

Speed up your Firefox browser

Last Updated Wednesday, 18 February 2009

Want to learn how you can speed up the Firefox browser? If you have a broadband internet connection (ie: cable or DSL, etc), you can use the following tricks to speed up Firefox by telling it how many times to "connect" to a web site

Here's a simple way from MCS to speed up Web browsing with Firefox -- turn on its hidden pipelining feature. When you turn on pipelining, you send several requests to a Web server at a time, rather than sending them one by one, so you can load multiple items on a page concurrently. By default, pipelining is turned off in Firefox, but it's easy to turn it on:

- Open a new tab in Firefox (Ctrl+T) and type `about:config` (without the quotes) in your address bar.
- In the `Filter:` search box, type `network.http` (again, without the quotes.) then hit Enter.
- Look for the `network.http.keep-alive` setting and make sure it's set to `true`. If it's `false`, double-click that line and it will change to true.
- On the same page, look for `network.http.version` and make sure it's set to `1.1`.
- Now clear out the Filter box and type in `pipelining`.
- Look for `network.http.pipelining`; Right-click on that line, and click on `toggle`; and be sure the value is set to `true` (or double-click to toggle values.)
- If you're on a proxy, look for `network.http.proxy.pipelining`; Right-click on that line, and click on `toggle`; and be sure the value is set to `true`. If you don't know if you're on a proxy or not, just set it to `true`; anyway. It won't hurt anything.
- Lastly, look for `network.http.pipelining.maxrequests`; Right-click on that line, click on `modify`; and set the value to 8. You can set it anywhere between 1 and 8. If you notice your internet is acting weird after this, try decreasing this value.
- some web servers may not "like" this setting, and it may cause certain sites to not load properly. I have not personally experienced this yet, but this feature is still in testing, and that's why it's not set to `true` by default.

Note that not all web servers can handle pipelining. If for some reason you find that your performance suffers with it turned on, reverse the above steps to turn it off. This trick is only intended for those with a broadband high speed internet connection.