

# Is there a text mode browser which supports javascript?

Asked 12 years, 5 months ago Modified 2 years, 9 months ago Viewed 118k times



I need to configure my router remotely, and links etc won't work because the router config page uses javascript and refuses to run without it.

74



Obviously, shame on netgear for being this crap, but is there a text mode browser that will allow their abortion to run?



browser text mode



Share Improve this question

edited Feb 13, 2015 at 18:54

asked Apr 12, 2011 at 13:30

Follow



John Lawrence Aspden

2,087 4 19 25

7 Answers

Sorted by:

Highest score (default)



Check which version of elinks you have.

24

```
elinks -version
ELinks 0.12pre6 #Not the version that supports ECMAScript
```



The article "[Building eLinks Text-based Web Browser with \(Some Sort of\) JavaScript Support](#)" describes how to get javascript configured in elinks.



It notes that the resulting version of elinks still doesn't work with lots of web pages, which is perhaps why javascript support is not enabled by default in the elinks version in Ubuntu.

Other even less successful alternatives are noted also: links2 and w3m + w3m-js extension.

A quick summary of the commands for building an elinks that supports ECMAScript follows:

```
wget http://elinks.or.cz/download/elinks-current-0.13.tar.bz2
tar xjvf elinks-current-0.13.tar.bz2
cd elinks-0.13*
./configure
#Check for ECMAScript support.
make -j8
sudo make install
```

Share Improve this answer

edited Jul 27, 2015 at 6:46

answered Oct 29, 2014 at 15:22

Follow



Nathan Basanese

422 4 17



nealmcb

3,598 3 40 61

- 1 Note that you need to have libmozjs185-dev package installed, otherwise 0.13 will be no more useful than 0.12pre6 or any other without ECMAScript support. Also, some configuration is necessary to enable ECMAScript. See [another answer](#) for details. – Ruslan Apr 10, 2018 at 14:50

It looks like libmozjs185 has been removed from Ubuntu 18.04 Bionic. The packages libmozjs-38-dev and libmozjs-52-dev exist, but the latest master-branch code of elinks won't use them to compile in JS support. It specifically wants mozjs185 or mozilla-js. – David Baucum May 17, 2018 at 15:20

- 1 @DavidBaucum see [this StackOverflow answer](#) telling how to install it. – Ruslan Sep 30, 2019 at 10:06

your building guide does not work – france1 Dec 7, 2022 at 17:50

@france1 Can you be more specific? What did you do, what happened, any error messages?

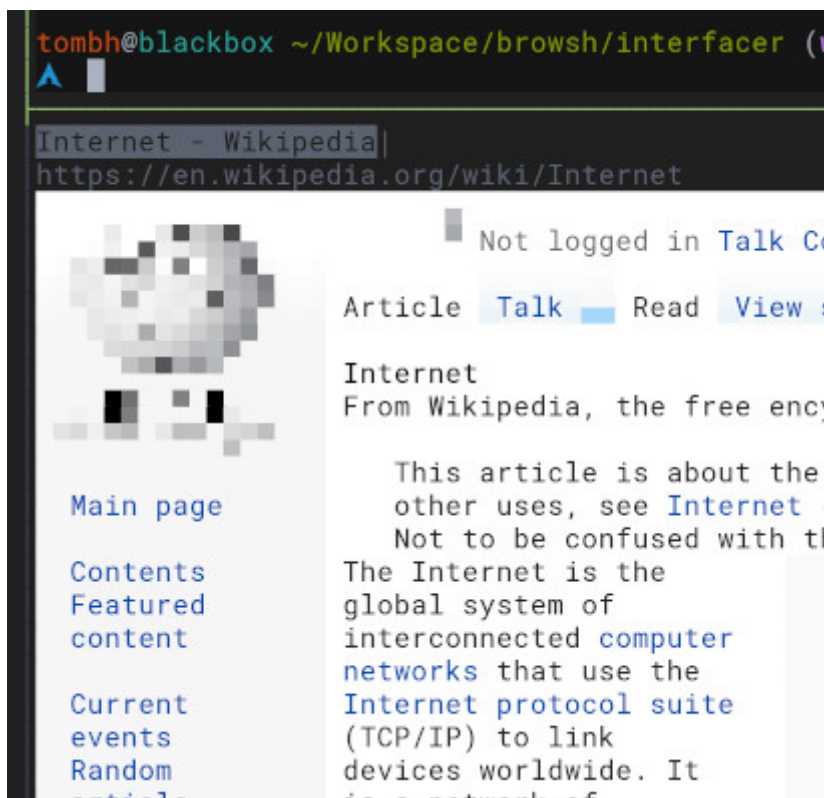
– nealmcb Jan 9 at 19:07



23



[Browsh](#) is a modern text-based browser, which runs on the terminal. According to its website, "It renders anything that a modern browser can; HTML5, CSS3, JS, video and even WebGL". It works much better than elinks. It's written in Go, so it's a single executable file, and available on most major platform (Linux, Mac, Windows, etc). (There was also a live demo, which can be accessed via SSH: `$ ssh brow.sh` but it is currently off-line)



Share Improve this answer

edited Nov 17, 2020 at 16:19

answered Mar 15, 2019 at 17:01

Follow



otter.pro

331 2 5

- 3 It's a nice idea, but note that it actually renders using Firefox v57+ which needs to be available.  
- [Ron Kaminsky](#) Jan 28, 2022 at 11:22



22

[edbrowse](#) claims to support JavaScript (but I've never used it)

As [ed is the standard editor](#) edbrowse may become the standard browser ;-).



Share Improve this answer Follow

answered Apr 12, 2011 at 14:35



[Florian Diesch](#)

86.1k 17 224 214



- 1 I tried going down this path; it doesn't appear to be a web browser akin to lynx. It appears to be far more useful if you want to write a script for traversing a website. - [Brian Vandenberg](#) Apr 20, 2019 at 22:17

I have to agree with Brian on this one: Edbrowse isn't a browser, it's a download tool that doesn't seem to be intended for 'surfing'/'browsing'. It doesn't render pages. How much work would it entail to roll duktape into Links or Lynx? Arguably, a text-based browser is the most important software of our time, and we don't have one to show. Apparently Browsh has what you need, but I think it requires X and firefox so it's really just prestidigitation (not really text-based with these requires). And Firefox is malware now (plus like 700 mb of hd space). - [Wolfpack'08](#) Feb 1, 2020 at 0:44



14

None of the above answers worked for me out of the box. [elinks](#) though is the only one pretty much capable this is what I did:

```
sudo apt install libmozjs185-dev pkg-config libssl-dev
```



Very important to have installed `pkg-config`, without it configure cannot detect SpiderMonkey Javascript engine, without `libssl-dev` you cannot access HTTPS sites.



```
wget http://elinks.or.cz/download/elinks-current-0.13.tar.bz2
```

unpack:

```
tar xvf elinks-current-0.13.tar.bz2
cd elinks-0.13-20171228/
```

then configure and check if javascript is seen:

```
./configure | grep -i "javascript"
```

Result should be:

ECMAScript (JavaScript) ..... SpiderMonkey document scripting

if result is

ECMAScript (JavaScript) ..... no

check the steps above until the right result is give.

Then make the sources

```
make -j8
```

And install it:

```
sudo make install
```

Now enable and try it, by running:

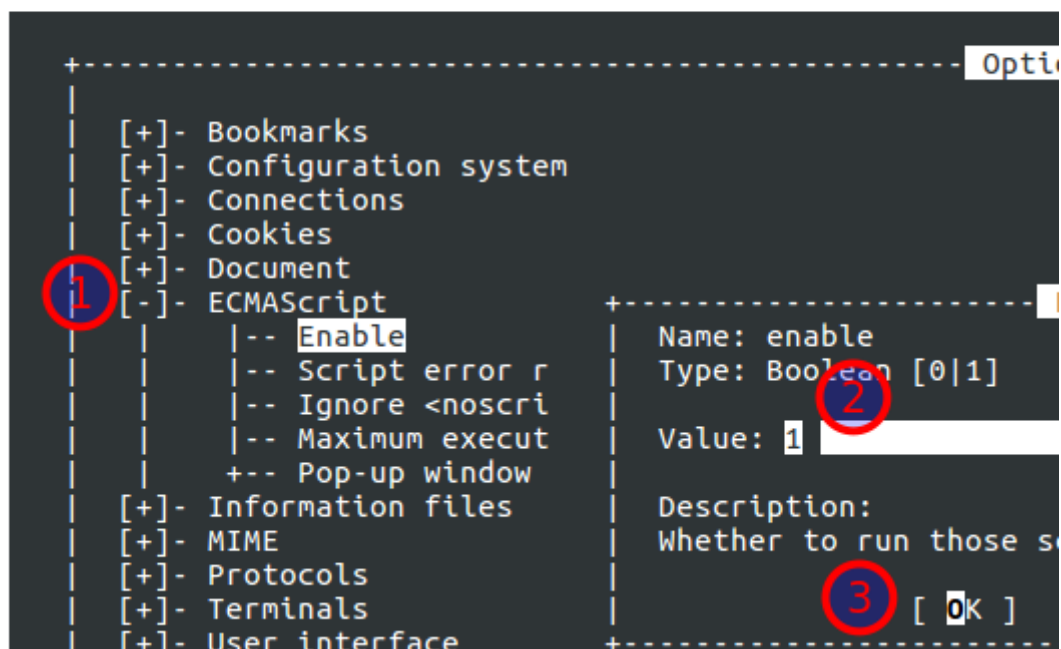
```
elinks ./test/ecmascript/protocol.html
```

Press **Alt** + **S**, **O** Key down (**↓**) and then **Space** on ECMAScript, **Alt** + **E** on Enable change to 1

**Change the document.title while preventing going anywhere beca**

**Change the document.url** (which is impossible because it's read target so it magically still works).

**Change the document.title and go to elinks.or.cz** (return value



**Alt** + **V** to save and then OK

Now it's able to execute **some** Javascript.

Share Improve this answer

edited Dec 29, 2017 at 12:35

answered Dec 28, 2017 at 22:53

Follow



Eduard Florinescu

7,717 9 46 51

- 3 As libmozjs185-dev has been removed from Ubuntu Bionic repos, see [this StackOverflow answer](#) on how to install it. – Ruslan Sep 30, 2019 at 10:08



There is a good feature comparison table at [Linux Journal](#)

6

Share Improve this answer

edited Sep 26, 2013 at 7:26

answered Sep 26, 2013 at 6:02

Follow



Mitch ♦

107k 24 211 269



Andy

61 1 1



- 16 Would like to point out that presently that article is over 10 years old, from 2005. – user1359 Apr 16, 2016 at 16:07



2

```
$ chromium --headless --disable-gpu --dump-dom
https://javatester.org/javascript.html |html2text
```



<https://softwarerecs.stackexchange.com/questions/11678/text-based-browser-that-runs-javascript/45864?newreg=a9ef2bec71ae4783b6e8ae88e45266c0>



Share Improve this answer Follow

answered Dec 1, 2020 at 16:26



PaSe

21 1

- 1 Cool, but not a browser. – Rainb May 4, 2021 at 5:27

Thanks a lot, this really helped! – mrts Mar 24 at 18:10

That is the most useful for me. – mark Apr 21 at 20:20



1

See [this answer](#): as of v0.23, [Web Adjuster](#) has a PhantomJS option, which can partially Javascript-enable any browser with the help of PhantomJS. I say "partially" because it's not (yet?) working with POST forms and Javascript-only links, but it's fine for reading the text of a page which requires Javascript before showing you that text.





```
sudo apt-get install python-selenium
wget https://bitbucket.org/ariya/phantomjs/downloads/phantomjs-2.1.1-linux-
i686.tar.bz2
tar -jxvf phantomjs-2.1.1-linux-i686.tar.bz2
cd phantomjs-2.1.1-linux-i686/
sudo mv bin/phantomjs /usr/local/bin/
cd ..
sudo apt-get install python-tornado
wget http://ssb22.user.srcf.net/adjuster/adjuster.py
python adjuster.py --PhantomJS --real_proxy
```

and in another window or tab

```
http_proxy=http://localhost:28080 lynx http://site-that-needs-javascript.example.com/
```

Disclosure: Web Adjuster maintainer here.

Share Improve this answer

edited Oct 2, 2019 at 16:11

answered Feb 27, 2017 at 17:23

Follow



Silas S. Brown

119 3