

Even More Browser Features You May Not Be Using – Firefox

written by John Grubb | September 22, 2022

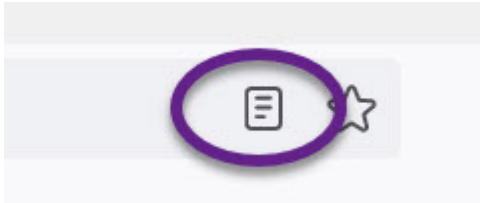


Today, we're going to look at even more browser features you may not be using. This post is a continuation of the series called "Browser Features You May Not Be Using." This is the third post. You'll find the first one which was all about Microsoft Edge [HERE](#). The second one was about Google Chrome and you can read it [HERE](#).

Reader

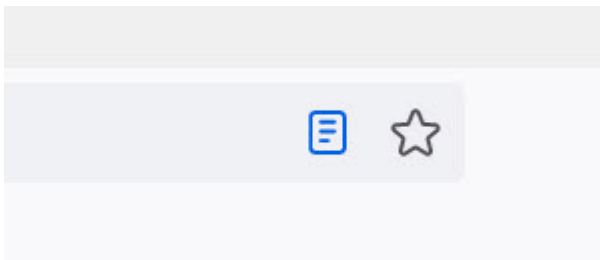
Just like Microsoft Edge and Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox (commonly known just as Firefox) has a Reader. As it was with Microsoft Edge, the Reader option is turned on by default.

Similar to Reader in Edge and Chrome, the feature doesn't show up when you're searching or on a page with tons of stories. However, if you click on one of the articles, on the right side of the address bar, you'll see this:



I've circled the Reader icon

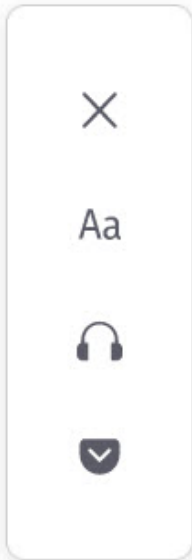
You should be familiar with the Star icon – that's how you mark a page a Bookmark (aka Favorite). The Reader is the left icon. If you click or tap it, you'll then see this:



The Reader icon is now blue and the story you were viewing doesn't show ads and/or other distracting graphics.

Text Preferences

Once you are in Reading mode, a menu appears on the left-side of the text.



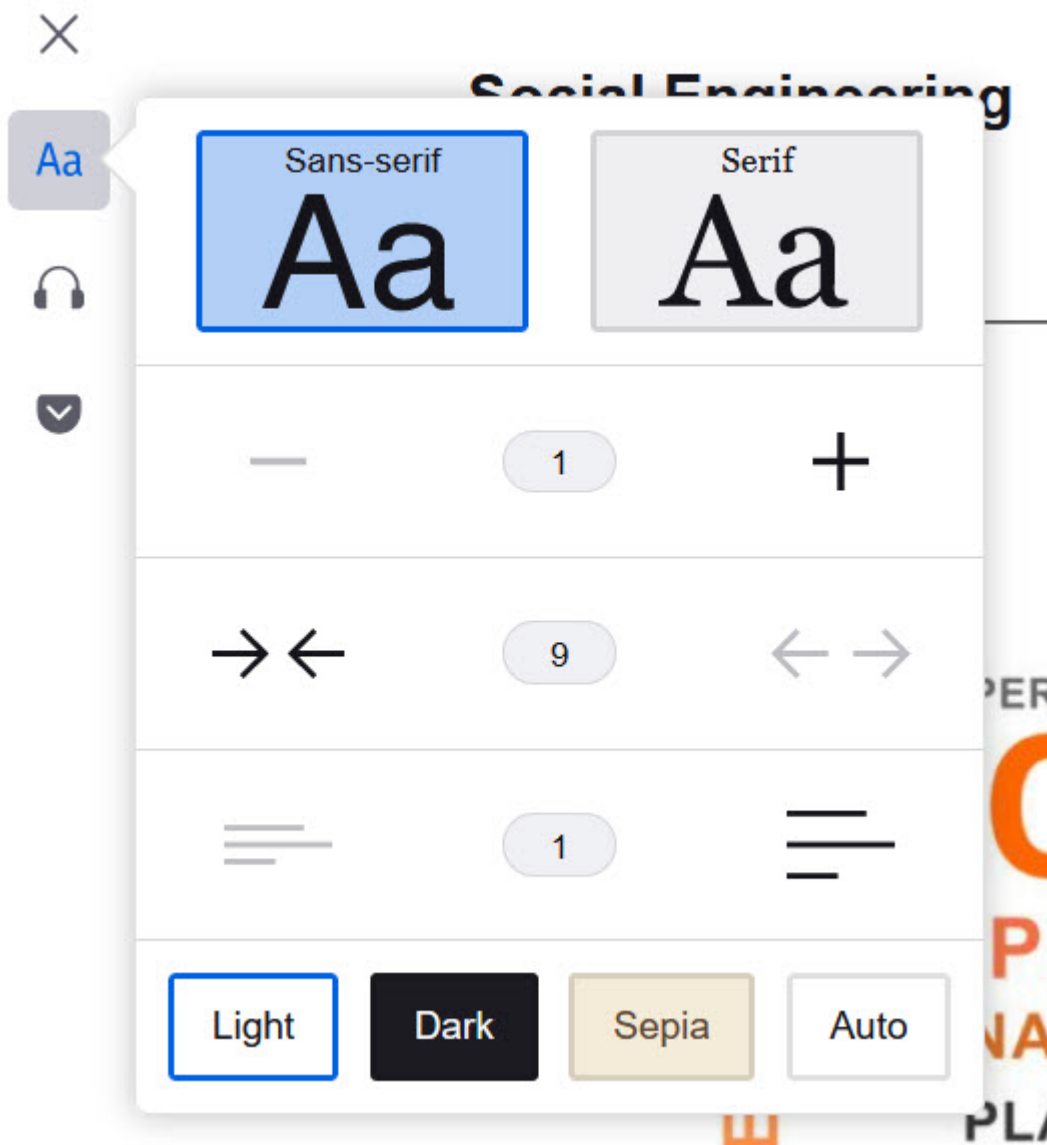
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4-5 minutes

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When you click or tap the font icon (Aa), this window appears:

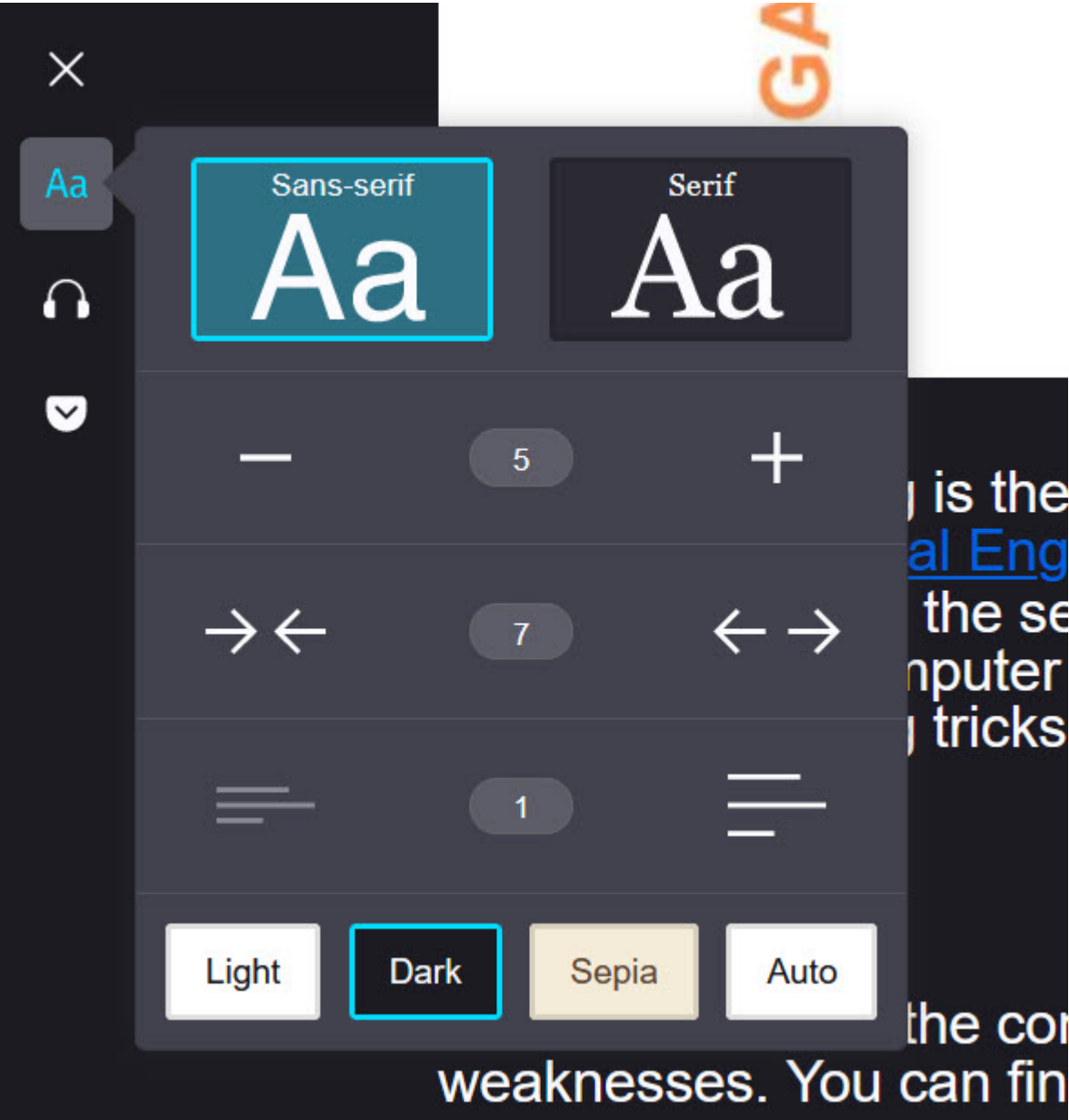


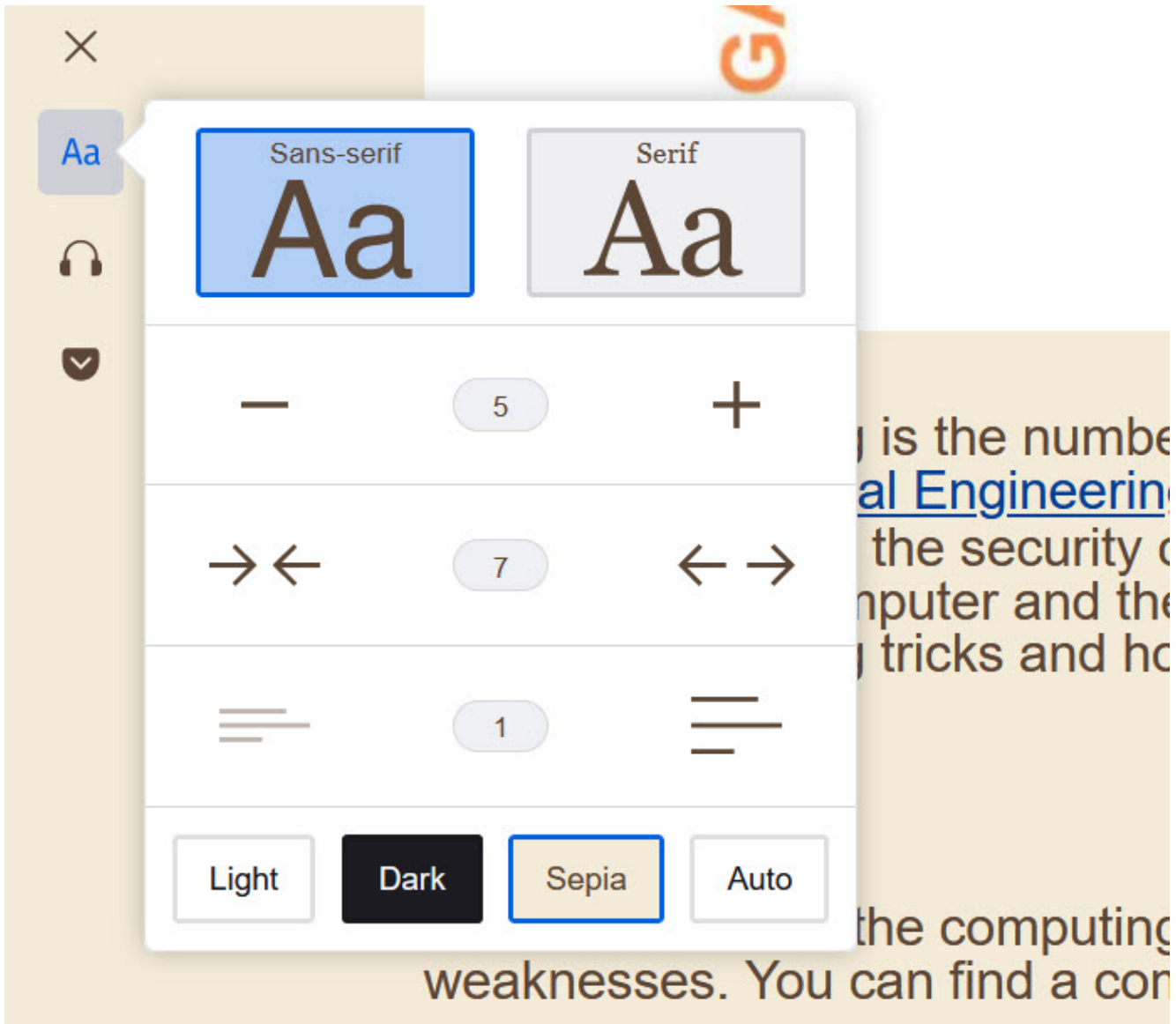
At the top, you have a choice of two different fonts. Simply click which of the two you want to use for the page you are reading.

The next option is used to zoom the page's text either larger or smaller. The third selection changes the width of what you are reading. The fourth choice increases or decreases the line height, i.e. the space between the lines.

With the boxes at the bottom of this menu, you can choose the color of the background. Light is like the photo above. The Auto option will usually give you the actual background color from the website. Pressing the Dark or the Sepia will give you

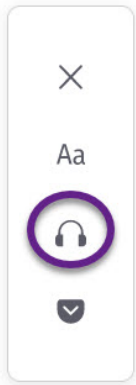
results like these:





Read Aloud

Just as Microsoft Edge has a built-in method of reading a page aloud, so does Firefox. Going back to the menu at the left of the Reader text, you simply click on the headphone icon.



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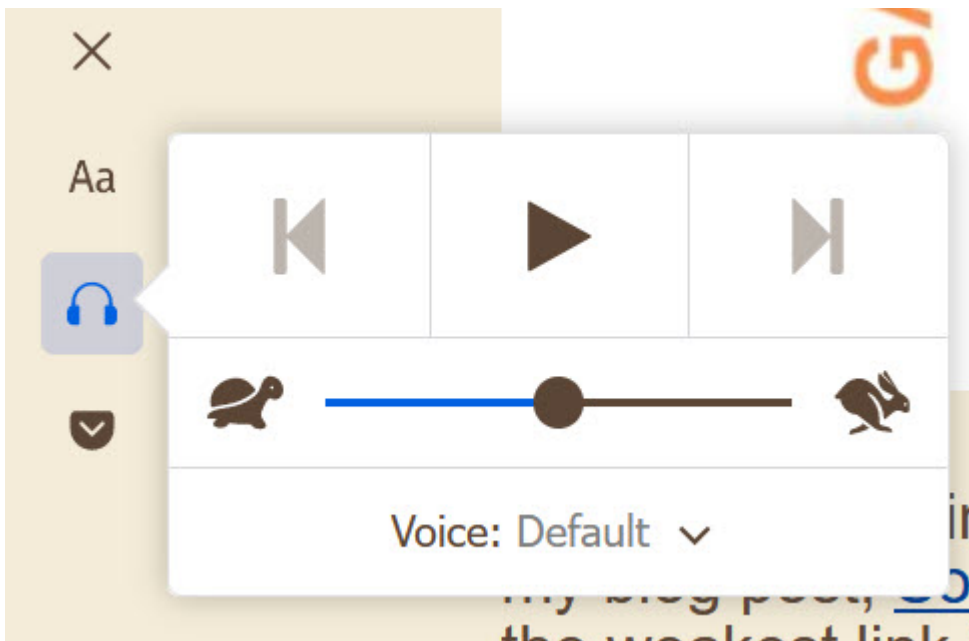
Social Engineering

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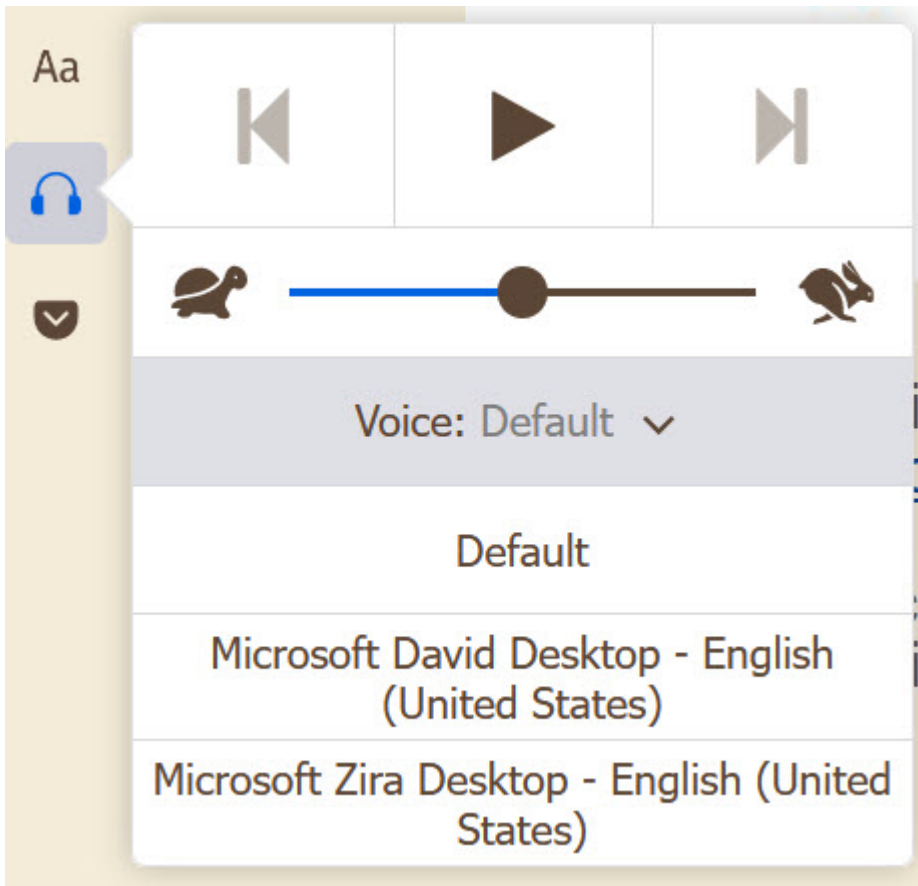
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Read Aloud icon is circled.

When you want a page read aloud to you, simply click or tap the icon. Once the audio begins, you'll see this window:

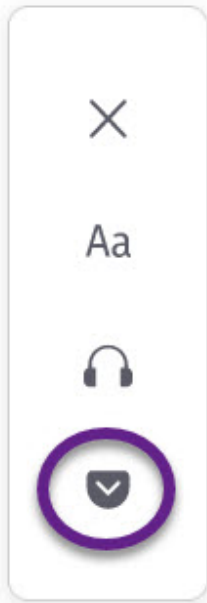


At the top of the window, you can start the reading, pause it and/or skip backward or forward. By using the slide switch, you can slow down the reading (move toward the turtle) or you can speed it up (move toward the rabbit). Note that there's a drop-down menu for "Voice."



Both the male and the female voice sound very much like a computer! As either voice reads the text, each word read is underlined.

Wait! What's That Other Icon?



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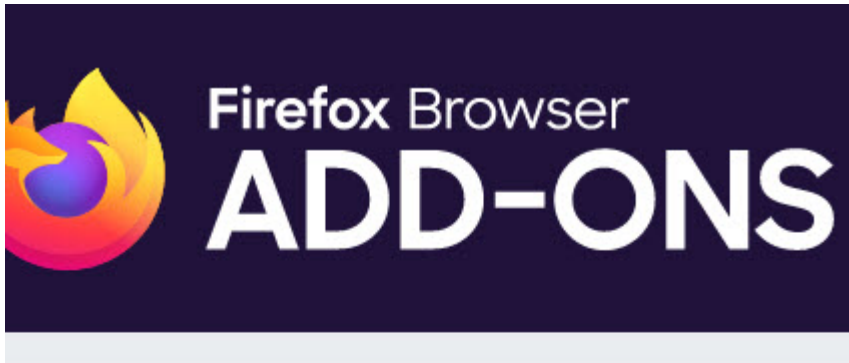
Save To Pocket

The bottom icon – which I’ve circled in the picture to the left – allows you to save to Pocket. Mozilla’s Support explains it this way:

“[Pocket](#) is built into the Firefox browser, allowing you to save a variety of content (such as blogs, news sources, web pages and videos) to one place and access it later from any device.”

Grammar Tools

Firefox doesn’t have grammar tools built-in. Instead, you need to install an extension to perform these functions. There are a number of grammar extensions available. Find a list of them [HERE](#). For the record, I use the Grammarly extension which you can find [HERE](#).



Grammarly: Grammar Writing App by Grammarly

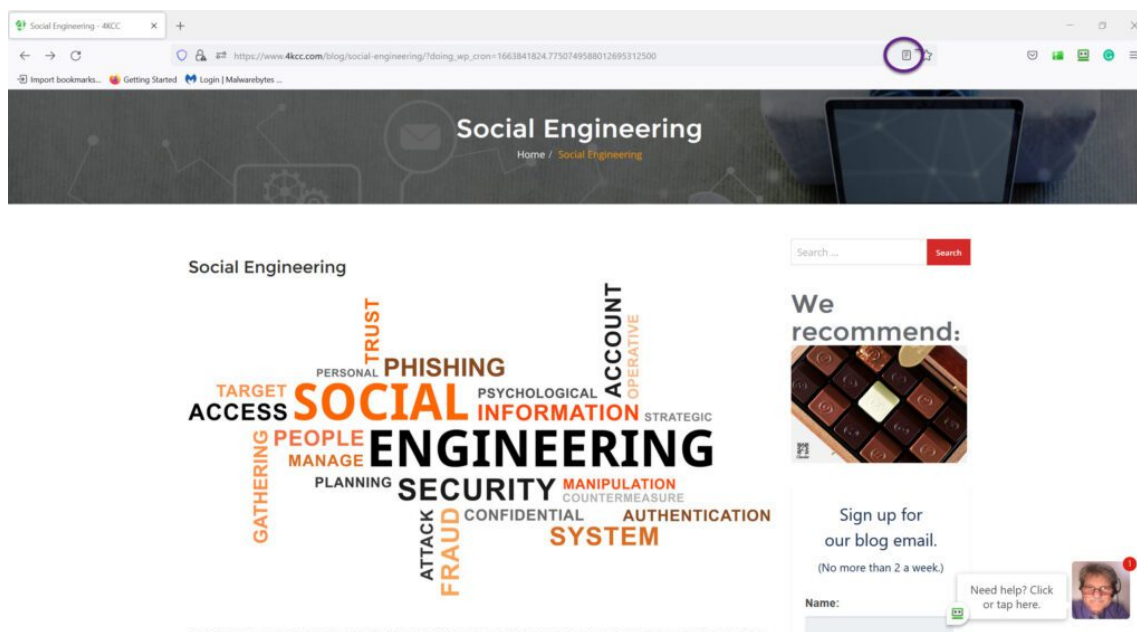
Translator

Just like with Google Chrome, if you want to translate a page, you'll need to install an extension. I don't really have a preference here. My suggestion would be to try a translator extension and see which one you like. You'll find a list of them [HERE](#).

Even More Browser Features You May Not Be

Using – Firefox * Reader Example

Let's look at some examples of the Firefox Reader. While these images are small, just click or tap on a photo and it will show you the full photo. We'll start with a normal article:



In the article above (remember, you can click or tap it to see it larger), I put a purple circle around the Reader icon. Now, if you were to select the Reader icon, the page would appear like this:

Social Engineering

4-5 minutes



Social Engineering is the number one way hackers break into computer systems and networks. As I explain in my blog post, [Social Engineering: The Weakest Link In The Chain](#), the person operating a computing device is the weakest link in the security chain. Someone will click on a phishing email or be tricked into allowing someone onto his or her computer and the deed is done. Let's first define Social Engineering and then look at some of the Social Engineering tricks and how to avoid them.

Definition

When it relates to the computing world, Social Engineering involves manipulating individuals by exploiting human weaknesses. You can find a complete meaning [HERE](#).

In my experience, I've found that there are three methods hackers and scammers use when it comes to Social Engineering. I mention these in the same *Weakest Link* post.

1. You receive a phone call from someone claiming to be from Microsoft or Windows or Apple. They tell you that your computer has issues and you need to let them onto your computer to fix the issue. ***This is an attempt to use fear as a motivator.***

Translate

Unfortunately, you can't use Translate on the Reader page in Firefox. You would need to go back to the normal page and then translate. As an example, here's the same page in Spanish:

La ingeniería social es la forma número uno en que los piratas informáticos ingresan a los sistemas y redes informáticas. Como explico en mi publicación de blog, **Ingeniería social: el eslabón más débil de la cadena**, la persona que opera un dispositivo informático es el eslabón más débil de la cadena de seguridad. Alguien hará clic en un correo electrónico de phishing o será engañado para que permita que alguien acceda a su computadora y el hecho esté hecho. Primero definamos Ingeniería Social y luego veamos algunos de los trucos de Ingeniería Social y cómo evitarlos.

Definición

Cuando se relaciona con el mundo de la computación, la ingeniería social implica manipular a las personas mediante la explotación de las debilidades humanas. Puede encontrar un significado completo [AQUÍ](#).

Los tres métodos de ingeniería social

En mi experiencia, descubrí que hay tres métodos que usan los piratas informáticos y los estafadores cuando se trata de ingeniería social. Los menciono en la misma publicación de *Weakest Link*.

1. Recibe una llamada telefónica de alguien que dice ser de Microsoft, Windows o Apple. Le dicen que su computadora tiene problemas y que necesita dejarlos entrar a su computadora para solucionar el problema. ***Este es un intento de utilizar el miedo como motivador.***
2. Te llega un correo electrónico que dice que un amigo está en problemas, perdió su billetera, no tiene dinero y no puede volver a casa. ***Este es un intento de apelar a su voluntad de ayudar a los demás.***

Even More Browser Features You May Not Be Using – Now It's Your Turn

It's now your turn to try these features. Oh, you don't use Firefox or Google Chrome, or Microsoft Edge (which we covered previously)? Have no fear, this series will continue with Safari and Opera. Still, if you have Firefox – even if you don't normally use it – give it a try.

By the way, if you'd like to visit the same page I used in this post, you can find it [HERE](#).