

Kiosk Mode

Getting Started

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A “Kiosk” mode is a feature found in most browsers that limits user access on a computer to specific web pages only. In Kiosk mode, browser windows are full screen and the address, tools, menu, and status bars are hidden from use and not displayed.

Windows: Configure your browser to run at startup

The following steps will work with Windows XP, Windows Server 2008, Windows Vista, and Windows 7.

To make a web browser launch automatically during startup, create a shortcut to the browser and place it in the Windows **Startup** folder:

1. Click **Start** followed by **Run** and type:
 - %userprofile%\Start Menu\Programs\Startup
2. Please note that this location will only affect *your* user profile at startup; if you would rather have the browser launch at startup for *every* user who logs on to the computer, place the browser shortcut in this location instead:
 - %allusersprofile%\Start Menu\Programs\Startup
3. This opens the **Startup** folder for the current (or every) user profile.
4. Next, right-click inside folder and choose **New** followed by **Shortcut** and provide the path to the browser for which you want to execute at startup.
5. Alternately, you can simply just drag the browser shortcut to this folder too.

Google Chrome

The following steps are for running Google Chrome in full screen Kiosk mode on a Windows machine:

1. Right-click on your Windows **Desktop** and select **New** followed by **Shortcut**.
2. This opens a standard operating system explorer (i.e. finder) window, allowing you to **Browse** for the “chrome.exe” file.
3. Although it *can* be different (depending on your setup), the file is usually found here:

```
%username%/AppData/Local/Google/Chrome/Application/chrome.exe
```
4. Click **Next**.
5. Type a name for the shortcut (e.g. “*Chrome Kiosk Mode*”) and click **Finish**.
6. Right-click on the new shortcut on your **Desktop** and go to **Properties**.
7. At the end of the **Target** field, replace “chrome.exe” with “chrome.exe --kiosk http://[enter URL here]”.
8. Next, click **Apply** followed by click **OK**.
9. If you would like to launch Google Chrome every time your machine restarts, copy the newly-created shortcut and paste it into your **Startup** folder.
10. Double-clicking on the newly-created shortcut will launch Google Chrome in full-screened Kiosk mode.
11. To exit the Kiosk mode, press <Alt+F4> on your keyboard.
12. The shortcut for **Full Screen** is <F11>; you can also click the **Wrench** (“”) icon in the top-right corner of the browser and select the **Full Screen** icon (“”).
13. When Google Chrome is running in full-screened Kiosk mode, the toolbars are *not* available; however, you are still shown a reminder at the top of the page that <F11> exits **Full Screen** mode.
14. If you’ve copied this shortcut into your **Startup** folder (see above), Google Chrome will automatically launch in **Full Screen Mode** when your computer is restarted.

Mozilla Firefox

The following steps—broken down into two parts—walk you through how to launch Mozilla’s Firefox in full screen Kiosk mode on a Windows machine:

1. Unfortunately, Mozilla’s Firefox does not support a native Kiosk mode. However, there are several Kiosk **Add-ons** (e.g. “*Full Fullscreener*”, “*R-kiosk*”, etc) available for Firefox that will launch the browser in **Full Screen** mode without any address bars, toolbars, browser menus, or tabs. The downside of using various **Add-ons** to ensure that Firefox reboots in full-screened Kiosk mode every time is that they are often outdated as new versions of the browser are released.
2. Due to the wide variety of available extensions, we can’t tell you exactly *which* **Add-ons** to use. You are required to do some research on your own and choose the extension(s) that are best suited to your unique environment.
3. Once you have researched and chosen the extensions (i.e. **Add-ons**) that meet your needs, download and install the plugin(s).

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From the browser's main **Firefox** menu, select **Add-ons** ("⚙️") and locate your newly installed plugin within the **Extensions** tab. Some third-party plugins require you to set specific options (e.g. **Fullscreen on Startup**, **Prevent Navbar Auto-Popup**, or **Hide Tab Bar**).

5. From the main **Firefox** menu, select **Options** and be sure to set your default **Home Page** to what you want your browser to automatically launch with. The default **Home Page** should *usually* be the main page of the Researcher Workstation; however, it can also be your site /institution's home page which, in turn, provides a link to the online Researcher.
If you're having trouble locating your online Researcher's web address, click [here](#) to find out how.
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1. Right-click on your Windows **Desktop** and select **New** followed by **Shortcut**.
2. This opens a standard operating system explorer (i.e. finder) window, allowing you to **Browse** for the "*firefox.exe*" file.
3. Although it *can* be different (depending on your setup), the file is usually found here:
 - C:\Program Files\Mozilla Firefox\firefox.exe
4. Click **Next**.
5. Type a name for the shortcut (e.g. "Firefox Kiosk Mode") and click **Finish**.
6. If you would like to launch Mozilla's Firefox every time your machine restarts, copy the newly-created shortcut and paste it into your **Startup** folder.
7. Unless your **Add-ons** take care of it for you, the shortcut for **Full Screen** is *<F11>*; you can also select **Full Screen** from the main **Firefox** menu. Please note that most Kiosk **Add-ons** don't prevent a user from hitting *<F11>* to toggle between full and regular screen views. Most Kiosk extensions also allow users to use *<Alt+F4>* to close the browser, too. However, if this happens, when the browser is relaunched, it will reopen in Kiosk mode again.
8. Close all pages/tabs and then restart the Firefox browser.
9. Your default **Home Page** page should load and take up the entire screen.
10. By default, this **Full Screen** mode auto-hides any visible toolbars. However, you can bring them back at any time by hovering your mouse near the top-edge of the screen. Alternately, pressing *<F11>* will exit **Full Screen** mode. Keep in mind that both these features *maybe* disabled when using certain **Add-ons**.
11. If you've copied this shortcut into your **Startup** folder (see above), Mozilla's Firefox will automatically launch in **Full Screened** Kiosk mode when your computer is restarted.