

# Mozilla Is Helping Tor Get Bigger and Better



Adam Clark Estes

Filed to: MOZILLA Today 2:39pm

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Mozilla knows what's up. The non-profit is aware that the vast majority of its users think that privacy on the internet is falling apart, so it's [launching a new strategic privacy initiative](#) called Polaris. And you'll never guess who's on board. Just kidding, it's totally obvious: the Tor Project.

Along with the Center for Democracy & Technology (CDT), the Tor Project is advising Mozilla "on privacy technology, open standards, and future product collaborations," says Tor's Andrew Lewman. The first project, currently underway, involves Mozilla engineers raking through their own code to see how they can make Tor work better. This is especially significant, since the Tor Browser is based on Firefox code. The next stage will involve Mozilla hosting its own high-capacity Tor middle relays. This would speed up Tor connections worldwide, since [middle relays carry traffic](#) from anonymous users to exit relays.

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The second project sounds really exciting. Mozilla says it's testing a "a feature that protects those users that want to be free from invasive tracking without penalizing advertisers and content sites that respect a user's preferences." Based on the phrasing it sounds like a feature that could one day come to Firefox—in fact, it sounds a bit like [the rumored "Tor button" for Firefox](#). (I've reached out to Mozilla for more details about this feature and will update this post when I hear back.)

Along with recent news that Facebook [is now offering a special Tor-only URL](#) to make it easier for anonymous users to access the internet, it really does sound like the little Onion Router that could is finally hitting the mainstream. [[Mozilla](#) via [GigaOm](#)]



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Adam Clark Estes's Discussions

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**Goku U** Adam Clark Estes

Today 3:15pm

Trojan Horse (Fox) into Tor. Don't be fooled

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**UncleWalty U** Adam Clark Estes

Today 3:38pm

Perhaps Mozilla should focus on improving the increasingly-buggy Firefox browser

instead of this Tor distraction. I used to love Firefox, but lately it can't render images, isn't compatible with CAPTCHA, starts running impossibly slowly because it needs yet another update of some kind, can't run a script....etc.

I'm about two seconds from making a permanent switch to Chrome, Mozilla.....get your shit together.

4 \_ 3 1 | Reply

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**km1280** U UncleWalty  
Today 4:20pm

I don't know about Firefox, but I've been using Waterfox for about a year now, and I love it. There is a little bit of a delay getting updates, but otherwise you get all the goodies of Firefox, none of the problems I hear people complaining about lately with Firefox, and it's 64-bit. I honestly can't see myself ever going back. Maybe if they stop being so damned stubborn and actually provide Firefox in 64-bit.

1 1 | Reply

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**MistaButters** U Adam Clark Estes  
Today 5:31pm

Isn't there a decent chance that the NSA and FBI have already figured out how to trace the source on Tor considering everything that has happened recently?

2 \_ 1 1 | Reply

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**Adam Clark Estes** U MistaButters  
Today 6:02pm

Yeah....

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**Matt** U Adam Clark Estes  
Today 2:54pm

> This is especially significant, since Tor is based on Firefox code.

The Tor Browser Bundle includes a tweaked version of Firefox, but Tor itself is not based on Firefox.

See: <https://www.torproject.org/about/overview...>

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**Adam Clark Estes** U Matt

Today 6:03pm

I know that and meant to say include the word browser in there. That's an important distinction, though. I'll tweak that for clarity.

1 | Reply



**lawyer** U Adam Clark Estes

Today 3:28pm

Oh, ya. And since the US government funds Tor, and since the just-occurring darkweb shutdowns prove Tor is vulnerable, why ELSE would there be a push to use it? The NSA finally got the backdoor right.

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**Adam Clark Estes** U lawyer

Today 6:04pm



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