

# Configuring & Distributing *Firefox* Preferences

***For schools who use “local” (non-network) logins***

These notes are written for schools where *Firefox* is the preferred browser to use when accessing the Internet, or a corporate network.

*Firefox* is a “3rd-party” web browser, and does not use the *Mac OS X* system preference settings to obtain a proxy server address.

This document describes the configuration of the *Firefox* web browser to access a corporate network, using the appropriate proxy server and other settings, and the subsequent process of distributing these *Firefox* preferences to other computers using *Apple Remote Desktop*.

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

1. Updating *Firefox* to the latest version on one computer (if required);
2. Distributing the latest version of *Firefox* to multiple computers (if required);
3. Configuring *Firefox* preferences on one computer;
4. Distributing *Firefox* preferences to other computers;
5. Setting *Firefox* as the default browser.

***This document describes the process of configuring and distributing Firefox preferences for local (non-network) users.***

***Another document describes the process of configuring and distributing Firefox preferences in a managed network user environment.***

***Please note: The information in this document is general in nature, and schools should check with their system administrators for specific details relating to their local situation.***

## 1. **Updating Firefox to the latest version on one computer**

(If your computers already have a recent version of *Firefox* installed, skip straight to step 3).

1.1. Logon to a computer as the **Local Administrator**.

1.2. Download and install the latest version of *Firefox* from [www.mozilla.com](http://www.mozilla.com).

*Firefox* is installed by dragging the *Firefox* application to the **Applications** folder. (There is no “installer” for *Firefox*.)

1.3. Log off as the **Local Administrator**.

## 2. **Distributing the latest version of Firefox to multiple computers**

If you are using *Netrestore* to distribute disk images to network computers, create a new image with the latest version of *Firefox* installed and configured for local users.

Distribute the new image to all computers using *Netrestore*.

If you are not using *Netrestore* to distribute disk images to network computers, you can use *Apple Remote Desktop* (ARD) to distribute *Firefox* to multiple network computers:

2.1. Logon to a computer as the **Local Administrator**.

This computer should have *Apple Remote Desktop* (ARD) administrator software installed.

2.2. Download and install the latest version of *Firefox* from [www.mozilla.com](http://www.mozilla.com).

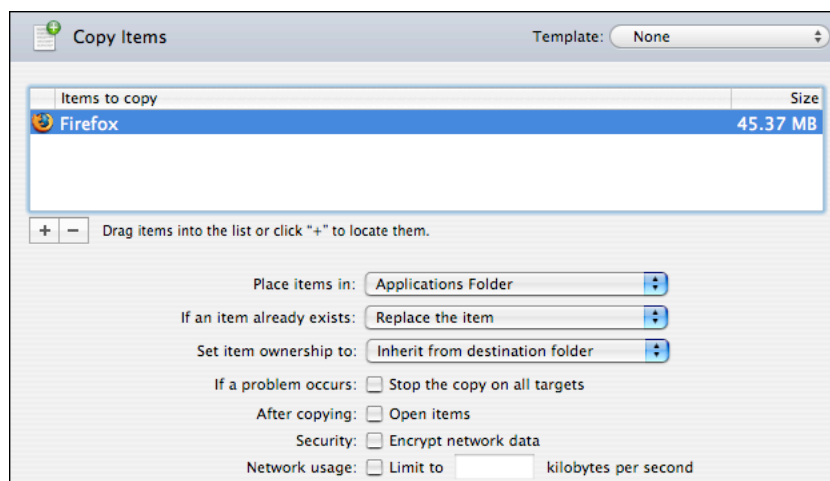
*Firefox* is installed by dragging the *Firefox* application to the **Applications** folder. (There is no “installer” for *Firefox*.)

2.3. Launch *ARD*.

2.4. Select the computers to which you want to copy *Firefox*.

2.5. Choose **Copy Items** from the **Manage** menu.

- 2.6. Select the *Firefox* application, then set the preferences for the copying process, as shown below.



- 2.7. Click on the **Copy** button.
- 2.8. You may need to experiment to ascertain the most efficient number of computers that can be copied to at one time, depending on your network infrastructure.
- 2.9. When the copying process is complete, **Quit ARD** and log off as the **Local Administrator**.

### 3. Configuring Firefox preferences on one computer

Where a generic user logon is used on each computer (in schools that do not have a server, or do not utilise individual managed logons), it is likely that more than one user will use *Firefox* to access the authenticated internet service using the same account on the one computer.

While network users have exclusive access to their *Firefox* preferences, local (non-network) users will not be able to save their passwords, etc.

The notes below explain how to set *Firefox* preferences to access a corporate proxy server, and to configure *Firefox* so that students' passwords and other private details are not able to be accessed by other students using the same generic account.

3.1. Log on to a computer as a local **Student** user. The computer should have *Apple Remote Desktop (ARD)* software installed to facilitate the subsequent distribution of the configured preferences.

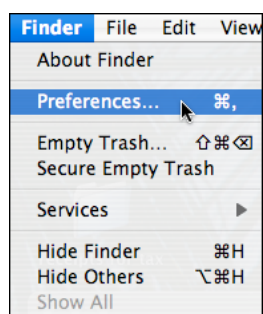
3.2. Launch *Firefox*.



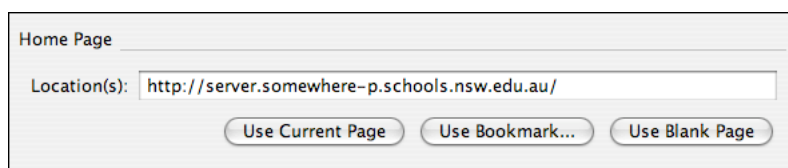
- Choose to **Don't import anything**.

- Choose to make *Firefox* your **default browser**.

3.3. Choose **Preferences** from the **File** menu.

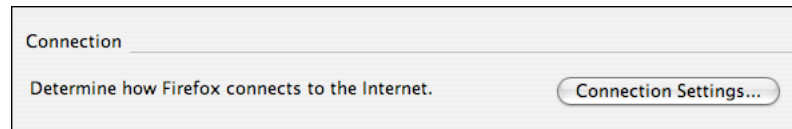


3.4. Enter the default **Home Page** address.

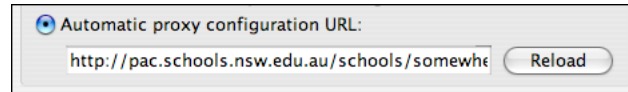


Ideally this should be your school's Intranet site, providing a gateway to relevant curriculum sites on the Internet

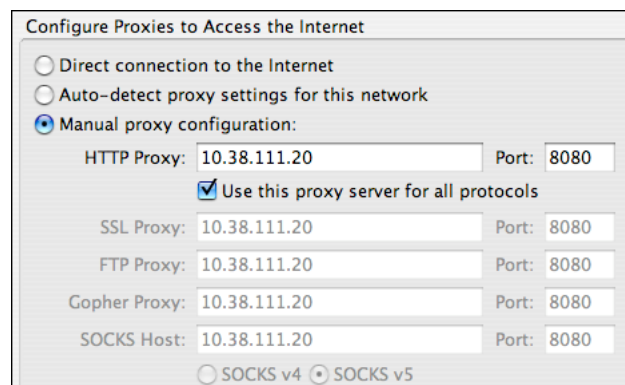
3.5. Click on the **Connection Settings** button.



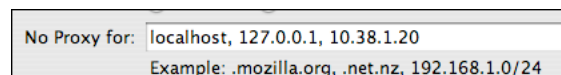
3.6. Enter your school's proxy server address. Ideally, use the school's **Automatic Proxy Configuration file (PAC file)**.



Alternatively you may choose to use the address of the school's local proxy server, such as a *Sentral* server.



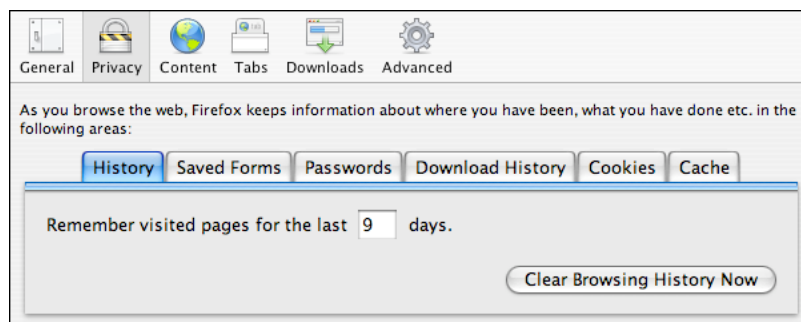
If using a *Sentral* server, also include an “exception”, to bypass the proxy server when accessing the *Sentral* server (in this example - 10.38.1.20)



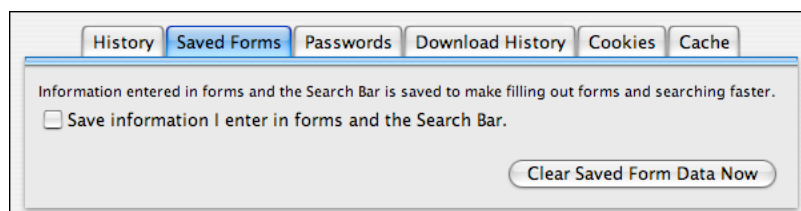
3.7. Close the **Firefox Preferences** window.

3.8. Click on the **Privacy** icon at the top of the *Firefox* preferences window.

Under the **History** tab, click on the **Clear Browsing History Now** button.



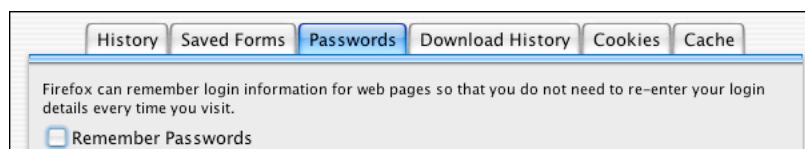
3.9. Click on the **Saved Forms** tab.



Untick the **Save information I enter in forms** option.

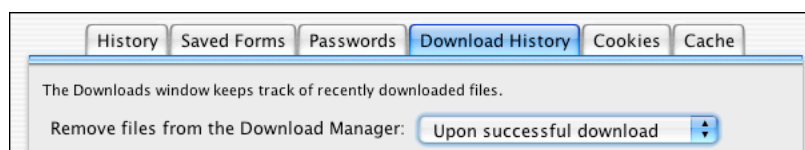
Click on the **Clear Saved Form Data Now** button.

3.10. Click on the **Passwords** tab.



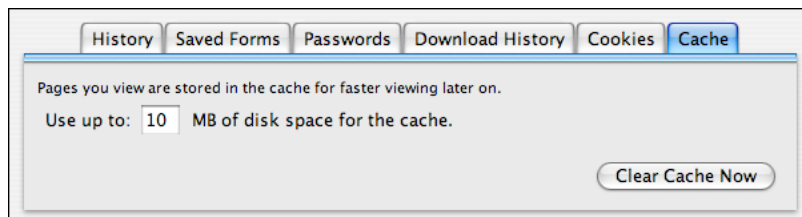
Untick the **Remember Passwords** option.

3.11. Click on the **Download History** tab.



Choose to *Remove Files from the Download Manager Upon successful download*.

3.12. Click on the **Cache** tab.



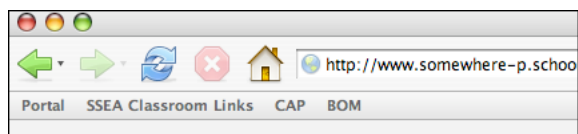
Set the cache size to 10 Mb, and click on the **Clear Cache Now** button.

3.13. Close the **Preferences** window.

3.14. Visit some web sites on the Internet, some sites on the corporate Intranet, and sites on the school's Intranet, to check that the browser is correctly configured.

(If you visit lots of sites, you may like to clear the **cache** and **history** again!)

3.15. You may also add some relevant **toolbar bookmarks** to the *Firefox* toolbar, as well as deleting the default bookmarks.



3.16. Quit *Firefox*.

3.17. Log off as the **Student** user.

3.18. Repeat the process for the **Local Admin** user, and any other local users on the computer.

#### 4. Distributing Firefox preferences to other computers

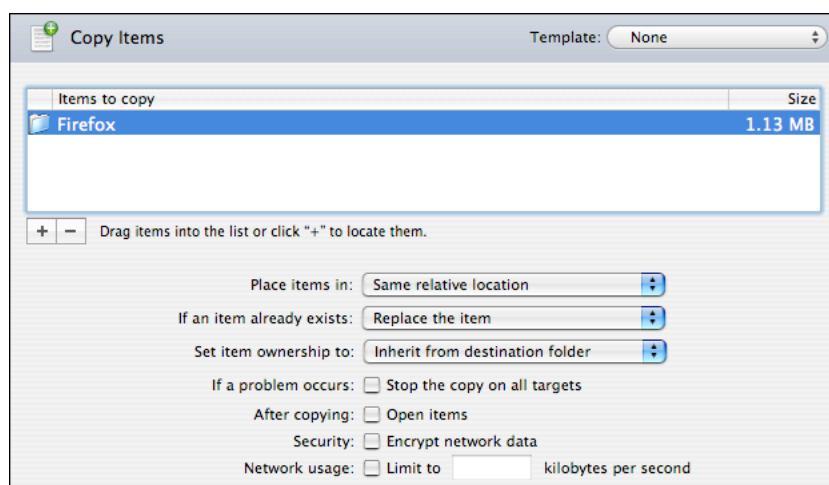
If you are using *Netrestore* to distribute disk images to network computers, create a new image with the latest version of *Firefox* installed and configured for local users as described above.

Distribute the new image to all computers using *Netrestore*.

If you are not using *Netrestore* to distribute disk images to network computers, you can use *Apple Remote Desktop* (ARD) to distribute *Firefox* preferences to multiple network computers:

- 4.1. Log on to a computer (with *Firefox* preferences configured, and *Apple Remote Desktop* installed) as the **Root** user.
- 4.2. Launch *Apple Remote Desktop* (ARD).
- 4.3. Select the computers to which you want to copy *Firefox* preferences.
- 4.4. Choose **Copy Items** from the **Manage** menu.
- 4.5. Select the *Firefox* folder, located in the **Student** user's **Home > Library > Application Support** folder.

Set the preferences for the copying process, as shown below:



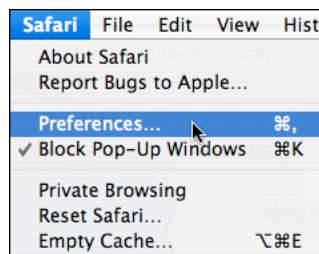
- 4.6. Click on the **Copy** button.

(You may need to experiment to ascertain the most efficient number of computers that can be copied to at one time, depending on your network infrastructure).

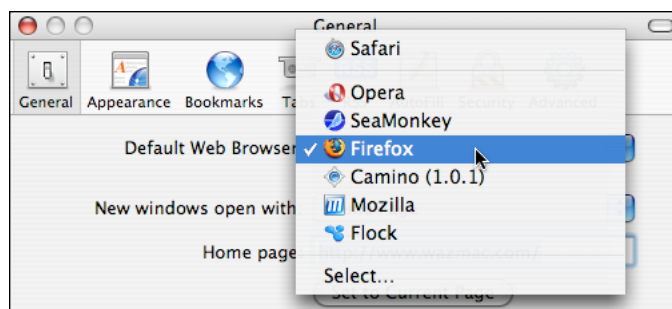
- 4.7. When the copying process is complete, repeat the process, this time copying the *Firefox* preferences for the **Local Admin** user.
- 4.8. **Quit ARD** and log off as the **Root** user.

## 5. Setting *Firefox* to be the default browser

- 5.1. Log on as the **Student** user.
- 5.2. Launch the *Safari* browser.
- 5.3. Open **Preferences** from the *Safari* menu.



- 5.4. From the popup box, choose *Firefox* to be the **Default Web Browser**.



- 5.5. Close the *Safari* preferences window, and quit *Safari*.
- 5.6. Repeat this process for the **Local Admin** user, and for any other local user accounts on the computer.
- 5.7. You can use *ARD*, as described previously in this document, to distribute the *Safari* preferences file for each local user (**Home > Library > Preferences > com.apple.Safari.plist**) to other network computers.