

# Configuring *Firefox* to Access a School Intranet

***For schools who use network logins and access the DET Portal***

The DET *Firefox* installation, configured to provide access to the DET portal, sets the default home page for all users to be the DET Portal.

These notes are provided for schools who have developed a school Intranet, and would prefer that their students' and teachers' default Home page was their school Intranet home page.

*Firefox* is a "3rd-party" web browser, and does not use the *Mac OS X* system preference settings for it's default settings.

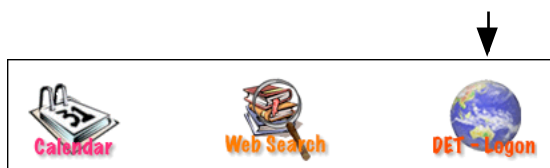
This document assumes that your school network has been configured to access the DET Portal:

- the DET *Firefox* application has been installed;
- the DET *Firefox* preferences have been distributed to all network users.

This document is intended for use by school network/system administrators, and includes the following sections:

1. Configuring *Firefox* to use the school Intranet as the default Home page;
2. Entering alternate Proxy settings;
3. Capturing *Firefox* preferences;
4. Distributing *Firefox* preferences to *new* network users;
5. Distributing *Firefox* preferences to *existing* network users.

It is suggested that your school's Intranet site include a link to the DET Portal, for easy access by students and teachers.



An example of a school Intranet site, and a downloadable template, is available at <http://intranet.wazmac.com>

## 1. Configuring Firefox to use the school Intranet as the default Home Page

1.1. Logon to a computer as a network user (preferably a “clean” user that hasn’t used the Internet since the AIBE transition).

1.2. Launch *Firefox*.



1.3. You may be asked to authenticate to the DET portal. If you are not asked to authenticate, skip straight to the next step.

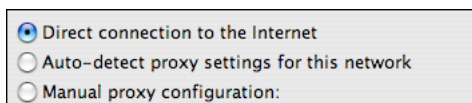
If you are asked to authenticate...

1.3.1. Click on **Cancel**.

1.3.2. Choose **Preferences** from the **Firefox** menu.

1.3.3. Click on **Connection Settings**.

1.3.4. Set the proxy configuration to **Direct Connection**.



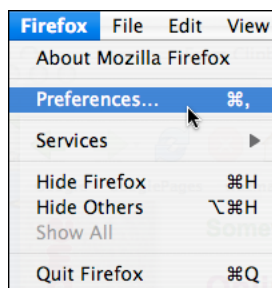
(This will ensure that your DET portal login details are not distributed to other users.)

1.3.5. Click on **OK**, and close the **Preferences** window.

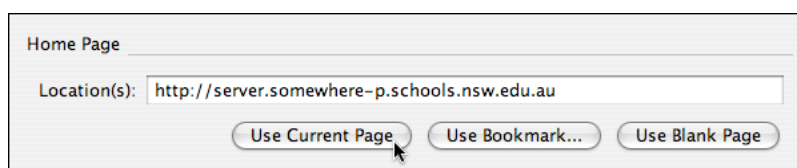
1.4. Go to the URL of the school's Intranet.



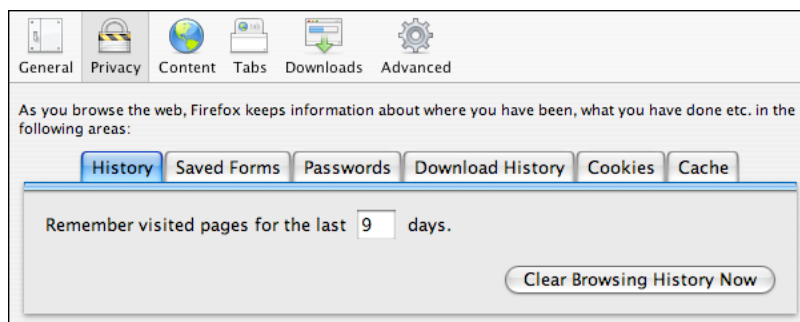
1.5. Choose **Preferences** from the *Firefox* menu.



1.6. In the **General** area of the *Firefox* preferences window, click on the **Use Current Page** button.

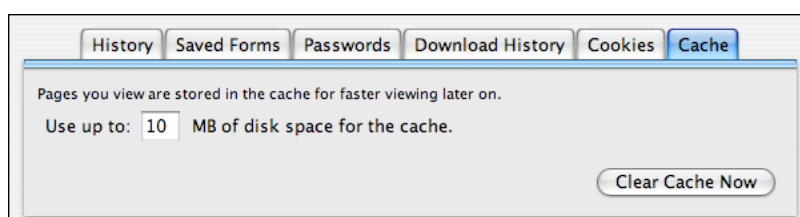


1.7. Click on the **Privacy** button then click on the **History** tab.



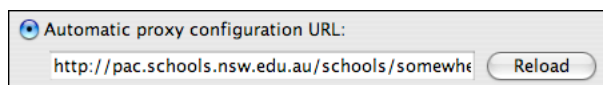
Click the **Clear Browsing History Now** button.

1.8. Click on the **Cache** tab.



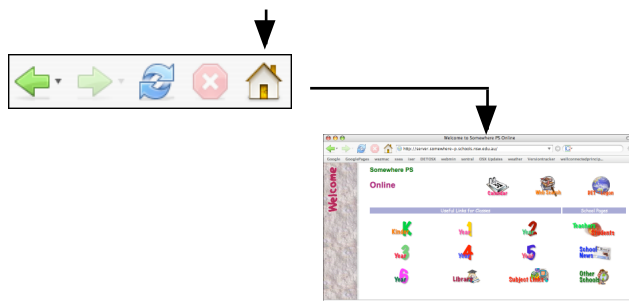
Click on the **Clear Cache Now** button.

- 1.9. **IMPORTANT:** If you changed the *Firefox* proxy setting to **Direct Connection** earlier in this process, return to the **Connection settings** window and return the proxy setting to the **Automatic Proxy configuration**.

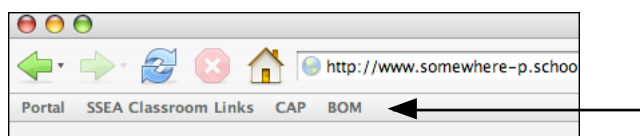


- 1.10. Close the **Preferences** window.

- 1.11. Click the **Home** button in *Firefox* to check that the browser displays your preferred page.



- 1.12. You can also setup some generic **bookmarks** in the *Firefox* toolbar.



- 1.13. When you have completed these settings, **Quit Firefox**.

## 2. Alternate Proxy Settings

If, after setting your proxy preferences to the automatic configuration proxy file (as discussed above), students and teachers are asked to enter their AIBE username and password to access the Intranet, you may need to use a fixed proxy address, including an entry to bypass the external proxy when accessing the local Intranet web server.

- 2.1. If you don't have a local proxy server (ie a *SENTRAL* server), configure your *Firefox* proxy settings to use a **Manual Proxy**, as shown below. Enter your local server IP address(es) in the **No Proxy for** field.

Configure Proxies to Access the Internet

Direct connection to the Internet

Auto-detect proxy settings for this network

Manual proxy configuration:

HTTP Proxy: proxy.det.nsw.edu.au Port: 8080

Use this proxy server for all protocols

SSL Proxy: proxy.det.nsw.edu.au Port: 8080

FTP Proxy: proxy.det.nsw.edu.au Port: 8080

Gopher Proxy: proxy.det.nsw.edu.au Port: 8080

SOCKS Host: proxy.det.nsw.edu.au Port: 8080

SOCKS v4  SOCKS v5

No Proxy for: localhost, 127.0.0.1, 10.38.10.27

Example: .mozilla.org, .net.nz, 192.168.1.0/24

- 2.2. If you are using a *SENTRAL* server (eg for *OASIS* admin), enter the *SENTRAL* server IP address as a **Manual Proxy** in *Firefox*, and enter local server IP addresses, including the *SENTRAL* server IP address, the **No Proxy for** field.

Manual proxy configuration:

HTTP Proxy: proxy.det.nsw.edu.au Port: 8080

Use this proxy server for all protocols

SSL Proxy: proxy.det.nsw.edu.au Port: 8080

FTP Proxy: proxy.det.nsw.edu.au Port: 8080

Gopher Proxy: proxy.det.nsw.edu.au Port: 8080

SOCKS Host: proxy.det.nsw.edu.au Port: 8080

SOCKS v4  SOCKS v5

No Proxy for: localhost, 127.0.0.1, 10.38.10.27, 10.38.10.20

Example: .mozilla.org, .net.nz, 192.168.1.0/24

### 3. Capturing Firefox Preferences

3.1. We need to “capture” (copy) the modified *Firefox* preferences of this user, so that we can distribute the preferences to all users on the school network.

3.2. While logged on as the same network user (as in *Section 1*), go to your **Home** folder.



3.3. Navigate to the *Library > Application Support > Firefox* folder, in your **Home** folder.



3.4. Copy this folder to a shared drive on the server (eg in the **Groups** folder).

3.5. Log off from the network.

#### **4. Distributing the Firefox preferences to new network users**

- 4.1. Using *Apple Remote Desktop*, log on to the server as the **root** user.
- 4.2. Navigate to the shared folder where you copied the *Firefox* preferences folder in the previous section.
- 4.3. Copy this folder to:  
*System > Library > User Template English.lproj > Library > Application Support.*

This is the “template” folder from which new users’ Home folders are created.

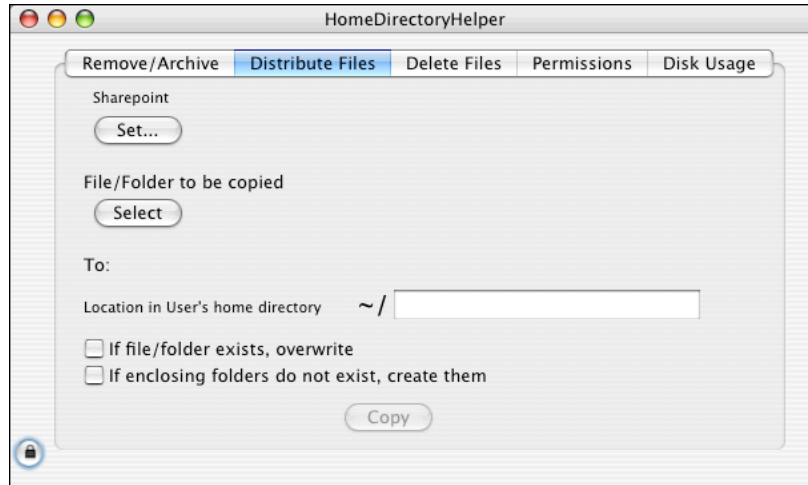
- 4.4. Now, when a new user is created, their *Firefox* preferences will be correctly configured to access the Internet.

## 5. Broadcasting Firefox preferences to existing network users.

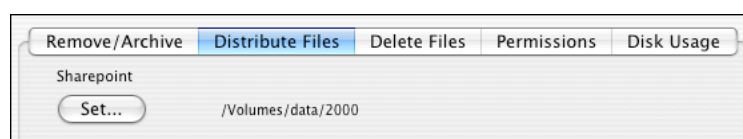
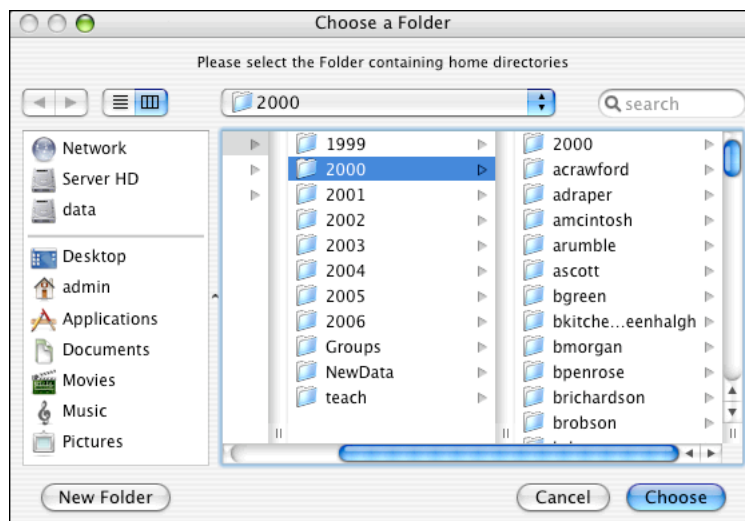
5.1. Working at the server window (via *Apple Remote Desktop*), logged on as the **root** user, download and install *Home Directory Helper* from [homepage.mac.com/jacque/](http://homepage.mac.com/jacque/)

5.2. Launch *Home Directory Helper*.

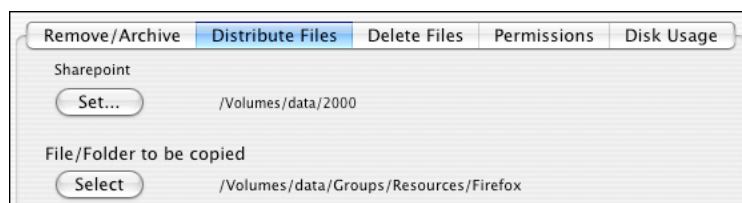
5.3. Click on the **Distribute Files** button.



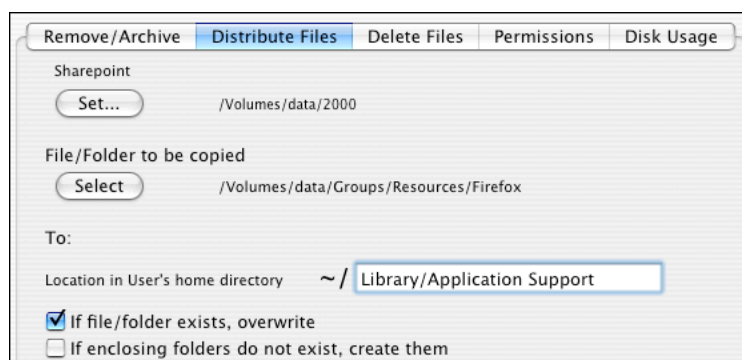
5.4. Click on the **Set** button to choose a sharepoint containing students' **Home** folders. (You can only distribute these preference files to one sharepoint - ie one year group - at a time).



- 5.5. Click on the **Select** button to navigate to the *Firefox* preferences folder to be copied to users' **Home** folders. (We previously copied this to a shared folder.)



- 5.6. Enter the location to which the *Firefox* preferences are to be copied within each users' **Home** folder (*Library/Application Support*).



Tick the box to **overwrite the folder, if the folder exists**.

- 5.7. Click on the authentication padlock, enter your password, then click the **Copy** button.

- 5.8. The **Copy** button will glow an aqua-blue colour, and will continue to glow aqua-blue, until the copying process is complete.

When the button stops glowing aqua-blue (which may be several minutes if there are lots of user folders), the preferences have been copied to each users' **Home** folder.

- 5.9. Repeat the process for each **Home folder sharepoint**.

- 5.10. Quit *HDH*, close any open windows, and log off from the server.

- 5.11. Log on to a workstation as a network user, launch *Firefox*, and check that the **Home page** preference has been changed to the school Intranet page.