueness in the computing industry. To ensure that no further name changes would be necessary, the Mozilla Foundation began the process of registering $Firefox^{[17]}$ as a $\underline{trademark}$ with the $\underline{United\ States\ Patent\ and\ Trademark\ Office}$ in December 2003. This trademark process led to a delay of several months in the release of Firefox 0.8 when the foundation discovered that Firefox had already been registered as a trademark in the $\underline{UK}^{[18]}$ for Charlton Company software. The situation was resolved when the foundation was given a license to use Charlton's European trademark.

Firefox version 1.0 was released on November 9, 2004.^[20] The launch of version 1.0 was accompanied by "a respectable amount of pre-launch fervor"^[21] including a fan-organized campaign to run a full-page ad in *The New York Times*.

Although the Mozilla Foundation had intended to make the Mozilla Suite obsolete and replace it with Firefox, the Foundation continued to maintain the suite until April 12, 2006^[22] because it had many corporate users and was bundled with other software. The Mozilla community (as opposed to the Foundation) continues to release new versions of the suite, using the product name <u>SeaMonkey</u> to avoid confusion with the original Mozilla Suite.



Early description of what cookies are in the Preferences window of Mozilla Firefox 0.9.3. This description was soon dropped in later versions.



Firefox 1.0, the first release targeted for the general public

	Pre-release history of Firefox					
Version	Codename	Release date ^[3]	Release type and highlights ^[t 1]			
0.8	Royal Oak	February 9, 2004	Technology Preview. ^[23] Gecko version 1.6 Rebranded with new logo. Windows installer Download Manager New Add Bookmark Dialog Work Offline Better Handling of File Types New XPInstall Frontend			
0.9	One Tree Hill	June 15, 2004	 New default theme for Mac OS X. Technology Preview.^[24] Gecko version 1.7 New default theme "Winstripe". Comprehensive Data Migration from Internet Explorer. Extension/Theme Manager Online help system Linux installer 			
0.9.1		June 28, 2004	Bugfix release ■ Updated default theme. ^[25]			
0.9.2		July 8, 2004	Vulnerability patch for Windows only. ^[25]			
0.9.3		August 4, 2004	Vulnerability patch. ^[26]			
0.10	Greenlane	September 14, 2004	Bugs with higher complexity/risk, localization impact, RSS/Atom feed support, find toolbar, plugin finder. ^[27]			
0.10.1		October 1, 2004	Vulnerability patch. ^[28]			

	Release history of Firefox 1			
Version	Codename	Release date ^[3]	Release type and highlights ^[t 1]	
1.0	Phoenix	November	Official version 1.0 release. ^[29]	
1.0	THOCHIX	9, 2004	Better Tabbed Browsing ControlsOfficial localized builds	
1.0.1	Rose & Crown	February 24, 2005	Regular security and stability update. ^[30]	
1.0.2		March 23, 2005	Regular security and stability update. ^[31]	
1.0.3		April 15,	Regular security and stability update.	
1.0.3	1.0.3	2005	■ Installer improvements. ^[32]	
1.0.4		May 11, 2005	Regular security and stability update. ^[33]	
1.0.4			Fix to DHTML errors encountered at some web sites.	
1.0.5		July 12, 2005	Regular security and stability update. ^[34]	
		July 10	Off-cycle stability update. ^[35]	
1.0.6		July 19, 2005	 Restored API compatibility for extensions and web applications that did not work in Firefox 1.0.5. 	
1.0.7		September 20, 2005	Regular security and stability update. ^[36]	
			Regular security and stability update. ^[37]	
			End-of-life 1.0.x product line (https://developer.mozilla.or	
1.0.8		April 13, 2006	g/devnews/index.php/2006/04/13/firefox-108-security-and	
			-stability-release-and-end-of-life-for-10x/)	
			■ Last release for Mac OS X 10.0–10.1	

Firefox 1.5

Firefox 1.5 was released on November 30, 2005. Originally, it was planned to have a version 1.1 at an earlier date as the new Firefox version after 1.0, with development on a later version (1.5) in a separate development branch, but during 2005 both branches and their feature sets were merged (the Mozilla Foundation abandoned the 1.1 release plan after the first two alpha builds), resulting in an official release date between the original dates planned for both versions.

Version 1.5 implemented a new Mac-like options interface (http s://web.archive.org/web/20110623032221/http://weblogs.mozilla zine.org/ben/archives/007377.html), the subject of much criticism from Microsoft Windows and Linux users, with a "Sanitize (http



"Deer Park", the codename of the Firefox 1.1 and 1.5 Alphas, did not include Firefox branding.

s://web.archive.org/web/20110623033135/http://weblogs.mozillazine.org/ben/archives/007150.html)"

action to allow someone to clear their privacy-related information without manually clicking the "Clear All" button. In Firefox 1.5, a user could clear all privacy-related settings simply by exiting the browser or using a keyboard shortcut, depending on their settings. Moreover, the software update system was improved (https://web.archive.org/web/20110623032258/http://weblogs.mozillazine.org/ben/archives/00 8067.html) (with binary patches now possible). There were also improvements (https://web.archive.org/web/20110623031727/http://weblogs.mozillazine.org/ben/archives/008066.html) in the extension management system, with a number of new developer features (https://www-archive.mozilla.org/project s/deerpark/new-extension-dev-features.html). In addition, Firefox 1.5 had preliminary SVG 1.1 support. [38]

Behind the screens, the new version resynchronized the code base of the release builds (as opposed to nightly builds) with the core "trunk", which contained additional features not available in 1.0, as it <u>branched</u> from the trunk around the 0.9 release. As such, there was a backlog of bug fixes between 0.9 and the release of 1.0, which were made available in 1.5.

There were also changes in <u>operating system</u> support. As announced on 23 June 2005 by the Mozilla Foundation, Firefox 1.1, which later became 1.5, and other new Mozilla products did no longer support <u>Mac OS X v10.1</u>, in order to improve the quality of Firefox releases on <u>Mac OS X v10.2</u> and above. Firefox 1.5 was the final version supported on Windows 95.

Alpha builds of Firefox 1.5 (id est, 1.1a1 and 1.1a2) did not carry Firefox branding; they were labelled "Deer Park" (which was Firefox 1.5's internal codename) and contained a different program icon. This was done to dissuade end-users from downloading preview versions, which are intended for developers only.

	Release history of Firefox 1.5			
Version	Codename	Release date ^[3]	Release type and highlights $^{[t\;1]}$	
		Official version 1.5 release. ^[39] Official localized builds. Gecko version 1.8 Private data clear data Back and forward now fast Improved web standards		
			 Improved HTML Improved CSS Improved HTTP Improved JavaScript/DOM SVG compatibility 	
1.5	<u>Deer Park</u>	November 29, 2005	 Support for SVG and canvas. Sanitize privacy feature. Improvements in JavaScript 1.5 and CSS 2/3. Broken website reporter tool. [40] Blazing fast backwards and forwards (FastBack), drag-and-drop tab reordering, improved pop-up blocking, error pages instead of error dialogs. [41] Changes during betas New update system (binary patch). Prettier error pages, more Luna-like Winstripe theme (did not blend well with the Classic theme). [42] Improvements to automated update system, website rendering and performance. Several security fixes. [43] 	
1.5.0.1		February 1, 2006	Regular security and stability update. ^[44]	
1.5.0.2		April 13, 2006	Regular security and stability update. [45] Native support for Intel-based Macintosh computers by shipping universal binary.	
1.5.0.3		May 2, 2006	Off-cycle security update. [46] Fix for a publicly disclosed denial of service weakness (https://www.mozilla.org/security/announce/2006/mfsa2006-30.html).	
1.5.0.4		June 1, 2006	Regular security and stability update. ^[47]	
1.5.0.5		July 26, 2006	Regular security and stability update. ^[48] • Added changes for Frisian locale (fy-NL).	
1.5.0.6		August 2, 2006	Off-cycle security and stability update. ^[49] • Fixed an issue with playing Windows Media content introduced by previous update.	

1.5.0.7		eptember 1, 2006	Regular security and stability update. ^[50]
1.5.0.8	' ' '	ovember 2006	Regular security and stability update. ^[51]
1.5.0.9		ecember 9, 2006	Regular security and stability update. ^[52]
1.5.0.10		ebruary 3, 2007	Regular security and stability update. ^[53]
1.5.0.11		arch 20, 007	Regular security and stability update. Regression fixes. ^[54]
1.5.0.12		ay 30, 007	Regular security and stability update. [55] End-of-life 1.5.0.x product line (https://developer.mozilla.org/devnews/index.php/2007/05/30/firefox-2004-and-firefox-15012-security-and-stability-update/) Last release for Windows 95

On October 24, 2006, Mozilla released <u>Firefox 2</u>. This version included updates to the <u>tabbed browsing</u> environment, the extensions manager, the <u>GUI (Graphical User Interface)</u>, and the find, search and software update engines. It also implemented a new session restore feature, inline <u>spell checking</u>, and an <u>antiphishing</u> feature which was implemented by <u>Google</u> as an extension^{[56][57]} and later merged into the program itself.^[58]

In December 2007, Firefox Live Chat was launched. It allowed users to ask volunteers questions through <u>a system</u> powered by <u>Jive Software</u>, with guaranteed hours of operation and the possibility of help after hours.^[59]



Mozilla Firefox 2.0.0.12 running on Ubuntu

Firefox 2.0.0.20 was the final version that could run under an unmodified installation of <u>Windows NT 4.0</u>, <u>Windows 98</u>, and <u>Windows ME</u>. Subsequently, Mozilla Corporation announced it would not develop new versions of Firefox 2 after the 2.0.0.20 release, but continued Firefox 2 development as long as other programs, such as <u>Thunderbird mail client</u>, depended on it. The final internal release was 2.0.0.22, released in late April 2009.

	Release history of Firefox 2			
Version	Codename	Release date ^[3]	Release type and highlights ^[t 1]	
2.0	Bon Echo	October 24, 2006	Official version 2.0 release. [61] Official localized builds. Gecko version 1.8.1 • Visual Refresh of main theme • Built-in phishing protection • Enhanced search capabilities • Improved tabbed browsing • Resuming your browsing session (session restore) • Previewing and subscribing to Web feeds • Inline spell checking • Live Web Titles • Improved Add-ons manager • JavaScript 1.7 • Extended search plugin format (predictive search) • Improved security with extension system • Client-side session and persistent storage • SVG text support • New Windows installer "Changes during alphas" [62] • Links default to open in new tab. • Close button on every tab. • Inline spell checking for text boxes. • Session restoration after browser crash. • Search suggestion for Google and Yahoo!. • New search plugin manager and add-on manager. • Web feed previewing. • Bookmark microsummaries. • Updates to extension system. Support for Sherlock and OpenSearch. • Support for SVG text using svg:textPath. [63] • Anti-phishing protection. Search suggestions appear with search history in the search box for Google and Yahoo!. Support for client-side session and persistent storage. [64] Changes during betas • Improved feed support. New NSIS-based installer. JavaScript 1.7. Enhanced security and localization support for extensions. [65] • New Winstripe theme refresh: new navigation icons, URL bar refresh, Tab bar refresh, Alltabs button (used to view a popup list of all tabs open). [66]	
2.0.0.1		December 19, 2006	Regular security and stability update. Windows Vista support. [67]	

2.0.0.2	February 23, 2007	Regular security and stability update. ^[68]
2.0.0.3	March 20, 2007	Regular security and stability update. Regression fixes and security fixes. ^[69]
2.0.0.4	May 30, 2007	Regular security and stability update. ^[70]
2.0.0.5	July 17, 2007	Security and stability update. ^[71]
2.0.0.6	July 30, 2007	Regular security and stability update. ^[72]
2.0.0.7	September 18, 2007	Off-cycle security update. ^[73]
2.0.0.8	October 18, 2007	Regular security and stability update. Mac OS X 10.5 support. [74]
2.0.0.9	November 1, 2007	Off-cycle security and stability update. ^[75]
2.0.0.10	November 26, 2007	Off-cycle security and stability update. ^[76]
2.0.0.11	November 30, 2007	Off-cycle stability update. ^[77]
2.0.0.12	February 7, 2008	Regular security and stability update. ^[78]
2.0.0.13	March 25, 2008	Regular security and stability update. ^[79]
2.0.0.14	April 16, 2008	Off-cycle stability update. ^[80]
2.0.0.15	July 1, 2008	Regular security and stability update. ^[81]
2.0.0.16	July 15, 2008	Off-cycle security update. ^[82]
2.0.0.17	September 23, 2008	Regular security and stability update. ^[83]
2.0.0.18	November 12, 2008	Regular security and stability update. ^[84]
2.0.0.19	December 16, 2008	Regular security and stability update. ^[85]
		Off-cycle security update. ^[60]
		Bug fixesFixed security and stability issues.
	December 18, 2008	End-of-life 2.0.0.x product line (https://developer.mozilla.o
2.0.0.20		rg/devnews/index.php/2009/01/19/firefox-20020-users-off
		ered-a-free-upgrade/)
		 Last release for Windows NT 4.0, Windows 98, and Mac OS X 10.2–10.3

Firefox 3 was released on June 17, 2008, [86] by the Mozilla Corporation. Firefox 3 uses version 1.9 of the Mozilla Gecko layout engine for displaying web pages. This version fixes many bugs, improves standard compliance, and implements new web APIs. [87] Other new features include a redesigned download manager, a new "Places" system for storing bookmarks and history, and separate themes for different operating systems.

Development stretches back to the first Firefox 3 <u>beta</u> (under the codename 'Gran Paradiso'^[88]) which had been released several months earlier on November 19, 2007,^[89] and was followed by



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several more beta releases in spring 2008 culminating in the June release.^[90] Firefox 3 had more than 8 million unique downloads the day it was released, setting a <u>Guinness World Record</u>.^[91]

	Release history of Firefox 3			
Version	Codename	Release date ^[3]	Release type and highlights ^[t 1]	
3.0	Gran Paradiso	June 17,	Official version 3.0 release. ^[92]	
		2008	Gecko version 1.9	
			 One-click site info Malware Protection New Web Forgery Protection page New SSL error pages Add-ons and Plugin version check Secure add-on updates Anti-virus integration with download manager Vista Parental Controls Effective top-level domain (eTLD) service better restricts cookies and other restricted content to a single domain. Better protection against cross-site JSON data leaks. Easier password management – save passwords after successful login Simplified add-on installation from third parties New Download Manager Resumable downloading after closing the browser Full page zoom Podcasts and Videocasts can be associated with your media playback tools Tab scrolling and quickmenu Save what you were doing – Firefox 3 will prompt users to save tabs on exit. Optimized Open in Tabs behavior Location and Search bar size can now be customized with a simple resizer item. Text selection improvements (select multiple selections of text) Find toolbar: the Find toolbar now opens with the current selection. Plugin management with the add-on manager Improved integration with Windows Improved integration with the Mac Integration with Linux GTK theme Bookmark star button Bookmark star button Bookmark star button Bookmark Folders Web-based protocol handlers for mail:to Download & Install Add-ons from the Add-on manager Easy to use Download Actions New graphics and font handling in Gecko 1.9 provide rendering improvements in: 	

- SVG
- Display of fonts with ligatures and complex scripts
- Color management of images with capabilities
- Offline support for web applications
- Improved speed
- Reduced memory usage
- Increased reliability
- 25000 total code changes
- Security fixes
- Stability fixes

Changes during alphas

- Cairo graphics library. Cocoa Widgets in OS X builds. Updated threading model. Changes to how DOM events are dispatched, how HTML object elements are loaded, and how web pages are painted. New SVG elements and filters, and improved SVG specification compliance. Windows 95, 98, ME and Mac OS X v10.2 no longer supported. Moving DOM nodes between documents require a call to importNode or adoptNode as per the DOM specification. [93]
- Reflow refactoring (leading to <u>Acid2</u> test compliance) among numerous layout bug fixes. Web Apps 1.0 API for changing stylesheets support. Inline-block and inline-table values of CSS 2.1's display property implemented. XML documents can be rendered during download. Greatly improved Mac widgets support since Alpha 1. Improvements in Cairo graphics layer. Non-standard JavaScript "Script" object no longer supported. [94]
- Support for allowing web pages to store resources in the browser's offline cache. Support for Animated PNG images. Support for the "HTTPOnly" cookie extension which provides enhanced cookie privacy (also backported to Firefox 2.0.0.5). Improvements to layout and scaling precision across numerous screen and printer resolutions.^[95]
- Adding of FUEL JavaScript library for extension developers.
 Rewrite of Page Info dialog. Upgrade to Cairo 1.4.2. More Cocoa regression fixes. [96]
- Places (bookmark and history service based on <u>SQLite</u>) used by default, but no front-end changes. Breakpad used as crash reporter on Windows and Mac OS X, superseding closed-source Talkback. Password manager rewrite.
 Support for <u>Growl</u> and native widgets within forms for Mac OS X.^[97]
- Upgrade of SQLite to version 3.3.17, leading to increased cookie performance due to transition of cookie service to SQLite. Site-specific preference service, used initially for text zoom, allowing zoom setting to remain on each website. Support for native widgets within forms for Linux. New Quit dialog handles multiple windows more elegantly and allows users to save session. Autoscroll rewrite: numerous bug fixes and significant performance gain. Fixes to the use of units within the download manager. Various Places bug fixes. [98]
- More APIs implemented from <u>WHATWG</u> specs, such as ability to read files from file selection fields without need to

		upload and cut/copy/paste events, and cross-site XMLHttpRequest. New protocol-handling dialog. Experimental full-page zoom support, but no UI to control it. Numerous Mac OS X bug fixes, but Mac OS X 10.3 no longer supported for Gecko 1.9. General bug fixes. [99] New, basic UI for tagging bookmarks. Remember password prompt changed to non-modal information bar. Malware blacklist support. New UI for FTP and File protocol listings. Applications pane added to preferences. Basic support for web-based protocol handlers. [100] Changes during betas New UI improvements, including redesigned location bar, Places Organizer, Smart Bookmarks. Various stability and performance improvements. [101] New UI improvements, including redesigned buttons and location bar. Different default native themes for each operating system. Upgraded to SQLite 3.5.4. Various stability and performance improvements. [102] New UI improvement, including improved default themes for different operating systems. Various improvements in speed and resource usage. [103] Further improved themes to match various operating systems, JavaScript engine optimizations for speed, improved Places organizer. [104]
3.0.1	July 16, 2008	Security and stability update. ^[105]
3.0.2	September 23, 2008	Regular security and stability update. ^[106]
3.0.3	September 26, 2008	Bug fix for retrieving and saving passwords. ^[107]
3.0.4	November 12, 2008	Regular security and stability update. ^[108]
3.0.5	December 16, 2008	Regular security and stability update. ^[109]
3.0.6	February 3, 2009	Regular security and stability update. ^[110]
3.0.7	March 4, 2009	Regular security and stability update. ^[111]
3.0.8	March 27, 2009	Off-cycle security update. ^[112]
3.0.9	April 21, 2009	Regular security and stability update. ^[113]
3.0.10	April 27, 2009	Off-cycle stability update. ^[114]
3.0.11	June 11, 2009	Regular security and stability update. ^[115]
3.0.12	July 21, 2009	Regular security and stability update. ^[116]
3.0.13	August 3, 2009	Regular security and stability update. ^[117]

3.0.14	September 9, 2009	Regular security and stability update. ^[118]
3.0.15	October 27, 2009	Regular security and stability update. ^[119]
3.0.16	December 15, 2009	Regular security and stability update. ^[120]
3.0.17	January 5, 2010	Off-cycle stability update. ^[121]
3.0.18	February 17, 2010	Regular security and stability update. ^[122]
3.0.19	March 30, 2010	Regular security and stability update. ^[123] End-of-life 3.0.x product line (https://developer.mozilla.org/devnews/index.php/2010/03/30/firefox-3-5-9-and-3-0-19-security-updates-now-available/)

Firefox 3.5

Version 3.5, codenamed Shiretoko, [124] adds a variety of new features to Firefox. Initially numbered Firefox 3.1, Mozilla developers decided to change the numbering of the release to 3.5 in order to reflect a significantly greater scope of changes than originally planned. [125] The final release was on June 30, 2009. The changes included much faster performance thanks to an upgrade to SpiderMonkey JavaScript engine called TraceMonkey and rendering improvements, [126] and support for the <video> and <audio> tags as defined in the HTML5 specification, with a goal to offer video playback without being encumbered by patent problems associated with many video technologies. [127] Cross-site XMLHttpRequests (XHR), which can allow for more



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powerful web applications and an easier way to implement <u>mashups</u>, are also implemented in 3.5.^[128] A new global <u>JSON</u> object contains native functions to efficiently and safely <u>serialize</u> and <u>deserialize</u> JSON objects, as specified by the <u>ECMAScript</u> 3.1 draft.^[129] Full <u>CSS</u> 3 selector (http://www.w3.org/TR/css3-s <u>electors/#selectors</u>) support has been added. Firefox 3.5 uses the Gecko 1.9.1 engine, which includes a few features that were not included in the 3.0 release. <u>Multi-touch</u> trackpad support was also added to the release, including <u>gesture support</u> like pinching for zooming and swiping for back and forward.^[130] Firefox 3.5 also features an updated logo.^[131]

	<u> </u>		Release history of Firefox 3.5
Version	Codename	Release date ^[3]	Release type and highlights ^[t 1]
3.5 ^[132]	Shiretoko	June 30,	Official version 3.5 release.
		2009	Gecko version 1.9.1
			 Support for the HTML5 < video > and < audio > elements including native support for Ogg Theora video and Vorbis audio
			 Improved tools for controlling your private data, including a Private Browsing Mode
			 Better web application performance using the new TraceMonkey JavaScript engine
			 The ability to share your location with websites using Location Aware Browsing
			 Support for native JSON, and web worker threads Improvements to the Gecko layout engine, including speculative parsing for faster content rendering
			Support for new web technologies such as:
			 Downloadable fonts CSS media queries New transformations and properties JavaScript query selectors HTML5 local storage and offline application storage <canvas> text</canvas> ICC profiles SVG transforms. Changes during alphas
			Web standards improvements. Tout ADI for the converse element.
			Text API for the <canvas> element.</canvas>Support for using border images.
			O and the DOM many address.
			 Support for DOM query selectors. Improvements to Smart Location Bar.
			New tab-switching behavior.
			Changes during betas
			 Web standards improvements in Gecko layout engine. Added support for CSS 2.1 and CSS 3 properties. New tab-switching shortcut that shows previews of the tab
			user is switching to.
			 Improved control over Smart Location Bar using special characters to restrict your search.
			 Support for new web technologies.^[133]
			 Available in 54 languages. Added new Private Browsing Mode Added functions to facilitate clearing recent history by time as well as to remove all traces of a website. New support for web worker threads. New TraceMonkey JavaScript engine on by default for web content. Improvements to Gecko layout engine including speculative parsing for faster content rendering.

		Removed new tab-switching behavior based on user
		feedback. Support for new web technologies. ^[134]
		 Available in 64 languages.
		 Improved new Private Browsing Mode.
		 Improvements to web worker thread support.
		 Improved performance and stability with the TraceMonkey JavaScript engine.
		New native JSON support.
		 Improvements to Gecko layout engine, including speculative parsing for faster content rendering.
		 Support for new web technologies such as <video> and <audio> elements, W3C Geolocation API, JavaScript query selectors, CSS 2.1 and 3 properties, SVG transforms and offline applications.</audio></video>
		Available in 70 languages.
		 Improved tools for controlling private data, including Private Browsing Mode.
		 Better performance and stability with new TraceMonkey JavaScript engine.
		 Ability to provide Location Aware Browsing using web standards for geolocation.
		Support for native JSON, and web worker threads.
		 Improvements to Gecko layout engine, including speculative parsing for faster content rendering.
		 Support for new web technologies such as HTML5 <video> and <audio> elements, downloadable fonts and other new CSS properties, JavaScript query selectors, HTML5 offline data storage for applications, and SVG transforms.</audio></video>
3.5.1	July 16, 2009	Off-cycle security and stability update. ^[135]
3.5.2	August 3, 2009	Regular security and stability update. ^[136]
3.5.3	September 9, 2009	Regular security and stability update. ^[137]
3.5.4	October 27, 2009	Regular security and stability update. ^[138]
3.5.5	November 5, 2009	Off-cycle security and stability update. ^[139]
3.5.6	December 15, 2009	Regular security and stability update. ^[140]
3.5.7	January 5, 2010	Off-cycle stability update. ^[141]
3.5.8	February 17, 2010	Regular security and stability update. ^[142]
3.5.9	March 30, 2010	Regular security and stability update. ^[143]
3.5.10	June 22, 2010	Regular security and stability update. ^[144]
3.5.11	July 20, 2010	Regular security and stability update. ^[145]

3.5.12	September 7, 2010	Regular security and stability update. ^[146]
3.5.13	September 15, 2010	Off-cycle stability update. ^[147]
3.5.14	October 19, 2010	Regular security and stability update. ^[148]
3.5.15	October 27, 2010	Off-cycle security update. ^[149]
3.5.16	December 9, 2010	Regular security and stability update. ^[150]
3.5.17	March 1, 2011	Regular security and stability update. ^[151]
3.5.18	March 22, 2011	Off-cycle security update. ■ Blacklists a few invalid HTTPS certificates. ^[152]
3.5.19	April 28, 2011	Regular security and stability update. ^[153] End-of-life 3.5.x product line (https://developer.mozilla.org/devnews/index.php/2011/04/28/firefox-4-0-1-3-6-17-and-3-5-19-security-updates-now-available/)

Firefox 3.6

Version 3.6, released on January 21, 2010, uses the Gecko 1.9.2 engine and includes several interface improvements, such as "personas". This release was referred to as 3.2 before 3.1 was changed to 3.5. The codename for this version was Namoroka. This is the last major, official version to run on PowerPC-based Macintoshes.

One minor update to Firefox 3.6, version 3.6.4 (code-named <u>Lorentz</u>) is the first minor update to make non-intrusive changes other than minor stability and security fixes. It adds Out of Process Plugins (OOPP), which runs plugins in a separate <u>process</u>, allowing Firefox to recover from plugin crashes.^[154] Firefox 3.6.6 lengthens the amount of time a plugin is allowed to be unresponsive before the plugin quits.^[155]

Release history of Firefox 3.6			
Version	Codename	Release date ^[3]	Release type and highlights ^[t 1]
			Official Firefox 3.6 release. ^[156]
			Gecko version 1.9.2
		January 21, 2010	 Support for Persona themes Protection from out-of-date plugins to keep users safer as they browse.
			 Open, native video can now be displayed full screen and supports poster frames.
			 Improved JavaScript performance, overall browser responsiveness, and startup time.
			 The ability for web developers to indicate that scripts should run asynchronously to speed up page load times.
			 Continued support for downloadable web fonts using the new WOFF font format.
			 Support for new CSS attributes such as gradients, background sizing, and pointer events.
3.6	Namoroka		 Support for new DOM and HTML5 specifications including the Drag & Drop API and the File API, which allow for more interactive web pages.
			 Changes to how third-party software can integrate with Firefox in order to prevent crashes.
			Changes during alphas
			Compositor (Phase 1), which moves Gecko to using one native widget per top-level content document.
			 A new focus model. The chromedir attribute has been replaced with a pseudoclass.
			 Several new CSS3 properties including background size and gradients for background images.
			 Speed improvements to the TraceMonkey JavaScript engine.
			 Startup and responsiveness improvements throughout the application.^[157]
			Changes during betas
			■ Users can now change their browser's appearance with a single click, with built in support for Personas. Firefox 3.6 will alert users about out of date plugins to keep them safe. Open, native video can now be displayed full screen, and supports poster frames. Support for the WOFF font format. Improved JavaScript performance, overall browser responsiveness and startup time. Support for new CSS, DOM and HTML5 web technologies. [158]
			 A mechanism to prevent incompatible software from crashing Firefox.^[159]
			 A change to how third-party software integrates with Firefox to increase stability. The ability to run scripts asynchronously to speed up page load times.^[160]
			 Added support for the HTML5 File API.^[161]

	I		here was no version 3.6.1.
3.6.2	6.2 March 22 2010		Security and stability update. ^[162]
3.6.3		April 1, 2010	Quick turn-around security update. ^[163]
3.6.3plugin1	Lorentz	April 8, 2010	First Firefox "Lorentz" beta, followed by 7 more Firefox 3.6.4 pre-release builds, all codenamed "Lorentz".[164]
			Regular security and stability update. ^[154]
3.6.4	<u>Lorentz</u>	June 22, 2010	 Provides uninterrupted browsing for Windows and Linux users when there is a crash in the Adobe Flash, Apple Quicktime or Microsoft Silverlight plugins.
		Т	here was no version 3.6.5.
			Off-cycle stability update. ^[155]
3.6.6		June 26, 2010	 Modified crash protection feature to increase amount of time plugins allowed to be non-responsive before being terminated.
3.6.7		July 20, 2010	Regular security and stability update. ^[165]
3.6.8		July 23, 2010	Off-cycle stability update. ^[166]
3.6.9		September 7, 2010	Regular security and stability update. Also added support for X-FRAME-OPTIONS HTTP response header to help prevent clickjacking and removed option to enable experimental HTML5 parser via user preference html5.enable in about:config. ^[167]
3.6.10	Sep 15,		Off-cycle stability update. ^[168]
3.6.11		October 19, 2010	Regular security and stability update. ^[169]
3.6.12		October 27, 2010	Off-cycle security update. ^[170]
3.6.13		December 9, 2010	Regular security and stability update. ^[171]
3.6.14		March 1, 2011	Regular security and stability update. ^[172]
3.6.15		March 4, 2011	Off-cycle stability update. Fixed issue where some Java applets failed to load in Firefox 3.6.14. ^[173]
3.6.16		March 22, 2011	Off-cycle security update. Blacklisted several invalid HTTPS certificates. ^[174]
3.6.17		April 28, 2011	Regular security and stability update. ^[175]
3.6.18		June 21, 2011	Regular security and stability update. ^[176]
3.6.19		July 11, 2011	Off-cycle stability update. Turned off downloadable font support for users running Mac OS X 10.7 due to an underlying platform bug. No changes made on Windows side. ^[177]
3.6.20		August 16,	Regular security and stability update. ^[178]

	2011	
3.6.21	August 30, 2011	Off-cycle security update. Blacklisted a compromised HTTPS certificate. ^[179]
3.6.22	September 6, 2011	Off-cycle security update. ^[180]
3.6.23	September 27, 2011	Regular security and stability update. ^[181]
3.6.24	November 8, 2011	Regular security and stability update. ^[182]
3.6.25	December 20, 2011	Regular security and stability update. ^[183]
3.6.26	January 31, 2012	Regular security and stability update. ^[184]
3.6.27	February 17, 2012	Off-cycle security update. ^[185]
3.6.28	March 13, 2012	Regular security and stability update. [186] End-of-life 3.6.x product line (https://wiki.mozilla.org/Enterprise/Firefox/ExtendedSupport:Proposal) on April 24, 2012. Last release for Mac OS X Tiger and PowerPC Macs.

On October 13, 2006, <u>Brendan Eich</u>, Mozilla's then-<u>Chief-Technology-Officer</u>, wrote about the plans for "Mozilla 2", referring to the most comprehensive iteration (since its creation) of the overall platform on which Firefox and other Mozilla products run.^[187] Most of the objectives were gradually incorporated into Firefox through versions 3.0, 3.5, and 3.6. The largest changes, however, were planned for Firefox 4.

Firefox 4 was released on March 22, 2011, originally Firefox 3.7 (Gecko 1.9.3) during its alpha stage, [188] brought a new <u>user interface</u> and is said to be faster. [189] Early <u>mockups</u> of the new



Firefox 4.0 displaying Wikipedia on Windows 7

interface on Windows, Mac OS X, and Linux were first made available in July 2009. [190][191][192] Other new features included improved notifications, tab groups, application tabs, a redesigned add-on manager, integration with Firefox Sync, and support for multi-touch displays. [193][194][195][196][197]

Firefox 4 was based on the <u>Gecko</u> 2.0 engine, which added or improved support for <u>HTML5</u>, <u>CSS3</u>, <u>WebM</u>, and <u>WebGL</u>. [198][199] It also included a new JavaScript engine (<u>JägerMonkey</u>) and better <u>XPCOM</u> APIs. [200]

Release history of Firefox 4

Version	Codename	Release date ^[3]	Release type and highlights $^{[t\;1]}$
4.0	Tumucumaque	March	Official Firefox 4.0 release. ^[201]
		22, 2011	Gecko version 2.0
			■ Firefox 4 is available in over 80 languages
			 Uses JägerMonkey, a faster JavaScript engine
			 Support for Do Not Track ("DNT") header that allows users to opt out of behavioral advertising
			 Firefox Sync is included by default
			 Graphic rendering is now hardware-accelerated using Direct3D 9 (Windows XP), Direct3D 10 (Windows Vista & 7), and OpenGL on Mac OS
			 Direct2D Hardware Acceleration is now on by default for Windows 7 users
			 WebGL is enabled on all platforms that have a capable graphics card with updated drivers
			 Native support for the HD HTML5 WebM video format, hardware accelerated where available
			 Firefox button has a new look for Windows Vista and Windows 7 users
			 Tabs are now on top by default on Windows, Mac OS X, and Linux
			 You can search for and switch to already open tabs in the Smart Location Bar
			 The stop and reload buttons have been merged into a single button on Windows, Mac OS X, and Linux
			 The Bookmarks Toolbar has been replaced with a Bookmarks Button by default (you can switch it back if you'd like)
			 Crash protection when there is a crash in <u>Adobe Flash Player</u>, <u>Apple QuickTime</u> or <u>Microsoft Silverlight</u> plugins
			You can turn any tab into an "App Tab"
			The default homepage design has been refreshed
			Overhaul of the bookmarks and history code, enabling faster bookmarking and startup performance
			 Per-compartment garbage collection is now enabled, reducing work done during complex animations
			Additional polish for the <u>Firefox add-on</u> Manager Manager
			 Improved web typography using <u>OpenType</u> with support for ligatures, kerning and font variants
			Web developers can animate content using CSS Transitions Despensiveness and agralling improvements from the new rateined.
			 Responsiveness and scrolling improvements from the new retained layers layout system
			 HTML5 Forms API makes web based forms easier to implement and validate
			Support for the new proposed Audio Data API Support for NOTO and price and all provides a first that the proposed Audio Data API
			 Support for HSTS security protocol allowing sites to insist that they only be loaded over SSL
			 A new feature called Panorama gives users a visual overview of all open tabs, allowing them to be sorted and grouped
			 An experimental API is included to provide more efficient JavaScript animations
			■ Firefox now supports the HTML5 video "buffered" property
			 Changes to how XPCOM components are registered in order to help startup time and process separation
			 New Addons Manager and extension management API

- Significant API improvements are available for JS-ctypes, a foreign function interface for extensions
- CSS Transitions are partially supported
- Core Animation rendering model for plugins on Mac OS X
- Web developers can update the URL field without reloading the page using HTML History APIs
- More responsive page rendering using lazy frame construction
- Link history lookup is done asynchronously to provide better responsiveness during pageload
- CSS :visited selectors have been changed to block websites from being able to check a user's browsing history
- New HTML5 parser
- Support for more HTML5 form controls
- Web authors can now get touch events from Firefox users on Windows 7 machines
- A new way of representing values in JavaScript that allows Firefox to execute heavy, numeric code more efficiently.

Changes during alphas

- Support for WebGL(Disabled by default, but can be enabled by changing a preference). Support for new CSS, DOM and HTML5 web technologies.^[202]
- On Windows and Linux, plugins (such as Flash and Silverlight) are now isolated from Firefox. Plugin crashes will not kill Firefox itself, and unresponsive plugins are automatically restarted. The SSL security system has been changed to fix a renegotiation flaw. Link history lookup is now performed asynchronously on a thread. Loading the HTML5 specification no longer causes very long browser pauses. Some JavaScript engine improvements. The stop and reload buttons have been merged when they are adjacent on the toolbar. More performance and stability improvements.
- An experimental Direct2D rendering backend on Windows is available, turned off by default. Significant API improvements are available for JS-ctypes. Mozilla now uses an infallible allocator. Additional fixes for multi-process plugins.^[204]
- CSS :visited selectors have been changed to block ways that websites can quickly check a user's browsing history. Currently loaded web pages are shown in the location bar autocomplete list, allowing switching to existing tabs. The beta version of Adobe Flash is now run in a separate process on Mac OS X Snow Leopard (10.6). Full-screen video on Windows is now rendered using hardware acceleration when available. Mozilla has implemented the Core Animation rendering model for plugins on Mac OS X. Linux builds are now built with -fomit-frame-pointer. Support for new SVG and HTML5 web technologies. [205]
- Added WebM video playback.
- First official release to include linux-x86_64 and mac-x86_64 builds and first regular release to include WebM video playback. New Addons Manager (placeholder UI only). Tab on Top can now be implemented. Firefox now uses hardware acceleration for video playback. Cocoa NPAPI support. ChromeWorker with jsctypes support. Lazy frame construction for faster dynamic pages. JavaScript performance improvements. Loading the URL about:memory now shows how much memory is used by different parts of Firefox. More Performance improvement and support for new CSS and HTML5 web technology. [206]

Changes during betas

- Tabs are now on top by default on Windows. On Windows Vista and Windows 7 the menu bar has been replaced with the Firefox button. The Bookmarks Toolbar has been replaced with a Bookmarks Button by default (you can switch it back if you'd like). Support for more HTML5 technologies.^[207]
- Tabs are now on top by default on OSX. App Tabs can now be created. Content animation using CSS Transitions can now be implemented. Responsiveness and scrolling improvements from the new retained layers layout system. JavaScript speed improvements due to engine optimizations. Changes to how XPCOM components are registered in order to help startup time and process separation. [208]
- Web authors can now get touch events from Firefox users on Windows 7 machines. A new way of representing values in JavaScript that allows Firefox to execute heavy, numeric code (used for things like graphics and animations) more efficiently.^[209]
- Firefox Sync is now included. Panorama, a new feature that gives users a visual overview of all open tabs, allowing them to be sorted and grouped, is now included. An experimental API is included to provide more efficient Javascript animations. Firefox now supports the HTML5 video "buffered" property. [210]
- Support for the new proposed Audio Data API. Direct2D Hardware Acceleration is now on by default for Windows 7 users. Firefox button has a new look for Windows Vista and Windows 7 users. Support for HSTS security protocol allowing sites to insist that they only be loaded over SSL.^[211]
- Fixed a stability issue affecting Windows users. Fixed an issue causing rendering errors with plugins affecting Mac OS X users. [212]
- Uses JägerMonkey, a new, faster JavaScript engine. WebGL is enabled by default on Windows and Mac OS X. Certain rendering operations are now hardware-accelerated using Direct3D 9 on Windows XP, Direct3D 10 on Windows Vista and 7, and OpenGL on Mac OS X. Improved web typography using OpenType with support for ligatures, kerning and font variants. HTML5 Forms API makes web based forms easier to implement and validate. [213]
- The Firefox Sync setup experience has been greatly improved across desktop and mobile devices. Speed, functionality, and compatibility improvements to WebGL. Additional polish for the Firefox Add-ons Manager. [214]
- Overhaul of the bookmarks and history code, enabling faster bookmarking and startup performance. Per-compartment garbage collection is now enabled, reducing work done during complex animations.^[215]
- Compatibility and stability improvements when using Adobe Flash on Mac OS X. Improvements in memory usage. Support for a graphics driver blacklist to improve stability.^[216]
- Support for the proposed Do Not Track ("DNT") header. Connection status messages are now shown in a small overlay. WebGL has been re-enabled on Linux. The default homepage design has been refreshed. Firefox no longer switches into offline mode automatically.^[217]
- Increased performance while viewing Flash content. Improved plugin compatibility with hardware acceleration enabled. Hovering over links now displays the URL at the bottom of the window rather than in the location bar. General stability, performance, and compatibility improvements.^[218]

Changes during release candidates

- General stability, performance, and compatibility improvements.^[219]
- Blacklisted a few invalid HTTPS certificates.^[220]

				 Updated localizations for 29 locales. Added Vietnamese localization, bringing the total languages available in Firefox 4 to 83.
4.0	0.1	<u>Macaw</u>	April 28, 2011	Regular security and stability update. ^[221] Fixed several security issues Fixed several stability issues End-of-life 4.0.x product line (https://wiki.mozilla.org/Firefox/Planning/2011-06-22#Release283.6.2C_4.0.2C_5.0.29) on June 21, 2011.

See also

- GNU IceCat
- History of free and open-source software
- History of Mozilla Application Suite
- Mozilla Corporation software rebranded by the Debian project

Notes

1. Features highlighted may exist in beta stages prior to an official release build of the immediate version, or in an incremental minor version build prior to the last one.

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External links

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