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## How to force Google search results in English in FireFox?

Submitted by [DA](#) on Sunday, 4 January 2009 [11 Comments](#)



click for larger pic

### Problem:

Few weeks back Google introduced the Google.com.kw domain based results in FireFox. These search results turned up in Arabic which is not the primary language of many users like me. This became annoying as I had to switch to Google english everytime I would

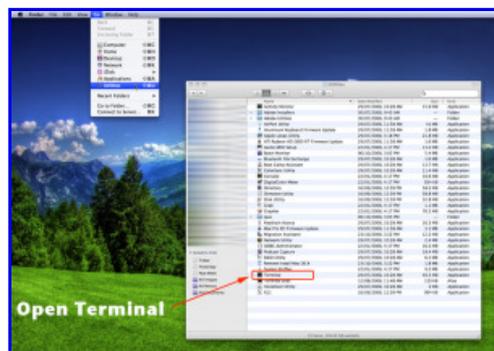
search for something manually. Unfortunately this behavior is by design from Google which redirects all search queries to localized domains and in turn in localized languages.

### Resolution for OSX

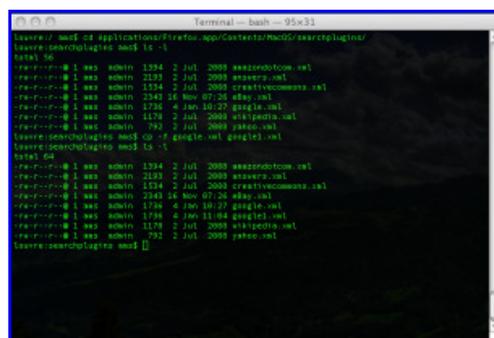
This tweak requires a minor change in a file associated with FireFox. **Follow the instructions at your own risk.** And no this will not breakdown your computer. Look at the screenshots below for extra information.

1. Close FireFox if its running
2. From UTILITIES select and start Terminal Utility
3. In the Terminal window type **cd /** [this is cd + space + /]. This will bring you to the root of your system
4. Now type the following command **cd Applications/Firefox.app/Contents/MacOS/searchplugins/**
5. Now type **ls -l** this will list all files in the directory. You are looking for a file called **google.xml**
6. Type this command **cp -f google.xml google1.xyz** this will create a copy of google.xml file in case anything goes wrong
7. Type and hit enter this command **nano google.xml**
8. You will see nano editor and the google.xml file listing
9. Now look at the file for a line that starts like this **<Param name=**
10. You have to **add one line just before this line**
11. Add **<Param name="hl" value="en"/>** line
12. Now press CTRL + X
13. Nano will ask you to save the file. Type **Y** and then hit enter
14. You will be back in the terminal directory listing
15. Start FireFox and now test your results by searching for using the Google search box

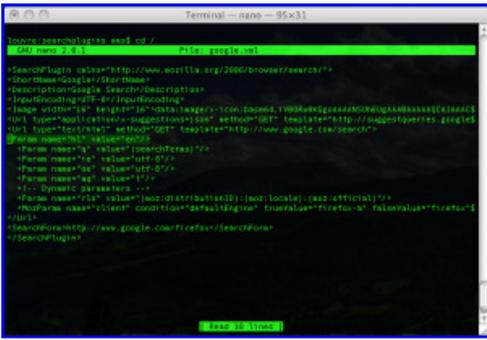
### Screenshots for OSX [click for larger pics]



Terminal Utility in Utilities



Commands in Terminal Utility



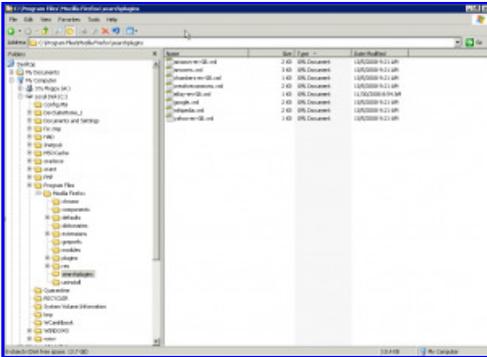
google.xml editing in nano

**Resolution for Windows**

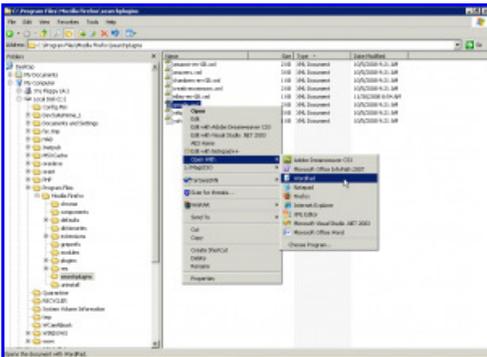
The steps are pretty much the same in regards to editing the google.xml file in Windows.

1. Close Firefox if its running
2. Open **My Computer** from your desktop or alternatively from **START select RUN and type EXPLORER and hit enter**
3. Now go to **C:\** drive and look for **Program Files** folder
4. In this folder look for **Mozilla Firefox > searchplugins** folder [look at the screenshot below]
5. In this folder you will find google.xml file
6. **Create a Copy** of this file on some other location as a backup
7. Now go back to the google.xml file in C:\program files\Mozilla Firefox\searchplugins folder
8. **Right click on google.xml** file and select Open with **WordPad** [avoid notepad as the formatting is cluttered]
9. Look for a line that starts like this **<Param name=**
10. Add this line just above that line **<Param name="hl" value="en"/>**
11. Save the google.xml file
12. Start Firefox and test Google search results

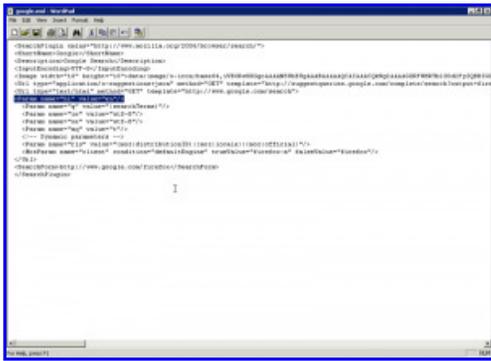
**Screenshots [click for larger pics]**



Location of searchplugins folder



google.xml editing using wordpad



editing google.xml in WordPad

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## 11 Comments »

• *Ahmad said:*



There's a much easier solution: Just open <http://www.google.com> (which will redirect to <http://www.google.com.kw>) and if it's displayed in Arabic you'll find the word "English" somewhere under the search box. Click it and it will set your preferred language to English.

[Reply](#) - <http://www.google.com> (which will redirect to <http://www.google.com.kw>) and if it's displayed in Arabic you'll find the word "English" somewhere under the search box. Click it and it will set your preferred language to English.');

- 4 January 2009 at 2:31 pm

• *DA (author) said:*



[@Ahmad](#) -

Yes you are right, but this method will be valid till your browser is open. Once you close the browser and/or clear cookies, the settings revert back to Arabic.

[Reply](#) - [Quote](#)

- 4 January 2009 at 2:37 pm

• *ciara said:*



Hello,

I tried the Windows fix and its still defaulting to kw everytime I reopen Firefox:-  
Thanks for your post though. Maybe its time I got a Mac afterall.

[Reply](#) - [Quote](#)

- 4 January 2009 at 9:23 pm

• **n74** said:



Ok the question i have is why when I used firefox on my personal laptop at home i am NEVER redirected to the Kuwait domain, but when i use firefox on my work pc i am. I have not made any amendments on either one of them.

Oh, and the explanation given here is much appreciated but honestly it's a bit too techy for people who are not tech savvy. There must be an easier way...at least I hope there is 😊

[Reply - Quote](#)

- 4 January 2009 at 9:56 pm

• **DA (author)** said:



[@ciara](#) -

The domain will redirect to .KW because that is beyond FireFox settings. The only thing you will have is that the results will be in English

[Reply - Quote](#)

- 4 January 2009 at 11:47 pm

• **DA (author)** said:



[@n74](#) -

The reason you might be redirected to normal Google domain is due to the IP that your ISP may assign you. In case that IP is not listed in geo-ip tables as part of Kuwait then you go to main google site. Another possibility could be that you might [and I say again might] be using proxy services which are assigning you IP outside Kuwait block.

As for the explanation, unfortunately it is techy, and I tried finding a better/easier way but this is the best i could manage. In case you come across easier way especially using an add-on please pass it on. Will publish it asap.

[Reply - Quote](#)

- 4 January 2009 at 11:51 pm

• **Saheb** said:



If you try the simple fix and it doesn't work for you, then it is most likely that you the option to store cookie till they expire off. Simply turning on cookies should do it. If you are having problems at work, this maybe due to a Hard Drive freeze option, where certain cannot be saved / changed permanently.

[Reply - Quote](#)

- 8 January 2009 at 1:09 pm

• **beth** said:



Hi, just wanted to say that the 2nd option didnt work for me, the first option was too complicated so I opened the plug in with wordpad and just changed the three "google.com" parts to "google.co.uk" and it worked.. how simple is that?

[Reply - Quote](#)

- 11 January 2009 at 10:43 pm

• **b-relaxed** said:



can always use google.com/webhp (no country redirect).

and for the search bar (fully works):

change .xml file in “program files/mozilla/searchplugins/google.xml”

google.com/firefox to google.com/webhp

[Reply - Quote](#)

- 23 January 2009 at 12:05 am

- **b-relaxed** said:



can always use google.com/webhp

and for the search bar (fully works):

change .xml file in “program files/mozilla/searchplugins/google.xml”

google.com/firefox to google.com/webhp

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- 23 January 2009 at 12:05 am

- **sandflea** said:



Hi DA,

The Mac OSX hack worked perfectly — you’ve just made it possible for me to start using Firefox again!! Thank you so much!

[Reply - Quote](#)

- 21 February 2009 at 10:28 am

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### Who writes here..



DA is a technology analyst working in the energy sector of Kuwait. DA has interests in technology, gadgets, art & design, offbeat news, regional commentary, food and lifestyle topics.

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1.000 (KWD)	PKR
1.000 (KWD)	EGP

Currency data courtesy [coinmill.com](http://coinmill.com)

World Market Watch		
Exchange	Last	Change
 <a href="#">Dow *</a>	0.0	0.0
 <a href="#">Nasdaq</a>	0.0	0.0
 <a href="#">S &amp; P 500</a>	0.0	0.0
 <a href="#">MerVal</a>	0.0	0.0
 <a href="#">Bovespa</a>	0.0	0.0
 <a href="#">TSX</a>	0.0	0.0
 <a href="#">IPC</a>	0.0	0.0
 <a href="#">AEX</a>	0.0	0.0
 <a href="#">FTSE 100</a>	0.0	0.0
 <a href="#">DAX</a>	0.0	0.0
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