Firefox Portable Launcher 1.4.1.0

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Copyright 2004-2007 John T. Haller

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Website: http://PortableApps.com/FirefoxPortable

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ABOUT FIREFOX PORTABLE

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The Firefox Portable Launcher allows you to run Firefox from a removable drive

whose letter changes as you move it to another computer. The browser and the

profile can be entirely self-contained on the drive and then used on any Windows

computer. Specific configuration changes are made to the chrome.rdf so that

your extensions will still work as the drive letter changes.

LICENSE

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This code is released under the GPL. Within the FirefoxPortableSource directory

you will find the code (FirefoxPortable.nsi) as well as the full GPL license

(License.txt). If you use the launcher or code in your own product, please give

proper and prominent attribution.

INSTALLATION / DIRECTORY STRUCTURE

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By default, the program expects the following directory structure:

-\ <--- Directory with FirefoxPortable.exe

+\App\

+\firefox\

+\Data\

+\profile\

+\settings\

+\plugins\ (optional)

The above files may also be placed in a FirefoxPortable directory with the

FirefoxPortable.exe launcher a directory above that.

It can be used in other directory configurations by including the FirefoxPortable.ini

file in the same directory as FirefoxPortable.exe and configuring it as detailed in

the INI file section below.

FIREFOXPORTABLE.INI CONFIGURATION

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The Firefox Portable Launcher will look for an ini file called FirefoxPortable.ini

within its directory. If you are happy with the default options, it is not necessary,

though. There is an example INI included with this package to get you started. The

INI file is formatted as follows:

[FirefoxPortable]

FirefoxDirectory=App\firefox

ProfileDirectory=Data\profile

SettingsDirectory=Data\settings

PluginsDirectory=Data\plugins

FirefoxExecutable=firefox.exe

AdditionalParameters=

LocalHomepage=

WaitForFirefox=false

DisableSplashScreen=false

AllowMultipleInstances=false

DisableIntelligentStart=false

SkipChromeFix=false

SkipCompregFix=false

RunLocally=false

The FirefoxDirectory, ProfileDrectory, SettingsDirectory and PluginsDirectory entries

should be set to the \*relative\* path to the directories containing firefox.exe, your

profile, your plugins, etc. from the current directory. All must be a subdirectory

(or multiple subdirectories) of the directory containing FirefoxPortable.exe. The

default entries for these are described in the installation section above.

The FirefoxExecutable entry allows you to set the Firefox Portable Launcher to use

an alternate EXE call to launch firefox. This is helpful if you are using a machine

that is set to deny firefox.exe from running. You'll need to rename the firefox.exe

file and then enter the name you gave it on the firefoxexecutable= line of the INI.

The AdditionalParameters entry allows you to pass additional commandline parameter

entries to firefox.exe. Whatever you enter here will be appended to the call to

firefox.exe.

The LocalHomepage entry allows you to set Firefox Portable to use a local file on your

portable drive as your homepage. The file must be a path relative to the launcher.

If you were to set it to a file in the same directory as FirefoxPortable.exe, you would

use LocalHomepage=homepage.html If it was in a subdirectory called homepage, you would

enter LocalHomepage=homepage/homepage.html.

The WaitForFirefox entry allows you to set the launcher to remain active until Firefox has

closed. This is useful if you wish to have another process wait until Firefox Portable

has closed. The launcher will automatically wait for Firefox to close in cases where it

needs to clean up after firefox.exe (for instance, to clean up %APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox

when there is no locally-installed Firefox).

The DisableSplashScreen entry allows you to run the Firefox Portable Launcher without the

splash screen showing up. The default is false.

The AllowMultipleInstances entry will allow Firefox Portable to run alongside your

regular local copy of Firefox if you set it to true (lowercase). The default is false.

The DisableIntelligentStart entry allows you to to have Firefox Portable run its chrome

and component registry fixes on every start. Normally, it tracks when you've moved to a

new path (switching PCs for instance) and only processes the chrome and component

registry when you do. By skipping it when the path is the same, Firefox Portable starts

up faster. But, if you copy a profile into Firefox Portable between sessions (it handles

a copy in on first run automatically), it won't know to process these. This usually

happens if you copy a profile into Firefox Portable from your local PC on a regular basis

with a sync utility that doesn't work with Firefox Portable (like Portable Apps Sync

does). Setting this to true causes Firefox Portable to process each on every start.

The SkipChromeFix entry allows you to set Firefox Portable not to adjust the chrome.rdf

for extension compatibility on launch. It is useful if you are only using Firefox

Portable on computers you control and are able to have the drive letter set the same each

time as Firefox Portable will launch more quickly. Set it to true (lowercase) to skip

chrome.rdf processing. The default is false.

The SkipCompregFix entry allows you to set Firefox Portable not to adjust the component

registry (compreg.dat) for certain extension compatibility on launch. It is useful if

you are only using Firefox Portable on computers you control and are able to have the

drive letter set the same each time or if you are not using extensions which make use of

the component registry (like Forecast Fox or the Mozilla Calendar) as Firefox Portable

will launch more quickly. Set it to true (lowercase) to skip chrome.rdf processing. The

default is false.

The RunLocally entry allows you to set Firefox Portable to copy your profile, plugins and

Firefox binaries to the local machine's temp directory. This can be useful for instances

where you'd like to run Firefox Portable from a CD (aka Firefox Portable Live) or when

you're working on a machine that may have spyware or viruses and you'd like to keep your

device set to read-only mode. The only caveat is, of course, that any changes you make

that session (cookies, bookmarks, etc) aren't saved back to your device. When done

running, the local temp directories used by Firefox Portable are removed. RunLocally does

not currently work with AllowMultipleInstances as it cannot track which version of

Firefox is running.

PROGRAM HISTORY / ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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This launcher contains elements from multiple sources. It began as a batch file launcher

written by myself (John T. Haller) and posted to the mozillaZine.org thread about running

Firefox from a USB key. tracon later released a launcher called fflaunch which I

enhanced and re-released as Firefox Portable. mai9 later improved on fflaunch's

techniques and released it as Free The Fox. Multiple suggestions back and forth as well

as improvements from mai9, myself and others lead to the launcher we have today. This

most recent version adds some of mai9's methods for running multiple copies of Firefox

and my methods for allowing the code to be run from anywhere on first launch (as opposed

to a specific directory), pass in commandline options, run without an ini file and allow

the use of profiles from local installations.

CURRENT LIMITATIONS

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INCOMPATIBLE EXTENSIONS - Certain extensions use additional local files or prefs.js to

store information, neither of which are handled by the Firefox Portable launcher when

moving between machines.

NO PORTABLE JAVA - Sun's Java VM needs to be installed locally as it makes a slew of

registry entries, etc. There is no way to make it portable at present, so you will only

be able to use Java-enabled sites on machines that have the Sun Java VM installed locally.