

How to Create a FREE Talking Web Browser in Two Easy Steps

I spent a portion of my talk the other night discussing free alternatives to some of the commercial products for individuals with learning differences. Among these options was a set of freely available add-ons to Mozilla Firefox (an alternative web browser to Internet Explorer) coupled with free web services such as Google Docs. With these add-ons installed, Firefox gains speech output capability and becomes a powerful reading & writing tool.

So the big question of the night was how can I do that? Well it takes 2 fairly simple steps which I'll outline below.

Step 1: Install Mozilla Firefox

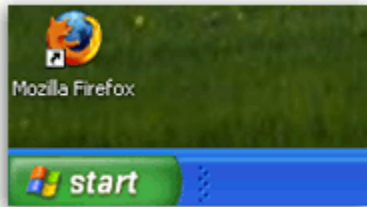
- Visit www.mozilla.com and start the process by clicking the download button. Choose the save file option. (Tip: be sure to remember where you save the file on the computer)



- Double click on "FireFox Setup 3.0.xx.exe" file to launch the setup
- Follow the steps shown in the setup wizard



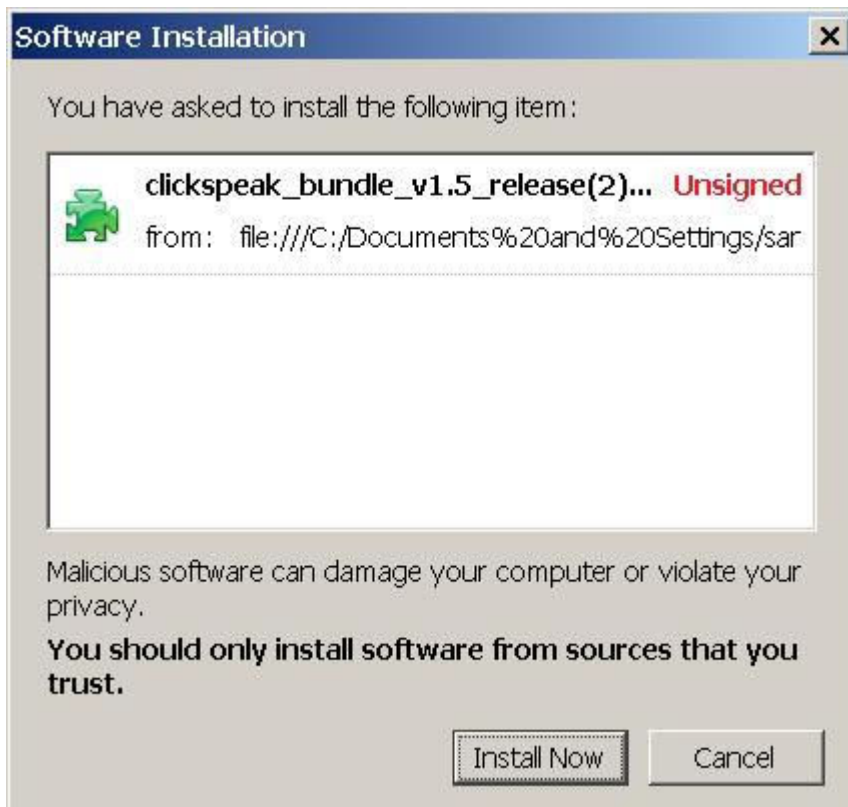
- Look for the Firefox icon to browse the web



Step 2: Install CLiCk, Speak: A Talking Extension for Firefox

Charles Chen has created an excellent add-on which adds simple point and click speech support to Firefox. Installation is quick and easy:

- Visit the [download link](#) on the [CLiCk, Speak](#) website.
- Choose Save to Disk when prompted. It is easiest if you save the file to the desktop.
- Start Firefox and drag the file labeled "clickspeak_bundle_v1.5_release.xpi" onto the firefox window. Click on "Install Now" in the box that appears.




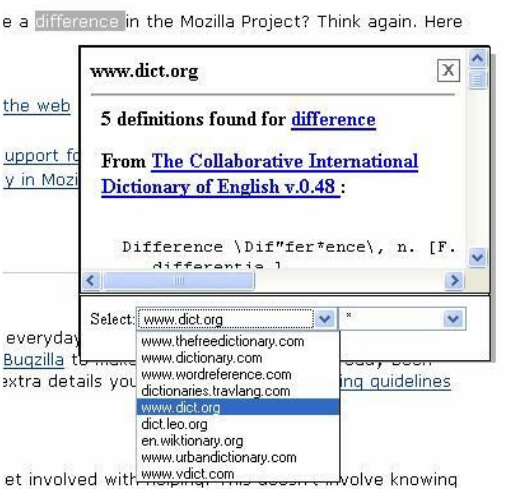

- Restart Firefox


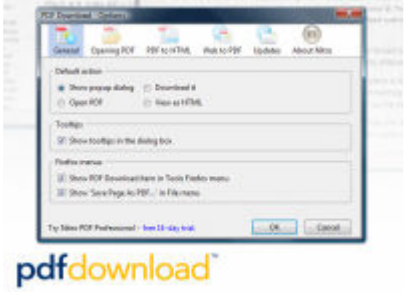

When FireFox restarts you will see a new toolbar that looks something like this:

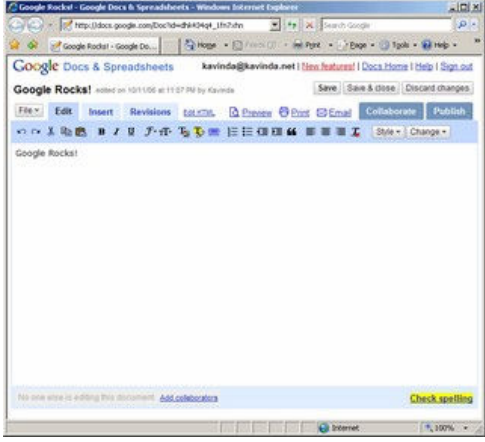



Whoila! That's all there is too it.

Useful Add-ons and websites to extend the capability of your new talking web browser

Add-On or Website	Purpose	Screenshot
<p>Ubiquity</p>	<p>An experiment into connecting the Web with language in an attempt to find new user interfaces that could make it possible for everyone to do common Web tasks more quickly and easily.</p>	
<p>Dictionary Tooltip</p>	<p>Displays a dictionary definition for any word simply by double clicking</p>	
<p>Pronounce</p>	<p>Pronounce any highlighted word.</p>	
<p>Scrapbook</p>	<p>ScrapBook helps you to save Web pages.</p> <p>Major features are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save Web page • Organize saved sites the same way as Bookmarks • Full text search of saved sites 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editing of saved sites w/ highlights. • Works well with Internote 	
<p>Answers</p>	<p>1-Click Answers TM will save you even more time with AnswerTips that instantly deliver the information you are looking for. Just point at any word, hold the Alt key (Ctrl in Linux) and click. Upon letting go, an AnswerTip in the form of a pop-up...</p>	
<p>PDF Download</p>	<p>View PDFs directly in Firefox as HTML, and use the all-new Web-to-PDF toolbar to save and share Web pages as high-quality PDF files.</p>	
<p>Cooliris</p>	<p>Full-Screen, 3D -- transforms your browser into a visually stunning experience for searching, viewing, and sharing online photos and videos. Our "3D Wall" lets you effortlessly search and zoom your way around thousands of images, videos, news feeds, sports feeds, and more.</p>	

<p>Google Docs</p>	<p>Online word processor, spreadsheet, and powerpoint like presentation tool</p>	 A screenshot of a web browser window displaying the Google Docs interface. The browser title is "Google Docs & Spreadsheets". The address bar shows a URL starting with "http://docs.google.com/Doc?id=...". The page header includes "Google Docs & Spreadsheets" and "kavinda@kavinda.net New features! Docs Home Help Sign out". Below the header is a menu bar with options like "File", "Edit", "Insert", "Revisions", "Tools", "Browser", "View", "Email", "Collaborate", and "Publish". The main content area is mostly blank with the text "Google Rocks!". At the bottom, it says "No one else is editing this document." and "Add collaborators".
<p>ScribeFire</p>	<p>ScribeFire is a full-featured blog editor that integrates with your browser and lets you easily post to your blog.</p>	 A screenshot of the ScribeFire web interface. The top banner features the ScribeFire logo and the text "Post to your blog without ever leaving Firefox". Below the banner is a preview of a blog post with the title "ingadget". The interface includes a text editor area and a "Publish" button. The browser window shows the URL "http://www.scribefire.com" and the page title "ScribeFire".