



# Firefox power profiling

*A powerful visualization of web sustainability*

Link to slides:

<https://share.firefox.dev/power-profiling-fosdem2024>

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February 4, 2024 - Brussels

# Web sustainability

The carbon footprint of browsing the web comes from:

- the user device
- remote equipment (network, servers, ...)
- power used by the browser on the device



# The user device

Embodied emissions of the device (laptop, smartphone, ...)

- We don't pick the user's device...
- ... but can reduce incentives to replace it
  - Performance
  - Compatibility with old devices

Firefox ESR 115 is the only browser receiving security updates that still supports Windows 7



# Infrastructure emissions

Caused by the resources fetched by the web page.

- The financial cost (mostly) scales with emissions
- Good incentive to reduce it.
- Already a lot of tools to look at web page optimization from this perspective





# Browser power use

Often neglected because hard to measure:

- There's no good tooling available
- ... except now there is!

Focus for the rest of this talk



# Table of contents

- **Motivation**
- **Measuring local power use**
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**Why?**

# For sustainability

Mozilla made [climate commitments](#):

- being carbon-neutral.
- reducing its [GHG footprint](#) year over year
- **leading openly by sharing materials, tools, and methodologies.**
- exploring approaches to develop, design, and **improve products from a sustainability perspective**



# Emissions Distribution 2022



# For our users

Excessive power use = poor user experience

- Noisy fans
- Hot laptops
- Short battery life



# For a better web

Mozilla's [mission](#):

***“We’re building a better Internet”***

Tools created to make Firefox more energy efficient are directly re-usable to make web pages more efficient.





# Measuring local power use



# (cheap) Wattmeter



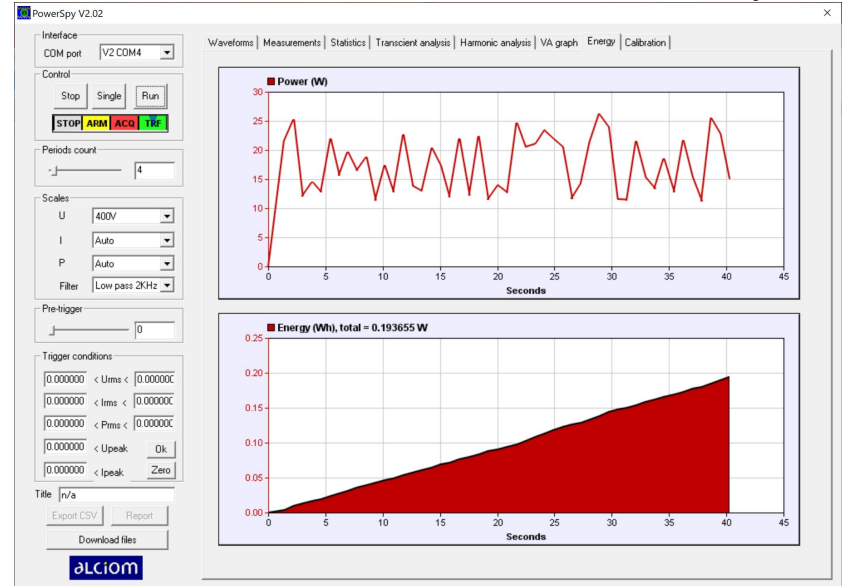
- Affordable
- Reasonably accurate
- Can't track evolution over time



# Better wattmeter



- Connects over bluetooth
- Data readable from another computer



- Still difficult to match with what was done



# How did Microsoft do it?

## Browser efficiency comparison - Webdriver Windows 10 Anniversary Update

### Methodology summary

The Microsoft Windows team measured the average power consumption of the CPU, GPU, and Wifi antenna while Microsoft Edge, Chrome, Firefox, and Opera ran a complex yet representative set of user activities.

...

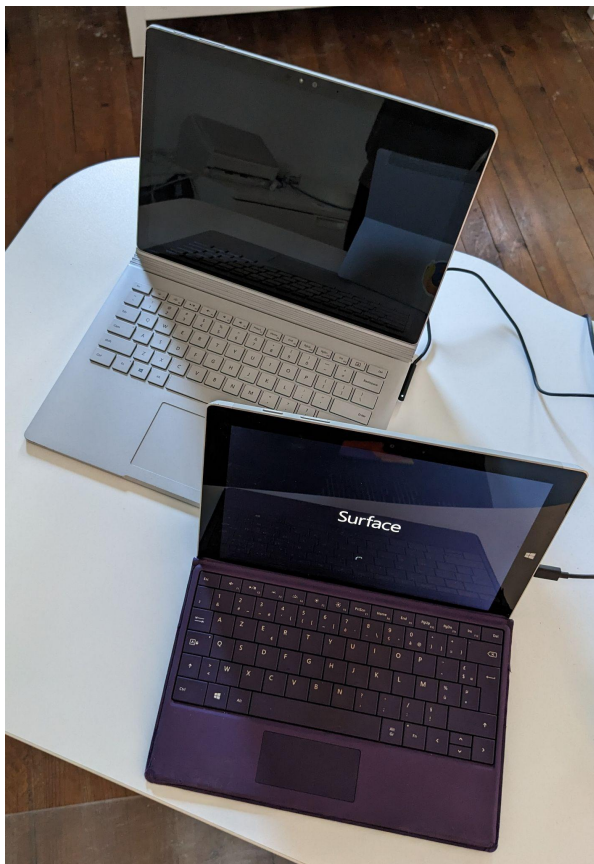
### Measuring power

Power was measured on the Surface Book because it has integrated hardware instrumentation that's able to measure the real power consumption of the CPU, GPU and Wifi antenna while the automation is being executed. This is done using the [Maxim 34407 Power Accumulator chip](#). The results of the Maxim chips were read using the built in Windows tool "Performance Monitor". Performance Monitor was opened and configured to measure each component independently:

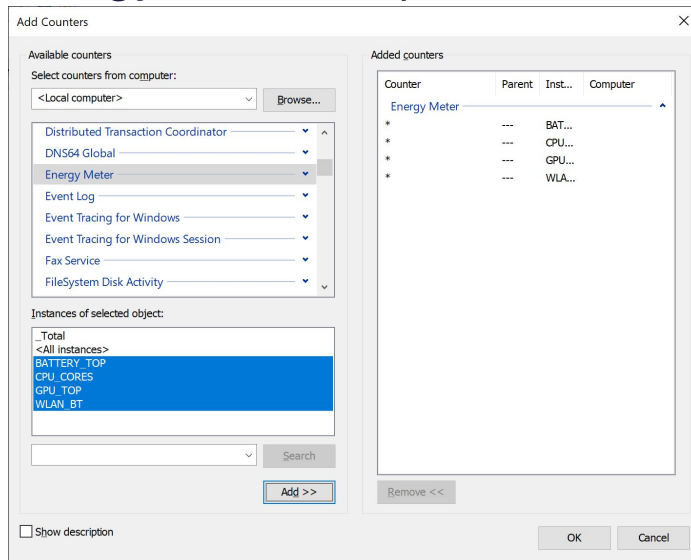
- \Energy Meter (CPU\_CORES)\Power
- \Energy Meter (GPU\_TOP)\Power
- \Energy Meter (WLAN\_BT)\Power



# Devices with MAXIM power meters

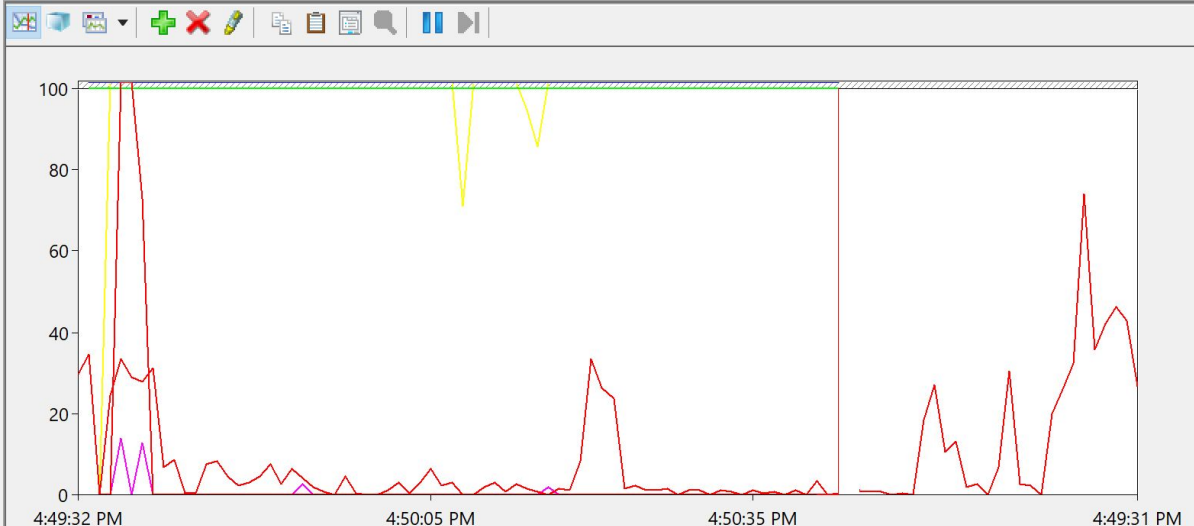


- Surface Book 1, Surface 3
- Many other devices expose it in their ACPI table, but don't actually have the chip
- Energy meters in perfmon.exe:





- Performance
  - Monitoring Tools
    - Performance Monitor
  - Data Collector Sets
  - Reports

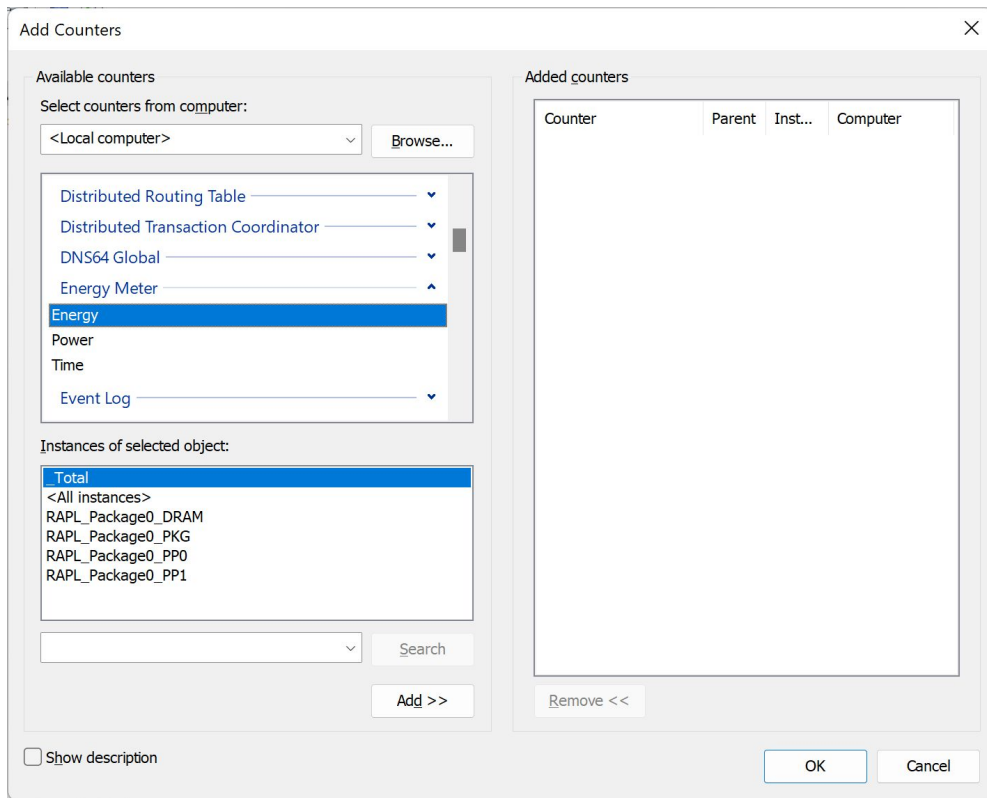


Last: 5.0539e+011    Average: 4.9860e+011    Minimum: 4.8417e+011    Maximum: 5.0539e+011  
 Duration: 1:40

| Show                                | Color | Scale | Counter          | Instance     | Parent | Object                | Computer          |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|------------------|--------------|--------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | —     | 1.0   | % Processor Time | _Total       | ---    | Processor Information | \\DESKTOP-BIB352E |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | —     | 1.0   | Power            | BATTERY_T... | ---    | Energy Meter          | \\DESKTOP-BIB352E |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | —     | 1.0   | Energy           | BATTERY_T... | ---    | Energy Meter          | \\DESKTOP-BIB352E |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | —     | 1.0   | Time             | BATTERY_T... | ---    | Energy Meter          | \\DESKTOP-BIB352E |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | —     | 1.0   | Power            | CPU_CORES    | ---    | Energy Meter          | \\DESKTOP-BIB352E |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | —     | 1.0   | Energy           | CPU_CORES    | ---    | Energy Meter          | \\DESKTOP-BIB352E |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | —     | 1.0   | Time             | CPU_CORES    | ---    | Energy Meter          | \\DESKTOP-BIB352E |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | —     | 1.0   | Power            | GPU_TOP      | ---    | Energy Meter          | \\DESKTOP-BIB352E |



# A good surprise...



- Some machines report energy meter channels with familiar names.
- Windows 11 with Intel CPUs.



# Energy Meter Interface API

- The perfmon.exe UI is horrible, but...
- There's a [documented API!](#)
  - unit is picowatt-hour
  - can be queried many times per second
  - accessible in user land  
(no requirement to install a specific driver)
- Usable for profiler counters:

[Bug 1774844 - Use the Windows Energy Meter Interface to record power use data in profiles](#)





Firefox 103 – Windows 10 – 6/21 X

https://deploy-preview-4102--perf-html.netlify.app/public/8wdv8b8fw9f01q42nd7sw2svqat8gdfxjrqqy90/call

Firefox 103 – Windows 10 | Full Range (4.5s) | Profile Info | Re-upload | Permalink | Docs

Graph type:  Categories with CPU  Categories  Stack height

11 / 281 tracks

Screenshots

Parent Process  
PID: 9544

Network

Timer

RAPL\_Package0\_PKG

RAPL\_Package0\_PP0

RAPL\_Package0\_PP1

Call Tree | Flame Graph | Stack Chart | Marker Chart | Marker Table | Network

All stacks  JavaScript  Native  Invert call stack

Filter stacks:

Complete "Parent Process"

| Total (samples) | Self  |            |
|-----------------|-------|------------|
| 100%            | 2,240 | — ▶ (root) |

Select a node to display information about it.

Legal Privacy Cookies English (US)







# Introducing the Firefox Profiler

<https://profiler.firefox.com>

# What's the Firefox Profiler

- Built-into Firefox
- Initially for performance work. Helps:
  - users to make useful bug reports
  - developers to make sense of them
- One of the best profilers!



# What's the Firefox Profiler

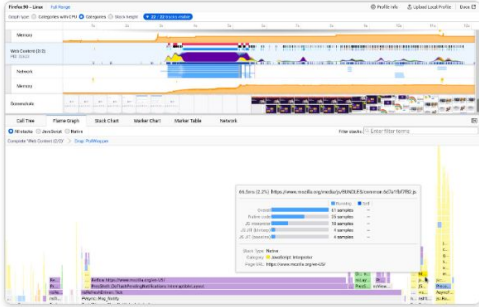
Main sources of data:

- Sampling
  - Stacks
  - Counters
- Markers



Firefox Profiler — Web app for Firefox performance analysis

Capture a performance profile. Analyze it. Share it. Make the web faster.



[+ Enable Firefox Profiler Menu Button](#)

[? Documentation](#)

Enable the profiler menu button to start recording a performance profile in Firefox, then analyze it and share it with profiler.firefox.com.

You can also profile Firefox for Android. For more information, please consult this documentation: [Profiling Firefox for Android directly on device.](#)

### Load existing profiles

You can **drag and drop** a profile file here to load it, or:

[Load a profile from file](#) [Load a profile from a URL](#)

The Firefox Profiler can also import profiles from other profilers, such as [Linux perf](#), [Android SimplePerf](#), the Chrome performance panel, [Android Studio](#), or any file using the [dhat format](#). [Learn how to write your own importer.](#)

[Legal](#) [Privacy](#) [Cookies](#) English (US)



**Firefox Profiler** — Web app for Firefox performance analysis

Capture a performance profile. Analyze it. Share it. Make the web faster.

**Record, analyze, share**

Collaborate on performance issues by publishing profiles to share with your team.

[Learn more](#)

**Settings**

Firefox Platform

Recommended preset for internal Firefox platform debugging.

**Start Recording**

Ctrl+Shift+1

**Document**

To start profiling, click on the profile icon in the top right corner of the browser. Hit **Capture** to load the profiler.firefox.com.

**Ctrl + Shift + 1** Stop an...  
**Ctrl + Shift + 2** Capture...

You can also profile Firefox for Android. For more information, please consult this document: [Firefox for Android directly on device.](#)

[Legal](#) [Privacy](#) [Cookies](#) English (US)



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**Settings**

**Firefox Platform** ▾

Recommended preset for internal Firefox platform debugging.

**Start Recording**

Ctrl+Shift+1

**Recording...**

Discard **Capture**

^⌘1 ^⌘2

To start profiling, click on the profiler icon in the browser toolbar. The icon is located in the top right corner of the browser window. Hit **Capture** to load the data into profiler.firefox.com.

**Ctrl** + **Shift** + **1** Stop and start profiling

**Ctrl** + **Shift** + **2** Capture and load profile

You can also profile Firefox for Android. For more information, please consult this documentation: [Profiling Firefox for Android directly on device.](#)

[Legal](#) [Privacy](#) [Cookies](#) English (US) ▾



Firefox Profiler showing a call tree for loading the Wikipedia home page. The CPU usage is 89% (average over 6.0ms). The call tree shows the execution flow from XRE\_InitChildProcess down to mozilla::ipc::MessageLoop::RunInternal() and nsAppShell::Run(). The stack includes mozilla::dom::HasPropertyOnPrototype, JS::Handle<JSObject\*>, JS::Handle<JS::PropertyKey\*>, bool, JS::BaseProxyHandler::hasOwn(JSContext\*, JS::Handle<JSObject\*>, JS::Handle<JS::PropertyKey\*, bool\*) const, JS::Proxy::getInternal(JSContext\*, JS::Handle<JSObject\*>, JS::Handle<JS::Value>, JS::Handle<JS::PropertyKey...), JS::Handle<JSObject\*>, JS::Handle<JS::Value>, JS::Handle<JS::PropertyKey>, JS::M..., JS::GetProperty(JSContext\*, JS::Handle<JSObject\*>, JS::Handle<JS::Value>, JS::Handle<JS::PropertyKey>, JS::M..., GeneralizedGetProperty(JSContext\*, JS::Handle<JSObject\*>, JS::Handle<JS::PropertyKey>, JS::Handle<JS::Val..., NativeGetPropertyInline<(js::AllowGC)1>(JSContext\*, js::MaybeRooted<js::NativeObject\*, (js::AllowGC)1>:Han..., js::NativeGetProperty(JSContext\*, JS::Handle<js::NativeObject\*>, JS::Handle<JS::Value>, JS::Handle<JS::Prop..., js::GetProperty(JSContext\*, JS::Handle<JSObject\*>, JS::Handle<JS::Value>, JS::Handle<JS::PropertyKey>, JS::M..., JS::ForwardingProxyHandler::get(JSContext\*, JS::Handle<JSObject\*>, JS::Handle<JS::Value>, JS::Handle<JS::P..., nsOuterWindowProxy::get(JSContext\*, JS::Handle<JSObject\*>, JS::Handle<JS::Value>, JS::Handle<JS::Propert..., JS::Proxy::getInternal(JSContext\*, JS::Handle<JSObject\*>, JS::Handle<JS::Value>, JS::Handle<JS::PropertyKey..., JS::Proxy::get(JSContext\*, JS::Handle<JSObject\*>, JS::Handle<JS::Value>, JS::Handle<JS::PropertyKey>, JS::M..., js::GetProperty(JSContext\*, JS::Handle<JSObject\*>, JS::Handle<JS::Value>, JS::Handle<JS::PropertyKey>, JS::M..., js::GetProperty(JSContext\*, JS::Handle<JSObject\*>, JS::Handle<JS::Value>, js::PropertyName\*, JS::MutableHa..., JS::GetProperty(JSContext\*, JS::Handle<JS::Value>, JS::Handle<js::PropertyName\*>, JS::MutableHandle<JS::Va..., GetPropertyOperation(JSContext\*, JS::Handle<js::PropertyName\*>, JS::Handle<JS::Value>, JS::MutableHandle..., Interpret(JSContext\*, js::RunState&) /Users/florian/buildhg/mozilla/js/src/vm/Interpreter.cpp, RunScript(JSContext\*, js::RunState&) /Users/florian/buildhg/mozilla/js/src/vm/Interpreter.cpp, index.js https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\_Page line 10 > injectedScript:300:827, ...

Loading the wikipedia home page - <https://share.firefox.dev/315H1aF>





Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia X Firefox 111 - macOS 12.3.1 - 2/1 X

← → ↻ https://profiler.firefox.com/from-browser/calltree?globalTrackOrder=g0wf&hiddenGlobalTracks=1we&hiddenL ☆

Firefox 111 - macOS 12.3.1 Full Range (3.4s) > 875ms Profile Info Upload Local Profile Docs

7 / 42 tracks 1.45s 1.50s 1.55s 1.60s 1.65s 1.70s 1.75s 1.80s 1.85s 1.90s 1.95s 2.00s 2.05s 2.10s 2.15s 2.20s 2.25s

Screenshots

Parent Process PID: 84177

Network

Memory

wikipedia.org (2/2) PID: 91497

Network

Memory

Call Tree Flame Graph Stack Chart Marker Chart Marker Table

All stacks JavaScript Native Invert call stack

453 operations since the previous sample  
32.1MB relative memory at this time  
39.2MB memory range in graph

filter terms

Complete "https://wikipedia.org (2/2)"

| Total (samples) | Self |   |  |
|-----------------|------|---|--|
| 100%            | 869  | — | XRE_InitChildProcess   |
| 100%            | 869  | — | XRE_InitChildProcess(int, char**, XREChildData const*) /Users/florian/buildhg/mozilla/toolkit/xre/nsEmbedFunctions.cpp |
| 100%            | 869  | — | MessageLoop::Run() /Users/florian/buildhg/mozilla/ipc/chromium/src/base/message_loop.cc                                |
| 100%            | 869  | — | MessageLoop::RunHandler() /Users/florian/buildhg/mozilla/ipc/chromium/src/base/message_loop.cc                         |
| 100%            | 869  | — | MessageLoop::RunInternal() /Users/florian/buildhg/mozilla/ipc/chromium/src/base/message_loop.cc                        |
| 100%            | 869  | — | XRE_RunAppShell() /Users/florian/buildhg/mozilla/toolkit/xre/nsEmbedFunctions.cpp                                      |
| 100%            | 869  | — | nsAppShell::Run() /Users/florian/buildhg/mozilla/widget/cocoa/nsAppShell.mm  |
| 100%            | 869  | — | nsBaseAppShell::Run() /Users/florian/buildhg/mozilla/widget/nsBaseAppShell.cpp   |
| 100%            | 869  | — | MessageLoop::Run() /Users/florian/buildhg/mozilla/ipc/chromium/src/base/message_loop.cc                                |
| 100%            | 869  | — | MessageLoop::RunHandler() /Users/florian/buildhg/mozilla/ipc/chromium/src/base/message_loop.cc                         |
| 100%            | 869  | — | MessageLoop::RunInternal() /Users/florian/buildhg/mozilla/ipc/chromium/src/base/message_loop.cc                        |
| 100%            | 869  | — | mozilla:ipc::MessagePump::Run(base::MessagePump::Delegate*) /Users/florian/buildhg/mozilla/ipc/glue/MessagePump.cpp    |
| 100%            | 868  | — | NS_ProcessNextEvent(nsIThread*, bool) /Users/florian/buildhg/mozilla/xpcom/threads/nsThreadUtils.cpp                   |
| 100%            | 868  | — | nsThread::ProcessNextEvent(bool, bool*) /Users/florian/buildhg/mozilla/xpcom/threads/nsThread.cpp                      |

js::GetOpLength

/Users/florian/buildhg/mozilla/js/src/vm/By...

Call node details

Traced running time 1.2ms  
Traced self time 1.2ms  
Running samples — 1  
Self samples — 1

Categories Running sample count

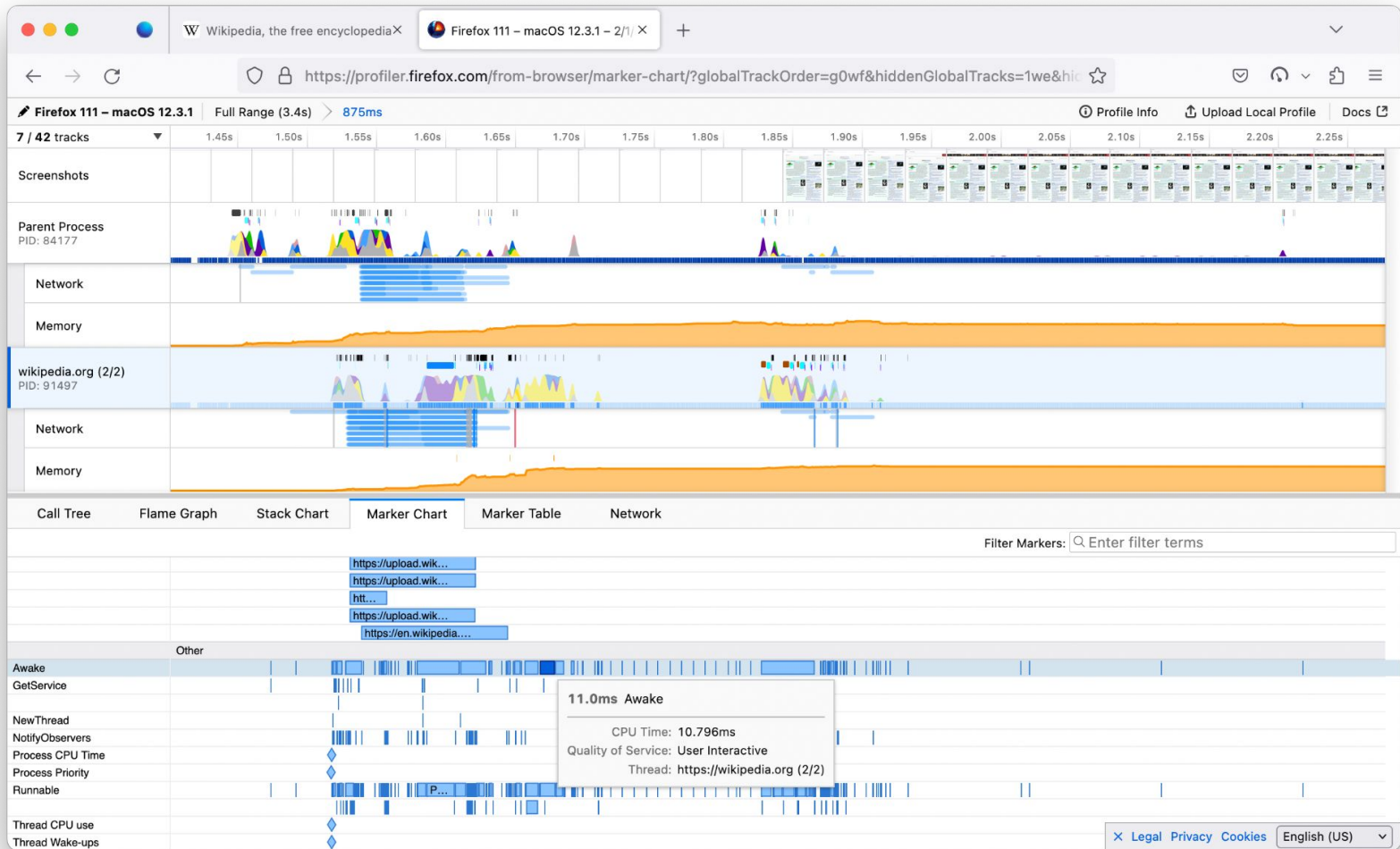
JavaScript 100% 1

Categories Self sample count

JavaScript 100% 1

X Legal Privacy Cookies English (US)





The slide features a dark blue circular shape on the left side, containing the text 'Firefox power profiling'. The background is white with a pink arc at the top and an orange arc at the bottom, both partially overlapping the blue circle.

# Firefox power profiling

# Firefox Power profiling

- Built-in, no extra tool required
- Supports all 3 major desktop platforms
- Shipped in Firefox 104 (June 2022)
- Not copied yet!



# Power profiling - Windows support

- Windows 10 - devices with hardware power meters  
(Surface Book 1, Surface 3, ? )  
CPU, GPU, Wifi power use
- Windows 11 - Intel CPUs  
CPU, GPU, DRAM power use
- Windows 11 22H2 - AMD Ryzen CPUs  
CPU, with 1 track per core!



# Power profiling - Mac support

- Apple Silicon
  - Undocumented API, returning a per-process value!

```
task_info(mach_task_self(), TASK_POWER_INFO_V2,  
          (task_info_t)&task_power_info, &count);  
task_power_info.task_energy // ← nanojoules
```

- Intel x64-64 CPUs
  - `diagCall64(dgPowerStat, ...` called from asm gives us the RAPL MSR.
  - (copied from an [9 years old implementation](#))



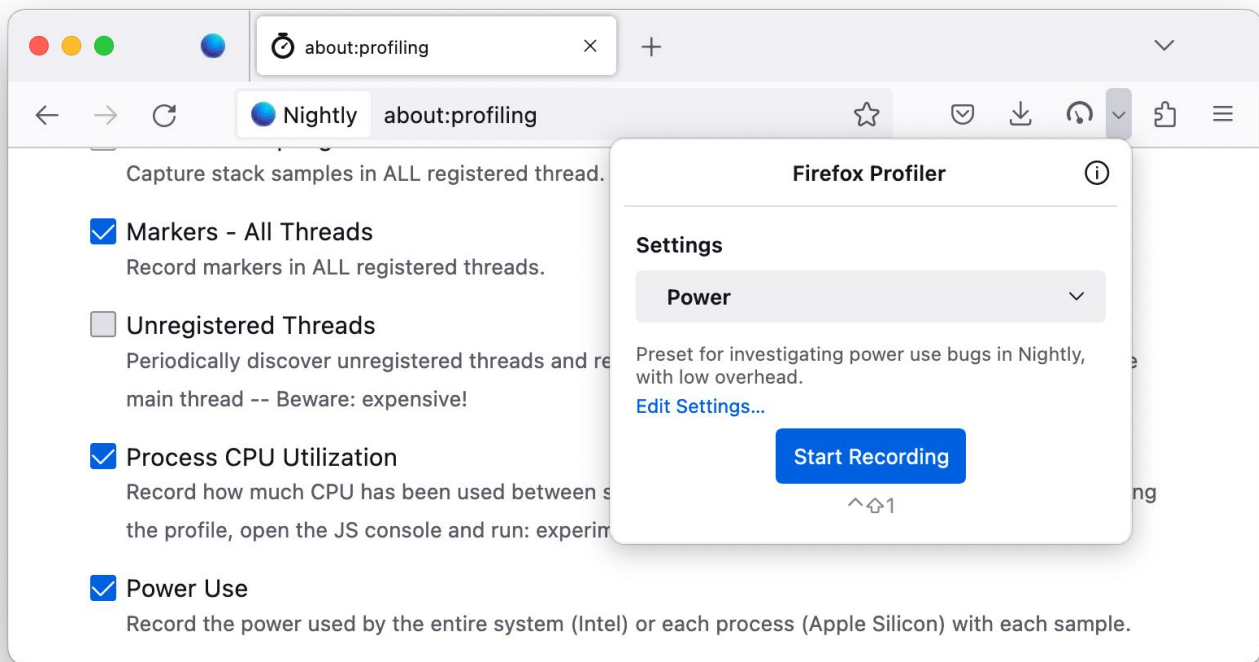
# Power profiling - Linux support

- [Use RAPL perf events](#)
- `sudo sysctl kernel.perf_event_paranoid=0`  
Access to power data is restricted since October 2020 due to a [side channel attack](#).
- AMD CPUs supported since Linux Kernel 5.8
- Doesn't work with Ubuntu's Firefox snap package



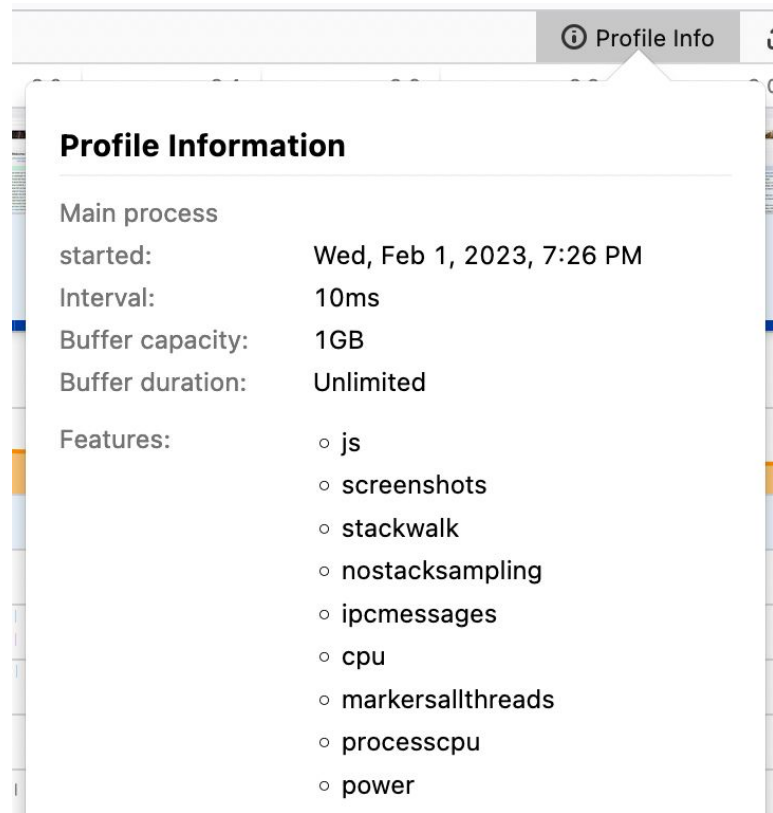
# Power profiling - configuration

There is a 'Power' preset for easy configuration.



# Reducing overhead

- Longer interval
- No periodic stack sampling



The image shows a screenshot of the Chrome DevTools Performance tab, specifically the 'Profile Information' panel. The panel is titled 'Profile Information' and displays the following details:

- Main process**
- started:** Wed, Feb 1, 2023, 7:26 PM
- Interval:** 10ms
- Buffer capacity:** 1GB
- Buffer duration:** Unlimited
- Features:**
  - js
  - screenshots
  - stackwalk
  - nostacksampling
  - ipcmessages
  - cpu
  - markersallthreads
  - processcpu
  - power



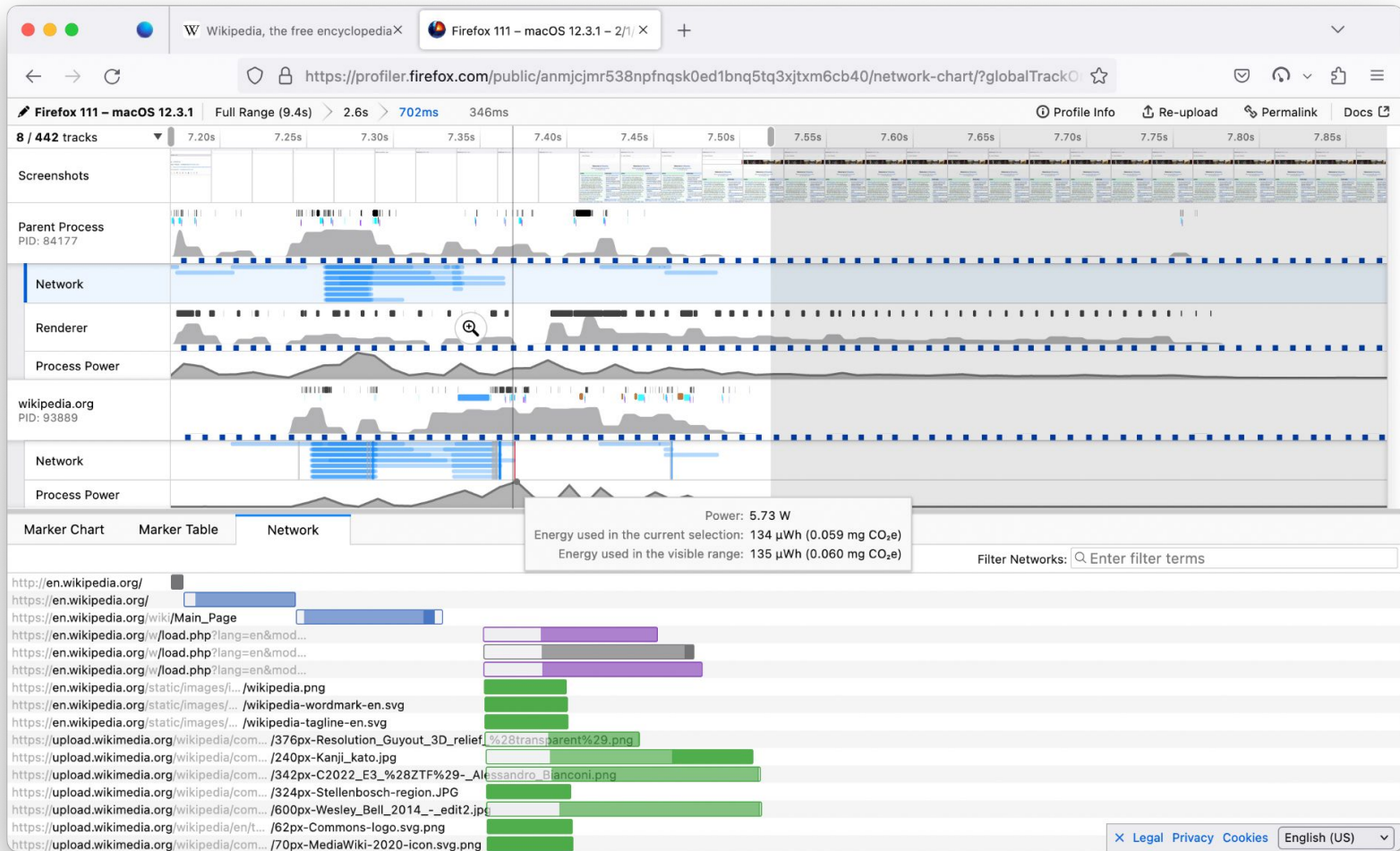


# Examples

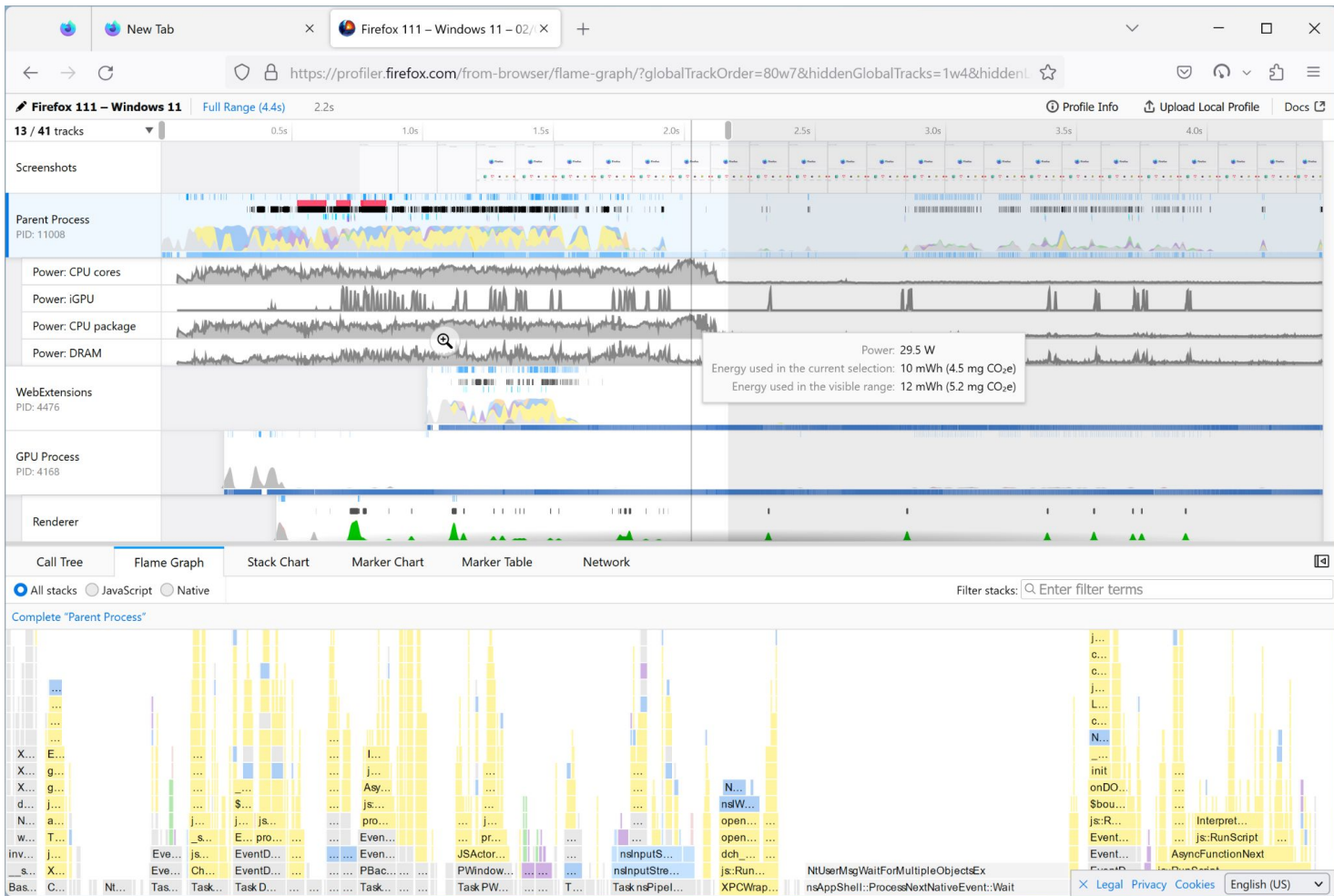


Link to slides:

<https://share.firefox.dev/power-profiling-fosdem2024>



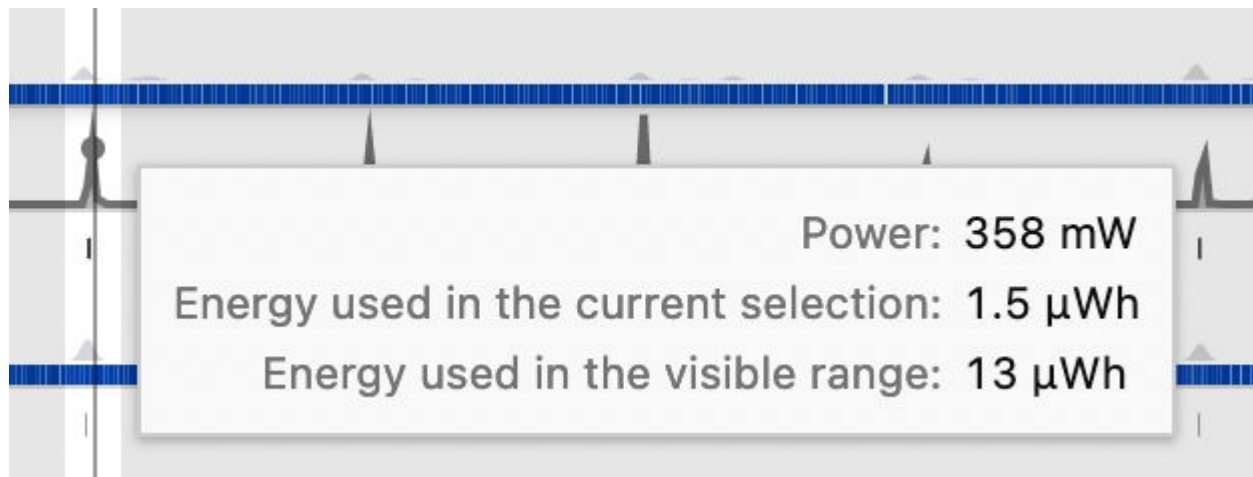
Loading Wikipedia homepage - <https://share.firefox.dev/3RqH4Ke>



Starting Firefox - <https://share.firefox.dev/3XOPHMP>

# Measure tiny things

What's the smallest thing we can power profile?



# Demo

Zooming on openstreetmap - <https://share.firefox.dev/3UjDlfy>

**Recap**

**Android?**



# External power profiling

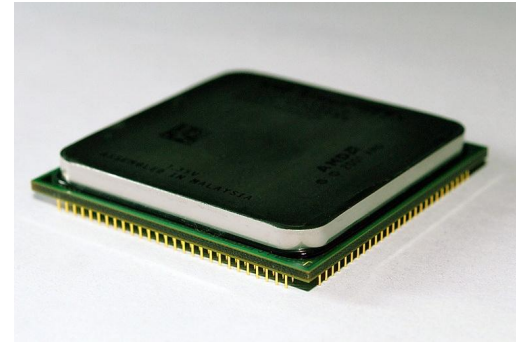


# AC power measure



Max 50Hz sampling

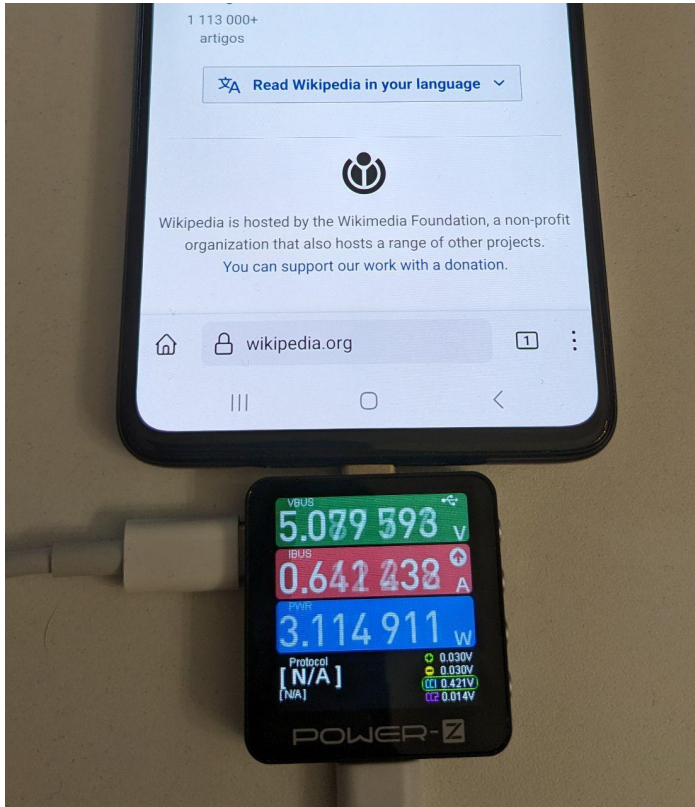
# CPU power data



Babylonfive David W. Smith, CC BY 3.0,  
via Wikimedia Commons

Not profiling the entire computer

# Charger testers



- Affordable (<100€) devices made to verify how good chargers are.
- Up to 1kHz sampling
- Some can export data to a computer through USB or Bluetooth.
- When the battery is full, they measure how much power is used by the phone.



# Charger testers also work for laptops



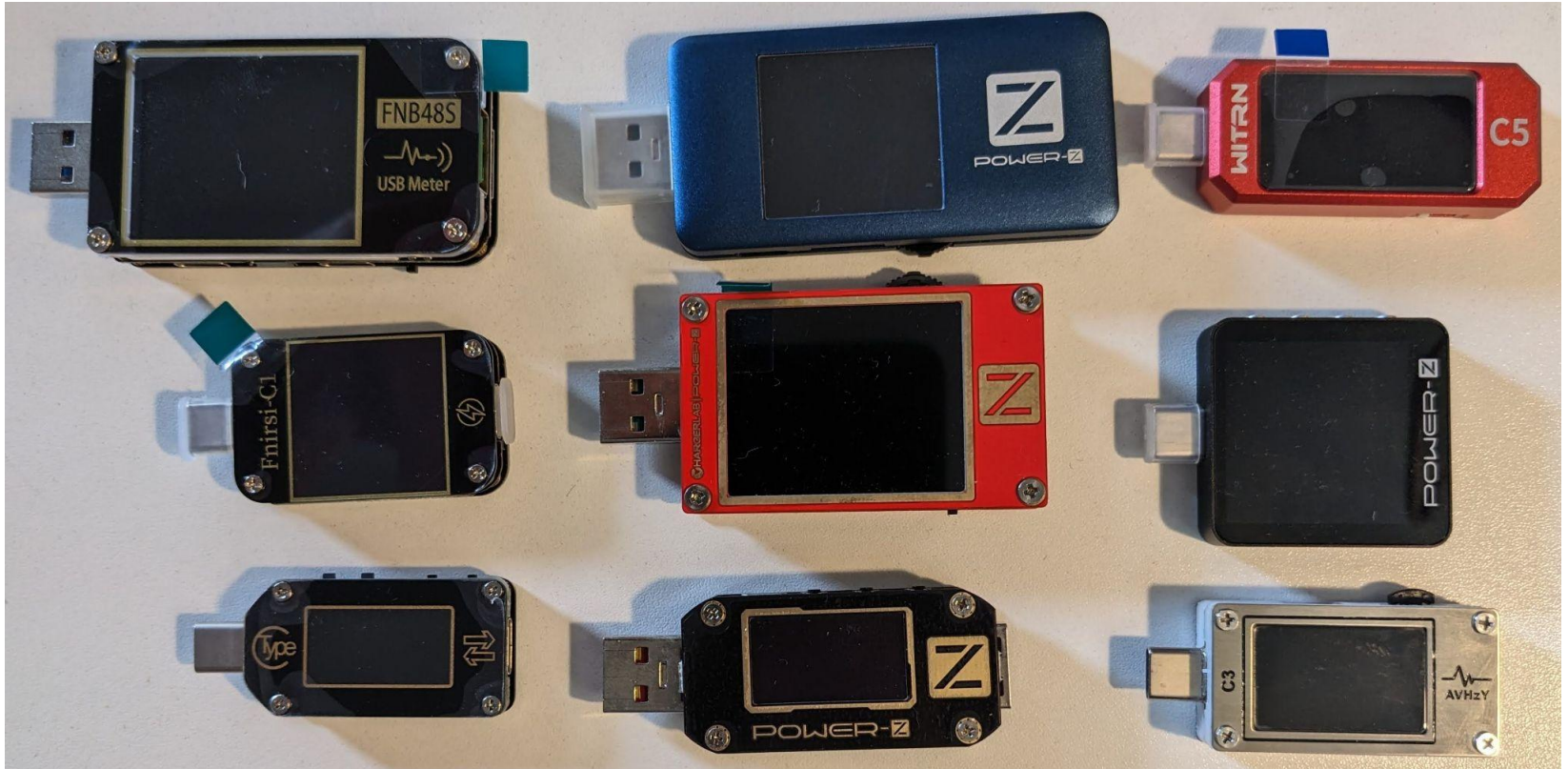
- Supports up to 240W
- Modern laptops support charging through USB PD (Power Delivery)
- Support for “external power profiling” landed in Firefox 121.







# Compatible USB power meters



# Plug & play!

- The models on the picture “just work”
- <https://github.com/fqueze/usb-power-profiling>
- Example profiles for each supported device:
  - Good example:



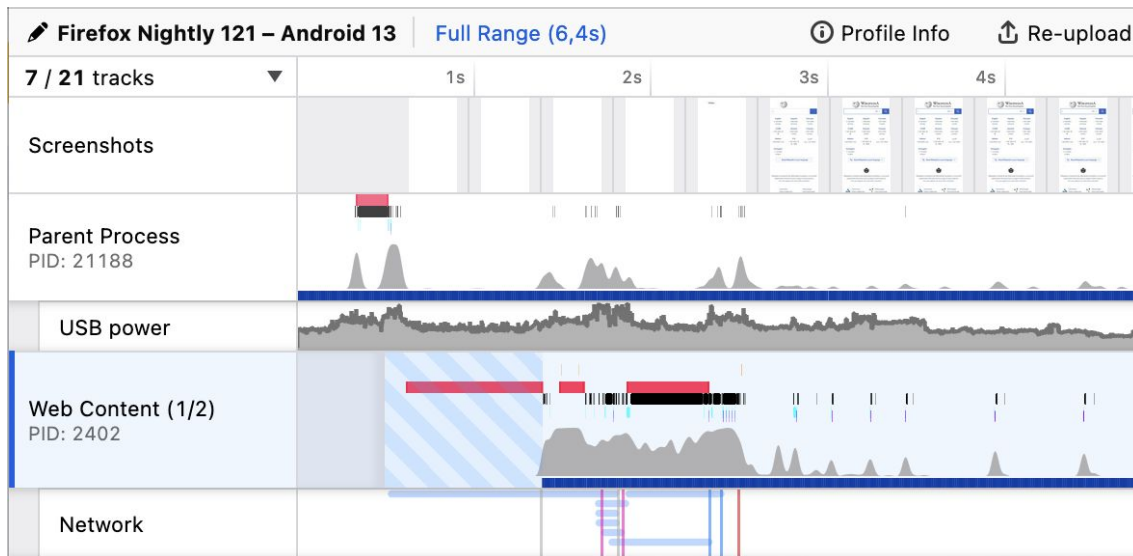
- Bad example:



- Data source for the “USB power” track in examples for the next slides.



# Android remote + ext. power



The power used by the idle phone is around 2W. Goes up to 7W during page load.



# More examples

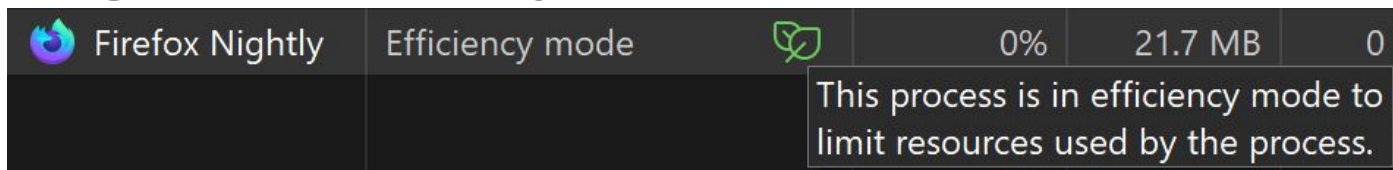


Link to slides:

<https://share.firefox.dev/power-profiling-fosdem2024>

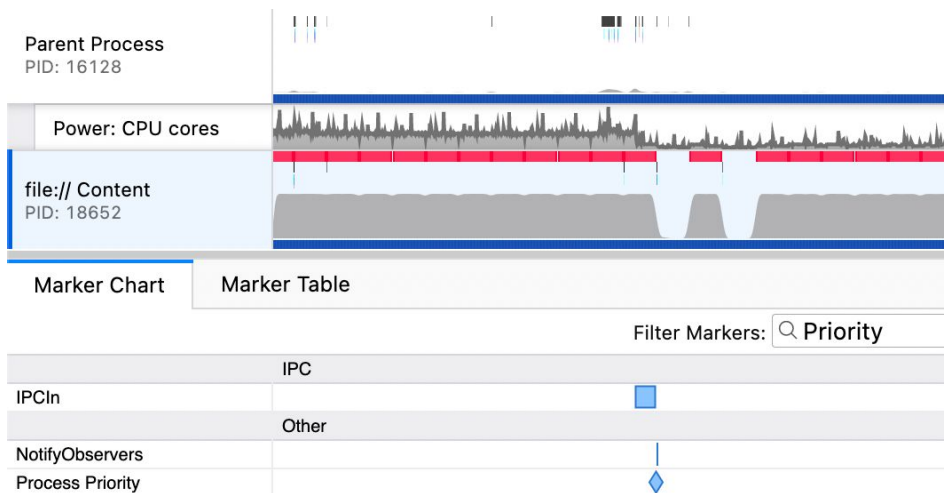


# Using efficiency mode on Windows 11



Firefox Nightly Efficiency mode 0% 21.7 MB 0

This process is in efficiency mode to limit resources used by the process.

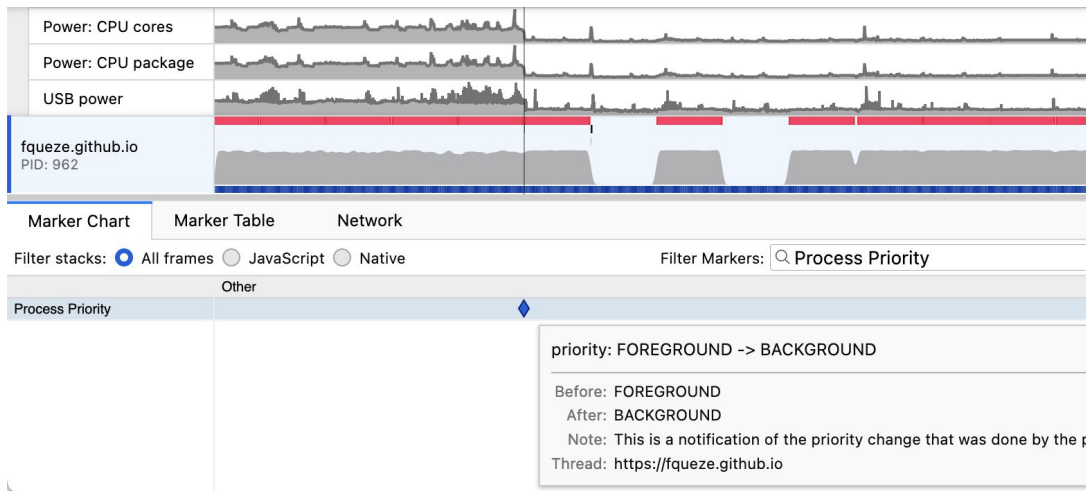


The power used by using 100% of a core drops from 10W to 2W.



# Using 'background' QoS on Mac

1 s of CPU time

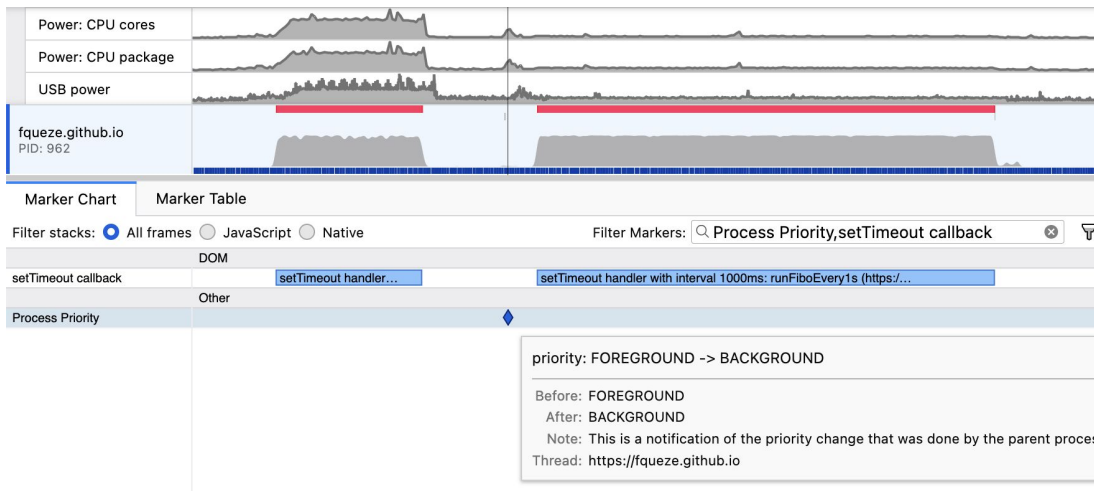


The power used by cores drops from 18W to 1.6W. Entire MacBook from 30W to 10W.



# Using 'background' QoS on Mac

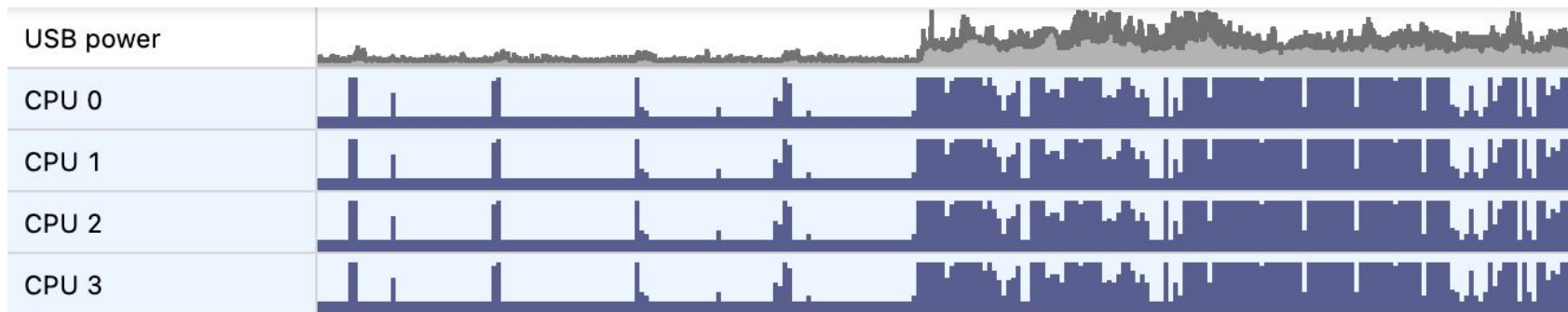
## Running the same task



|               | Foreground | Background |
|---------------|------------|------------|
| Time          | 500ms      | 1.6s       |
| CPU energy    | 3mWh       | 1.2mWh     |
| Laptop energy | 4.1mWh     | 5mWh       |

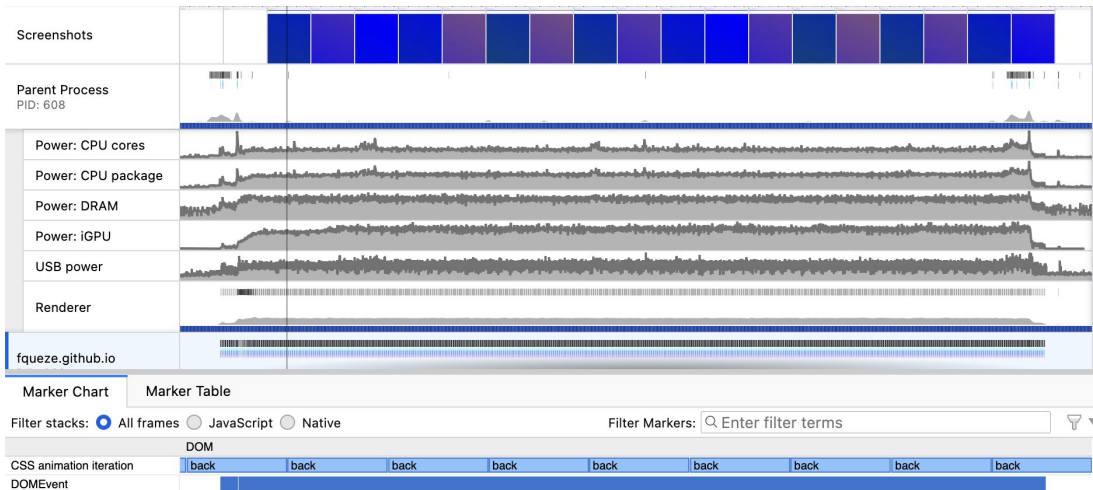


# Raising the CPU clock frequency



# Animated background

Burning your lap, millions of pixels at a time



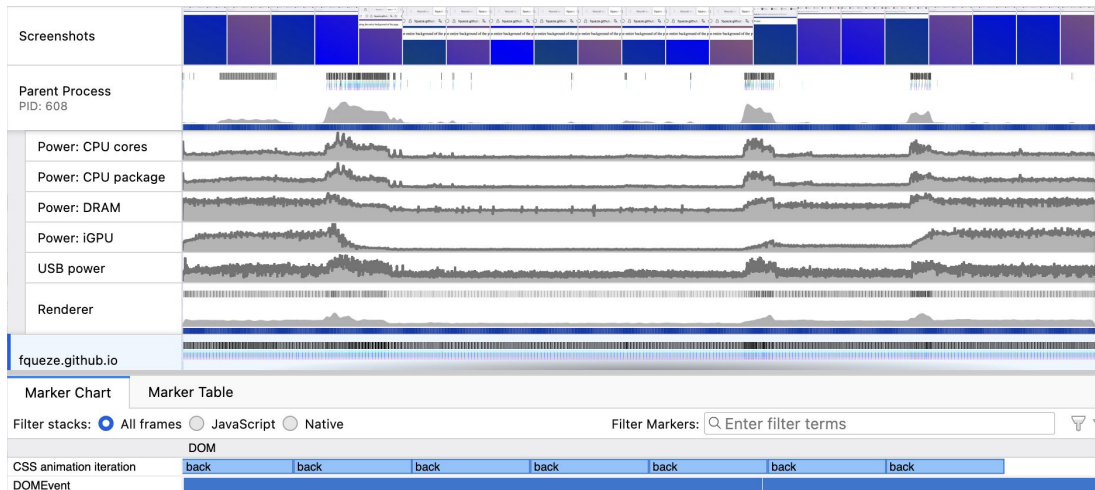
The GPU power is as high as the CPU core power.

DRAM power is significant too.



# Animated background

In different window sizes



GPU power:

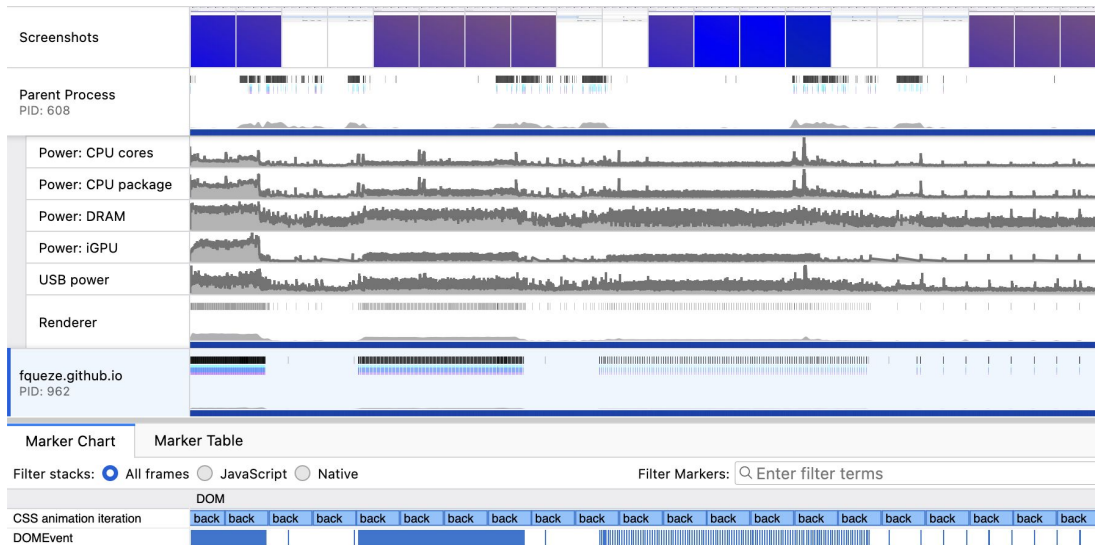
- 0.3W for 0.45Mpixels
- 1.3W for 2.4Mpixels
- 6W for 6.3Mpixels

CPU power dominates  
while resizing



# Animated background

At different refresh rates



Average GPU power:

- 4.5W for 60Hz
- 1.3W for 30Hz
- 0.4W for 10Hz
- 0.05W for 1Hz

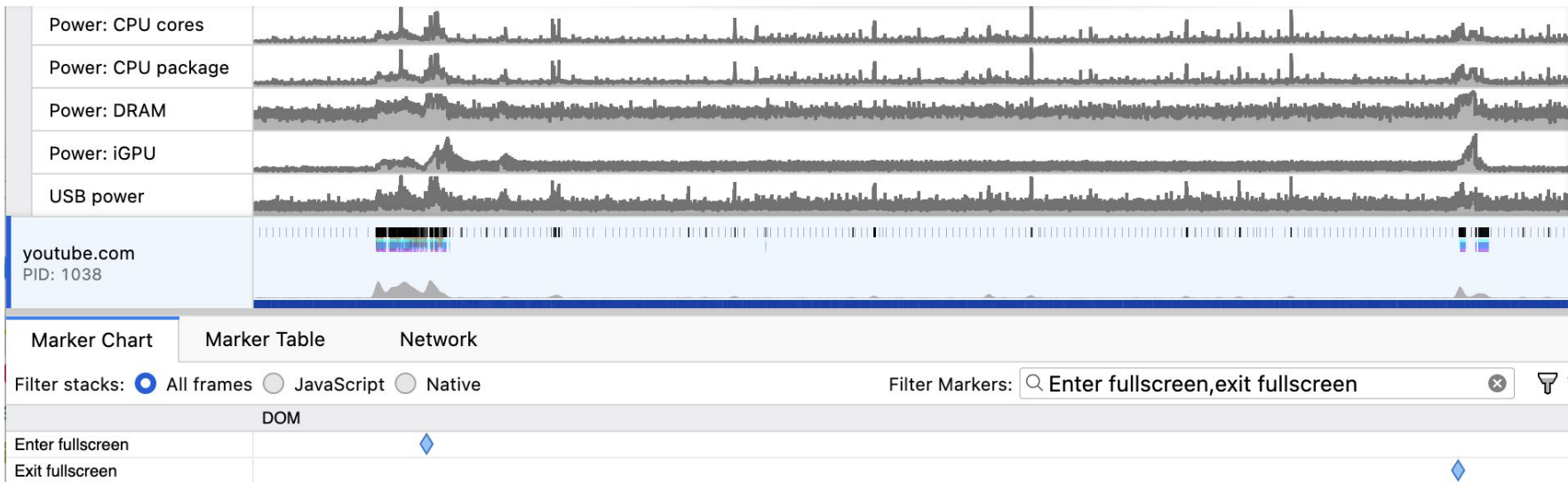
<30Hz, a spike per frame



# Playing a video

In a frame or fullscreen

CPU and GPU power use comparable to the animated background.



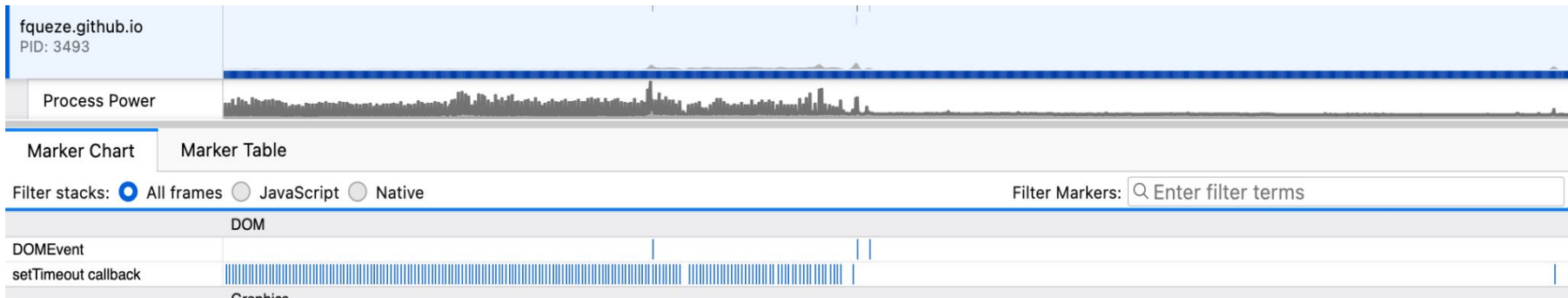
Note: 30fps on the video.





# Waking up... too often

## setTimeout(0)



First half: tab is visible, timer wake-ups every 4ms.

Second half: tab in the background, timers throttled to 1Hz.



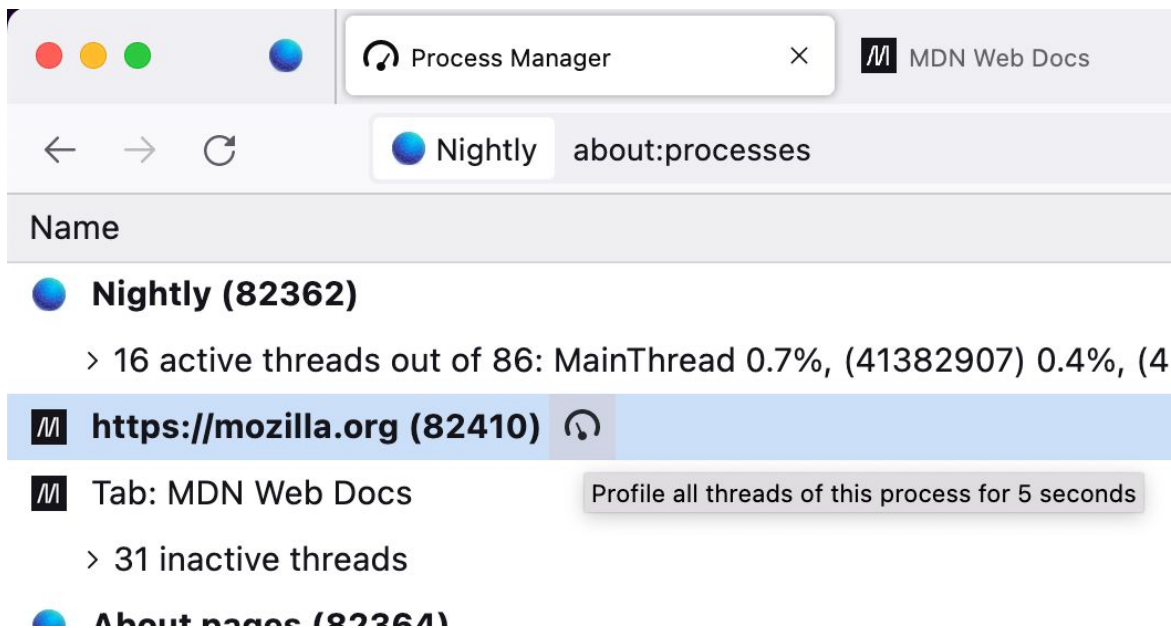


**Bonus**

**A few more  
things**

# Firefox task manager

With one click profiling (the 'power' feature is enabled)



The screenshot shows the Firefox Task Manager interface. At the top, there are window control buttons and a title bar with 'Process Manager' and 'MDN Web Docs'. Below that is a navigation bar with back, forward, and refresh icons, and a search bar containing 'Nightly' and 'about:processes'. The main content area lists several processes:

- Nightly (82362)**
  - > 16 active threads out of 86: MainThread 0.7%, (41382907) 0.4%, (4
- https://mozilla.org (82410)** (highlighted in blue) with a power icon (⚡) to its right.
- Tab: MDN Web Docs** with a tooltip that says 'Profile all threads of this process for 5 seconds'.
- > 31 inactive threads
- About pages (82364)**



# CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent using [co2.js](#)

Power: 2.68 W

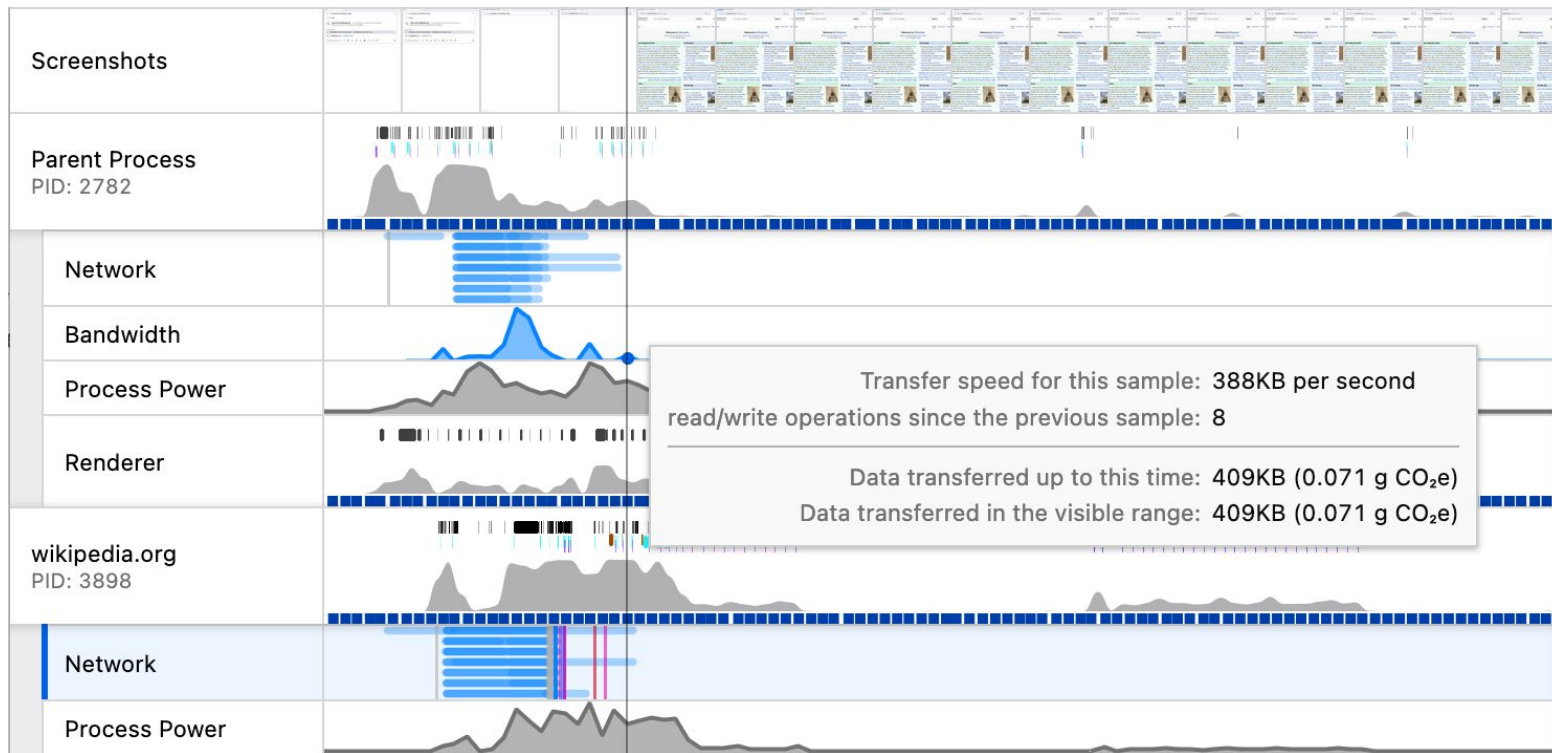
Energy used in the current selection: 63 μWh (0.028 mg CO<sub>2</sub>e)

Energy used in the visible range: 168 μWh (0.074 mg CO<sub>2</sub>e)

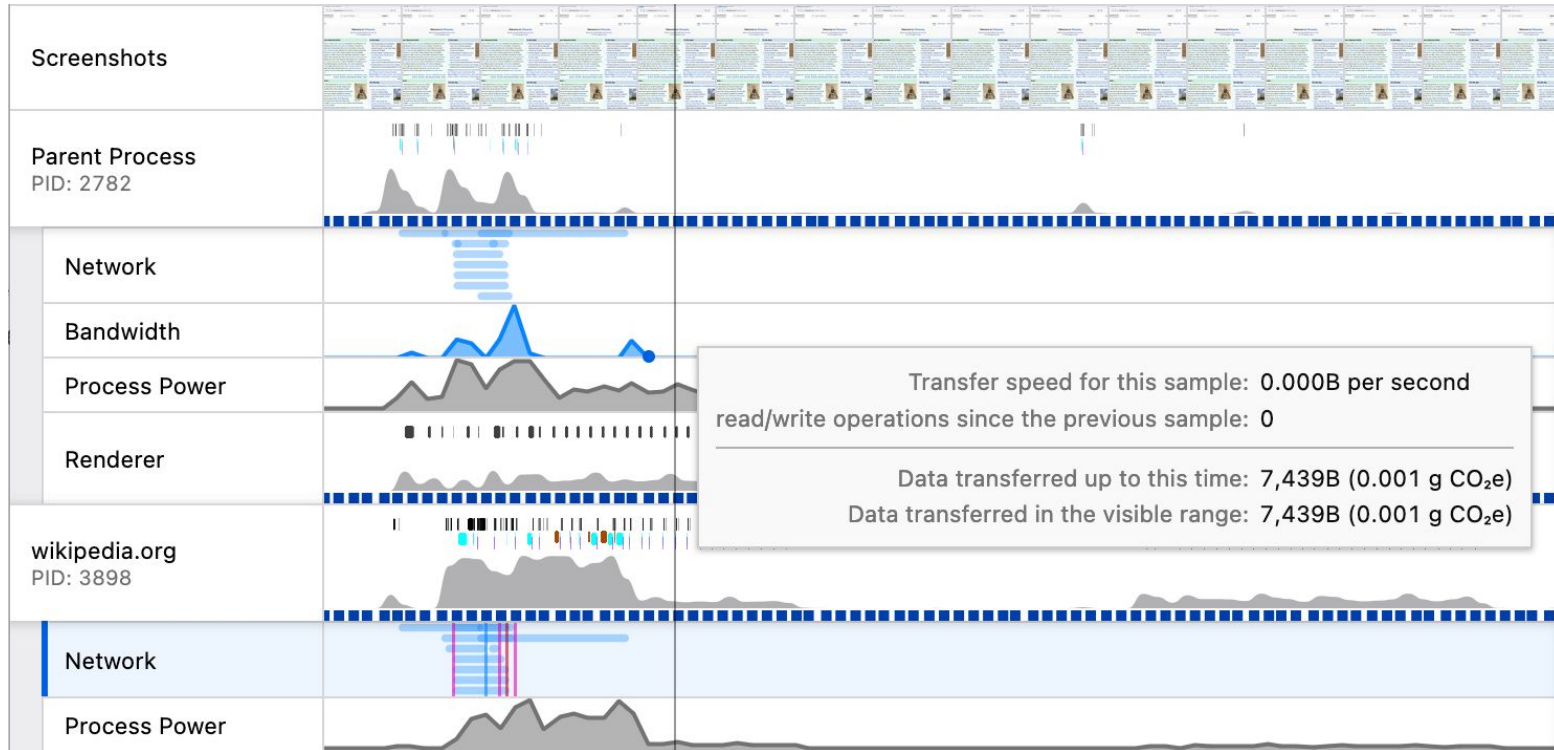
Thanks to **Chris Adams** and **Fershad** from  
**The Green Web Foundation.**



# Network bandwidth



# Network bandwidth (cached)



# Process CPU



When power profiling is not supported on your machine...

# Conclusion

- **Power profiling is:**
  - Possible
  - Easy
  - Fun
- **But start with**
  - Web compat
  - Good performance



# Thanks! Questions?

- Share ideas, #profiler:mozilla.org
- Questions: [florian@mozilla.com](mailto:florian@mozilla.com)



Link to slides:

<https://share.firefox.dev/power-profiling-fosdem2024>

