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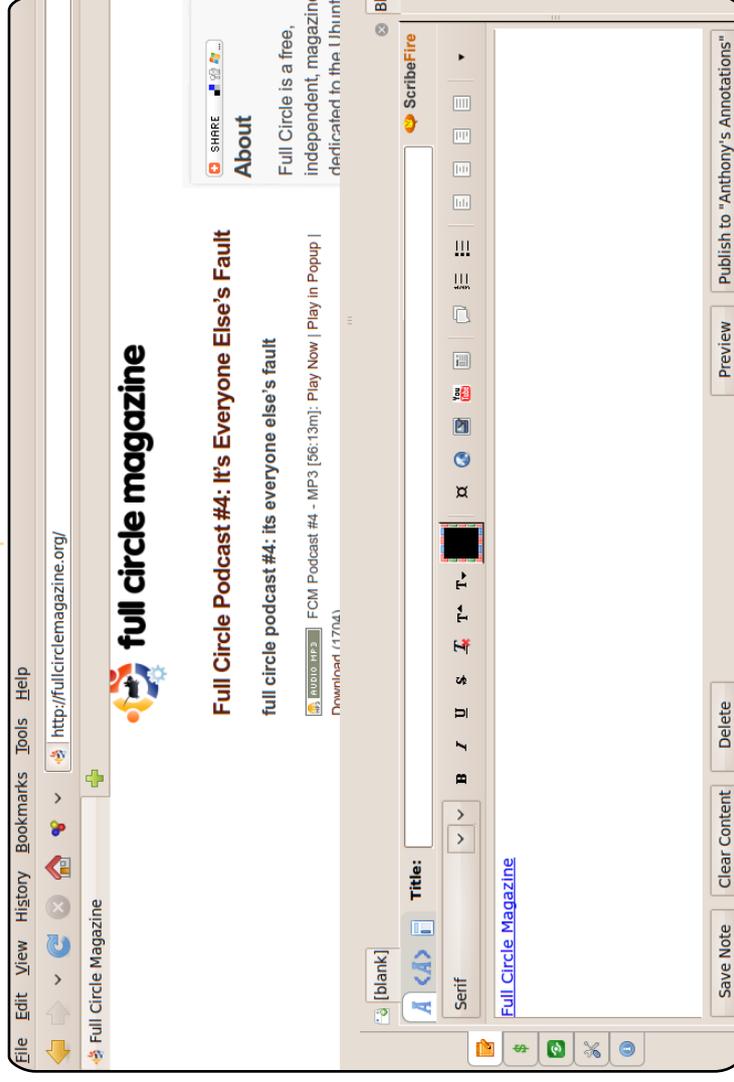


(<http://www.scribefire.com>) is a Firefox extension which, when installed, allows posting to a blog from within Firefox, and offers an assortment of blogging options (right).

Installation

To install ScribeFire within Firefox, go to Tools > Add-Ons, then under the Get Add-Ons tab, search for “ScribeFire” in the text search box. Firefox should then display ScribeFire in the results. After clicking “Add to Firefox” (and restarting the browser), ScribeFire will be installed. ScribeFire can be displayed by selecting the small orange icon resembling a notepad that now appears in the bottom right corner of the browser window. The default editor interface will then appear, as seen in the first picture. ScribeFire can also be activated by right-clicking in Firefox, and selecting ScribeFire; several options are displayed, including “Blog this page”, which offers the ability

For years, I've had my own blog, allowing me to post my thoughts on topics ranging from explaining comic book minutiae to describing what I did on my vacations. However, how I post to my blog has varied over the years. While I've used various Firefox extensions, as well as the default posting interface that Blogger.com offers, my current choice for posting to my blog is ScribeFire. ScribeFire



to begin a blog post with the displayed page's URL pre-entered.

ScribeFire's interface features five tabs at the left side: Editor (the default interface), Monetize, Promote, Settings and About. Additionally, several tabs will appear in the right side of the Editor screen: Blog, Entries, Categories and Options.

Set Up

Setting up ScribeFire for your blog should be simple, thanks to a setup wizard for entering new blogs. To use the wizard, under the Blog tab on the right side of the default Editor tab, select “Add”, which will start the wizard. Follow the instructions as indicated, which



BROWSER BLOGGING

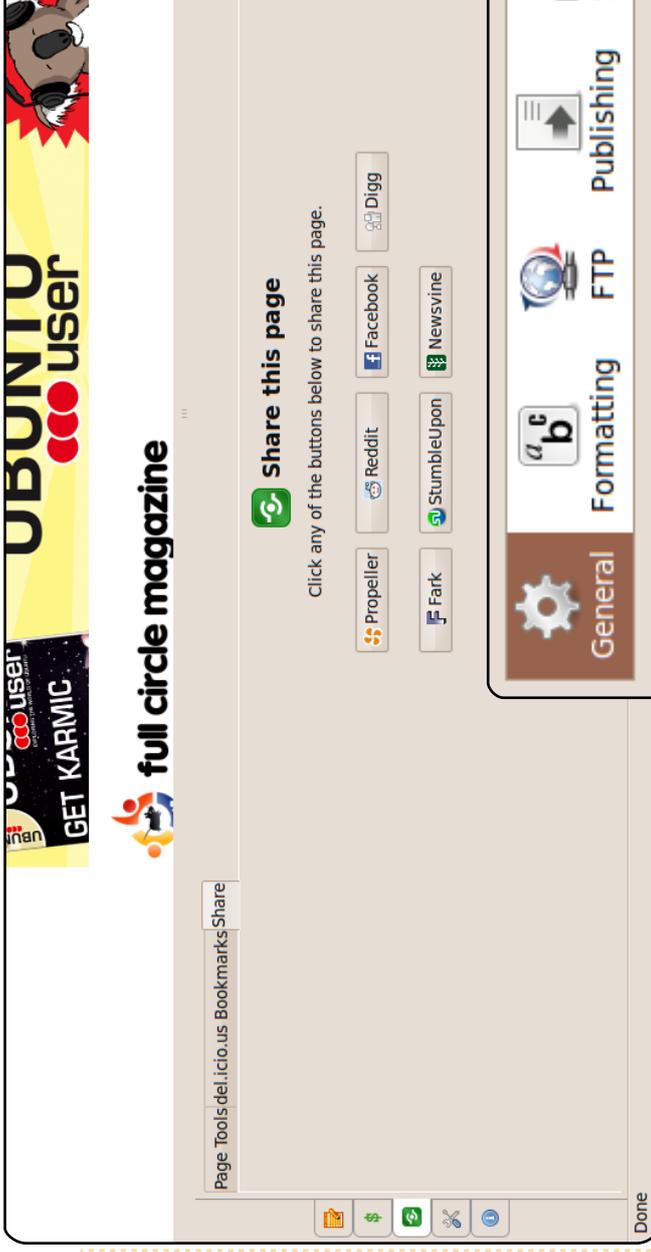
may vary depending on your blog's needs, its host, and so forth.

As mentioned above, ScribeFire's main tabs are located on the left side of the interface, each with a different main feature.

Editor

The Editor tab is the default interface. The Editor tab, as shown in the first picture, features a window for entering the blog post's text. The tab also features a toolbar at the top, offering, similar to a word processor, tools for basic formatting of text (bold, italics, underlining), as well as adding images or URLs to the text entered. Tabs at the top left offer a choice of rich text editing (the default), HTML format editing, or a live preview of how the finished text will appear on the blog. Other editing options, including bullets and quotes, are also included.

The right side of the Editor pane includes the tabs:



General Formatting FTP Publishing Sync

By default, open ScribeFire in...

- split-screen mode
- a new window
- a new tab

Save editor tabs and content on close

Confirm when closing a tab

Auto-save notes while you work

Show Editor on Bottom of split screen

Hide the ScribeFire Context Menu

Sort Categories

Show status-bar icon

Disable Quickblogging toolbar

✕ Close

Blog: For adding or deleting blogs to use with ScribeFire.

Entries: For viewing and editing previous blog posts made with ScribeFire.

Categories: To tag blog posts with searchable tags; for example, a blog post about Bugs Bunny cartoons might have as tags "Looney Tunes", "Bugs Bunny", "rabbits", and "cartoon".

Options: A few options for customizing the particular post

being written, including editing its timestamp, and a few tracking features for websites such as Technorati or delicio.us.

Monetize: The Monetize tab offers settings for those who wish to place advertising services on their blog. This feature, however, relies on a plugin from a website named InLinks.com (whom ScribeFire has partnered with), and is compatible only with blogs using Wordpress.org, Drupal, or MoveableType.

Promote: The Promote tab (above) offers linking to the blog post using various online services, including StumbleUpon, delicio.us, Technorati, and Facebook.

Settings: The Settings tab offers various advanced settings for ScribeFire, including editing the basic template for blog posts, some ScribeFire display settings, and import/export functions for blogs.

About: The About tab displays the ScribeFire home page, which lists news and version

update information about ScribeFire.

Conclusion

As you can see, ScribeFire offers a powerful blogging interface from within Firefox. ScribeFire has proven quite useful to me, with the ability to right-click within Firefox and blog about a particular viewed page. While I don't make use of the promotional or monetary features, these might also be useful for users looking for a convenient way to link a blog post to Facebook or delicio.us, or to use advertising on their blog.



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Google Chrome

ScribeFire is also available as a Chrome extension via: <http://goo.gl/greo>

