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CYBERSECURITY NEWS CUSTOM REPORT

To avoid being tracked, browse in multiverses



02/09/2020 20:06

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Multiverses: Browse in one or many?

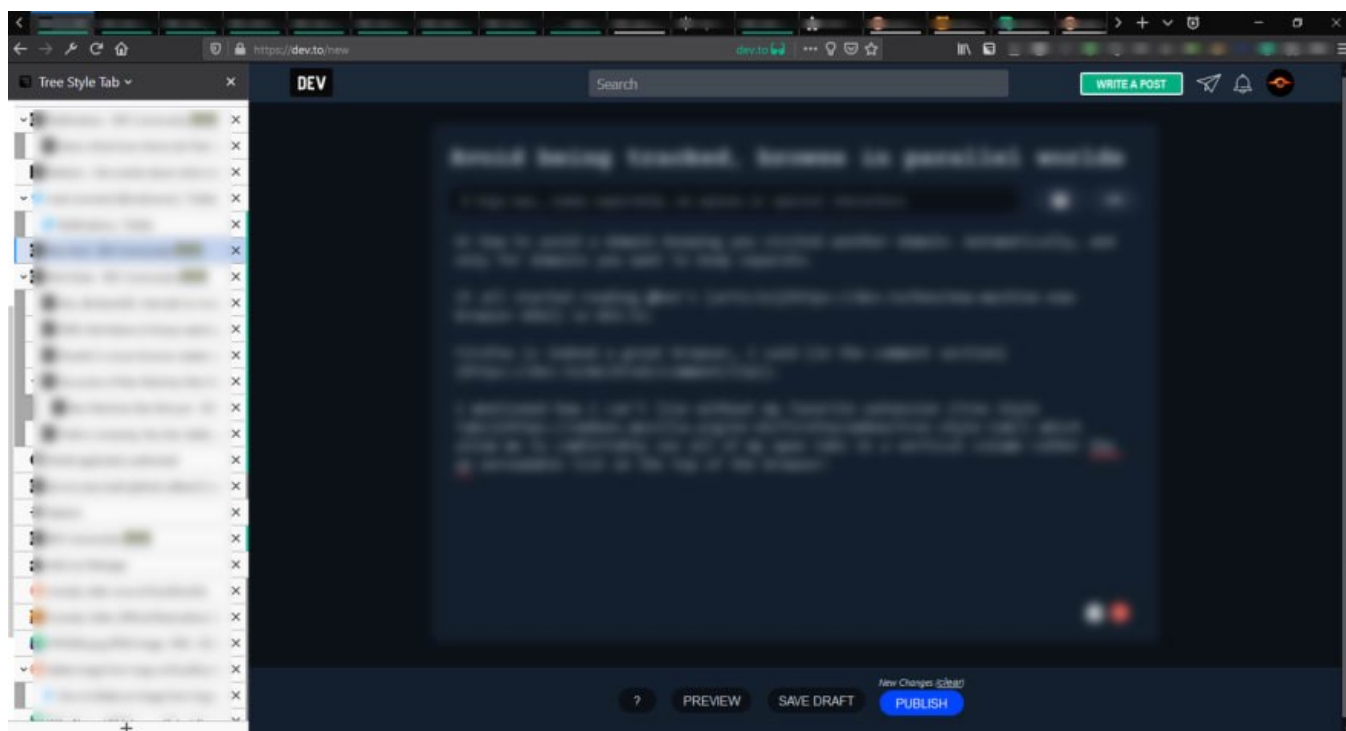
What do James Bond, Deepak Chopra, and Einstein have in common? They browse automatically in multiverses. You can, too, and make it harder to be tracked.

It all started reading this article in DEV.to.

Firefox is indeed a great browser, I said in the comment section. And mentioned my favorite add-on.

I mentioned how I can't live without my favorite add-on Tree Style Tabs.

This add-on allows me to comfortably see all of my open tabs in a vertical column to the left of the browser rather than on an unreadable list on the top of the browser:



As you can see in the image, new tabs open in a tree-style fashion. This conveniently puts some order in an otherwise hectic sea of tabs. It also adds readability and makes it easier to find a tab-needle in the haystack.

If you need horizontal space back, the sidebar can be conveniently closed/opened using a keyboard shortcut, like a boss.

If you want, you can expand the sidebar width and read the whole title of the tab. Something impossible in the default crunched upper row of tabs.

So what are container tabs?

Firefox's Containers are like profiles, allowing you to segregate browsing activity within different profiles on your computer. This allows for some helpful features, like logging in to different accounts on the same website simultaneously. If used properly, it can also protect the user's privacy.

Before the advent of containers, opening different sessions (think usernames/passwords) of the same domain could only be achieved opening different browsers.

Using containers, you can open in separate containers different sessions in the same browser. Each session does not know about the other ones.



That is, I can be logged in with different users in the same domain in the same browser! This is pretty handy.

As another example, for a developer workflow, this means you can be logged in and website as different users in the same browser at the same time.

In the comments' back-n-forth, @citizen428 mentioned a very useful add-on: Multi-Account Containers!

This add-on automatically opens domains you choose in separate containers.

So, for example, you can automatically always open all of *.google.com's universe in a separate container. Google's cookies, sessions, etc, will be kept separate from any other domain you open (as if you were using a separate browser).

All other domains that you don't configure to always open in a particular container will open in the same container as the parent tab.

However, there is a nifty add-on that I'm testing. It is called Temporary Containers.

This one is not yet "recommended by Mozilla", but it is very promising and Mozilla should definitely have a closer look at it. And if you're still reading, probably you should too.

With Temporary Containers, all tabs that are not configured to open in a specified container (yes, it is compatible with Multi-Account Containers!) will open in a temporary container. From their wiki:

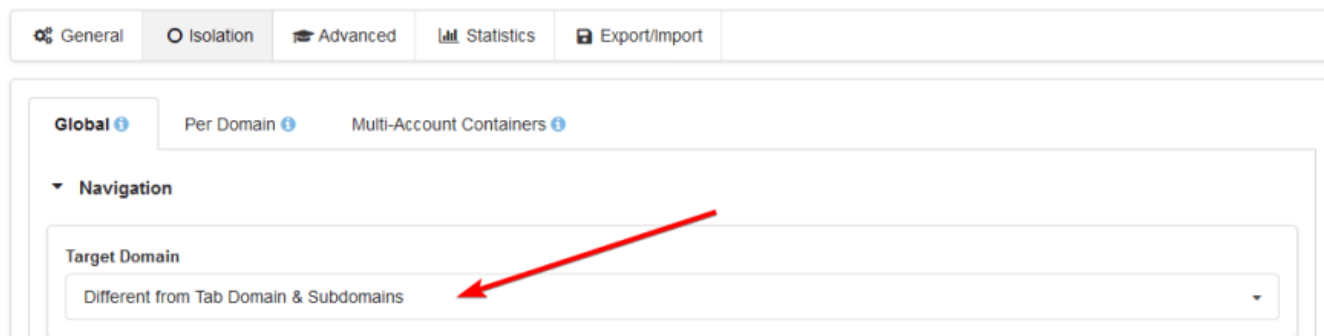
Automatically reopen Tabs in new Temporary Containers when

- Opening a new Tab
- A Tab tries to load a Link in the Default Container
- An external Program opens a Link in the Browser

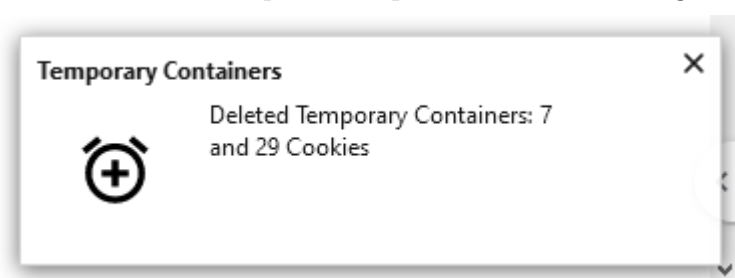
In combination with Multi-Account Containers

- Reopens Confirm Page if in Default Container so you can choose between Temporary Container and Permanent Container

To achieve this, all you have to do is to configure the add-on to open new domains in temporary containers.



Option to open different domain in a new temporary container.



Temporary containers are automatically deleted.

Concerned about the overhead that too many containers may have? Worry not!

There is a reason why the extension is called “temporary” containers. These temporary containers are deleted by default 15m after the last tab in the temporary container is closed. But the timeout can be manually changed.

These 3 Firefox add-ons have really improved my workflow while browsing.

1. Open a sea of tabs opened vertically in a tree-style fashion, instead of being in an upper, basically unreadable row as mostly every browser’s default: Tree Style Tabs
2. Open particular domains in separate containers: Multi-Account Containers
3. Open all other domains in temporary, disposable, containers: Temporary Containers

I’m open and interested in hearing your opinion about this. How is your workflow different? Do you have recommendations?