

## the newsletter of Tarragon Solutions

### Tarragon Solutions

#### Head Office

First Floor  
Victor House  
Barnet Road  
London Colney  
AL2 1BJ

#### Accounts

Accounts Dept  
Tarragon Solutions Ltd  
PO Box 528  
Huntingdon  
PE29 9AQ

#### Phone:

0800 0199 925

#### Fax:

0845 1305 807

#### E-mail:

info@tarragon.co.uk

#### Web:

www.tarragon.co.uk

### Solutions!

#### Editor:

Steve Booth

#### Email:

solutions@  
tarragon.co.uk

## The Firefox Phenomenon

by Steve Booth

Eight million people can't be wrong – or can they?

Recently, Mozilla released version 3 of their Firefox internet browser, the main competitor to Microsoft's Internet Explorer albeit with quite a small market share. Mozilla also announced their hope of breaking the world record for downloads in the first 24 hours of a product's life and entering the Guinness Book of Records. There wasn't actually an existing record, so they did have a bit of a head start, but around 1.5 million existing Firefox users had pledged their support and Mozilla were hoping that, if things went *really* well, they might achieve 5 million.

In the event, there were over 8 million downloads on the first day – and I was responsible for one of them. Why would I think of switching from trusty old Internet Explorer 7?

I have been a user of IE since I first started browsing the internet, many years ago. It isn't that I have a loyalty to Microsoft software (certainly not!) or that using IE has been such a wonderful experience (I refer the reader to the previous comment); it's more the conservatism and inertia that comes with advancing years. That, and the fact my son James has used Firefox since its inception and it must, therefore, be something that only 'the younger generation' would use.

However, James demonstrated Firefox 3 to me (he had downloaded within 30 seconds of its availability and was impressed by the new features) and showed some new and some older advantages of Firefox. Some of these were somewhat esoteric things, such as being able to open thumbnails of every page associated with a website and scroll across them rather cleverly. Superb for Facebook users, I'm told, but insufficient to persuade me to try Firefox.

However, it was blindingly obvious that some aspects of the Mozilla product were *far* superior to Microsoft's. So, I thought I'd try Firefox myself. And I'm hooked.

The first thing that is apparent on starting Firefox 3 is that, compared to IE7, it looks 'clean'. It uses a similar 'tabbed' format to IE7 but the implementation is different. (*Bit-More-Technical note: Underneath the covers, very different - tabbed browsing has been available in some browsers for many years and Microsoft 'borrowed' the idea for IE7. However, in Internet Explorer, each time you open a new tab, although it appears in the same window, you are actually starting a new copy of the Internet Explorer browser and this takes quite a lot of time and computer resources - as you might have noticed.*)

Firefox 3's implementation means that opening a new tab is almost instantaneous so you can request your chosen web page immediately. The process of entering or selecting a web site is also slicker in Firefox; it has much more than just "typomatic" entry. In fact, web pages seem to run faster gen-

erally when used under Firefox than under IE7. In addition, because less memory is consumed when you have many web pages open concurrently, other applications on your computer are less impacted.

Another benefit is the availability of many 'add ons' to Firefox (which is an open source product and therefore it's easy for independent developers to build enhancements). I have installed Ad Blocker Plus, which very neatly and seamlessly removes all the annoying adverts from a web page.

Being open source, Firefox is reputed to be less vulnerable to attacks than IE7; Mozilla actually offer a \$500 reward (and a Mozilla T-shirt!) to anyone who reports a potential security exposure to them before it is exploited and this encourages very thorough examination of the code. Firefox 3 also includes a new feature whereby simply clicking on the icon to the left of the URL bar displays a summary of information about the site so that you can assess its background and character.

Downloading and installing Firefox 3 was very straightforward – just a visit to [www.getfirefox.com](http://www.getfirefox.com). The install file is around 7MB and in only a couple of minutes it was up and running. Of course, as a long term IE user I had built a large portfolio of bookmarked 'favorites' (sic) but the Firefox installation asked if I wished to carry these across. It has taken me no time at all to get used to the new layout and, so far, I am enjoying the Firefox experience.

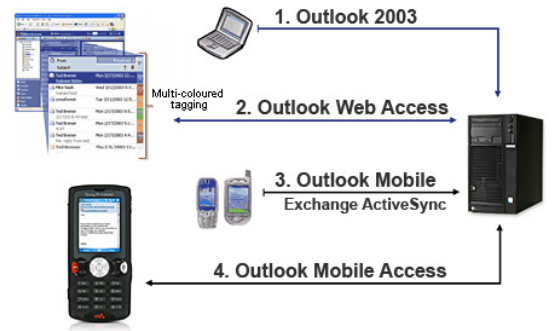
There will not be a problem should I decide to revert to using Internet Explorer; the two products co-exist quite happily (and for some Microsoft jobs, such as manually checking for Windows updates, you *need* IE), you can run both at the same time if you wish and icons for both can sit in the Quick Launch section of the Task Bar.

In my (fairly brief) experience, Firefox 3 is easy to install, easy to use and demands less of your computer's resources. It's also free. If you browse the internet frequently then I have no hesitation in recommending you give Firefox 3 a try.

# Hosted Exchange

the benefits of Microsoft Exchange Server from just £5+vat pppm!

Most smaller companies start their email experience with the basics: each PC runs its own copy of Outlook or Outlook Express and each copy is responsible for fetching emails from, and sending them to, the ISP. It's simple and it works but this method has many drawbacks. In particular, each PC has the responsibility for the critical but frequently overlooked task of managing its own email backups.



The prospect of making the leap to using Exchange Server is a daunting one, but it's also a change that offers many benefits. The possibility of sharing emails and calendars, collaborative working tools and one-place backup procedures are just a few of the advantages of upgrading to Exchange Server. The downside is that Exchange Server is perceived as expensive to buy, difficult to manage and, sometimes, the equivalent of hitting a nut with a sledgehammer.

But, what if you could have the advantages without the headaches? If you could benefit from Exchange Server without the capital investment, not even the need for a server?

**Tarragon is pleased to announce that we can now offer Hosted Exchange.**

Hosted Exchange is Exchange Server, but running on a secure host on the Internet. It offers the facilities you would expect from an in-house Exchange Server, and more - and all for an affordable, predictable and cost effective monthly fee.

Starting from just £5+vat per user per month you can say goodbye to problems of multiple copies of emails, complex backups and confused calendars. And you can forget the problems of managing Exchange Server because it is all taken care of for you. With Hosted Exchange, you can access your emails and corporate calendar wherever you are, even on a PDA or Blackberry. Advanced Anti-Spam and Anti-Virus checking is standard and the connection between the host and your PC or mobile device is encrypted and highly secure.

Our Hosted Solution also provides extra facilities, such as Blackberry & PDA integration, Sharepoint and Microsoft Live Communication , which can greatly enhance the way you work.

To find out more about Hosted Exchange and for a no-obligation quotation, contact us now!

## Tip of the Month - False and multiple 'Sending' (Outlook)

Sometimes you may notice that Outlook issues a message such as 'Sending 1 of 2' even when you know there are no messages in the Outbox. This can be because the message refers not to the number of messages being sent but to the number of email accounts in a Send/Receive group. As each account is checked for outbound messages, Outlook issues the status message.

Ever had Outlook send a large message over and over again and wondered why? When sending large messages, beware Outlook's account timeout setting. If the timeout setting is too small, Outlook can think the send has failed, even though it has been successful. The result is that Outlook sends the message again. And again... If you need help to check or set the account timeout value, please get in touch with us!