

Essential Firefox add-ons

At Heart Internet we find myself using my web browser almost all the time. One of the great things about Firefox is the number of free add-ons available that enhance the browsing experience. All the add-ons for Firefox can be found at <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/> - but here are a few of our favourites.

DownThemAll!

<http://www.downdthemall.net/>

If you're downloading a large file (for example a website backup) it can be very irritating if you get disconnected or your computer crashes. Typically this always seems to happen within the last 10%!

DownThemAll! is a download manager integrated into Firefox which is able to pause and resume downloads. The neat thing about it is that its completely integrated – when you start a download you get an option to download with DownThemAll!.

Xmarks (previously Foxmarks)

<http://download.xmarks.com/download/all>

Thanks to the recent fashion of “small cheap computers”, it seems everybody has at least 2 computers nowadays. With my home PC, laptop and work computer I can't live without Xmarks – it's a bookmark synchroniser which keeps your bookmarks identical across computers. It has some nifty features such as bookmark profiles (so you can vary your bookmark toolbar at work for example), and if you're on a computer where you can't install the add-on, you can still see your bookmarks from a web page. It's compatible with Firefox on Windows, Mac OS X and Linux – as well as Internet Explorer and Safari.

TwitterFox

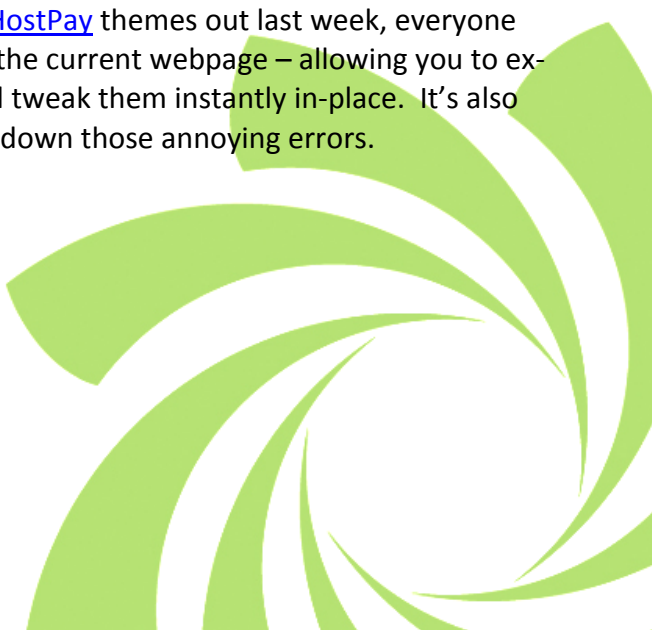
<http://twitterfox.net/>

If you're a Twitter fanatic like some of my colleagues, you'll find this simple add-on a blessing. It adds an icon on the status bar which will notify you when someone you're following tweets on Twitter. You can also quickly tweet or reply to a tweet directly from your browser without loading up Twitter. Don't forget to follow [@heartinternet](https://twitter.com/heartinternet) while you're there!

Firebug

<http://getfirebug.com/>

This is one for the web developers out there (and with our new [HostPay](#) themes out last week, everyone should be trying their hand!). Firebug lets you inspect and alter the current webpage – allowing you to explore the document tree and CSS styles of a specific element and tweak them instantly in-place. It's also got a powerful JavaScript debugger/profiler that helps you track down those annoying errors.



VertTabbar

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/8045>

When one of my colleagues mentioned this add-on to me, I was sceptical. But I find myself becoming more and more attached to it. The add-on simply moves the tab bar to a vertical position on the left-right of your browser. This means you can have more tabs open and still see their titles. It works perfectly on a widescreen monitor where horizontal space isn't at a premium.

Speed Dial

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/4810>

Speed Dial adds a “quick launch” page to Firefox, where you can put your most used websites with thumbnails for each of them. This feature will be familiar to Opera and Chrome users. It can be configured to appear every time a new tab is opened, making it a good “jumping page”. It's just a shame it can't be synchronised with Xmarks!

