

# How to Add a User Stylesheet in Firefox

By David Walsh on December 29, 2018

While many like to complain about CSS these days, it's important to remember how amazing CSS is; the CSS language is:

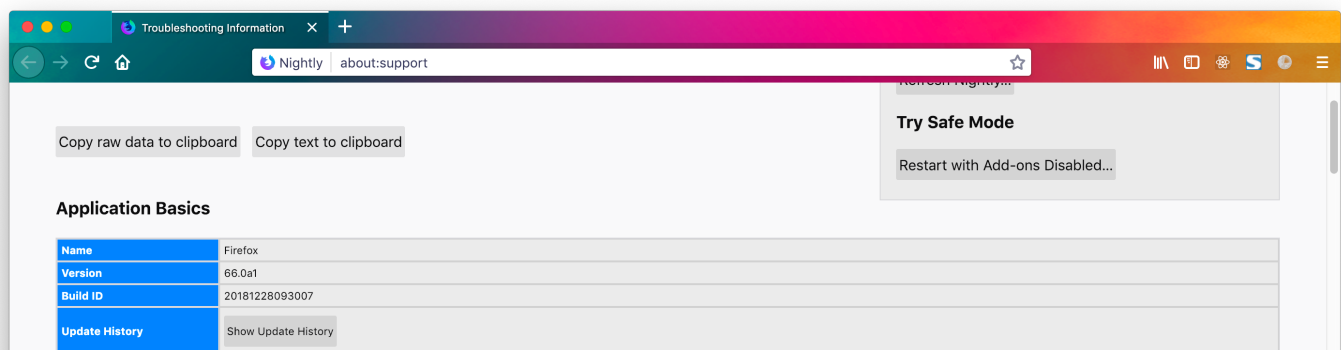
- easy to learn
- easy to read
- easy to write
- simple to understand

Web developers and designers alike love that CSS allows us to take text/media and present it in a beautiful, logical fashion. While we love that we control our own sites, it's obvious that we don't always agree with other web developers' decisions, and would prefer to modify designs for the purposes of simple UI improvement or hiding ads, etc.

The amazing Firefox web browser allows users to create and include a user stylesheet into each page to allow the user to modify every single web page as necessary. Let me show you how to do it!

## Step 1: Locate and Open Profile Directory

The user stylesheet will be added to your each user profile, not the browser code itself; this makes sense since each profile may want a different UI modifications. In the address bar, visit `about:support` and click Profile Folder's "Show in Finder" (or likewise) button:

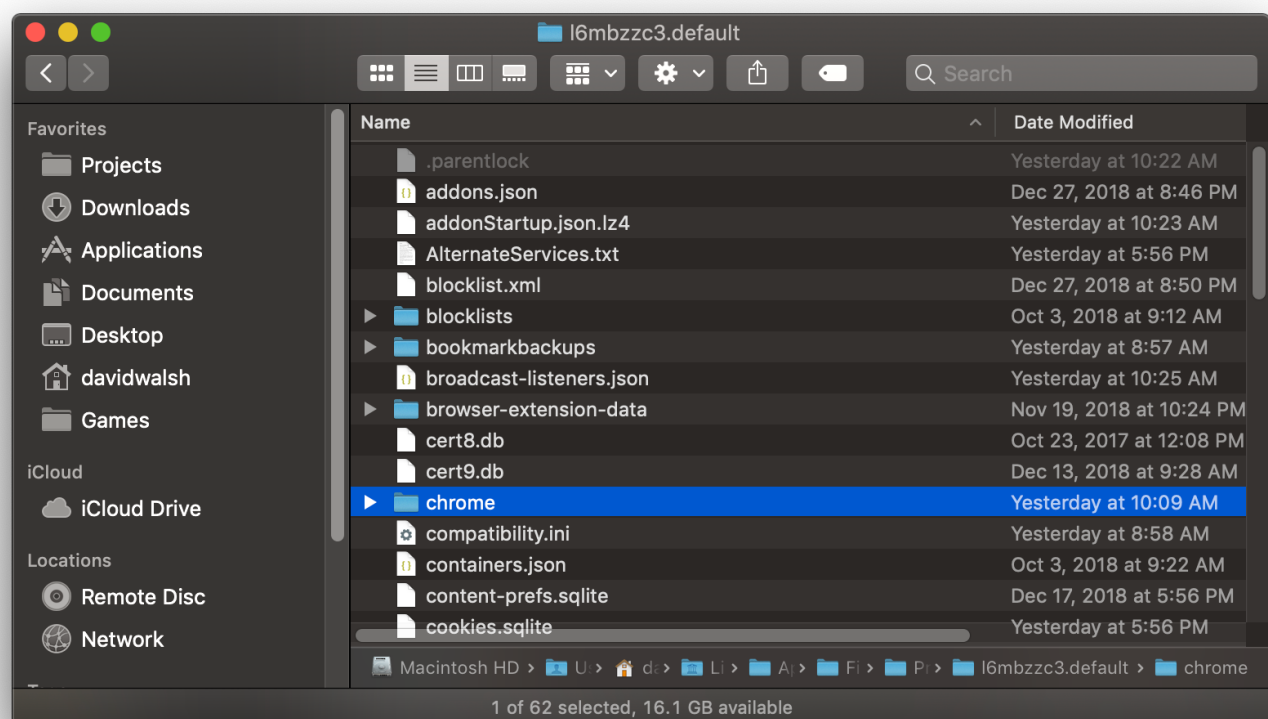


Update Channel	nightly
User Agent	Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10.14; rv:66.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/66.0
OS	Darwin 18.2.0
Profile Folder	Show in Finder
Enabled Plugins	about:plugins
Build Configuration	about:buildconfig
Memory Use	about:memory
Performance	about:performance
Registered Service Workers	about:serviceworkers
Multiprocess Windows	1/1 (Enabled by default)
Web Content Processes	3/8
Enterprise Policies	Inactive
Google Key	Found
Mozilla Location Service Key	Found
Safe Mode	false
Profiles	about:profiles

The directory will be opened on your system in Finder (Mac) or Explorer (Windows).

## Step 2: Create **chrome** Directory

Create a `chrome` directory within the designated profile directory which will host the necessary `userContent.css` file:

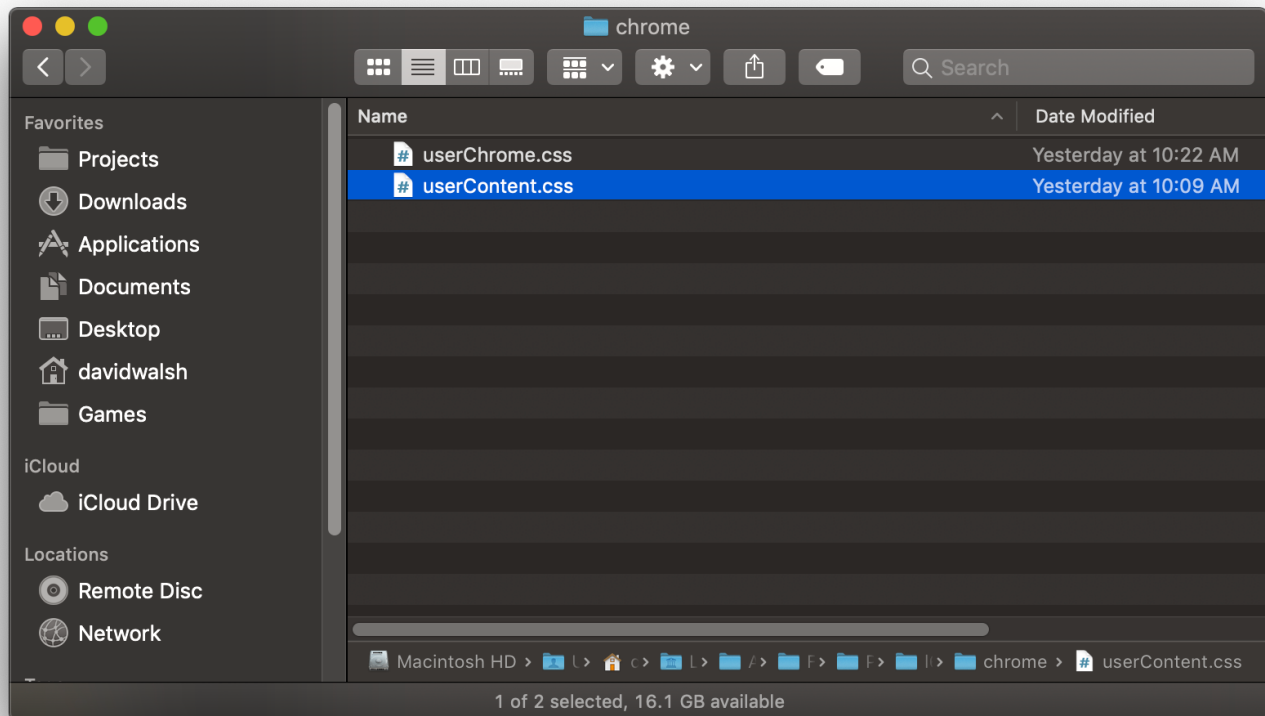


Having the `userContent.css` file in this directory will allow the user stylesheet to not be

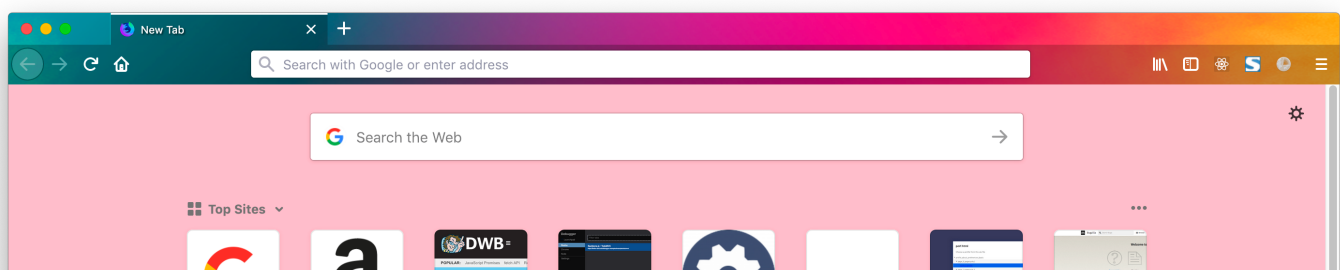
lost during Firefox upgrades.

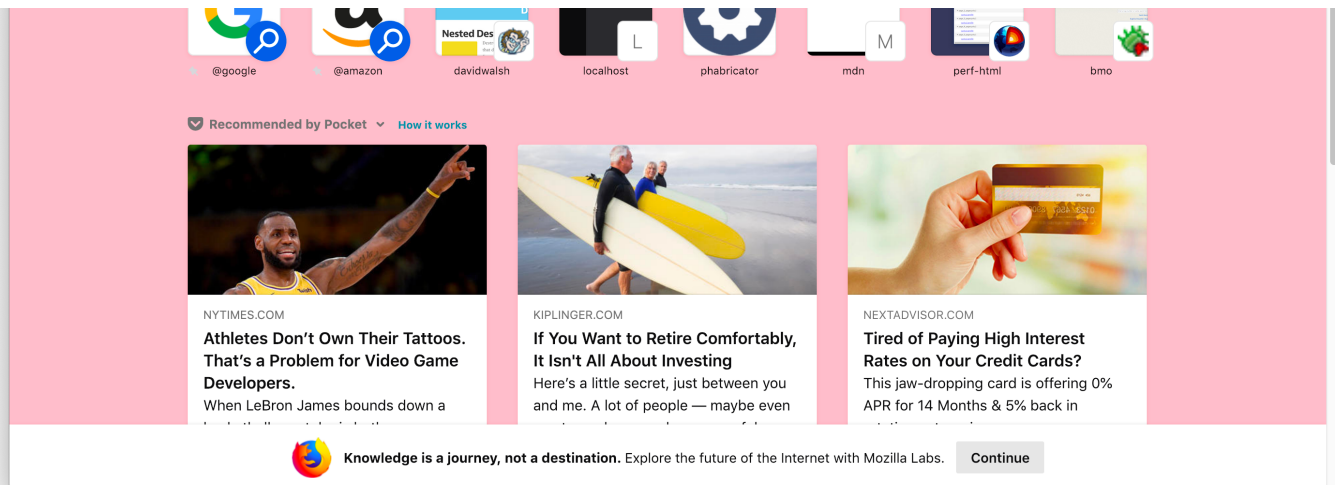
## Step 3: Create `userContent.css`

Firefox adds the `userContent.css` file on every page, if it exists, so add `userContent.css` within the `chrome` directory. This file should host all modifications to *any page you visit*, so don't create overly broad CSS selectors which will apply to every website.



```
/* an overly aggressive style just to prove it works */
body {
  background: pink !important;
}
```





## Step 4: Update `about:config`

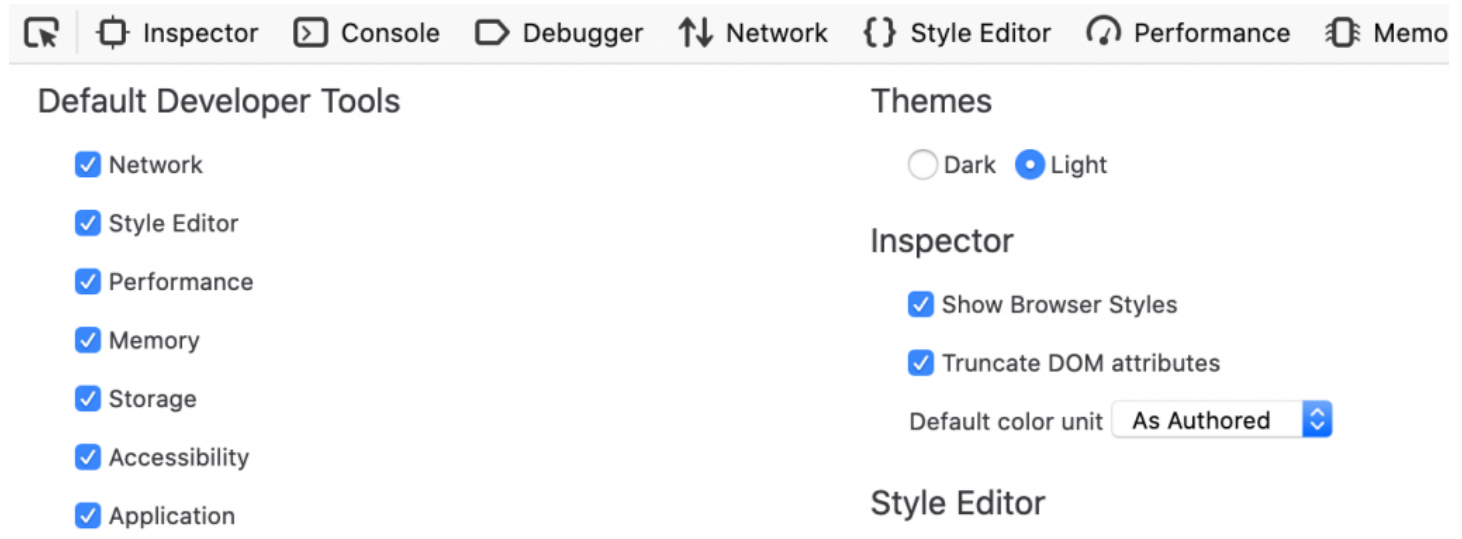
In the address bar, open `about:config` and set the `toolkit.legacyUserProfileCustomizations.stylesheets` setting to `true`.

## Step 5: Restart Firefox

User styles aren't applied to sites until you restart Firefox. Once Firefox has been restarted, the styles in your `userContent.css` will be applied to the page.

## Step 6: Show Browser Styles

Lastly, open DevTools, click the three-dot menu, and choose "Settings". Under "Inspector", check the "Show Browser Styles" checkbox:



## Bonus: `userChrome.css`

While the `userContent.css` allows the user to set CSS for all page content, you can also create a `userChrome.css` file which is applied to the browser *chrome*.

The ability to easily create a user stylesheet to customize any webpage is another reason to love Firefox!

## Recent Features

### Welcome to My New Office

My first professional web development was at a small print shop where I sat in a windowless cubical all day. I suffered that boxed in environment for almost five years before I was able to find a remote job where I worked from home. The first...

### 9 Mind-Blowing Canvas Demos

The `<canvas>` element has been a revelation for the visual experts among our ranks.

Canvas provides the means for incredible and efficient animations with the added bonus of no Flash; these developers can flash their awesome JavaScript skills instead. Here are nine unbelievable canvas demos that...

## Incredible Demos

### PHP Woot Checker – Tech, Wine, and Shirt Woot

If you haven't heard of Woot.com, you've been living under a rock. For those who have been under the proverbial rock, here's the plot: Every day, Woot sells one product. Once the item is sold out, no more items are available for purchase. You don't know how many...

## jQuery Countdown Plugin

You've probably been to sites like RapidShare and MegaUpload that allow you to download files but make you wait a specified number of seconds before giving you the download link. I've created a similar script but my script allows you to animate the CSS font-size...

## Discussion

### randomWebDev

I don't understand the purpose behind this. Why would a user write his own Stylesheet for a Website? To "hide ads"? Sure, there will be many people who open the debugger, analyse which div holds the ad and write a stylesheet to hide it... not? Adblocker?? Unless you are visiting a Website every day and are REALLY displeased with the looks, I just cannot imagine that there is anyone who would bother to do this.

### H

Lots of people do this because for some, the colors are either bothersome (white may hurt your eyes, or a dark background may be too low contrast to see it clearly). Or if you have low vision, certain types of colorblindness, you might need to add your own colors so you can see the page.

### MMIAngou

It's not because you don't need it that it is useless ; this is a huge feature for accessibility, so :

- Old person may want the font 200% bigger
- Custom fonts easier to read for Dislexia
- Custom colors for colorblind

And this can apply on all the sites you will visit

### Kaan

Well I am visiting an API documentation page for a very large multinational shipping company, maybe not every day, but very frequently. It has all sorts of unnecessary headers and useless chrome that makes the actual content difficult to

read. After deleting these numerous times using the inspector I decided to automate this using a user stylesheet. David S.'s comment is also quite relevant:

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/@document>

It would be useless without a domain specific media query. Also worth noting is that userContent.css is disabled by default in newer versions of firefox so you will have to enable it from about:config

<https://www.ghacks.net/2019/05/24/firefox-69-userchrome-css-and-usercontent-css-disabled-by-default/>

## George

I use a website daily that has a flashing digital clock. For some reason, this very simple animation sucks up a lot of CPU cycles in the browser, and this results in battery drain. By adding a bit of CSS, the animation is disabled and the CPU usage drops dramatically.

## David S.

I once thought user styles couldn't be limited to a specific domain as well, but then I found this: <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/@document>

I'd like to add that there are multiple extensions for Chromium-based browsers (Google Chrome, Opera, etc.) to add user stylesheets in them as well (including Stylus, Stylish, and Stylebot).

## MMIAngou

Someone knows the name of this particular Firefox theme ?

## maxbd

I'm currently using Firefox 72.0.2.

The new stylesheets are having no effect.

Websites continue to load/use their own styles.

Am I missing some setting or trick to force the use of my own stylesheets using:

...profile->chrome->userContent.css

...profile->chrome->userChrome.css?

## Craig

All styles must have `!important`. Example:

```
#elementid {  
    width:80% !important;  
}
```

## Nathan Chappell

If you're here and anything like me, you may find the "bookmarklet trick" helpful in conjunction with these user stylesheets. I have a bookmark(let) that, when I click on it, will invert the colors on the screen and set the background, and when I click on it again, sets the colors back to normal.

Here is the code, which is the "location field" of the bookmark(let). It's a bit complicated in order to make `document` hold state, and the precise `filter` style I apply to `html` is a bit souped up (my preference determined by some experimentation). Hope it helps:

```
javascript: void (function () {  
  
    /* some parameters for better viewing */  
  
    invert = 90;  
    contrast = 120;  
    brightness = 105;  
    darkBackground = '#ddd';  
  
    /* alias the elements we need */  
  
    html = document.getElementsByTagName("html")[0];  
    body = document.getElementsByTagName("body")[0];  
  
    /* my_bookmarklet_state holds some state attached to $document */  
  
    if (document.my_bookmarklet_state === undefined) {  
        document.my_bookmarklet_state = {  
            old_body: body.style.backgroundColor || 'white',  
            inverted: false,  
        }  
    }  
    state = document.my_bookmarklet_state;
```



```
/* main */

if (!state.inverted) {
  /* apply the inversion */

  html.style.filter = invert(`${invert}%`) contrast(`${contrast}%`) brightness(`${br
  body.style.backgroundColor = darkBackground;
  state.inverted = true;
} else {
  /* undo the inversion */

  html.style.filter = "";
  body.style.backgroundColor = state.old_body;
  state.inverted = false;
}
})();
```

## Nathan Chappell

Note that the code tags got converted to... aww fuck. You'll figure it out.

**jim**

how do i change the background color of the main page that is opened when i open my firefox browser?

Wrap your code in `<pre class="{language}"></pre>` tags, link to a [GitHub gist](#), [JSFiddle fiddle](#), or [CodePen pen](#) to embed!

☐ **Continue this conversation via email**

Post Comment!

Use Code Editor