

How to highlight text on a web page



How to highlight text on a web page with a few effortless steps.

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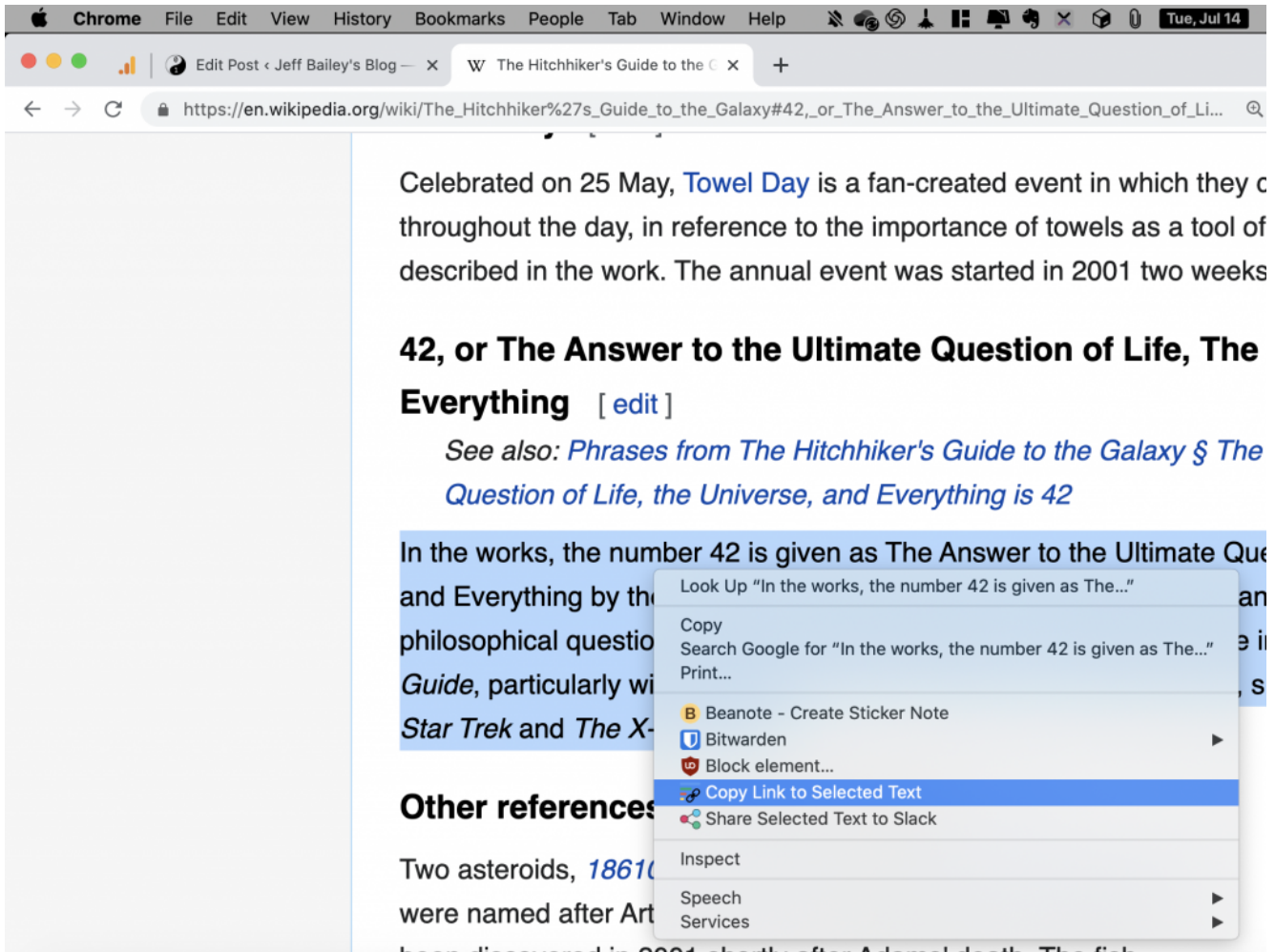
Google is working on [a web standard for this feature](#). If it gains traction, you may see this feature in other browsers in the future.

Install the Extension

Install [the Link to Text Fragment extension](#) in Google Chrome if it is not already installed.

Highlight Text

Navigate to a web page and select the text like this.



Try It Out

Paste the generated URL in your web browser, and you should see the highlighted text.

42, or The Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, The Universe, and Everything [edit]

See also: *Phrases from The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy § The Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything is 42*

In the works, the number 42 is given as The Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, The Universe, and Everything by the computer Deep Thought. The absurdly simple answer to a complex philosophical question became a frequent reference in popular culture in homage to *The Hitchhiker's Guide*, particularly within works of science fiction and in video games, such as in *Doctor Who*, *Lost*, *Star Trek* and *The X-Files*.^{[87][88]}

The generated URL looks like this.

```
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Hitchhiker%27s_Guide_to_the_Galaxy#42,_or_The_Answer_to_the_Ultimate_Question_of_Life,_The_Universe,_and_Everything:~:text=In%20the%20works%2C%20the%20n umber%2042,Lost%2C%20Star%20Trek%20and%20The%20X-Files.%5B87%5D%5B88%5D
```

The browser simply takes the text and highlights it based on the text input.

I've wanted a feature like this for quite a while. The main downside, which requires a versioning standard for web documents, is that the highlight is invalidated if the text changes. The upside is that the specification accounts for that and will still jump to the section the content was previously. If the page structure changes, all bets are off, and the feature will not work.

I find the feature useful for linking to text that doesn't often change if at all.