

Multiprocess Browser Toolbox FAQ

What is the Multiprocess Browser Toolbox?

[The Browser Toolbox](#) is a DevTools for the browser code itself. If you work on the browser UI or code, then using the Browser Toolbox lets you inspect the UI, or debug the code.

The Multiprocess Browser Toolbox is an improvement of this tool. It lets you not only inspect and debug objects and code that run in the Firefox parent process, but also things coming from the content processes.

Are the Multiprocess Browser Toolbox and Browser Toolbox two different things?

No, the Multiprocess Browser Toolbox is essentially the new Browser Toolbox that we have been working on for a while in 2019. When enabled, opening the Browser Toolbox opens the Multiprocess Browser Toolbox instead.

After a while, once the new features are stable, we'll be letting the Multiprocess Browser Toolbox ride the trains and there will not be a way to opt out of it.

Why did you do it?

We are making DevTools able to work with the upcoming Fission architecture where parts of web pages may be running in separate processes. We focused on the Browser Toolbox first because even before Fission was ready, it provided us with a similar multi-process environment.

So, creating this better Browser Toolbox was actually a by-product of making DevTools ready for Fission.

Is the Browser Content Toolbox still needed?

In theory no, now that the Browser Toolbox lets you debug privileged scripts running in content processes, you should not need the Browser Content Toolbox anymore. We haven't yet removed it though. Removal is tracked in [this bug](#).

Can I turn it off?

Yes, for now the Multiprocess Browser Toolbox is only enabled in Nightly, and can be turned off by switching the pref `devtools.browsertoolbox.fission` to false in about:config.

Where can I report bugs?

Please file bugs that block [the dt-fission bug](#).

What features work?

For now, only the Inspector, Console and Debugger panels in the Browser Toolbox have been migrated to take into account content processes.

Most features in these tools should just work.

The Browser Console (which you can open with Cmd or Ctrl+Shift+J) also displays messages coming from multiple processes.

What's left to implement?

Several panels have not been converted to take multiple processes into account in the Browser Toolbox yet:

- Application,
- Storage,
- Accessibility,
- DOM
- Memory
- Performance
- Style Editor

Support for them is coming soon.

Within the panels that were migrated, here are some notable features that won't fully work:

- The inspector search input
- The inspector animation sidebar panel
- The Eyedropper
- The node screenshot utility

Can I avoid seeing content messages?

Yes you can filter out console messages coming from content processes using the `show content messages` checkbox in the Browser Console.