原文標題：The Story of Firefox

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by Sayak Sarkar

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Introduction

The history of Mozilla, upon which Firefox was built, extends all the way back to 1994, when the name was first established as a branding for the “mosaic killer,” Netscape Navigator. Mozilla as a modern day institution found its beginnings in 1998, when Netscape decided to release the source code of its dying browser to the open source community. Even later still, the browser that would become Firefox did not come into existence until 2002. In a sense, Firefox 1.0 came out in 2004 after 10 years of laying its foundations.

Origins

The origins of Firefox can be traced directly to Netscape, a company whose Web browser, Netscape Navigator, was the dominant browser before Microsoft developed Internet Explorer. The internal company name for the browser was Mozilla. Eventually, Netscape released the source code for Navigator under an open source license, meaning anyone could see and use the code. A nonprofit group was set up to direct the development of browsers using this code. This group became the Mozilla Foundation in 2003.

However, Firefox is not the browser the Mozilla group would have released if everything had gone as planned. Like Netscape Navigator before it, the Mozilla software was becoming bigger and bigger as more features were added in a problem in software development known as "feature creep" or "bloat".

Around this time, the Firefox project was started as an experimental branch of the Mozilla project by Dave Hyatt, Joe Hewitt, Chanial and Blake Ross. Instead of accepting the feature creep, Blake Ross, (a computer enthusiast who first started helping out the Mozilla project as a hobby when he was 14) decided to start developing his own Mozillabased browser, focusing on a streamlined and simple version. Software developer Dave Hyatt also played a major role. Ross was joined by Ben Goodger in 2003, and development progressed rapidly from that point.

They believed that the commercial requirements of Netscape's sponsorship and developer driven feature creep compromised the utility of the Mozilla browser. To combat this perceived software bloat[1] of the Mozilla Suite [2] they created a standalone browser, with which they intended to replace the Mozilla Suite. On April 3, 2003, the Mozilla Organization announced that they planned to change their focus from the Mozilla Suite to Firefox and Thunderbird.

Although the Mozilla Foundation had intended to make the Mozilla Suite

obsolete and replace it with Firefox, the Foundation continued to maintain the suite until April 12, 2006 because it had many corporate users and was bundled with other software. The Mozilla community (as opposed to the Foundation) continues to release new versions of the suite, using the product name SeaMonkey to avoid confusion with the original Mozilla Suite. On February 5, 2004, business and IT consulting company AMS categorized Mozilla Firefox (then known as Firebird) as a "Tier 1" ("Best of Breed") open source product, considering it technically strong and virtually riskfree.

Naming

Phoenix : The project which became Firefox started as an experimental branch of the Mozilla Suite called m/b (or mozilla/browser), underwent several name changes. After it had been sufficiently developed, binaries (experimental versions) for public testing appeared in September 2002 under the name Phoenix. The Phoenix name was kept until April 14, 2003, when it was changed because of a trademark dispute with the BIOS manufacturer, Phoenix Technologies (which produces a BIOSbased browser called Phoenix FirstWare Connect).

Manticore : The foundations of Phoenix progressed along an entirely different development mindset from its parent Mozilla. Instead of focusing on large application suites developed by large development teams headed by senior

programmers, Phoenix centered around a small, core development team concentrated exclusively on the web browsing aspect of the Mozilla Suite. The ideas for these small volunteer projects had manifested themselves earlier with David Hyatt and Ben Goodger's Manticore browser, built on Netscape and Internet Explorer using C# and .NET. However, where Manticore looked to offer basic browsing functions in a lean form factor, Blake Ross and David Hyatt's Phoenix looked to innovate on the browsing experience, focusing on security and utility as the pillars of the new browser. Unconstrained by the businessminded Netscape, Ross and Hyatt could develop a browser "completely focused on the end user."

Firebird : In April, 2003, Mozilla announced it would call its new browser "Firebird"a mythical creature sometimes considered synonymous with the phoenix, an immortal bird that regenerates itself through selfimmolation, to avoid the Phoenix conflict. The new name, Firebird, met with mixed reactions, particularly as the Firebird database server already carried the name. It provoked an intense response from the Firebird free database software project. In response, the Mozilla Foundation stated that the browser should always bear the name Mozilla Firebird to avoid confusion with the database software. Confusingly enough, the sponsor of the Firebird database development group, went by the name of IBPhoenix (no relationship to Phoenix Technologies, which presented the initial trademark challenge to

Mozilla). Formed in 1984 by InterBase Software and acquired by Borland Software in 1991, the group had launched the Firebird free database opensource project in 2000.

Firefox : Continuing pressure from the Firebird community forced another change, and on February 9, 2004 the project was renamed Mozilla Firefox (or Firefox for short). The name "Firefox" (a reference to the red panda [3]) was chosen for its similarity to "Firebird", but also for its uniqueness in the computing industry. To ensure that no further name changes would be necessary, the Mozilla Foundation began the process of registering Firefox as a trademark with the United States Patent and Trademark Office in December 2003. This trademark process led to a delay of several months in the release of Firefox 0.8 when the foundation discovered that Firefox had already been registered as a trademark in the UK for Charlton Company software. The situation was resolved when the foundation was given a license to use Charlton's European trademark.

Versions

The Firefox project went through many versions before 1.0 was released on November 9, 2004. After a series of stability and security fixes, the Mozilla Foundation released its first major update, Firefox version 1.5, on November 29, 2005. Version 2.0 was released on October 24, 2006. Firefox 3.0 was

released on June 17, 2008, with Version 3.5 and Version 3.6 released on June 30, 2009 and January 21, 2010 respectively. Version 4.0 was released on March 22, 2011. With Version 5.0 onwards the rapid release cycle was realised which envisions a new major version release every six weeks on Tuesday. Firefox 10, was released on January 31, 2012. The latest version, Firefox 10.0.2 was released on February 16, 2012

Key Terms

1. Software bloat is a process whereby successive versions of a computer program include an increasing proportion of unnecessary features that are not used by end users, or generally use more system resources than necessary, while offering little or no benefit to its users.
2. Mozilla Suite: Codenamed, internally referred to, and continued by the community as SeaMonkey, which integrated features such as IRC, mail and news, and WYSIWYG HTML editing into one software suite.
3. A firefox is another name for the red panda, a redfurred, endangered mammal related to the giant panda and found in the Himalayas, China and Myanmar.

中譯:（請在下方翻譯）

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==簡介==

Firefox 的基礎 Mozilla，歷史最早可以追溯至 1994 年。當時，這個名字首次作為 Netscape Navigator 的品牌名稱出現，取其「Mosaic 殺手（Mosaic Killer）」之意。1998 年 Netscape 決定向開放原始碼社群公開他們瀕死瀏覽器的原始碼，成就今日我們所認識的 Mozilla 組織。話雖如此，Firefox 的前身的 Mozilla 瀏覽器，直至 2002 年才誕生。在某種意義上來說，Firefox 總共經歷了 10 年來奠定基礎，才在 2004 年釋出了 1.0 版。

==起源==

Firefox 的起源可以直接追溯至 Netscape 公司的網頁瀏覽器 Netscape Navigator。在微軟發展出 Internet Explorer 前，Netscape 曾經獨霸全球，當時公司內部就稱呼此瀏覽器為 Mozilla。後來 Netscape 以開放原始碼授權公開 Navigator 的原始碼，讓任何人都能夠觀看、使用。且他們設立了一個非營利小組，運用這些開放的程式碼作為基礎開發瀏覽器，而這個小組在 2003 年成為 Mozilla 基金會。

然而，Firefox 並不是 Mozilla 小組計畫中的成果。

當時 Mozilla 小組所開發的 Mozilla 瀏覽器，就像先前的 Netscape Navigator 一樣，隨著新增的功能越來越多，軟體也變得越來越大 —— 在軟體開發中，我們稱呼這種問題為「功能蔓延（*Feature creep*）」或「軟體膨脹（Bloat）」。

功能蔓延問題日益嚴重。大約此時，Blake Ross（14 歲就開始以貢獻 Mozilla 計畫作為嗜好的電腦狂熱份子）與 Dave Hyatt、Joe Hewitt 與 Chanial 開始了一個 Mozilla 瀏覽器的實驗性分支。

他們相信 Mozilla 瀏覽器因為需要符合 Netscape 的贊助商及開發者們的商業需求，因而產生功能氾濫、效能大打

折扣。為了解決 Mozilla Suite [1] 的軟體膨脹 [2] 問題，他們希望以 Mozilla 為基礎，開發一個精簡樸實的瀏覽器，希望能以此取代 Mozilla Suite。

Ben Goodger 在 2003 年加入了 Ross 的實驗計劃，從那時候開始有了大幅進展。Mozilla 組織在 2003 年 4 月 3 號宣佈，他們計劃把發展重心從 Mozilla Suite 轉向 Firefox 和 Thunderbird。

盡管 Mozilla 基金會一直希望能讓 Mozilla Suite走入歷史，用 Firefox 來完全取代它，但由於還有許多企業用戶使用，也有其他軟體將 Mozilla Suite 包含在內，Mozilla 基金會還是繼續維持更新直至 2006 年 4 月 12 號。在那之後，Mozilla 社群仍然繼續維護，發行新版的 Mozilla Suite，同時改以 SeaMonkey 為產品名稱。

在 2004 年 2 月 5 號，商業與資訊科技諮詢公司 AMS 將 Mozilla Firefox（當時以 Firebird 為名）歸類為「第 1 級」（「該類最佳」）的開放原始碼產品，且認為它技術底子夠硬、幾乎毫無風險。

==命名==
Firefox 計畫起源於名為 m/b（或稱 mozilla/browser）的 Mozilla Suite 實驗性分支，在 2002 年 9 月，以 Phoenix 為名，釋出測試用執行檔而正式問世。其後並歷經多次改名：

Manticore：Phoenix 朝著和其上游的 Mozilla 完全不同的開發方向進行。相較於 Mozilla Suite 是以資深工程師為首，組織大型開發團隊的大型應用軟體，Phoenix 的開發成員，則是特別專注於網頁瀏覽功能的小型核心式團隊。這種小型志願專案的形式，源自於 David Hyatt 與 Ben Goodger 在更早期以 Netscape 和 Internet Explorer 為基礎，使用 C# 和 .NET 語言撰寫的 Manticore 瀏覽器。

Phoenix：Manticore 意在以精幹的軟件型態，提供基本瀏覽功能，而 Blake Ross 和 David Hyatt 的 Phoenix 計畫，則著眼於瀏覽體驗的創新，致力於將安全及效能作為支柱。且不被商業心態的 Netscape 約束，才能夠開發出一個「完全替終端使用者量身訂造」的瀏覽器。Phoenix 這個名子一直使用至 2003 年 4 月 14 日，因為與 BIOS 製造商 Phoenix Technologies（開發了以 BIOS 為基礎的 Phoenix FirstWare Connect 瀏覽器）的商標糾紛而更名。

Firebird：在 2003 年 4 月，Mozilla 宣佈他們的新瀏覽器將命名為 Firebird，以避開與 Phoenix 的爭議。Firebird 是個通過自焚重生的神話生物不死鳥，有時被認為是鳳凰的別稱。這個新名子引起了許多不同的反應，特

別激起了早以 Firebird 為名的自由軟體資料庫專案激烈的反應。對此，Mozilla 基金會表示他們的瀏覽器會永遠使用「Mozilla Firebird」的名稱，避免和 Firebird 資料庫混淆。

更令人困惑的是，贊助 Firebird 資料庫開發團隊的公司名為 IBPhoenix（和先前與 Mozilla 產生商標爭議的 Phoenix Technologies 無關）。IBPhoenix 由 InterBase Software 於 1984 年成立，在 1991 年被 Borland Software 收購，在 2000 年推出開放原始碼的 Firebird 自由資料庫軟體專案。

Firefox：來自 Firebird 社群的持續壓力，迫使另一次改變發生。在 2004 年 2 月 9 號，Mozilla Phoenix 計劃再次更名成 Mozilla Firefox（簡稱 Firefox）。「Firefox」是紅色熊貓的暱稱 [3]，因為它和「Firebird」的相似性、以及它在資訊產業中的獨特性而雀屏中選。

為了確保不會再有變更名稱的問題，Mozilla 基金會在 2003 年 12 月，向美國專利與商標局申請註冊 Firefox 商標。不幸的是在英國，Firefox 已是 Charlton Company 軟體公司的註冊商標。這個問題導致 Firefox 0.8 延遲了幾個月釋出，在基金會取得 Charlton 的歐洲商標使用權後順利解決。

==版本沿革==
2004 年 11 月 9 號，Firefox 1.0 正式釋出。在那之前，Firefox 計畫已經公開過許多個開發中測試版。

經過一系列穩定性及安全性更新後，Mozilla 基金會在 2005 年 11 月 29 日發布第一個主要更新版本 Firefox 1.5。Firefox 2.0 在 2006 年 10 月 24 日釋出。Firefox 3.0 在 2008 年 6 月 17 號發布，Fx 3.5 及 3.6 則分別在 2009 年 6 月 30 號及 2010 年 1 月 21 日釋出。Firefox 4.0 在 2011 年 5 月 22 日公開。

Firefox 在 4.0 版之後，為了追求新功能的快速上線與軟體的穩定更新，Mozilla 開始執行快速釋出週期的開發模式，即是在每六週的星期二定期發布新的主要版本。在此之後，版本號碼即不像過去般重要，而主要是作為開發者的參考之用。Firefox 5 在 2011 年 6 月 21 日發布，最新的 Firefox 22，則在 2013 年 6 月 24 日釋出。

==註==
1 Mozilla Suite：Mozilla 是 Netscape Navigator 瀏覽器的產品開發代號及內部的簡稱；Mozilla Suite 則是一個軟體集，包含瀏覽器、IRC、電子郵件、新聞群組等通訊軟體，以及所見即所得的 HTML 編輯器。目前 Mozilla Suite 由社群以 SeaMonkey 之名持續釋出中。

2 軟體膨脹(Software bloat):指電腦程式的後續更新版本，包含越來越高比例終端用戶未使用到的功能。更新版本耗用了更高的系統資源，卻只提供高一點點(甚至沒有增進)的效能。

3 Firefox:小熊貓(Red Panda)的暱稱。小熊貓是一種紅色軟毛，與浣熊科和鼬科相近，瀕臨絕種的哺乳動物，在喜馬拉雅山、中國和緬甸都可以發現牠的蹤跡。

<blockquote>原文 / [En:NeMo-Firefox](https://wiki.mozilla.org/En:En:NeMo-Firefox)

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