

## Packages - Freedom Issue #2409

### [iceweasel] Can recommend non-free extensions and themes on about:addons page

2019-08-04 06:35 PM - grizzlyuser

<b>Status:</b>	fixed	<b>% Done:</b>	0%
<b>Priority:</b>	freedom issue		
<b>Assignee:</b>	bill-auger		
<b>Category:</b>			
<b>Description</b>			
Firefox 68 introduced extension recommendations in about:addons page [1]. Description of the recommendation program [2] doesn't say they require the extension to have libre license in order to get recommended.			
In the list of recommended extensions [3] I found a few which don't look like free ones: [4], [5], [6]. Here's a quote from [6] that restricts freedom to distribute modified versions:			
<pre>Derived works using source code that serve the same general purpose as the original software may not be distributed using any official Mozilla services such as addons.mozilla.org or through any other official service for any web browser without prior permission. Works using portions of source code for other purposes may be distributed without this restriction.</pre>			
There's also a similar program for themes [7]. Here's an example of recommended theme that has Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 license [8]. If I understand correctly, that license cannot be considered to be free.			
[1] <a href="https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/68.0/releasenotes/#note-788063">https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/68.0/releasenotes/#note-788063</a>			
[2] <a href="https://support.mozilla.org/en-US/kb/recommended-extensions-program">https://support.mozilla.org/en-US/kb/recommended-extensions-program</a>			
[3] <a href="https://addons.mozilla.org/firefox/search/?recommended=true&amp;type=extension">https://addons.mozilla.org/firefox/search/?recommended=true&amp;type=extension</a>			
[4] <a href="https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/enhancer-for-youtube/license/">https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/enhancer-for-youtube/license/</a>			
[5] <a href="https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/video-downloadhelper/license/">https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/video-downloadhelper/license/</a>			
[6] <a href="https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/flagfox/license/">https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/flagfox/license/</a>			
[7] <a href="https://support.mozilla.org/en-US/kb/recommended-extensions-program#w_what-are-recommended-themes">https://support.mozilla.org/en-US/kb/recommended-extensions-program#w_what-are-recommended-themes</a>			
[8] <a href="https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/ex-blue/?src=featured">https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/ex-blue/?src=featured</a>			
That's why it looks like Iceweasel needs to be patched in order to disable or remove the offending functionality.			

#### History

##### #1 - 2019-08-04 07:43 PM - bill-auger

- Priority changed from bug to freedom issue
- Status changed from unconfirmed to confirmed

this was noted a few days ago in issue [#2318](#)

it is controlled at least partially by the 'extensions.htmlaboutaddons.recommendations.enabled' config key

##### #2 - 2019-08-05 07:59 PM - CommodoreCrunch

**facepalm** I totally didn't notice the separate "recommendations" menu. I only saw the section below my installed extensions.

I tried setting "extensions.htmlaboutaddons.discover.enabled" to false, and clicking "recommendations" now falls back to loading the GNU IceCat wiki page instead. So that seems to do the trick.

##### #3 - 2019-08-06 07:24 AM - grizzlyuser

I'd like to notice that I have not reported this issue to Mozilla yet (didn't have much time for that). IMO it is necessary to try to resolve all freedom issues upstream first. Not sure though if Mozilla is going to resolve this, for example by excluding non-free things from recommendations. If by any chance anybody has an idea what's the best way to communicate about this particular issue to Mozilla, please let me know, or feel free to report it yourself.

**#4 - 2019-08-14 07:39 PM - grizzlyuser**

- File *Re\_ [AMO Featured] Nonfree extensions and themes are recommended on AMO 2019-08-14T21\_52\_02\_03\_00.eml* added

I've asked addons.mozilla.org staff about this issue, please find the entire conversation attached. So it looks like that won't be resolved by Mozilla.

**#5 - 2019-08-31 06:32 AM - bill-auger**

grizzlyuser -

the message you attached is just a blob, and i can not decode it - could you post a clear-text version of it?

```
$ cat /tmp/grizzly-mozilla.b64 | base64 -d
<div dir="ltr"><div style="font-size:small">Sure, feel frbase64: invalid input
```

**#6 - 2019-08-31 08:29 AM - grizzlyuser**

bill-auger -

Why not just open it with Icedove or any other tool that supports EML file format? Works for me. I guess this format is not to be opened as plain text. I don't know how to convert it to plain text without spending much time.

Note: Spam filter here thinks there are too many words not in dictionary, and bans from commenting for 20 minutes, even when I use super plain English. So needed to add a dummy comment with just "test" in it, and then edited it. That suggests that the filter is broken, because it's too strict for new messages and not for edited ones.

**#7 - 2019-09-03 04:58 PM - bill-auger**

yes the filters are too strict ATM - OTOH there has been no spam since the filters were put in place - i will try to loosen the filters somewhat

**#8 - 2019-09-13 09:52 AM - grizzlyuser**

- File *trisquel\_commit\_disabled\_recommended\_addons.txt* added

Trisquel has a commit that disables recommended addons. Attached the file with a link, since it seems spam filter would not allow URL in the message directly.

I can confirm that after flipping values of both preferences to false in iceweasel x86\_64 1:69.0-1.parabola1 build:

1. Recommended extensions and themes are not shown anymore in Recommendations, Extensions, and Themes sections of about:addons;
2. Recommendations section shows FSF Directory instead;
3. No network requests to Mozilla API and CDN to download icons of recommended extensions observed in Developer Tools opened when navigating to about:addons. It looks like icons of installed extensions are still downloaded from Mozilla CDN on the first visit though. I did not check this using Wireshark or something.

**#9 - 2019-11-22 02:33 PM - bill-auger**

i think this is fixed now in the latest iceweasel - i dont see any recommendations in my instance - but i have not wiped my profile - we should double-check this on a clean system

**#10 - 2019-11-22 02:49 PM - bill-auger**

- Related to *Packaging Request #2318: [iceweasel] needs upgrade to v70 for i686 and arm* added

**#11 - 2019-11-22 02:49 PM - bill-auger**

- Related to *deleted (Packaging Request #2318: [iceweasel] needs upgrade to v70 for i686 and arm)*

**#12 - 2019-11-22 03:17 PM - grizzlyuser**

Tested on x86\_64 iceweasel 1:70.0.1-1.parabola1 with brand new clean profile. about:addons does not show recommendations in Extensions and Themes, and Recommendations link leads to Free Software Directory.

**#13 - 2019-11-22 03:34 PM - bill-auger**

- Assignee set to *bill-auger*

excellent - thanks for all your help grizzlyuser

**#14 - 2019-11-22 03:34 PM - bill-auger**

- Status changed from *confirmed* to *fixed*

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**Files**

Re\_ [AMO Featured] Nonfree extensions and themes are recommended links AMO 2019-09-13 2019-09-13 1452\_02 03\_00.eml  
trisquel\_commit\_disabled\_recommended\_addons.txt 101 Bytes 2019-09-13

grizzlyuser  
grizzlyuser