

Firefox Tips: Fix Print Size, Refresh Tabs

Learn how to change the print size in Mozilla's browser, set tabs to refresh automatically, and more.

Rick Broida, PC World Dec 29, 2009 1:10 pm

It's been far too long since I've put together browsing tips, and the last collection I did focused on Microsoft Internet Explorer. So today I thought I'd serve up some tips for Mozilla Firefox and also share something I learned about Google's newsreader.

Make Web Pages Print Properly



A few days ago, the missus shoved some sheets of paper in my face and demanded, "Why are Web pages printing big all of a sudden?"

Sure enough, all the print on all the pages was comically oversize--and largely useless, as much of the actual Web page was cut off on the right side. This was not good: My wife frequently prints recipes, and all this enlarged output was threatening our culinary

happiness.

So I fired up Firefox (her browser of choice), loaded up a recipe page, and clicked *File, Print Preview*. Basically, I wanted to see if the preview matched the actual output. Sure enough, it did, and here's why: The Scale setting had somehow gotten bumped to 150%.

I changed it back to the almost-always-preferable setting *Shrink to Fit*, and presto: Normal print size restored.

There's a very similar setting in Microsoft Internet Explorer, so if you're encountering weirdly sized text on your printed Web pages, make sure your "scales" are set properly.

Refresh Firefox Tabs Automatically



Reader Kevin has this question: "Is there a way to have Firefox refresh automatically, without hitting the refresh button? It would be very nice when Woot.com is having a 'Woot off' or when watching an item on eBay."

You know what, Kevin? That would be nice! All you need is a handy Firefox extension called ReloadEvery, which can automatically reload a browser tab at designated intervals.

Once you've installed it and restarted Firefox, just head to Woot (or whatever page you want to auto-refresh), then click the little arrow next to the Refresh button and choose your desired interval.

Alternately, you can right-click anywhere on the page and choose *ReloadEvery*. The extension works on a per-tab basis, meaning you can choose different refresh rates for different sites.

Just be careful not to use it with Web-based e-mail, forms, blog tools, and the like--otherwise you could lose some work in progress.