

the newsletter of Tarragon Solutions

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Firefox Add-ons

by Steve Booth

Regular readers of **Solutions!** will know that I am a fan of Mozilla's Firefox Internet browser. It has, in my opinion, many advantages over other browsers (including the new Internet Explorer 8 from Microsoft) and one of the main advantages is the range of 'Add-on' features that are available.

Mozilla encourage independent developers to create small applications than fit in with and enhance the features of Firefox. These are then submitted to Mozilla and, if suitable, added to the Firefox Add-on collection. You can easily search for an Add-on that fits your needs then download, install and give it a try. Most Firefox Add-ons are free!

This occasional series will take a very brief look at some of the more useful* Add-ons, starting with one to suppress annoying pop-up ads that appear on some (many) web sites.

* in my opinion (again)

Adblock Plus **More info:** <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/1865>

Some Internet sites contain so many adverts and banners these days. Apart from being visually distracting they can increase dramatically the time it takes to load the site. Adblock Plus allows you to prevent advertising images from downloading and appearing, but in a very controlled manner; site by site, even image by image if you wish.

To install Adblock Plus refer to the "Finding a Firefox Add-on" notes on this page and search for "Adblock Plus"

Hyperwords **More info:** <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/1941>

You are browsing a web site and come across a word or phrase about which you'd like to know more: perhaps a definition, some images, a translation or maybe where to buy it. Hyperwords adds a reference menu that pops up when



you select any word(s) in the Firefox browser (you can change what causes the menu to pop up if you wish). You then simply select the information portal you'd like to use.

Finding a Firefox Add-on

- In Firefox, go to Tools > Add-ons
- Select the *Get Add-ons* tab
- Use the search box or click on the *Browse all Add-ons* link
- Follow the instructions for installation

To install Hyperwords refer to the "Finding a Firefox Add-on" notes on this page and search for "Hyperwords"

BT informs Phorm: not for me



Phorm, the Internet advertising service that works by silently tracking the sites you visit in order to send you 'targeted' adverts, has received a major blow to its plans with the news that BT has decided against its implementation. BT received a lot of criticism for trialling Phorm without informing its customers and there is much debate about the legality of the way Phorm intercepts web traffic in order to analyze the data.

BT says the reason for shelving Phorm is that it wishes to devote its resources to other broadband and TV services but that it will keep an eye on the way Phorm develops. Phorm, meanwhile, says it is now focussing on non-UK markets although it will continue to attempt to develop a solution that is acceptable to UK ISPs.



The perils of social networking (1)

The High Court has ruled that, because web logging (blogging) is essentially a public activity, those that engage in blogging cannot expect a right to privacy under British law.

The case involved Nightjack, a very popular - indeed, an award-winning - blog that reported weekly on the activities of a northern police force, including some strong criticisms of some of those activities. The identity of Nightjack had been uncovered by The Times newspaper. Nightjack wanted an injunction to suppress his identity and The Times were seeking authority to publish it.

It turns out that Nightjack is Richard Horton, a detective constable with the Lancashire force. Following his uncovering, Horton has received a 'written warning' and the blog has been shut down.

The success of The Times case, and the precedent it provides, means that no blogger who seeks anonymously to write stories and comments about their workplace or company can expect protection in law if another party wishes to publish their details.

The perils of social networking (2)

The decision of the wife of Sir John Sawers to post personal details and photos of their family and friends on Facebook has caused consternation in spying circles as Sir John is due to become head of MI6, Britain's Secret Intelligence Service, in November. Included in the entry, which had almost no security set up, were details of where they live and work, where they spend holidays and friendships with diplomats and well-known actors.

The information was removed once the Foreign Office became aware of the transgression.



Tip of the Month - Closing Multiple Windows

Often, when navigating Windows folders to reach a particular file, you'll end up with a series of open Folder Windows and, sooner or later, you'll want to close them all.

Instead of laboriously closing each one individually, just hold down the shift key and click on the X button of the last window opened. That window and the ones that came before it will be closed. If you use this technique on a window in the middle of a 'chain' of windows, any later ones will remain open.

"An expert is a person who has made all the mistakes that can be made in a very narrow field."

Niels Bohr, Nobel Physics Laureate

Please let us know what you think of [Solutions!](#) - email solutions@tarragon.co.uk