

# Extending the Internet Explorer context menu

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 [devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20040524-00](http://devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20040524-00)

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In a comment, [Darrell Norton](#) asked for a “View in Mozilla” option for Internet Explorer.

You can already do this.

Internet Explorer’s [context menu extension mechanism](#) has been in MSDN for years. Let me show you how you can create this extension yourself.

First, create the following registry key:

```
[HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\MenuExt\View in Mozilla]
@=REG_SZ:"C:\some\path\to\ViewInMozilla.htm"
Contexts=REG_DWORD:1
```

Of course, you need to change C:\some\path\to to an actual path.

How did I know to do this? Because steps 1, 2 and 3 in the “Implementation Steps” section tell me (1) what key to create, (2) what to set the default value to, and (3) what to set Contexts to. I chose a Context value of 1, which means “Default”.

Okay, now to write the script ViewInMozilla.htm. Well, the documentation says that I can access context from the [menuArguments](#) property of the [external](#) object. So let’s start with that.

```
<SCRIPT>
alert(external.menuArguments);
</SCRIPT>
```

Okay, let’s run this puppy. Launch IE, right-click on a blank space in the web page, select “View in Mozilla”, and you get...

[object]

Woo-hoo! This is a major accomplishment: Something happened at all. Doing things in small steps makes it easy to identify where a problem is. If we had run full steam ahead to completion and then it didn’t work, we wouldn’t have known whether it was due to a bug in

the script, a bad registration, a bad filename...

Now that I have the menu arguments, I can use that to suck out information about the item that the context menu applies to. Let's try this:

```
<SCRIPT>
alert(external.menuArguments.document.URL);
</SCRIPT>
```

Woo-hoo, now it gives me the URL. Almost there. All that's left to do is to run a program with that URL as the command line parameter.

```
<SCRIPT>
var shell = new ActiveXObject("WScript.Shell");
shell.run("mozilla \"" + external.menuArguments.document.URL + "\"");
</SCRIPT>
```

Mission accomplished.

Now you too can create Internet Explorer context menu extensions.

In fact, go ahead and do it, since Darrell asked for it: Create an Internet Explorer context menu extension that operates on anchors and opens the linked-to page in Mozilla.

(Bonus: [Tony Schreiner](#) cooked up [something similar for zooming](#).)

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