

Notes for Firefox 74 release post mortem

Attendees

Stats

- Release Date: 2020-03-10
- Beta cycle length: 4 weeks
- Nightly cycle length: 5 weeks
- Fixes in nightly: 1832 bugs fixed
- Uplifts in Beta: [138 uplifted bugs](#) of which 13 backouts
- Uplifts in RC: [11 uplifted bugs](#) of which 2 backouts
- Total of uplifts: 149
- Number of RC builds: 3
- Number of Beta builds: 9
- Number of dot releases: 0
- QA:
 - PI Requests accepted/feature planned: 18 (Desktop and Exp QA)
 - Features deferred in Nightly: 8
 - Features deferred in Beta: 2
 - Features added in beta/late PI request: 0
 - QA logged 81 defects, 18 defects got fixed by Release date
 - Areas QA found issues as part of Beta Regression testing are:
 - Audio/Video: 3 New, 16 Known Issues
 - Graphics: 7 Known Issues
 - Plug-ins: 5 Known Issues

What went well

- We entered the beta cycle with no top crasher and not many medium crashers which meant more time to focus on features and looking at pre-release users feedback
- The Search team accepted to move the new QuantumBar search design to 75 as both QA and relman felt it was a risky change with the expanded scope of "search Tips" and "Search interventions" feature and the fact that some significant issues were fixed in beta and had little bake time in pre-release.
- Firefox was not targeted at the Pwn2own contest so we didn't have to chemspill.
- The quality was good enough that there was no significant driver to have a dot release either before 75 ships (we almost always have dot releases)
- Desktop QA:
 - Working on 'Async live stack' feature was a pleasure, we received a detailed technical documentation with detailed test cases, the kickoff went great and the communication with the devtools team is always very smooth.
 - For Fission: Process Switching (3 prefs) QA forecasted Red sign-off in the

- pre-release report due to multiple open issues, Engineering triaged/resolved the bugs quickly and the final QA sign-off was Green
 - QA Streamlined communication process by transitioning build sign offs to Trello, so far it's working well
- Add-Ons QA [Read-Only] Establishing the Add-ons strategy for 2020, particularly the work in scope for bug management which has helped reduce the workload in areas in which QA involvement was not necessary (not marked "qe-" bugs) and has improved management of unconfirmed issues.

Challenges

- Change of release manager mid-nightly cycle because of the January layoffs.
- The list of locales targeted/supported for the What's New Page was unclear (<https://bugzilla.mozilla.org/1616636>), we should have them communicated earlier for QA.
- A significant webGL code refactoring landed early in 74 nightly. We trusted our conformance test suite to catch regressions but we found it caused a P1 webcompat regression (<https://bugzilla.mozilla.org/1617512>) in late betas and uplifted a patch before RC1 to fix it. That caused a worse webcompat regression (<https://bugzilla.mozilla.org/1620876>) so we had to do a RC3 to back the patch out.
- LSNG almost shipped by mistake as there was no bug filed to back it out in beta. I realized that it was not restricted to Nightly because a LSNG crasher was still visible in beta. We filed a bug to put that behind the EARLY_BETA_OR_EARLIER flag (https://bugzilla.mozilla.org/show_bug.cgi?id=1619948) it was done in 76 only
- document channel + service workers e10s still had significant bugs in the late betas. We decided to activate the features in 74 but some of the issues could have been fixed earlier
- a couple of parsing bugs in security notes delayed publishing sec advisories for ~40mn, we added fixes to the yaml parser checks
- Desktop QA: Problems with Privacy/Security work
 - [PI-502](#) Firefox Monitor: Cross-promote the Firefox Ecosystem:
 - Communication gaps; scope wasn't clearly provided in tech doc, added more work for QA later
 - UI/UX spec wasn't updated, QA had to reconfirm every small thing
 - [PI-483](#) Purging Tracking Cookies: Incorrect information (mismatch of feature details in PI ticket vs tech doc), delayed response
- WNP coordination didn't go well, ([1616636](#))
 - release-localtest was not ready on time
 - incorrect information in the tracking bug
 - unclear page design
 - Recent process changes - PI ticket to be filed, kick started a more formal process for technical documentation (QA shared a template)