
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: MR. DAVID DONICA
FROM: STUDENT NAME
SUBJECT: WEB BROWSER SELECTION
DATE: 11/20/2006
CC:

Of the four web browsers I believe that Firefox comes with the most comprehensive group of privacy and security tools. It also reduces the amount of spy-ware downloaded by limiting potentially dangerous ActiveX controls. Firefox is designed to keep our web activities safe and private, in which, I believe to be two of the most important aspects of surfing the web.

Tabbed browsing allows multiple web pages to be displayed in the same window at the same time. By simply clicking on a tab at the top of the screen you can change back and forth between two or more web pages, this saves time and effort when collecting information from the web, or when you are multi-tasking. This feature is offered by Firefox, Opera, and Navigator.

For Searching Opera has the best integrated system, by allowing searches on e-Bay, Google, Amazon and more from the address bar. Firefox comes with Google built into its browser. However, with Navigator, and Internet Explorer you would need to go to the individual sites to perform your searches.

Each of the four comes with popup blockers. Firefox's built in popup blocker consistently stops more of those annoying advertisements, which saves time and increases productivity.

Firefox downloads your files directly to the same folder every time, which makes them easier to find once you have completed the download. This is much more efficient because it requires less user intervention in storing new files and finding them when you need them. Other web browsers do not support such features. In order to begin a new download you need to select a folder first. If you happen to forget where you put it, good luck finding it.

All four of the web browsers seem to be very user friendly, if you have used any other major web browser, you can successfully use Firefox, Opera, Navigator, or Internet Explorer with little to no extra training. This will save time

and money by reducing the amount of training required for staff learning to browse the internet for there work related duties.

I personally have downloaded Navigator and Firefox in the past. With Firefox the downloaded, installation, and setup, as well as, importing my favorites, usernames, passwords, and other settings from Internet Explorer, took about five minutes. I feel as if this is an effective and time saving asset. With Navigator it took about twenty minutes just to install. After that I needed to manually import all of my personal settings.

Both Firefox and Opera come with a comprehensive set of web page developing tools. Some of which are standard, and the others are free additions.

Firefox supports extensions that can be written be any aspiring programmer with the time and with little-to-no talent. What does that mean for us? The new and innovative features, that they come up with, will continue to make web surfing a more reliable and effective tool in today's work place. I have found no such support for any of the other web browsers.

Opera comes with a new feature called Fast Forward that attempts to guess the next page that you will likely want to view. If you click this new button it will take you to that page, if you do not like it's guess then simple click the back or rewind button. The rewind button will take you back to the first page that you fast forwarded from. This feature seems to save time however I think that you could waste a lot of time loading pages that are irrelevant to what you are doing.

Opera has another exclusive feature called sessions. Sessions allow you to save all of your open web pages for future reference. This seams useful, but two things come to my mind one will it be used and two if it is how much disk space are we going to devote to saving these web pages that may never be viewed again.

All of these web browsers are offered as a free download. This and the reduction in training will create a more cost effective way to surf the web.

The only way to have a better web browser would be to design one that combined: Security, Privacy, Tabbed browsing, a meta search engine along with Google built in, extraordinary spam filtering, popup blocking, and a comprehensive downloader all in a easy to use, easy to install open source package. However, that is a cost prohibitive venture that would never pay for it's self.

With the facts presented here along with my own personal experience my choice is Mozilla Firefox for my personal and office web browsing needs.