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☐   Firefox

Version 119

Linux

Profile Manager - Create, remove or switch Firefox profiles

(Redirected from [Use the Profile Manager to create and remove Firefox profiles](#))
Firefox saves your personal information such as bookmarks, passwords and user
preferences in a set of files called your [profile](#), which is stored in a separate location
from the Firefox program files. You can have multiple Firefox profiles, each containing a
separate set of user information. The Profile Manager allows you to create, remove,
rename, and switch profiles.

- If you have (or plan to have) multiple installations of Firefox on one computer, see
  [Dedicated profiles per Firefox installation](#).

- If you are troubleshooting a problem with Firefox: The [Refresh Firefox feature](#) can
  fix many issues by restoring Firefox to its default state while saving your essential
  information. Consider using it before going through a lengthy troubleshooting
  process.

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Note: You can manage profiles from the *About Profiles* page when Firefox is open. If Firefox won't start or you need certain options, you can also start the Profile Manager when Firefox is closed.

Manage profiles when Firefox is open

Type **about:profiles** into the address bar and press the `Enter` key. This will open the *About Profiles* page, where you can view, create and manage your Firefox profiles.

Note: The *Root Directory* stores [user profile data](#) such as bookmarks, passwords, and preference settings. The *Local Directory* stores the disk cache and other temporary data.

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Wizard (see the Creating a profile section below for details). After you finish creating the new profile, it will be listed in the Profile Manager. The new profile will become the default and will be used the next time you start Firefox.

To manage profiles, find the profile you want to change and choose from these buttons underneath that profile:

- **Rename** Click this to change the name of a profile in the Profile Manager. **Note:** This does not rename the folder containing the files for the profile.

- **Remove** Click this to delete a profile. (The profile in use cannot be deleted.) *Don't Delete Files* is the preferred option. See the Removing a profile section below for more information.

- **Set as default profile** This option allows you to switch profiles. Click this to make Firefox use this profile by default at startup.

- **Launch profile in new browser** When you click this, another Firefox window will open using that profile.

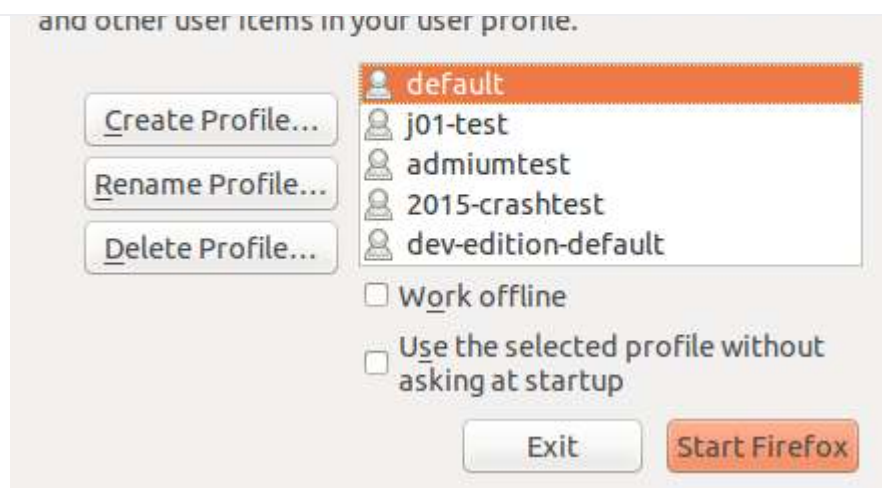## Start the Profile Manager when Firefox is closed

> **Note:** You may need to adjust these instructions if Firefox is installed in a non-default location (for example, when multiple installations exist).

If Firefox is already included in your Linux distribution or if you have installed Firefox with the package manager of your Linux distribution:

1. If Firefox is open, close Firefox: Click the Firefox menu ≡ and select Quit .

2. In **Terminal** run:
   `firefox -P`

The P is capitalized. Alternatively, you can use `-ProfileManager` instead of `-P`. The Firefox Profile Manager (Choose User Profile) window should open.

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If the Profile Manager window does not open, Firefox may have been running in the background, even though it was not visible. Close all instances of Firefox or restart the computer and then try again.

Create, remove or rename a profile

You can create, remove or rename a profile either from the *Choose User Profile* window when Firefox is closed or from the *About Profiles* page when Firefox is open, as follows:

Creating a profile

1. Click the `Create Profile...` button in the *Choose User Profile* window, or click the `Create a New Profile` button in the *About Profiles* page, to start the Create Profile Wizard.
2. Click `Next` and enter the name of the profile. Use a profile name that is descriptive, such as your personal name. This name is not exposed on the Internet.

3. Disregard the [**Choose Folder**] prompt unless you wish to choose where to store the profile on your computer.

> **Warning:** If you choose your own folder location for the profile, select a new or empty folder. If you choose a folder that isn't empty and you later remove the profile and choose the *Delete Files* option, everything inside that folder will be deleted.

4. To create the new profile, click [**Finish**].

You will be taken back to the *Choose User Profile* window or the *About Profiles* page and the new profile will be listed. When you first start Firefox with the new profile, you will be prompted to sign in to your Mozilla account so that you can sync your data with the new profile (see below).
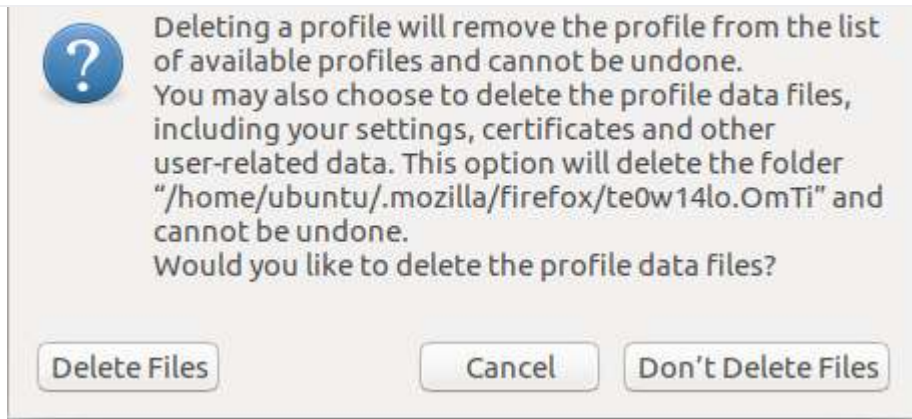
Removing a profile

You can remove an existing profile as follows:

1. Select the profile to remove and click [**Delete Profile...**] in the *Choose User Profile* window, or click the [**Remove**] button in the *About Profiles* page under the name of the profile you wish to delete.

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- **Don't Delete Files** removes the profile from the Profile Manager yet retains the profile data files on your computer in the storage folder, so that your information is not lost. *Don't Delete Files* is the preferred option because it saves the old profile's folder and allows you to recover the files to a new profile.
- **Delete Files** removes the profile and its files (including the profile bookmarks, settings, passwords, etc.). If you use the *Delete Files* option, the profile folder and files will be deleted. **This action cannot be undone.**
- **Cancel** interrupts the profile deletion.

Renaming a profile

You can rename a profile as follows:

1. Select the profile to rename in the *Choose User Profile* window and click **Rename Profile...** or click the **Rename** button in the *About Profiles* page under the profile you wish to rename.
2. Enter the new name for the profile. Type in the new profile name, and click on **OK** .

   - **Note**: The folder containing the files for the profile is not renamed.

Options

These options are only available when you [start the Profile Manager when Firefox is closed](#).

Work Offline

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Use the selected profile without asking at startup

When you have multiple profiles, this option tells Firefox what to do at startup:

- If you check this option, Firefox will automatically load the selected profile at startup. To access other profiles, you must start the Profile Manager first.

- If you uncheck this option, Firefox will show you the Profile Manager each time you start Firefox, so that you can select a profile to use.

Use Sync with a new profile

You can sync your new profile with other Firefox profiles and devices. To learn more, see How do I set up Sync on my computer? and How do I choose what information to sync on Firefox?

Moving a profile

To copy all of your Firefox data and settings to another Firefox installation (for example, when you get a new computer), you can make a backup of your Firefox profile, then restore it in your new location. For instructions, see Back up and restore information in Firefox profiles.

Recovering information from an old profile

If you have important information from an old Firefox profile, such as bookmarks, passwords, or user preferences, you can transfer that information to a new Firefox profile by copying the associated files. For instructions, see Recovering important data from an old profile. You can also switch to a previous profile to recover old profile data. See Recover user data missing after Firefox update for details.

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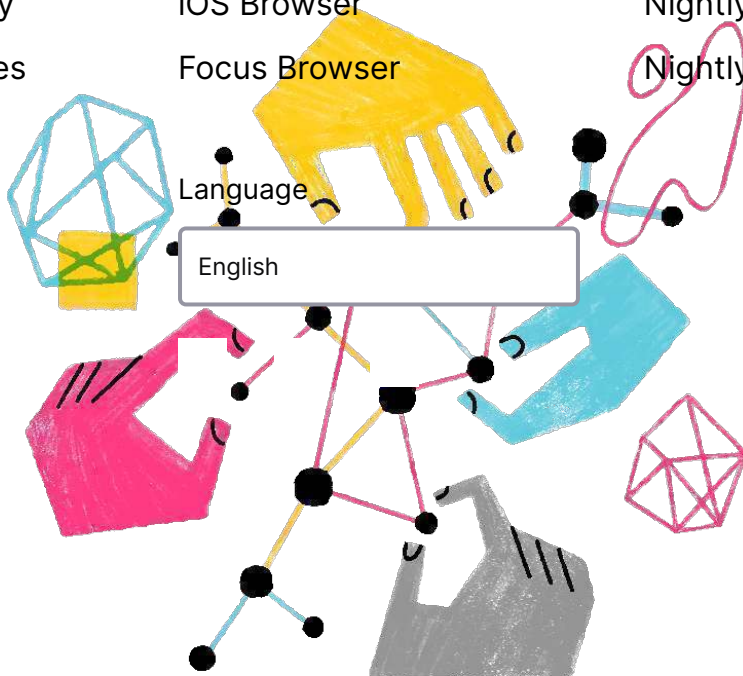
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