

Configure Firefox proxy settings with Group Policy

<https://4sysops.com/archives/configure-firefox-proxy-settings-with-group-policy/>

If you want to centrally manage proxy settings for the Mozilla browser in a network, a Group Policy is available. Unlike Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge, Firefox cannot only inherit the proxy configuration from Windows but can also receive it directly via GPO.

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In many organizations, users connect to the Internet via a proxy server, providing admins with greater control, such as the ability to block unwanted sites. Additionally, the proxy server often acts as a cache for web pages.

Proxy settings from Windows or directly from GPO

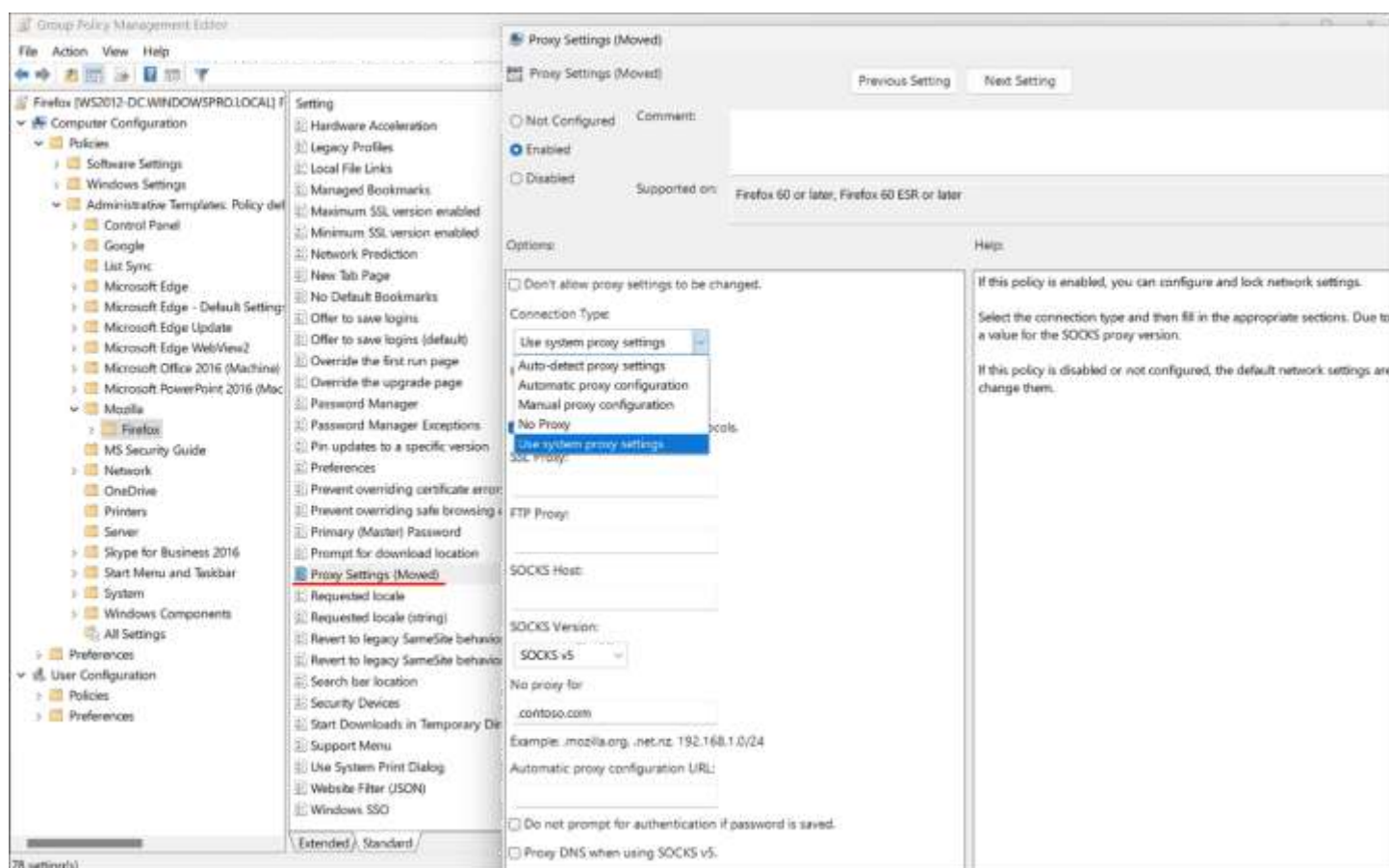
Configuring the proxy settings for each client individually is cumbersome, so a centralized solution is recommended. Firefox supports two approaches: Configuring a proxy at the Windows level or assigning the corresponding settings directly to Firefox.

If the proxy settings for Windows are centrally configured via Group Policy, they apply to Edge or Chrome and automatically to the Mozilla browser.

However, if the Mozilla browser is used as the default or if it requires a different proxy configuration, then you should opt for a specific Firefox GPO.

Assign proxy configuration to Firefox via GPO

Firefox group policies provide an option called *Proxy Settings* for this purpose. It is located under *Computer Configuration => Policies => Administrative Templates => Mozilla => Firefox*.



Configure proxy settings for Firefox using Group Policy

It offers the following options:

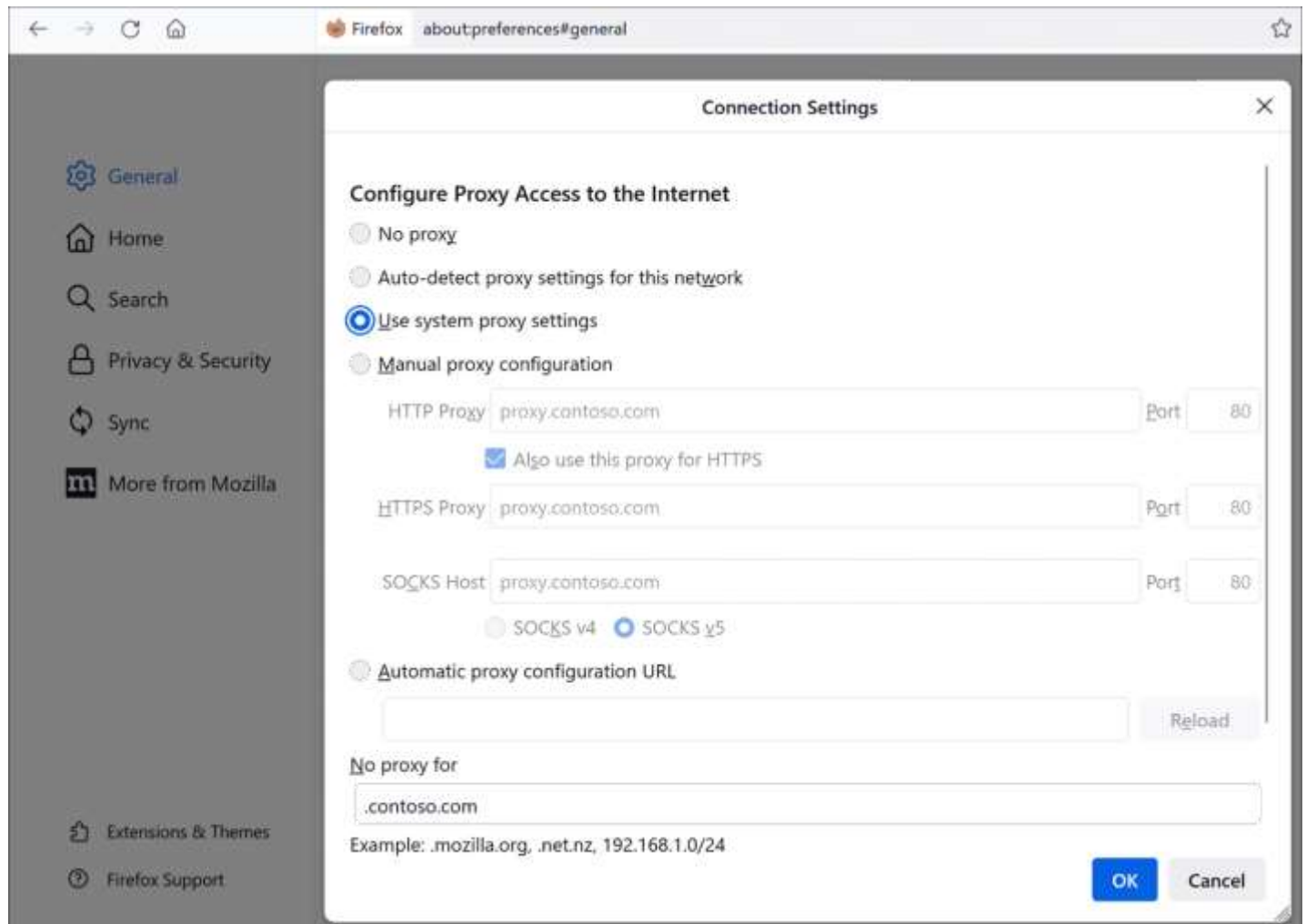
Automatic proxy configuration: This option requires a URL where it can find the PAC file with the proxy settings.

Automatically detect proxy settings for this network: In this case, the browser attempts to locate the PAC file using the WPAD protocol.

No proxy: Configures direct access to the internet

Manual proxy configuration: In this case, the address of the proxy server is assigned directly to the browser

Use system proxy settings: Firefox respects the Windows proxy configuration set up through the Control Panel or GPO. This is the default setting.

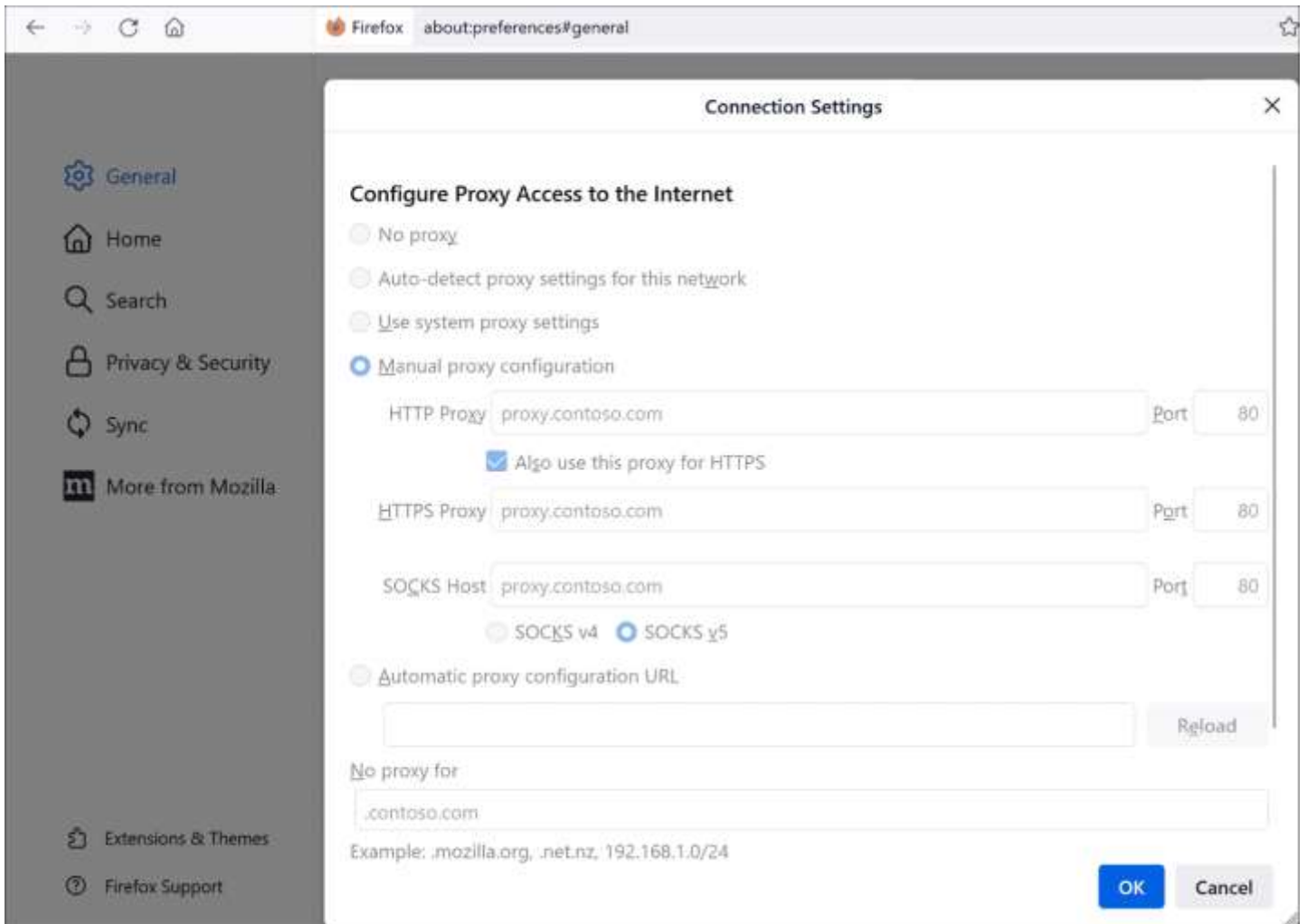


The options in the Group Policy correspond to those for interactive configuration in the browser

If you choose the manual configuration, you must enter the proxy addresses for each protocol. You must select a SOCKS version to save the GPO even if you do not enter a SOCKS host here.

If you opt for automatic proxy configuration, you must enter the URL to the PAC file in the bottom input field.

You can also prevent users from changing the proxy configuration in the browser settings. If you decide to do this, all options in the corresponding dialog will be greyed out.



The centrally deployed configuration can be protected against changes by the user. Finally, you can specify for which hosts, domains, or subnets the proxy should be bypassed.

Summary

To centrally configure proxy settings for Firefox, you can set the system-wide proxy configuration in Windows using Group Policy, which Firefox automatically honors by default.