Firefox 4 & Add-ons

Development Track: Add-on-Con 2010

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What's new in Firefox 4?

New Features:

- Tabs on Top
- App Tabs
- Panorama
- Firefox Sync
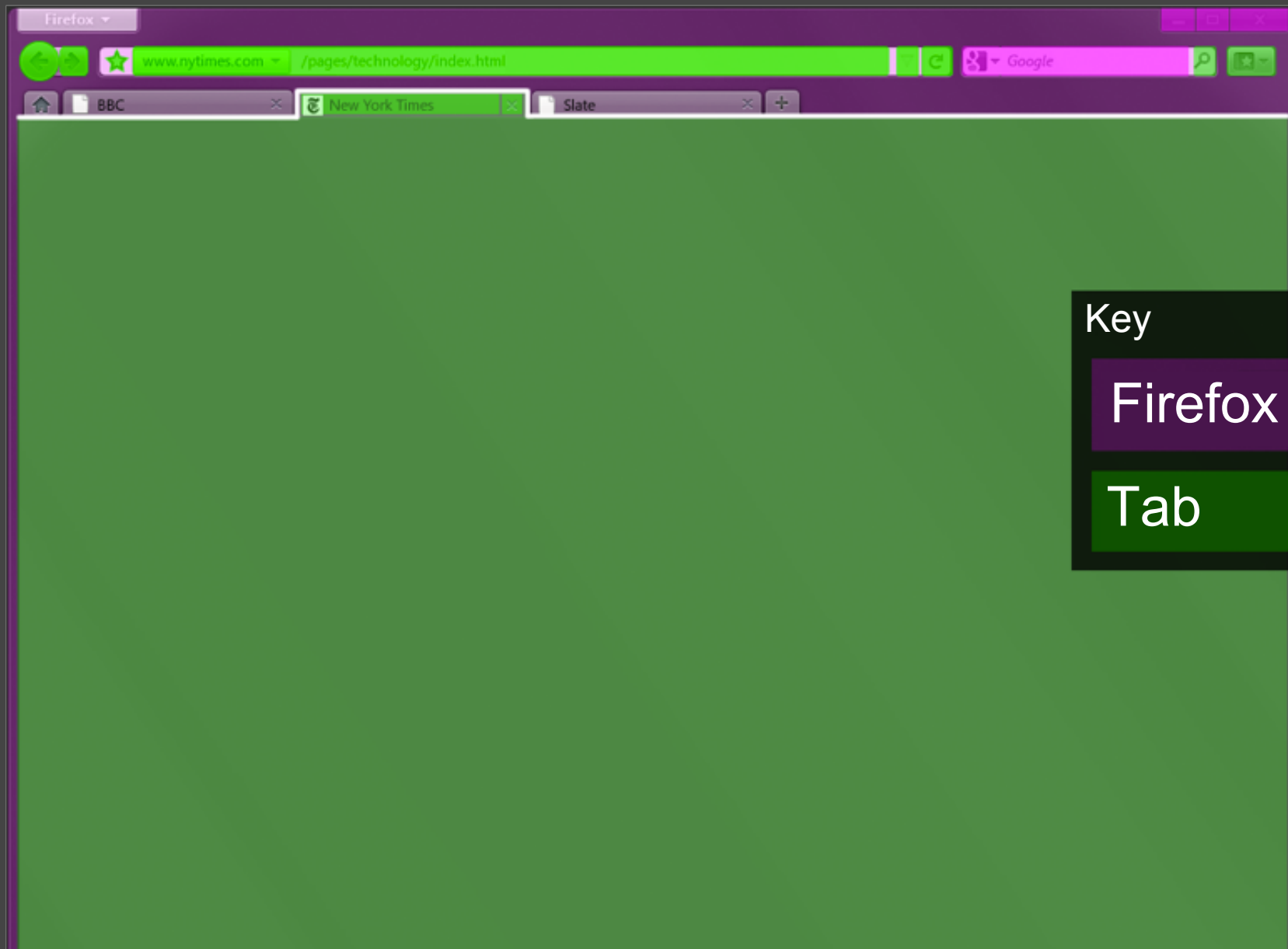- Notifications
- New Add-ons Manager

Tabs on Top

Tabs on Top

Moving Firefox's tabs to the top of windows gives many user experience benefits.

One is that it improves users' conceptual model of the browser.

Tabs on Bottom

Key

Firefox

Tab

Tabs on Top

App Tabs

App Tabs

Allows users to "pin" a tab to the left of the Firefox window, which keeps it open and visible.

App Tabs

This allows users to always have access to the tabs that hold online applications, such as:

- email
- messaging

- calendar
- music

App Tabs
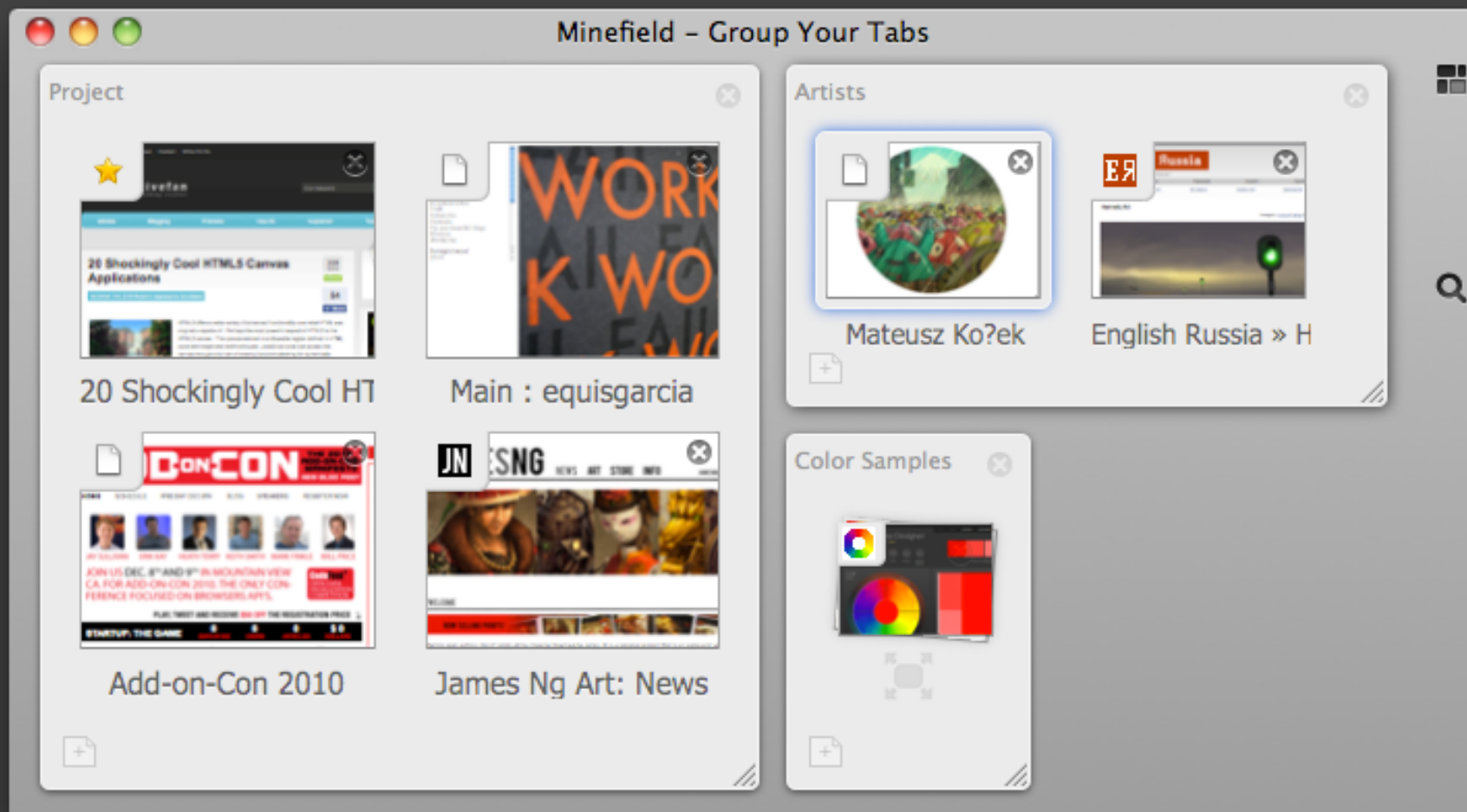
Panorama

(formerly "Tab Candy")

Panorama

Lets you navigate your tabs visually, dragging and dropping tabs into manageable groups that you can organize, name and arrange in a fun and visual way

Panorama

Panorama

Firefox Sync

Firefox Sync

- Gives access to history, passwords, bookmarks, and open tabs across of a user's devices

- Unifies Firefox experience across multiple computers, phones, tablet computers

Firefox Sync

Notifications

Notifications

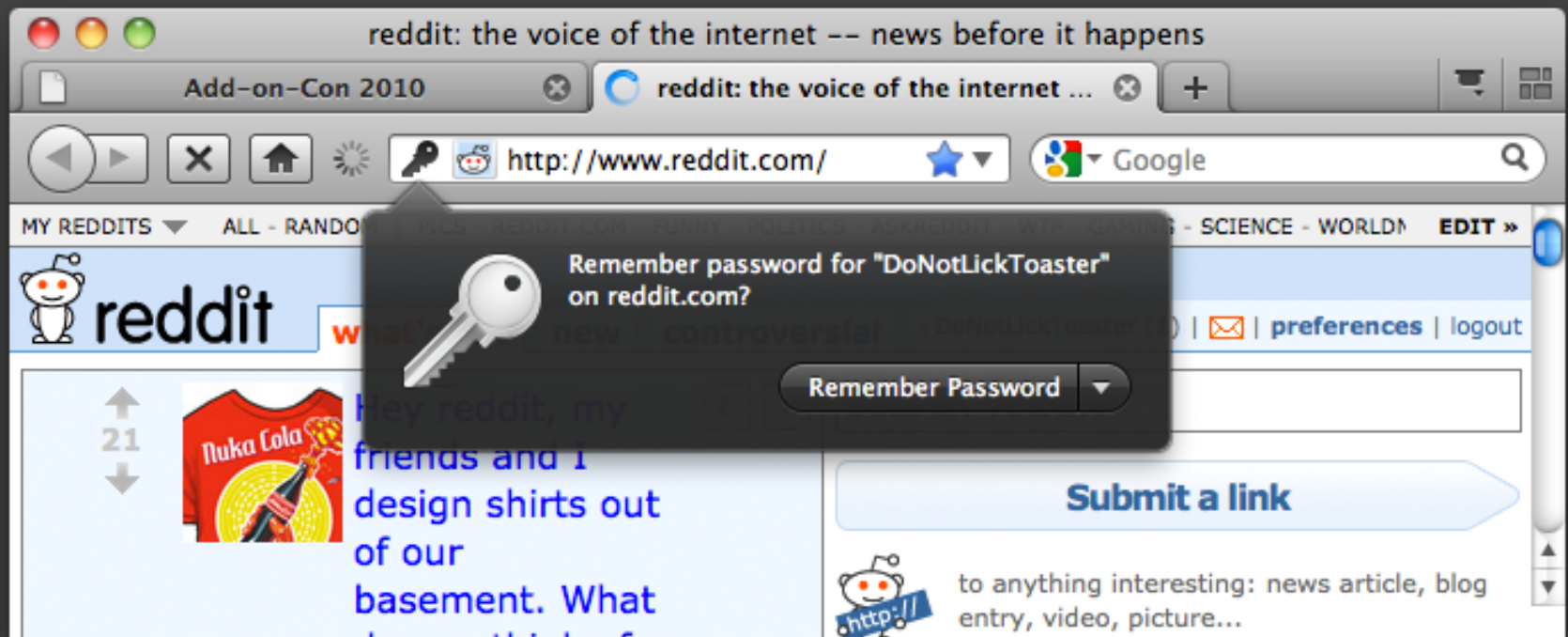There are two new kinds of notifications in Firefox 4.0:

Notifications

1. Arrow Panel Notifications

These are lightweight messages that originate from pages - mainly to ask for permissions such as password saving

Notifications

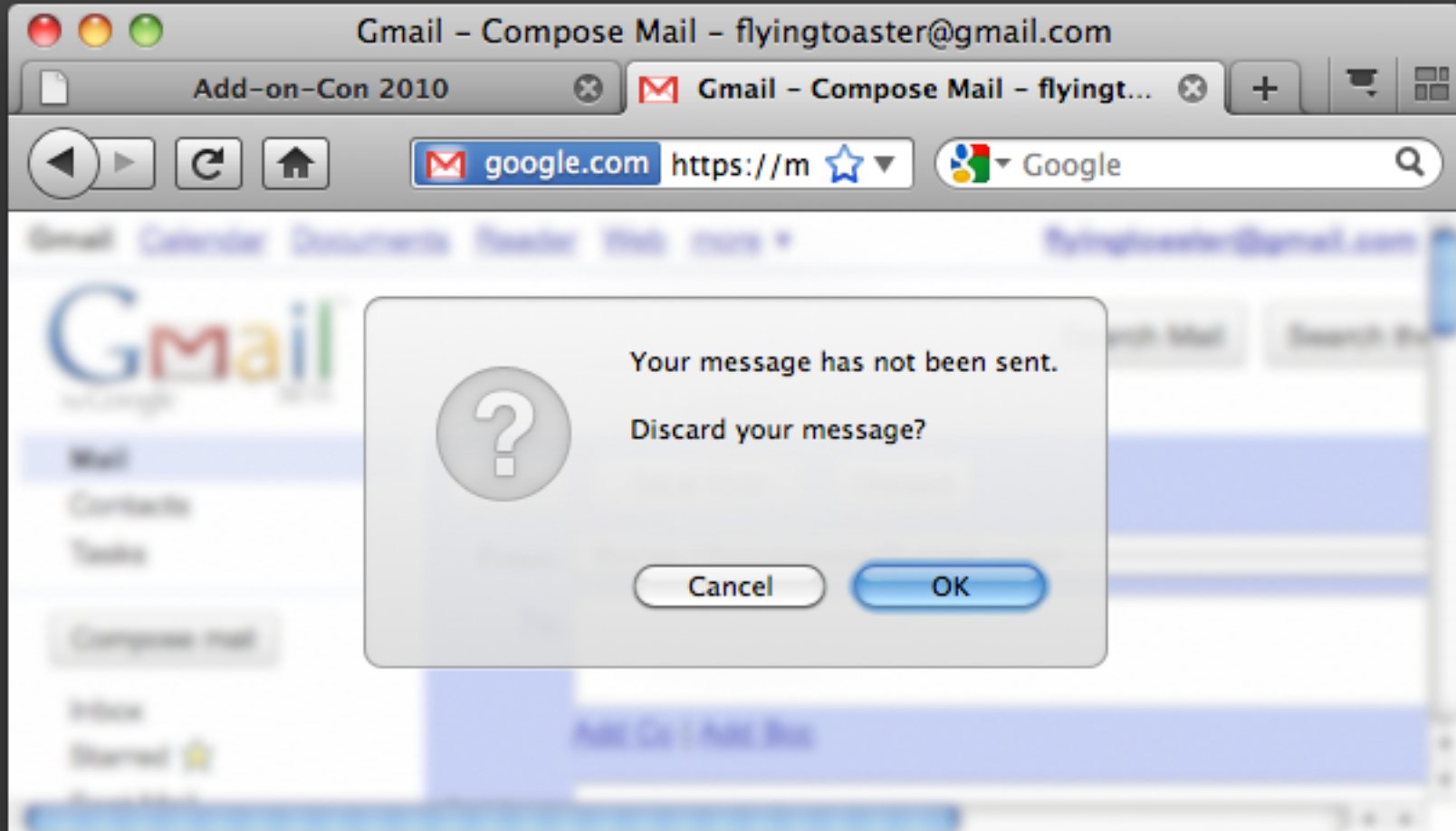## 1. Arrow Panel Notifications

Notifications

2. Tab Modal Dialogs

Rather than allow a page's dialogs to lock up the browser, they are now isolated to only the page that prompted them

Notifications

2. Tab Modal Dialogs

New Add-ons Manager

New Add-ons Manager

Firefox 4.0's add-ons manager is undergoing a total redesign

Firefox ▾

🏠 | 🧩 Add-ons Manager ✕ | Ⓟ Piratpartiet ✕ | �⃠ Core77 ✕ | 🦎 Planet Mozilla ✕ | +

◀ ▶   ⚙▾   🔍 Search all add-ons 🔍

	Name	Last Updated ▾

📥 Get Add-ons

🧩 **Extensions**

🟩 Plugins

🎨 Appearance

🌐 Languages

Test Pilot 1.2
By Mozilla Corporation
Updated 7/17/2010

Help improve Firefox by trying out new features. With Test Pilot, you... More
[Preferences] [Disable]

Feed Sidebar 2.3
By cfinke
Updated 7/13/2010

A whole new way to browse tabs! More
[Preferences] [Disable]

Incredible Add-on 4.3 (disabled)
By Paul Davies
Updated 5/22/2010

This add-on will change everything! More
[Preferences] [Enable]

Caffeinated Fox 1.2
By Sarah Tanner
Updated 5/14/2010

Boost Firefox's performance temporarily. More
[Preferences] [Disable]

⚠ **Broken Add-on has been blocked due to stability issues.**

Evil Monkey (blocked)
By Dr. Evil
Updated 2/5/2010

Fills every second page you visit with evil monkies. More
[Preferences] [Disable]

🏠 | 🧩 Add-ons Manager ✕ | Ⓟ Piratpartiet ✕ | ◉ Core77 ✕ | 🦁 Planet Mozilla ✕ | +

← → | ⚙▼ | Search all add-ons 🔍

📥 Get Add-ons

🧩 **Extensions**

🗔 Plugins

🎨 Appearance

🌐 Languages

Caffeinated Fox 1.2

By Sarah Wayne

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.

The developer of this add-on asks that you help support its continued development by making a small contribution.

Suggested Donation: $2.99   **What is this?**   ❤ **Contribute**

Last Updated	November 5, 2009
Automatic Updates	◉ On ○ Off
Firefox Add-ons Profile	addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/1328
Works With	Firefox 3.5 - 3.7a5pre
Rating	★★★☆☆ 23 reviews

Preferences | Remove | Disable

New Add-ons Manager

1. Add-ons Update Automatically

New Add-ons Manager

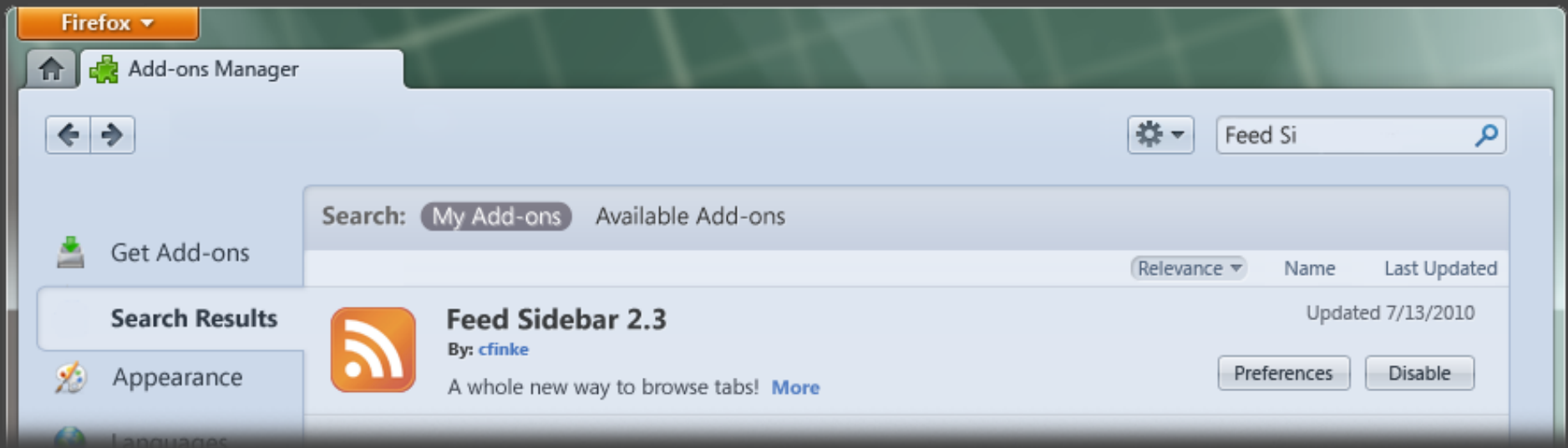## 2. Make changes to add-ons without restarting
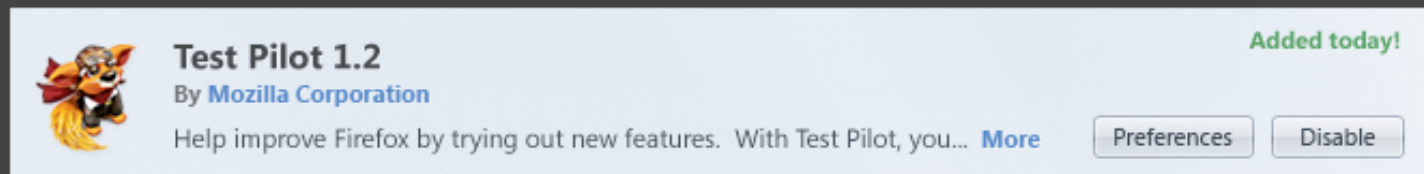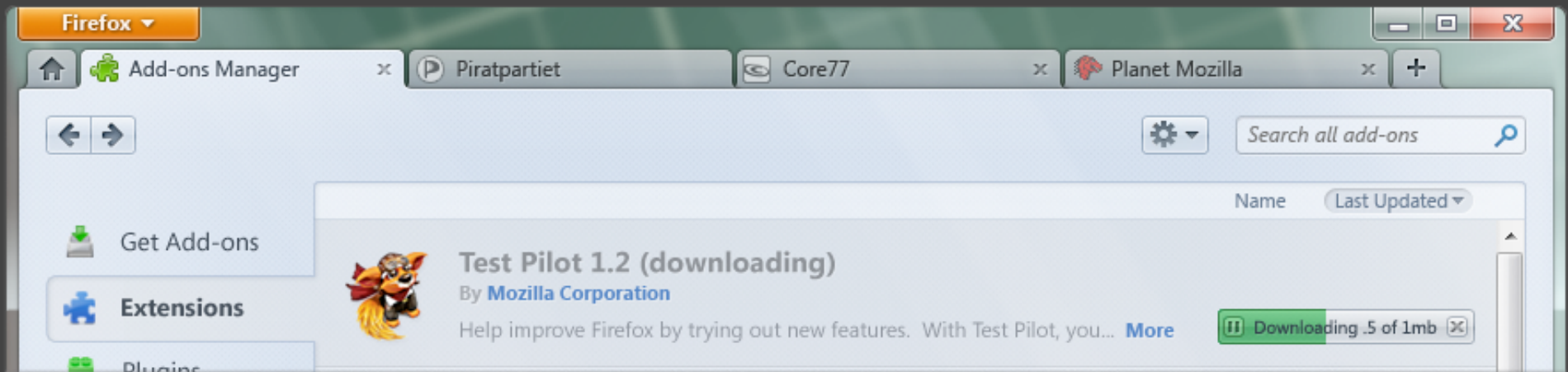
New Add-ons Manager

3. Add-on manager in a tab, not a window
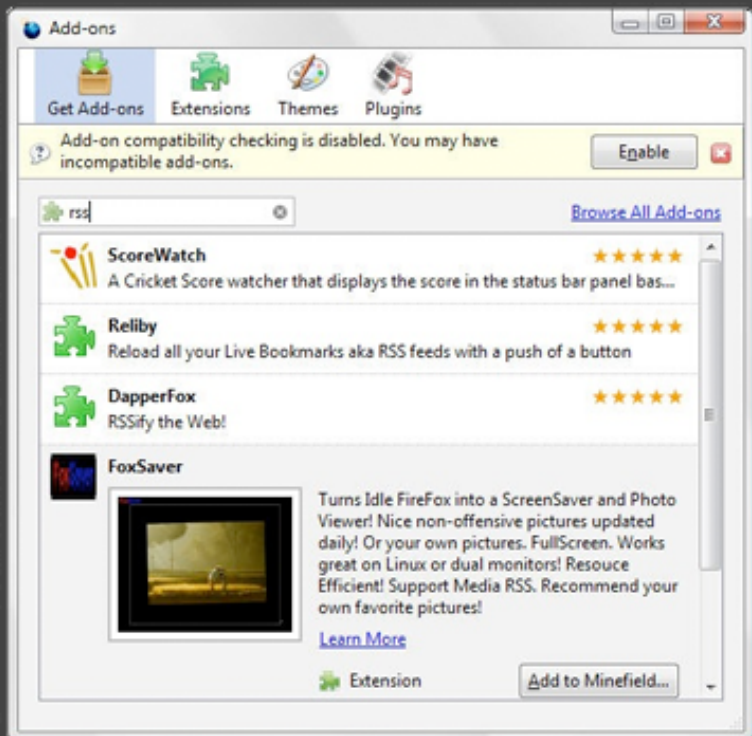
New Add-ons Manager

4. Quickly find any add-on

Under the Hood of the Add-ons Manager

Rewritten add-ons manager

- Faster startup
- Better scope for future improvements
- No more dependencies

XPIs remain unextracted

- Smaller footprint
- Better performance
- Should be turned off in some cases:
  - Binary components/libraries
  - Search plugins
  - Dictionaries
  - Anywhere where an add-on access its files

Simpler XPCOM registration

- Less boilerplate
- Only execute JavaScript when necessary
- APIs and imports work immediately

Better API for accessing add-ons

- Pure JavaScript API rather than XPCOM
- Access any data that is visible in the UI
- Asynchronous access

New ways to develop

- Restartless extensions
- Add-ons SDK

Restartless extensions

- Low level
- No overlays or chrome namespaces
- Can still add to windows through the DOM
- Can manually register JS XPCOM components
- No binary XPCOM components
- Access to binary libraries through ctypes
- Single entry point
- Improvements coming after Firefox 4

Remotely updating metadata

- Add-ons can opt-out
- Downloaded daily
    - Descriptions
    - Icons
    - Reviews
    - Ratings
- Contribution support baked into the browser

Contribution support

Embedding your own items
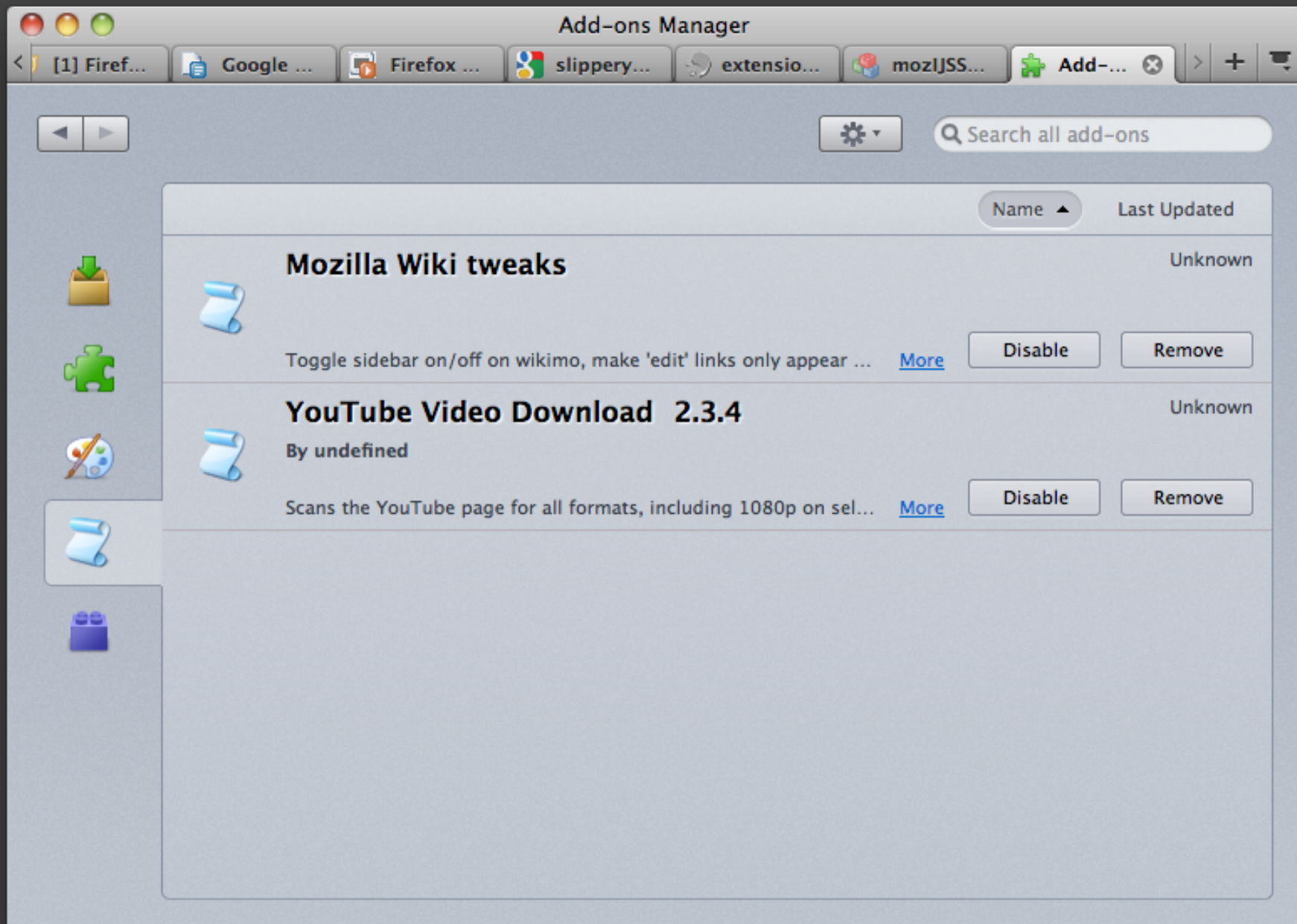
Other improvements

- Changing add-on ID
- Larger icons
- Automatic updates

Add-on Discovery
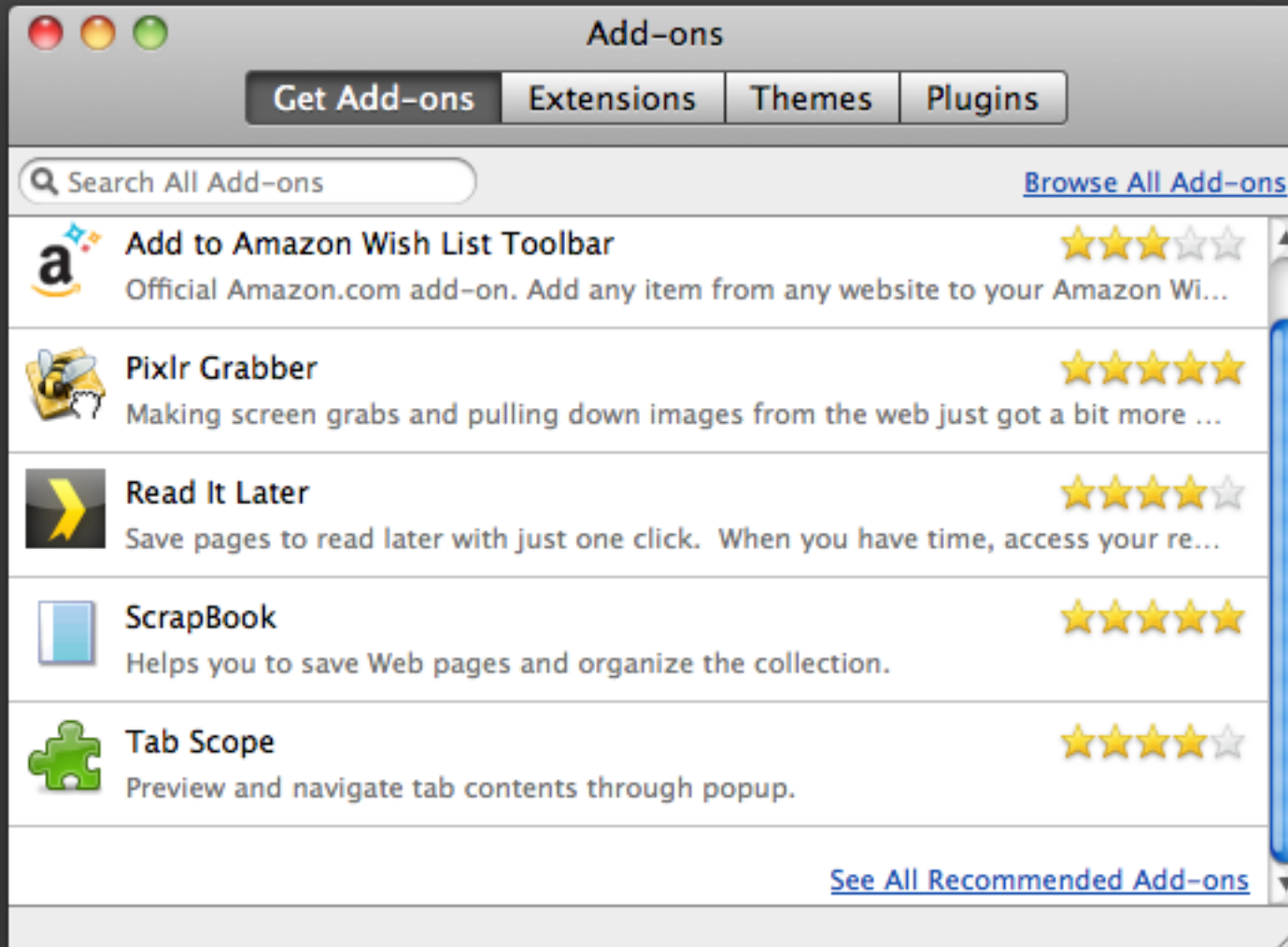
opened 17M times daily · 1.7M searches
303,000 downloads (21%)

100,000 views a day · 7,000 downloads

Future Plans

Notification about new add-ons

Another program on your computer would like to modify Firefox with the
following add-on:

CaffeinatedFox 1.2
by Sarah Turner
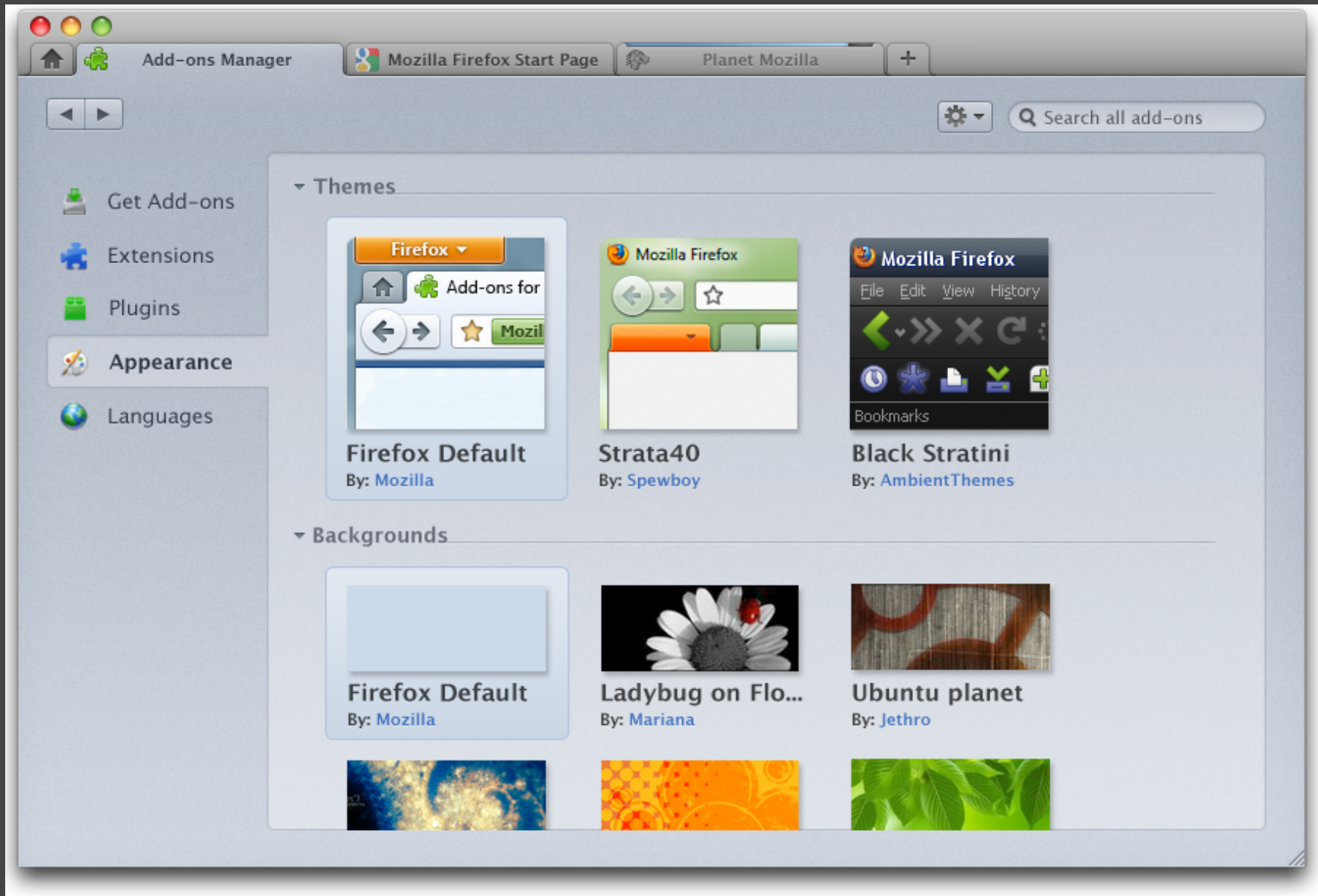*location: /path/folder/files are here/*

⚠ Only install add-ons from authors whom you trust.

[Install Add-On] [Cancel]

You can always change your mind at any time by going to the Add-ons Manager

New appearance UI

Embedded preferences

Questions?