

Firefox 13 was released earlier this month, and among the top six features we [detailed](#), the new tab page was one. Not only was this new feature well received by Firefox users, it was also one of the major interface changes the browser has implemented since going on a rapid release cycle. Unfortunately, it's hit a bug all too soon. The speed dial feature that so many users were glad to have incorporated by default in the browser takes snapshots of websites, regardless of whether they are viewed over an HTTP or HTTPS protocol. This puts secure HTTPS content captured on several websites in plain view. Why is this dangerous? Sites that mandate an HTTPS protocol are usually ones where sensitive information, like banking details, credit card numbers etc, are exchanged, and that isn't information you want out in the open. The issue was first discovered by The Register, and Mozilla have acknowledged this breach. An update has been promised, but in the mean time, here is how you can disable the new tab page, which is the only way of staying safe.

Open Firefox and type *about:config* in the URL bar, promise Mozilla that you'll be careful on the warning page that opens, and proceed to Firefox's preferences. Using the search bar, find *browser.newtabpage.enabled*

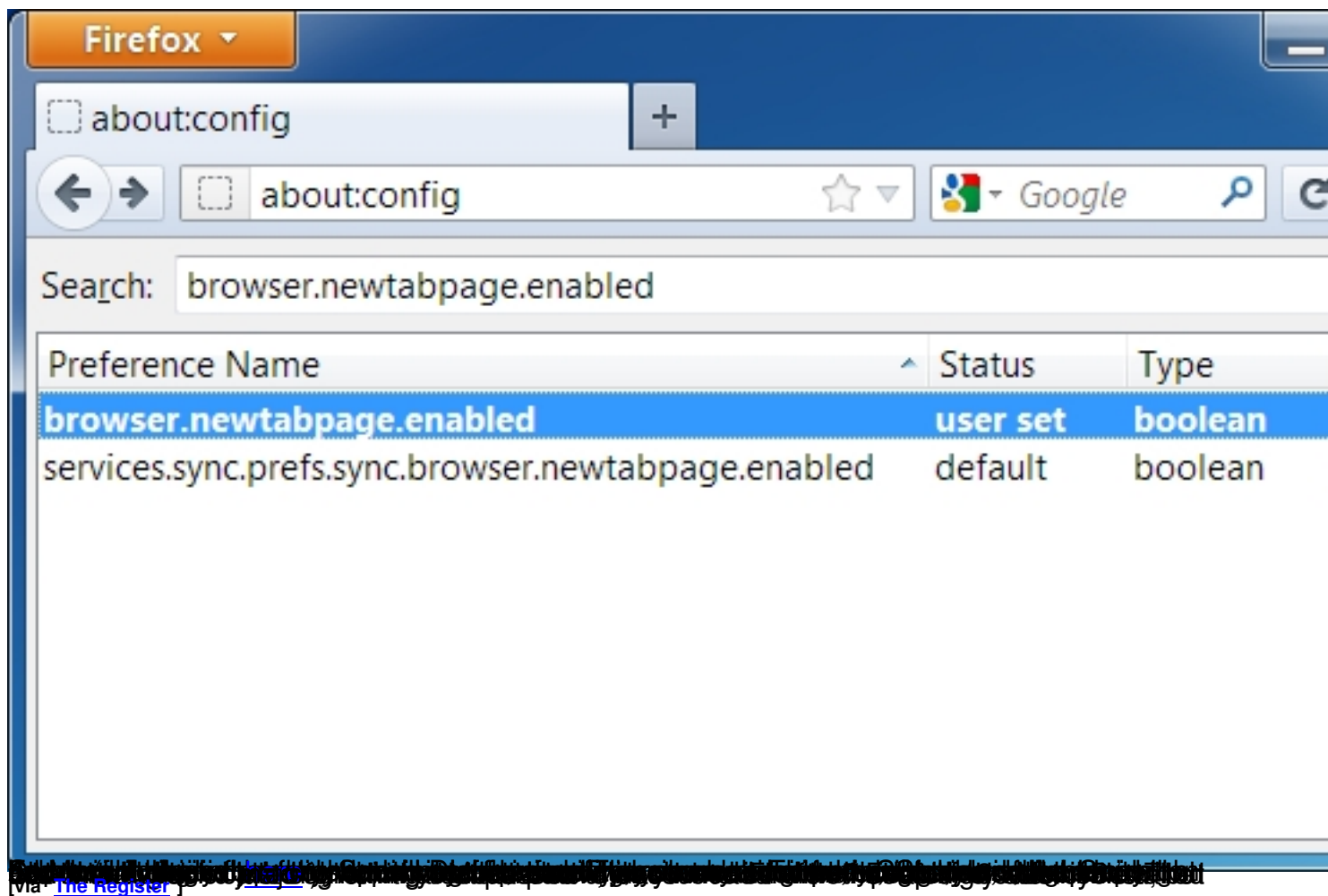
. The value of this preference will be set to

*True*,

double click it to change it to

*False*

. This will disable the New Tab page completely, and snapshots of sites you've frequently visited will no longer be saved.



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