

Brighton and Hove U3A: Computer Beginners

Using Firefox – Private window and other options

Microsoft, who provide Windows, want you to use their own *web browser*, called **Internet Explorer** (IE) but it is not necessarily the best.

You can use another browser such as **Chrome** or **Firefox**.

I recommend **Firefox** from **Mozilla** because:

- Edge and Internet **Explorer** are from Microsoft, a prime **target for criminals** and hackers. They also send data to Microsoft about what you are looking at.
- **Chrome** is from Google Inc. and pays for itself by telling Google what you have been doing, so that **adverts** can be targeted.
- **Firefox** is **free** from Mozilla and perhaps a little anti-establishment; it has many options to **protect your privacy**, as we shall see.

Exercise 1 – Install Firefox

If Firefox is already available, go to Exercise 2.

1. Search the web for Firefox,
2. Choose the page that comes from Mozilla, the company that provides Firefox (eg www.mozilla.org/en-GB/firefox/)
3. Tap on the green **Download** button and follow the instructions to install Firefox.
4. Agree to add Firefox to the Start menu.



If you are using an **iPad** or **Android**

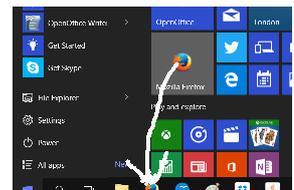
I do not think you can install Firefox but many of the principles behind the exercises may be of interest to you.

Exercise 2 – Make Firefox your Default Browser

First, make sure the Firefox icon is easy to find on the screen.

We will create a tile on the **Start Menu**, and a shortcut on the **Taskbar**.

1. Type the Windows key to open the Start menu 
2. Drag the Firefox icon from the start tiles onto the Taskbar.
3. Open the Start menu and tap **Settings**.
4. Find the setting **Default App** Settings
5. Scroll down and tap on the **+** or your current browser box under **Web browser**
6. From the list of browsers that appears, tap on **Firefox**.



Note: If Firefox wants to install an update, allow it. Some updates require you to restart Firefox – tap to agree to this.

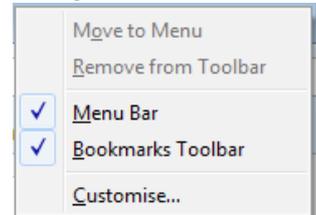
Exercise 3 – Ensure the Menu, Bookmarks and useful stuff appear

We will **configure** Firefox to display the things you are most likely to need.

1. Open Firefox by tapping on its icon  or tile 

You can see a the **toolbar** across the top. You can add **icons** to this toolbar using **Customize**.

2. Tap and hold (or right-click) the Firefox **toolbar** above your web page to see the little menu containing **Customise ...** as shown here:
3. *If Menu Bar is not ticked*, tap on **Menu Bar** and repeat step 1.
4. *If Bookmarks Toolbar is not ticked*, tap on **Bookmarks Bar** and repeat step 1.
5. Tap on **Customize ...**



Drag onto the toolbar anything you are likely to use a lot. I recommend the following:

	Home takes you to your chosen home page. Drag this to just before the web address field.		Bookmarks lets you save web pages in a list so you can more easily find them later on
	New Private Window opens a private browsing window. I suggest you drag this next to Home.		Downloads lets you easily find documents and files you have just downloaded from the web.
			Open Menu gives access to Firefox Settings and more besides

Exercise 4 – Open a new Private Window

When you use a browser it normally records everything you are doing. Opening a private window stops this.



1. tap on the icon to **Open Private Window** 
2. Firefox says: "Firefox won't remember any history for this window" ... and more.
3. Read all about it.

Exercise 5 - Other Firefox Options

1. Tap on the **menu** icon on the right , then choose the **Options** cogwheel 
2. Look at **General** - change your **Startup / Home Page** to what you want
3. Consider changing things in Tabs, Content, Applications/**Adobe**, Privacy(**History**), Security
4. Look at **Advanced** then **Network** for **Cache** – is this appropriate?

Options

Exercises 6 – Try IXquick (also works on iPad and Android)

1. Go to the web page ixquick.co.uk
2. Tap where it says: *the world's most private search engine*
3. What does it say now?
4. If you want to use IXquick instead of Google, follow the instructions.