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## Tumbarumba: The Conceptual Art Firefox Extension

Andy Chalk | 7 Jan 2009 6:32 pm

Filed under: [andy chalk](#), [firefox](#), [tumbarumba](#), [web browser](#)

One of the more unusual [Firefox](#) extensions you're likely to see is [Tumbarumba](#), a "frolic of intrusions" that hides 12 new short stories in web pages you're browsing and reveals them to you a little bit at a time.

The plugin is actually quite simple, although its description as "a conceptual artwork in the form of a Firefox extension" may suggest otherwise. *Tumbarumba* inserts story fragments into random web pages, creating sentences that flow grammatically but otherwise make no sense. Upon noticing the out-of-place sentences, users can click on them to reveal a small piece of one of the 12 short stories; further clicking unveils more and more of the story, until after several clicks the web page is completely replaced by the story, formatted in the style of the original page and including pictures from [Flickr](#).

"Our intention is for the reader to not only have the pleasure of finding and reading the stories, but also the momentary disorientation of stumbling upon a nonsensical sentence as well as a heightened awareness of textual absurdities (of which only a fraction will be the result of *Tumbarumba*)," the plugin's website says. The stories in *Tumbarumba* are written by authors including [Greg Van Eekhout](#), [Tim Pratt](#), [Jeff Spock](#) and [Mary Anne Mohanraj](#).

For those who value their productivity, the extension's effects can be turned off for individual websites or completely. A video tutorial is available for people who want to see it in action, but the best way to learn about *Tumbarumba* is to simply [install it](#). Aside from the addition of a *Tumbarumba* menu, the effects won't be immediate or obvious. "The idea is for it to occasionally mutate a webpage's sentence and cause you, the reader, to a moment of confusion & delight," the site says. "You can actively hunt for *Tumbarumbas*, but we think it more fun to stumble upon them unexpectedly."

via: [Waxy.org](#)

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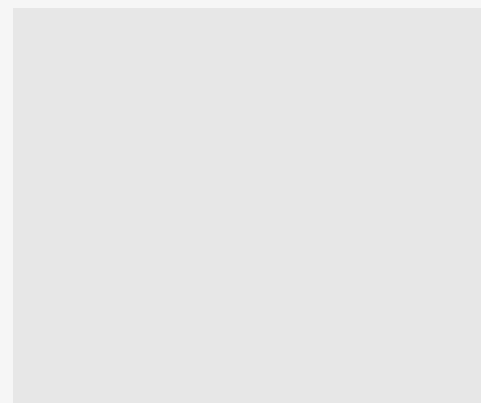
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<http://twitpic.com/27y9st> Jul 23 15:30

**Tom Kurz** @BabyTea yeah...passing on the jersey shore barber shops...taylor ham on a roll, yes please, mullet, no thx! Jul 23 15:17

**Logan Westbrook** @Malygris Wow, really? Jeez, you'd think

it nuclear launch codes you were trying to get at or something Jul 23 14:59 ↗

**Erik Jacobson** Weee Bikes!  
<http://hyperboleandahalf.blogspot.com/2010/07/bicycle.html>  
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**Janelle Bonanno** @kungfusquirrel That line doesn't make you sound old at all... Jul 23 14:53 ↗

**John Funk** @Frank\_Sinatra\_ I don't do PGs. 1/60 Exia is basically just a huge HG. Jul 23 14:51 ↗

**Andy Chalk** Love the fact that despite requiring GFW Live AND Rockstar Social Club, GTA4 still requires the disc in the drive in order to run. Jul 23 14:50 ↗

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