

What Does It Mean to Be Creepy? Responses to Visualizations of Personal Browsing Activity, Online Tracking, and Targeted Ads

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ABSTRACT

Internet companies routinely follow users around the web, building profiles for ad targeting based on inferred attributes. Prior work has shown that these practices, generally, are creepy—but what does that mean? To help answer this question, we substantially revised an open-source browser extension built to observe a user's browsing behavior and present them with a tracker's perspective of that behavior. Our updated extension models possible interest inferences far more accurately, integrates data scraped from the user's Google ad dashboard, and summarizes ads the user was shown. Most critically, it introduces ten novel visualizations that show implications of the collected data, both the mundane (e.g., total number of ads you've been served) and the provocative (e.g., your interest in reproductive health, a potentially sensitive topic). We use our extension as a design probe in a week-long field study with $n = 200$ participants. We find that users do perceive online tracking as creepy—but that the meaning of creepiness is far from universal. Participants felt differently about creepiness even when their data presented similar visualizations, and even when responding to the most potentially provocative visualizations—in no case did more than 70% of participants agree that any one visualization was creepy.

KEYWORDS

Web Tracking, Transparency, Usable Privacy, User Study

1 INTRODUCTION

As people browse the web, third-party trackers follow them and build profiles of their demographic and psychographic attributes. This practice is known as Online Behavioral Advertising (OBA) [15, 79]. The goal is to serve consumers with more precisely targeted ads, often at the cost of privacy. For instance, labeling someone as “Parent of Infants (0–1 years)” after they search Google for “size two diapers” has become a normalized experience, but it can still feel invasive and creepy [28, 33, 51, 54, 125].

For years, researchers have explored how users perceive OBA. From *Smart, Useful, Scary, Creepy* [115] over a decade ago to the more recent *Whispering with Voice Assistants* [83], researchers have found consistent, but nuanced, discomfort with online tracking. Users find OBA “scary or creepy” due to privacy concerns, but also “smart” and “useful” due to the increased relevance of ads [115].

“Creepy” has become a common, almost default description for this nuanced discomfort, but the term remains ambiguous and hard to parse takeaways from. Is tracking, a now familiar staple of the web, creepy? If tracking is creepy, are all types of tracking

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Submitted to Proceedings on Privacy Enhancing Technologies 2024(3), 1–26

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<https://doi.org/XXXXXXX.XXXXXXX>



practices are equally creepy? Are any tracking practices universally understood to be creepy? Can we quantitatively say that certain factors, like accuracy, increase or decrease feelings of creepiness? Does sensitivity of data affect perceptions of creepiness? To better define creepiness in the online tracking setting, we set out to answer the following research questions:

RQ-1: When tracking practices (from mundane to provocative) are made visible and intelligible to users, do users find tracking to be creepy? How does this affect their attitudes and behavioral intentions toward tracking?

RQ-2: What makes specific instances of tracking creepy or not creepy? Are there certain factors (e.g., accuracy) which increase or decrease feelings of creepiness?

To answer these questions, we created a design probe to explore which aspects of OBA users find creepy and why. We started by conducting feature-testing interviews ($n = 13$) to see which types of tracking-focused visualization mock-ups participants might deem creepy. Based on the results, we selected ten of the creepiest prototypes to develop. We implemented these visualizations as part of a radical re-envisioning of an existing open-source browser extension created by Weinshel et al. [118]. We term the new browser extension Tracking Transparency v2 (TT2).

We made significant improvements to the original extension. We implemented a new web page classification model (stored locally) that is significantly more accurate and, perhaps more importantly, much more fine-grained in the labels it assigns. Additionally, we added new data sources by scraping and recording both the ads a user sees when browsing the web and the user's Google Ad Settings dashboard, which lists attributes (e.g., demographics and interests) Google has inferred for that user. We detail all our improvements in Section 3.

These new features allowed us to visualize tracking in far more fine-grained and potentially provocative ways. For instance, our extension highlights the most sensitive interests inferred about the user, visualizes the user's sleeping habits, details exactly how the user divides their time among interests, summarizes the ads the user has been shown, and guesses why the user might have been shown particular ads. The code for TT2 will be open-sourced upon publication and is included¹ as an artifact for our submission.

We then conducted a longitudinal field study ($n = 200$) in which participants downloaded the redesigned extension and used it for one week. Participants were randomly assigned either to use our fully featured new extension or more limited variants as controls (Table 1). We conducted two surveys, one before participants used the extension and one after, to gauge changes in participants' attitudes and behavioral intentions toward tracking. In the second survey, we also asked participants to load the extension and answer

¹https://anonymous.4open.science/r/anon_TrTrMAIN-30C4

per-visualization questions on specific factors—drawn from the literature about technology in general, not specific to tracking—that affect creepiness (i.e., CREEPINESS FACTORS, Table 2).

In summary, we use our design probe to add clarity to the nuances of creepiness as it relates to OBA. We report the following key findings:

- Decades after the advent of OBA, users (still) find the tracking necessitated by OBA to be creepy. More than 80% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that at least one visualization in our extension was creepy.
- Agreement on which tracking practices are creepy, as visualized in TT2, is far from universal: “more sensitive” does not mean “more creepy,” and neither does data itself correlate with opinions on creepiness (e.g., later inferred bedtimes did not mean “more creepy”).
- More accurate visualizations are creepier, up to a point—contrary to prior work’s suggestion that users find *inaccurate* inferences to be especially creepy or problematic [21, 26, 115, 117].
- Contextual violations, personal privacy invasions, and the willingness to take action correlate with perceptions of creepiness [59, 66, 71, 124]

2 BACKGROUND AND RELATED WORK

Here we discuss prior work about online behavioral advertising, creepiness, and transparency enhancing technologies.

2.1 Online Behavioral Advertising

From the first third-party tracker in 1996 [29, 62, 65] to Target predicting the due dates of pregnant women a decade ago [13, 27, 93], being a consumer today means being watched at every turn [23]. The point of this surveillance is OBA: collecting data about consumers and using that data to personalize ads or content.

Today, OBA works through ad exchanges [80]. When a user visits a web page, each ad the user sees is determined by a proprietary, real-time bidding mechanism involving *publishers* (i.e., the website being visited), *ad exchanges* (i.e., the company eventually serving the ad), *bidders* (i.e., the advertising agencies), and *advertisers* (i.e., the company that wants to make a sale). Advertisers want to serve ads to interested users and bidders facilitate this with cookie matching to single users out. Once singled out, the user’s profile is checked for matching interests using demographic and psychographic attributes. The entire process happens in less than 100 milliseconds and is opaque to users.

Researchers have studied OBA for many years, often concluding that users are uncomfortable with online tracking. For example, researchers found that users generally reject OBA [114], find OBA invasive [67], and are “not okay” with OBA because of the tracking it requires [89]. On the other hand, researchers have also shown that users find OBA “smart” and “useful” when providing relevant content [26, 115] and prefer personalization over “vanilla” search results [82]. In short, OBA can be creepy, but in a nuanced way.

2.2 Creepiness

Researchers have made attempts at disambiguating creepiness, but not in the OBA setting and not with participant data. Factors of

creepiness—what makes something creepy—have generally fallen into the following buckets: context, personal privacy invasions, accuracy, and the willingness to take action.

In *Theory of Creepy*, Tene and Polonetsky looked at the disconnect between technical capability and social values, finding that a technology is considered creepy when it violates an existing norm [78, 85, 109, 111, 123]. This finding has been supported by later studies looking at practices like whispering to voice assistants [83], unpredictable features [124], ambiguity in expected behavior [59, 66, 71], and a lack of transparency.

Feelings of a personal privacy invasion, like the feeling of being watched [81, 100, 102], have also been linked to creepiness [115]. In the OBA context, the term, coined by Altman [6], is most similar to re-targeting, the practice of showing users ads for items they have previously looked at [10]. Learning potentially sensitive attributes [74] would also fit into this category.

Accuracy has also been shown to play an important, but mixed, role for creepiness. Researchers who have measured inference accuracy using real participant data have found, somewhat surprisingly, that more accuracy leads to more comfort [21]. For example, when showing participants their own Twitter ad inferences, Wei et al. found that participants who saw accurate inferences were more likely to be comfortable with these inferences, find them fair, and want to see more of them [117]. Dolin et al. found similar results with Google Ad Words data [26]. However, researchers in [112] found the opposite result, participants were less comfortable with algorithmic recommendations when the recommendations were more accurate.

Finally, willingness to take action is also an aspect of creepiness. Researchers have shown that, in some cases, there is an apparent disconnect (sometimes called the “privacy paradox”) between users perceiving a technology as invasive, but not taking privacy-protective actions [22, 55, 77, 107]. One line of work suggests that willingness to take a privacy-protective action, like sharing less data, is a poor proxy for privacy concern [11, 44, 106]. In the context of OBA, researchers have found that users may be uncomfortable with certain apps, but nonetheless continue using them [100]. Normalized discomfort, perceived helplessness, and lack of self-efficacy are common explanations [8, 20, 102]. In this work, willingness to act is most applicable in terms of finding a correlation between the strength of the feeling giving rise to that intention.

2.3 Transparency Enhancing Technologies

Transparency enhancing technologies help visualize the hidden ways data is used, increasing in popularity in recent years due to the proliferation of laws like the GDPR in the European Union [30] and the CCPA/CPRA in California [18]. Research focusing on participant reactions to transparency typically use either company-provided or researcher-created transparency tools. Results differ for each method.

Users’ reactions to company-provided resources are often positive. Participants convey feelings of control [7, 9] and knowledge [32, 98]. At the same time, company-provided tools may leave something to be desired. Data downloads or ad preference managers can be ambiguous, confusing, lack definitions or data important to users, and make it difficult to understand why certain inferences

were made [12, 45, 90, 91, 116, 116, 117]. On the other hand, studies using researcher-provided tools have found that participants are generally, but not universally, uncomfortable with tracking. Wills and Zeljkovic queried a user’s browser history and displayed trackers from actual websites visited [121]. A total of 63% of participants reported concern with tracking based on their own browsing history, but that number dropped to half when looking at tracker-inferred information. Likewise, a majority of Weinshel et al.’s participants agreed that tracking was creepy, but, somehow, were also *comfortable* with companies inferring their interests [118].

Our study helps explain and contextualize these nuanced results—creepiness is far from a universal concept, see Section 5.3—in part thanks to our novel approach of using both company-provided data from the Google Ads Settings dashboard and our own inferences based on user browsing. Our design enables a more contextualized perspective on tracking ecosystem.

3 TT2

As a design probe, we developed TT2, which substantially revises Weinshel et al.’s browser extension [118]. In this section, we discuss how we updated the extension’s interest inference engine, added new data sources to the extension, and developed ten new participant-defined “creepy” visualizations.

3.1 Improving Interest Inferences

Like Weinshel et al.’s extension, TT2 infers potential ad-interest categories from web pages visited by users to demonstrate potential impacts of tracking. As with Weinshel et al.’s extension, our classifier runs locally to maximize participant privacy—in order to avoid subjecting participants to share their browsing history with us or an external service’s API. As background, assigning an ad-interest category based on text found on a web page is a difficult problem, as suggested by research showing that behavioral profiling is largely inaccurate [12, 91]. Our goal was to create a useful design probe, which does not require perfect accuracy.

To enable our new visualizations, TT2 significantly improves the inference engine used by Weinshel et al. [118]. Weinshel et al.’s extension simulated how companies infer users’ interests by matching Wikipedia-classified keywords on Google AdWord topics with keywords found on web pages visited by participants. The implementation of their model also used post-processing to improve accuracy (~60% accurate) at the cost of inference granularity, truncating most web page classifications as one of only 26 top-level categories.

We designed a new model that improves both accuracy (80% on top-level categories and 71.4% overall) and, more importantly, diversity by assigning labels from nearly 1,000 Google Cloud Natural Language Content Classification categories. We started by collecting a large amount of inference-topic training data using the Google Cloud Natural Language Content Classification API [39] as an oracle for labeling websites’ topics. Labels from Google’s API included up to three levels of depth: 27 top-level categories, 245 second-level categories, and 620 third-level categories [38] (see Figure 1 ②) for an example. Given input text, the Google API returns a list of ad-interest categories and confidence scores. We used a supervised learning approach to train our own model, taking output

labels from the API as ground truth and training our own shadow model [103].

We created a corpus of webpages for training and testing. Using TRANCO’s [60] one million top domains, we selected the top 100,000 domains and a random sample of 2% of the remaining 900,000 for a total of 118,000 domains. We added ten random sub-pages per domain, filtering to exclude auxiliary pages like privacy policies or contact pages. We also removed any pages not written predominantly in English using the langdetect library [24]. We scraped web page text using Selenium in early 2021 and extracted web page text using Mozilla’s Readability tool [72]. We found from this initial dataset (see Figure 12 in Appendix E) that some ground-truth labels only had a few examples associated with them. We manually added targeted web pages for labels with fewer than 50 examples by keyword searching using the Google Search API [86]. We also limited our final corpus to labels with a $\geq 90\%$ confidence score from the Google API. With these modifications, the final corpus contained examples for 96% of all possible labels in Google’s content classification, excluding world localities.

We trained and compared several models using our corpus and the Google-API-provided labels (see Table 6 in Appendix D). A bag-of-words model with a single layer perceptron [95] was most effective in terms of accuracy and efficiency (200 predictions per second). We achieved a test accuracy of 71.4% (train-test split at 9:1). We considered this accuracy sufficient for measuring participant reactions to interest inferences. The model performed best for second-level or first-level categories (74.2% and 80.1%, respectively) and varied per-category. For additional analysis, see Appendix E.

3.2 New Data Sources: Google Inferences & Ads

TT2 bridges a gap in the literature (see Section 2.3) by integrating both its own estimates of inferences about users and data scraped from company-provided transparency dashboards, specifically, the Google Ads Settings dashboard [36]. The Google Ads Settings page² presents an unordered list of attributes (i.e., inferences) associated with that user. These attributes may be interests (e.g., “Arts→Entertainment→Movies”), demographics (e.g., “Home-owner”), companies (e.g., “Nordstrom”), videos (e.g., YouTube channels “9 videos from BetterHelp”), or locations (e.g., Latin America). We fetch Ads Settings data automatically if a user is already logged in to a Google account and has personalized ads turned on. If not, we provide instructions on how to log in to import this data. To measure changes over time, we re-fetch the Ads Settings page on every fifth web page visit. We picked this number based on observed updates to the Ads Settings page, which occurred more frequently during browsing.

We also captured ads served to users and corresponding “why did I get this ad” explanations [46]. Because most ads are encased in iframes, we analyze all iframes found on a web page. If the iframe includes an outgoing hyperlink matching a known ad server [1, 3, 4, 63] (e.g., ssp.yahoo.com) then TT2 stores the entire iframe, logs the outgoing links triggering the capture, and looks for an ad explanation hyperlink (e.g., adssettings.google.com/whythisad).

²Ads Settings [35, 36] has since been update to My Ad Center [37]. All data collection for this study occurred when Ads Settings was in place.

We then generate interest labels for ads by fetching outgoing hyperlinks to the ad's final destination (i.e., where the user would go if they clicked the ad). To avoid click fraud [50, 58, 120]—i.e., fetching a full link would charge advertisers as a “click” which would be based on the extension and not the user’s behavior—we do not fetch full hyperlinks directly, but instead use regular expressions (i.e., identify last-most URL in full hyperlink by parsing on “/http/g” and then parse out the domain to be visited) to infer final destinations (see Appendix A for a detailed example). We fetch these inferred links and then use our own inference classifier to categorize the resulting web page text. Using this method is more ethical than fetching ad links directly, but limits us to analyzing a little less than $\leq 50\%$ of the total ads a user is served.

3.3 Intentionally Provocative Visualizations

To explore user reactions to many facets of online tracking, we developed visualizations that were intentionally more provocative when compared to Weinshel et al.’s visualizations. We brainstormed potentially creepy visualizations by conducting a literature review on “creepy web tracking” and created 23 mock-up visualizations [48] from what we learned. We then conducted IRB-approved, exploratory interviews to investigate which prototypes drew the strongest reactions. Participants were recruited via Prolific and were required to be at least 18 years old, located in the United States, able to use video conferencing software, and have a 95%+ approval rating [87]. We continued recruiting until reaching theoretical saturation (i.e., no longer hearing substantially new comments [97]). In total, we conducted 13 interviews.

Each interviewee viewed a subset of the 23 prototypes. We used open-ended questions to elicit initial reactions (e.g., what are your general thoughts on this visualization) and asked follow-up questions on any provided feelings of comfort or discomfort. After viewing the prototypes, participants explained which visualizations they felt provoked the strongest reaction overall and which they were most surprised by. Throughout the interview, we refrained from using the word “creepy” to insulate against bias [40, 84], limit demand effects, and encourage honest answers [56, 57, 73]. We also told participants we had been hired by a third party to evaluate the prototypes and had not made them ourselves. Appendix B.1 contains the interview script.

Based on these interviews, we selected and implemented the ten most-impactful visualizations according to participants. As P-12 stated after being presented with a gallery of example ads served and what an advertiser might be targeted with those ads: “Incognito mode, my best friend.” We also considered how plausible each visualization would be to implement in an extension.

We next discuss the ten visualizations we developed. Figure 1 provides an example of each. The extension’s dashboard page opened with an explainer providing details on the tracking ecosystem. Scrolling down the page would reveal a table of contents with hyperlinked sections to individual visualizations. From any page in the extension, the user could have also clicked on the left-most red button (present on all pages in the extension) taking them to a “take action” page focusing on tracker-blocking technologies.

Google Ads Settings visualizations Three of the new visualizations portray Google Ads Settings data. To display this data, users

must be logged in to Google and have “personalized ads” turned on. These visualizations focus on demographics, interests, and total attribute counts over time. In the *Google Demographics* visualization ①, we show tiles related to a participant’s Google-inferred demographics like age, gender, income, and marital status. In *Google Interests* ②, all interests associated with the user since installing the extension are displayed in a tree structure (levels indicate finer-grained targeting). This visualization includes typical interests like “Hockey,” but also interests that are not as well analyzed in the research community, like videos (e.g., “A video from T.J.Maxx”), companies (e.g., USAA, Nordstrom), and locations (e.g., “Grand Rapids-West Michigan”). Lastly, in *Google Interests Dynamic* ③, we show how attributes are updated by Google as users browse the web (e.g., the count of attributes associated with the user increases or decreases over time).

Time-based visualizations Visualizations here focus on time. In *When You Are Engaged* ④, we display a heatmap of per-weekday, per-hour engagement, with engagement measured by time spent per web page (i.e., using `focus` events to assess time per page [69]). High periods of engagement are noted with darker colors. We also use a pie chart to display the most-common interests in terms of time spent per interest in *Time Spent per Interest* ⑤. Participants are able to click on an interest and view a bar chart of aggregate time per domain. In *Bedtimes* ⑥, we highlight when a user is *not* engaged, inferring when the user has gone to bed and what their late-night browsing habits are (tooltips reveal late-night interests). We consider “late-night” to be web page visits occurring in the 6 PM to 4 AM range. In *Search Habits* ⑦, we group similar Google searches together by time, focusing on periods of heavy engagement and inferring life events like job-seeking or marriage. *Search Habits* identifies life activities by matching Google search queries against a list of Mondovo keywords (e.g., the life-event “wedding” is associated with Google search keywords “wedding songs” and “wedding cakes”) [70].

Possibly sensitive interests visualization In this visualization ⑧, we attempt to highlight the “sensitive” websites participants visit. We define sensitivity based on data provided by authors of related work [26] categorizing ad interests by comfort level, as rated in a user study. The visualization provides a list of sensitive interests followed by a bubble chart mapping domains to sensitive categories. Tooltips on each domain highlight the different trackers on those domains, and clicking on a bubble reveals a domain-specific word cloud (i.e., a TF-IDF list of words found on web pages under this domain [5]). A word cloud on text from all sensitive pages is shown below the bubbles.

Ads visualizations The last two visualizations concern ads. The first, *Ads Served Overview* ⑨, provides an overview of ads served, including the total number of ads served, most-served and most-sensitive ad interest categories, and an estimated click cost (i.e., if the user were to click on all ads served, how much would these clicks cost an advertiser, assuming a low-end click cost of \$0.63 per click [17, 49, 101]). The second, *Ad Explanations* ⑩, replays captured ads paired with “why this ad” information—taken both from ad-provided sources and from matching ad interest information with our own browser-history inferences (e.g., you may



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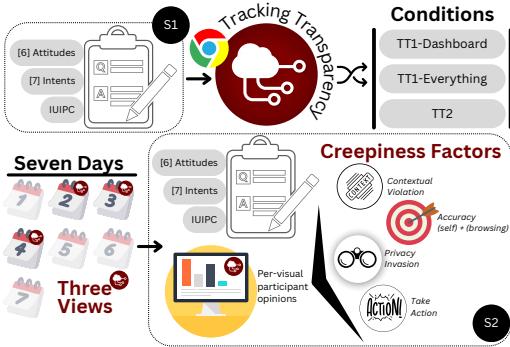


Figure 2: Participants began by answering questions in **S1**, downloading the extension, and were put into one of three separate conditions. After using the extension for seven days, with at least three days of extension dashboard views, participants were invited to **S2**, which included reactions to the participant’s own visualizations as outlined by the CREEPINESS FACTORS.

have seen this ad because Google thinks you are interested in “Home→Garden→Home Furnishings,” you’ve visited three other websites about “Home Furnishings,” and this ad is about “Home Furnishings”).

4 FIELD STUDY METHOD

We conducted a two-part, IRB-approved field study to investigate participant reactions to TT2. Participants were recruited through Prolific, were 18 years of age or older, located in the United States, proficient in English, and had a 95% or higher approval rating. We asked that participants use Google Chrome as their primary web browser, refrain from using “private mode” (the extension is disabled in private mode), and disable any ad blockers while enrolled in the study. These unenforced requests were designed to provide participants with a more realistic perspective of the tracking ecosystem they would be commenting on. Participants were instructed to view the extension’s dashboard page on three separate days over the duration of the study (seven days). The extension provided a “viewing count” in its pop-up to inform participants of their progress. This requirement was enforced by logging a new view if it had been at least five hours since the previously-counted view (we did not strictly enforce viewing “days” because we wanted to encourage participants to view the dashboard naturally, and felt the five-hour limit would strike a balance). Data was collected from July to September 2022.

4.1 Study Conditions

Participants were assigned to one of three conditions with different visualizations, all using the updated inference engine (Table 1). The main TT2 condition included our ten new visualizations and none of the older visualizations. For comparisons, we also included TT1-Everything, which mirrored the full-featured, original extension from Weinshel et al.’s original study [118], and TT1-Dashboard, a stripped-down version of TT1-Everything designed to display a

Table 1: Three conditions used in the study; each condition differs by which visualizations are visible to participants, although the underlying architecture of the extension (e.g., the inference engine) is the same across all conditions.

TT1-Dashboard (See Figure 9 in Appendix D)	A short explanation of “trackers” and “interests,” followed by snapshots of top five interests, trackers, recent sites, and aggregate statistics on the total trackers encountered, pages visited, and potential interests (dashboard-only version of “Longitudinal:Interests” [118]).
TT1-Everything (See Figure 10 in Appendix D)	All visualizations from TT1-Dashboard plus additional tabs to include visualizations from TT1: trackers, interests, activities, and sites (mirroring “Longitudinal:Interests” [118]).
TT2 (See Figure 1)	Revised explanation of “trackers” and “interests,” followed by ten new “creepy” visualizations.

minimal amount of aggregate data about tracking. These conditions were designed to enable further comparison among different visualization types with different levels of detail.

4.2 Pre-Usage Survey: S1

In the first survey, **S1**, participants answered general questions about their awareness of tracking and familiarity with transparency tools like Ads Settings. Participants were given an invite-only link to the extension on the Chrome Web Store and asked to install the extension. Once the installation was complete, participants could finish the survey. We opted to have participants download the extension prior to finishing the survey to allow those who did not wish to install the extension to exit early. The recruitment text warned participants about the requirement to download software. The full text of **S1** may be found in Appendix B.2.

Participants then answered six questions regarding their attitudes toward tracking and seven questions regarding their intent to use privacy-protective tools. These questions were reused from [118]. We included the eight-question IUIPC [41] and concluded **S1** with demographic questions and a reminder about the requirement to view the extension’s dashboard page on at least three days. To remind participants to check the dashboard and reduce dropout between **S1** and **S2**, we messaged participants through Prolific with occasional reminders. We reached out to any participant with zero reported dashboard views on every fourth working day (up to five times). Once participants qualified for **S2** (i.e., used extension for seven or more days and viewed the dashboard on at least three separate days), within 24 hours, we invited them to **S2** via a Prolific message. If the participant had met the install-day requirement but not the viewing requirement, we sent a reminder message each fourth working day, at most four times.

Participants were compensated \$3.00 for successfully completing **S1**, which was estimated to take 20 minutes (including extension installation, estimated to take five minutes). Participants were rejected from **S1** if they failed an attention check (i.e., indicated that they had never heard of Facebook or Gmail) and their self-reported time zone did not match system logs (time-zone information used for analysis, see Figure 8 (B)), which might occur due to VPN use.

4.3 Post-Usage Survey: S2

The second survey, only available after seven days of extension use and at least three days of dashboard views (full text in Appendix B.3)

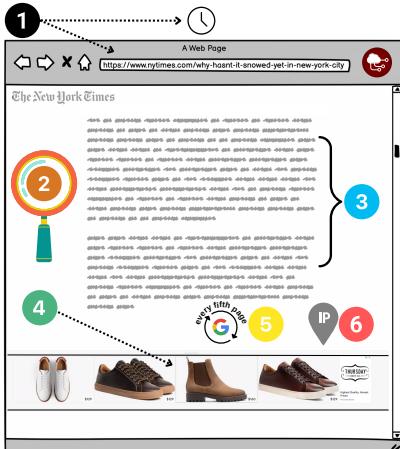


Figure 3: Example data extraction from a web page, used by TT2 for its visualizations (author-generated values here, tables stored in IndexedDB). Some data is shared (S) with researchers, either anonymized (A) or not (always encrypted in transit, see Section 4.5).

started by verifying the participant’s Prolific ID. The first section of **S2** included repeat questions about attitudes, intentions, and the IUIPC. Next, participants were asked to open the extension and answer questions (Likert, five point) about each visualization found in their extension (up to four visualizations each for TT1-Dashboard and TT1-Everything, and up to ten visualizations for TT2). Participants were asked six Likert questions per visual. These included one question about overall creepiness (*General Creepiness*) and five questions about literature-based factors indicative of creepiness (*CREEPINESS FACTORS*):

- (1) **Contextual Violation:** It is creepy that data brokers could sell this information [59, 83, 111, 115, 123]
- (2) **Accuracy, Me:** Visualization accurately reflects me as a person [21, 26, 117]
- (3) **Accuracy, Browsing**³: Visualization accurately reflects my web browsing (novel question)
- (4) **Personal Privacy Invasion:** Visualization increases my privacy concern [9, 53, 71, 123]
- (5) **Motivating to action:** Visualization makes me want to take privacy-protective actions [11, 44, 100]

Following these questions was a free-text question about why the visual was or was not creepy and a validation question about some aspect of the visual, to ensure that participants were looking at the right visual when answering the questions (e.g., “in the ‘Your Top Trackers’ visualization, what is the #2 tracker listed?”).

After commenting on each visual, participants were asked how much they would pay (free text) to prevent the types of tracking the extension visualized, as well as what actions they might be willing to take to lessen tracking (multiple choice selector, with options like “use a privacy-focused browser”). We then asked how participants felt creepiness was related to accuracy, personal privacy invasion, and willingness to take action, reminding them about how they

³In pilot testing, some participants reported that inferences were relevant to their browsing, in some cases as part of a different Prolific study, but not to their personal interests or situation.

Table	Key	Value (example)	S	A	755
① Pages	protocol	https	Yes	No	756
	hostname	www.nytimes.com	Yes	Yes	756
	domain	nytimes.com	Yes	Yes	757
	path	new-york-snow-rain-winter.html	Yes	Yes	757
	pageId (primary key, timestamp)	1674525348324 (page visit time)	Yes	No	758
	time spent on page	[type: start, value: 1661375368994, time on page: 0...]	Yes	No	758
② Trackers	title	“Why Hasn’t it Snowed Yet in New York City?”	Yes	Yes	759
	life activities (Google search)	“work from home” activity from search “work from home if snow NY”	Yes	No	759
③ Inferences	trackers	[Ensighten, Google, Quantcast ...]	Yes	No	760
	inference	Weather	Yes	No	761
	full inference path	News → Weather	Yes	No	762
④ Ads	word cloud (if sensitive)	Example website interest—weather—is not sensitive, no entry	Yes	No	763
	DOM	<head><meta charset=UTF-8><script>var jscVe...	No	—	764
	domain	“nytimes.com”	Yes	Yes	764
	all inferences	“Footwear”	Yes	No	765
	full inference path	Shopping → Apparel → Footwear	Yes	No	766
	explanation	[Your visit to the advertiser’s website or app ...]	Yes	No	766
⑤ Ads Settings	URL: provided ad explanation	https://adsettings.google.com/whythisad...	Yes	No	767
	URL: ad hyperlink	https://adclick.g.doubleclick.net...	Yes	No	767
	URL: inferred final destination	https://thursdayboots.com...	Yes	No	768
⑥ IP Address	inferences	[type: demographic, value: 18–24 years old...]	Yes	No	769
	pageId	1660429179601 (Ads Settings fetch time)	Yes	No	770
⑦ IP Address	current IP	{IP: 2601:....9535:d672, city: [redacted], state: [redacted] ...}	No	—	771
					772

answered these questions on their most-creepy visualization. Participants were asked a yes–no question on whether creepiness is related to each of these three concepts with a follow-up free text as to why. Finally, we prompted participants to uninstall the extension.

S2 was designed to take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Participants were compensated \$7.00 for successful completion. Participants were deemed unsuccessful for providing unreasonable free text responses. Participants who reported being unable to see one or more of the visualizations were asked to return the task via Prolific, but were compensated for their time.

4.4 Telemetry

During our field study, we collected pseudonymous telemetry data about users’ activity and their interaction with the extension, allowing us to analyze participant opinions with regard to their data (Figure 3). All users were mapped to a string concatenating their Prolific ID with their condition, allowing us to coordinate between **S1** and **S2** and ensure that participants had met the required three-visit threshold for **S2**. Unless otherwise noted, all telemetry data shared with researchers was hashed using SHA-256 plus a per-participant salt prior to transmission and encrypted in transit.

Telemetry data we collected concerned: (1) activity data describing interactions with the extension; and (2) tracking data describing the user’s profile. Activity data included information like extension page visits, clicks on various parts of the extension, and whether the participant had other tracking-focused extensions installed. Tracking data included both external data sources (e.g., Google Ads Settings data) and internal data sources (e.g., web page timing based on visibility events [69] and the interests we inferred). The only time titles and domains of web pages were shared with researchers without hashing (though still encrypted in transit) is when: (1) the user was logged in to Google Ads Settings; (2) Google Ads Settings information was updated; and (3) the user was visiting web pages within a five-minute window from the time when the extension

813 logged a change in Ads Settings data. This information shared in
 814 order to assess more fully the way Ads Settings works.
 815

816 4.5 Ethics and Consent

817 The two-part field study was approved by our institution’s IRB. Par-
 818 ticipants were informed of the data collected by the extension, both
 819 when consenting to the study and in the extension’s privacy policy
 820 (Appendix C). The extension was approved by the Chrome Web
 821 Store and is published as “unlisted.” Participants were informed they
 822 could opt out of the study at any time. The extension’s “settings”
 823 page includes an opt-out button, which notifies researchers and
 824 automatically uninstalls the extension, and the extension’s pop-up
 825 includes a tab for a one-click uninstall of the extension.
 826

827 4.6 Analysis Methods

828 We use a variety of statistical tests to analyze our data, focusing
 829 on: (a) differences between conditions, (b) changes between **S1** and
 830 **S2**, (c) per-visualization opinion differences, (d) underlying data
 831 differences, and (e) CREEPINESS FACTORS effects. For (a) differences
 832 between conditions, we compare each of the two control conditions
 833 against the new visualizations (i.e., not fully pairwise) on attitudes,
 834 intents, and IUIPC scores. We first use an omnibus Kruskal-Wallis
 835 (*K-W*) test, and, if significant ($\alpha \leq .05$), a two-tailed Mann-Whitney
 836 U (*MWU*) [68]. We do not correct results for MWU tests as these
 837 are limited to planned comparisons. For (b) survey-to-survey dif-
 838 ferences, we only analyze TT2 data, as TT2 is our main condition
 839 of interest. We analyze participants’ attitudes and intents toward
 840 tracking and IUIPC scores using a two-tailed MWU.
 841

842 To assess (c) per-visualization differences, we likewise analyze
 843 TT2 data only. We compare all visualizations, per CREEPINESS FA-
 844 CTORS, in pairwise fashion (e.g., *General Creepiness* versus “Accurate,
 845 Me”) using a two-tailed MWU. We correct *p*-values for multiple test-
 846 ing using Benjamini-Hochberg [14]. For (d) data differences, we look
 847 to see if participants with similar data answered Likert questions
 848 similarly (e.g., to see if later bedtimes correlate with higher *General*
 849 *Creepiness* scores). We use both Spearman’s ρ and the multivariate
 850 T-test, Hotelling [64, 99]. The Hotelling test looks for equality of
 851 mean vectors between two groups, which would help us determine,
 852 for example, if participants who agreed or strongly agreed that
 853 a visualization was creepy had a similar number of sensitive in-
 854 terests in their Ads Settings data as participants who did not find
 855 the visualization creepy. For this test, we bucket strongly disagree,
 856 disagree, and neither as zero and strongly agree and agree as one
 857 [75]). The null hypothesis for the Hotelling test is that the vectors
 858 of the groups are the same. We do not use correction for Spearman’s
 859 ρ or Hotelling; we anticipated these tests to show similarity.
 860

861 For (e) CREEPINESS FACTORS, we use an ordinal logistic regres-
 862 sion with *General Creepiness* as dependent variable (Likert scale,
 863 five points). As potential covariates, we included the five CREEPI-
 864 NESS FACTORS as well as age, education, and technology experience
 865 (Table 2). To avoid overfitting, we used model selection (minimum
 866 AIC [16]) while always retaining the CREEPINESS FACTORS.
 867

868 4.7 Limitations

869 Our extension collects significant information about users’ web
 870 activities. As such, our participants may be less privacy-conscious
 871

872 on average than the general population. We attempted to mitigate
 873 this by ensuring that data was stored locally, limiting collection
 874 of study data, hashing it for privacy, and carefully explaining to
 875 participants how their data would be used and protected. Relatedly,
 876 participants may have self-selected in part based on an interest in
 877 learning more about tracking. Because the extension targets people
 878 who wish to better understand how they are tracked, we considered
 879 these limitations acceptable.
 880

881 We recruited from Prolific, which provides high-quality and
 882 reasonably representative data [31, 110]. However, our sample has
 883 demographic limitations typical of crowdsourced studies, including
 884 that participants are younger, more educated, and more technically
 885 savvy than the U.S. population as a whole [25, 92, 96, 110, 113]. We
 886 limited recruitment to U.S. participants in order to study a culture
 887 for which we had context. We urge future work to apply a similar
 888 approach using similar tools in other cultural contexts.
 889

890 After recruiting the first batch of participants, we discovered
 891 that the extension demonstrated lag on computers using Apple-
 892 manufactured CPUs. We compensated the few participants who
 893 experienced this issue. Going forward, we excluded people with this
 894 hardware from the study, potentially biasing our sample. Similarly,
 895 the extension was only available for desktop users of the Chrome
 896 browser, which has the largest share of the browser market [108].
 897

898 It is hard to say how well our inferences match large companies’
 899 inferences, algorithms for which are closely guarded. Nonethe-
 900 less, we believe our inferences provide a reasonable example of
 901 inferences that trackers *could* make, meaning they are useful for
 902 teaching users about tracking using examples.
 903

904 Finally, our study shares common limitations with other online
 905 surveys. Answering somewhat repetitive questions about different
 906 visualizations can lead to fatigue [2]. To mitigate this, we limited
 907 survey length as well as the number of repetitive questions asked.
 908 Participants could also respond negatively to tracking and infer-
 909 encing if they perceived that as the researchers’ position (demand
 910 effects [73]) or if they felt social pressure to value privacy (social
 911 desirability [40, 76]). We attempted to mitigate this by using neutral
 912 language and open-ended questions.
 913

914 5 RESULTS

915 In this section, we report the results from our longitudinal field
 916 study. We start by describing our participants, their use of the exten-
 917 sion, and what we learned about web-tracking from our telemetry
 918 data. Next, we answer our research questions: which tracking prac-
 919 tices are creepy, and what makes something creepy.
 920

921 5.1 Participants

922 A total of 223 participants successfully completed both **S1** and **S2**
 923 between late August and mid-September 2022 (322 completed **S1**;
 924 458 returned the task or timed out). From these participants, we
 925 excluded 23 who visited fewer than 100 web pages (following [118])
 926 throughout the study, leaving a total of 200 participants. Due to
 927 drop-out from completing **S1** but not qualifying for or completing
 928 **S2**, the distribution of final participants per condition varied: 62 in
 929 TT1-Dashboard, 65 in TT1-Everything, and 73 in TT2. It took par-
 930 ticipants an average of 12 minutes to complete **S1** and an average
 931

Table 2: Variables used in regression models. Model selection was used to pick among independent variables, with CREEPINESS FACTORS f_{1-5} always retained. Likert scores were on a five-point scale, strongly agree to strongly disagree. Baseline is first value in value column.

Independent Variables	Theory	Description	Values
Creepy (sell) f_1	Contextual violation	Creepy for data brokers to sell	no yes
Accurate (me) f_2	Self-descriptive accuracy	Accurately reflects me	no yes
Accurate (browsing) f_3	Novel	Accurately reflects web browsing	no yes
Privacy Concerning f_4	Personal privacy invasion	Increases my privacy concern	no yes
Take Action f_5	Motivating to action	Want to take privacy-protective actions	no yes
Age	Demographic	How old are you	35+ 34-
Education	Demographic	Highest level of education achieved	+college -college
Technology Experience	Demographic	Educational background or job field in IT	no yes
Dependent Variables	General Creepiness	Creepy this information is associated with me	5-point Likert

(A)
'A' Visualization is Creepy (≥ 1)

(B) Intent
Use Private Browsing **Use DNT**

(C) Attitude
Comfortable with Inferencing

Figure 4: (A) The majority of participants agreeing or strongly agreeing that one or more visualizations are creepy—over 80% in TT2. (B) A significant difference, in TT2, between S1 and S2 on the intent to use privacy-protective tools like private browsing and DNT. (C) General discomfort with inferencing, significant between TT1-Dashboard and TT2 and between S1 and S2 for TT2.

Table 3: Participant demographics (rounded).

Age		Education	
18-24	17%	Trade school, Associate's, or less	29%
25-34	36%	Bachelor's or some college	58%
35-44	24%	Master's or more	12%
45-54	12%	Prefer not to say	< 1%
55-64	7%		
65+	4%		

Gender		Technology Experience	
Female	59%	No experience in tech. field	72%
Male	39%	Yes experience in tech. field	24%
Non-Binary	2%	Prefer not to say	4%

of 27 minutes to complete **S2**. Participant demographics are summarized in Table 3. As is common among crowdsourcing platforms, our participants are younger, more educated, and more tech-savvy than the general population [25, 92, 96, 110, 113].

Browser usage Participants estimated an average of 74% of their online activity occurred on the browser where our extension was installed. Nearly half (49%) of participants said they make an online (non-app) purchase weekly or more frequently, and 83% said they make this type of purchase monthly or more. Fewer than half (40%) of participants reported having an ad or tracker blocker *currently* installed (a larger portion installed a blocker at any point the past, 88%). These numbers are representative of the general population [88]. A dedicated tracker blocker (e.g., Disconnect, Firefox tracking protection, Ghostery, and Privacy Badger) was reported to be currently or previously installed by 8% and 10% of participants, respectively. Most participants (59%) reported not seeing the adChoices icon [61] while browsing the web (18% did, 23% did

not know), while nearly half (47%) reported looking at their Ads Settings dashboard page [36] at some point in the past (45% had never looked, 8% did not know).

Dashboard engagement Participants on average visited the extension’s dashboard page five times. A quarter of participants clicked on the extension’s “take action” button, which offered tips to improve online privacy (21% TT1-Dashboard, 40% TT1-Everything, and 14% TT2). Participants were most likely to open the extension for the first time less than ten minutes after completing **S1** (48%). No participant opened the extension’s dashboard page prior to finishing **S1**. Some participants opened the extension for the first time *hours* (22%) or *days* (30%) after finishing **S1**.

Web and tracker activity During the study, participants visited 231,550 web pages (13,129 unique domains), and encountered 492 unique trackers. Participants, on average, visited 1,159 pages (min 99, max 5,185) related to 66 domains and encountered three trackers per page. Trackers were present on 51.3% of web pages visited; if trackers were present, the average number of trackers per page was five. These measurements are similar to those found in [118]. Results from Google Ads Settings were separately analyzed by other researchers [119]; we do not discuss them further.

5.2 Is Tracking Creepy: Yes

In **S2**, the vast majority of participants identified at least one visual as creepy (Figure 4(A)), across all conditions, and most said they would pay (Figure 5) to stop the tracking the extension visualized. We found significant, but small, differences between conditions (Figure 4(C)), as well as before versus after using TT2 (Figure 4(B)). We found no significant difference in IUIPC scores.



Figure 5: What participants said they would pay per month to stop the tracking shown in the extension. Amounts were significantly lower in TT1-Dashboard than the other conditions (K-W, $p = 0.004$).

Most found something creepy Most participants (76%) found at least one visualization creepy or very creepy, and that number rose with the increasing amount of information presented in each condition: 69% in TT1-Dashboard, 71% in TT1-Everything, and 85% in TT2 (Figure 4(A)). Most participants also said they would pay to stop this tracking (70%). Participants on average reported a willingness to spend \$5.41 per month to stop the types of tracking our extension highlighted (Figure 5). Notably, the averages in TT1-Everything and TT2 were similar (\$6.11 and \$6.33 respectively), but participants in TT1-Dashboard were only willing to spend about half as much (average: \$3.60). This may be because almost half of the participants in TT1-Dashboard (42%) would not spend any money per month (compared to 22% in TT1-Everything and 27% in TT2). Differences between per-condition pay-to-stop means were significant (K-W, $p = .004$). Pay per month rates for TT1-Everything and TT2 are similar to what prior research has found [19, 105, 122].

TT2 changed participants' attitudes and intents More than 65% of participants in TT2, after using the extension for one week, were not comfortable with the idea of trackers inferring their interests (Figure 4(C)). This is a significant change compared to before using the extension (MWU $p = 0.024$, small effect size 0.2), when only 50% of participants were uncomfortable. Participants in TT2 also reported greater intent to use privacy protective tools after using the extension (Figure 4(B)). For intent to use DNT, described as “a browser setting to indicate to web pages you visit that you do not want to be tracked online,” participants agreeing or strongly agreeing increased from ~21% in **S1** to ~34% in **S2** (MWU $p = 0.021$, small effect size 0.2). We found similar results for the use of private browsing mode (26% to 39%, MWU $p = 0.034$, small effect size 0.2).

Participants in TT1-Dashboard were more comfortable with inferencing than participants in TT2 Comparing conditions, participants in TT1-Dashboard were statistically significantly more likely to be comfortable with trackers inferring their interests than participants in TT2 ($MWU\ p = 0.011$, small effect size 0.2). In fact, almost half of TT1-Dashboard participants found inferencing comfortable, compared to less than a quarter in TT2 (Figure 4(C)).

Small effect sizes Our effect sizes for statistical comparisons are small. We hypothesized that increasing the “creepiness” of TT2 (based on feature testing) would change the way participants felt about online tracking when compared to TT1. Although we did find that TT2 was creepy overall, we found smaller than expected differences compared to TT1. We hypothesize this occurred because all three conditions used the updated inference engine and

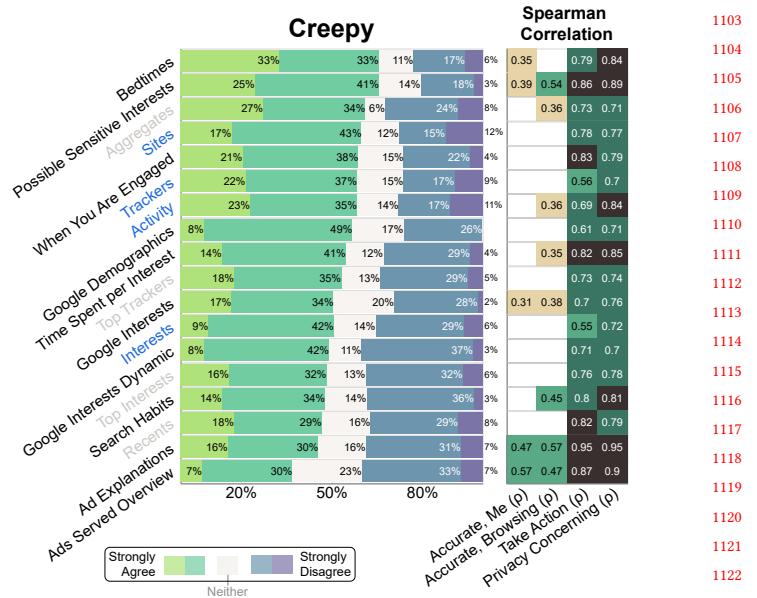


Figure 6: Likert responses to *General Creepiness*, colored as TT1-
Dashboard, TT1-**Everything**, and TT2. Spearman correlation (e.g.,
General Creepiness v. Accurate, Me) shown on the right, *p*-values
corrected with Benjamini-Hochberg [14].

enforced the same viewing requirements. A power analysis, using the point biserial model, strengthens this hypothesis, as all comparisons between conditions had $\geq 80\%$ power [42].

Comparisons We make several comparisons between TT1 and TT2. These comparisons are inexact. Several years, and intervening events (e.g., the increasing popularity of data protection regulations [47]) have elapsed since Weinshel et al.’s study took place. Additionally, our methods varied somewhat: we used Prolific, versus Amazon Mechanical Turk, and we required participants to view our extension at least three times during the survey. Condition differences also exist. All of our conditions use the updated inference engine, and our TT1-Dashboard condition is a stripped-down, aggregated version of TT1-Everything, not found in TT1. Because all of our conditions display at least some tracking information, it is perhaps easier for us to show that participants in all conditions found something creepy, but this means that differences among our different conditions may be smaller than in the original study.

5.3 What Makes Tracking Creepy: Subjectivity

We find that creepiness is far from universal. Although a vast majority of participants found *something* in the extension creepy (Section 5.2), no single visualization was deemed creepy by more than two thirds of participants. We further analyze this result by looking at whether sensitivity of the data underlying visualizations or other aspects of the data correlate with creepiness and how the CREEPINESS FACTORS affect opinions.

Most found something creepy, but not the same thing

We hypothesized that certain visualizations would be nearly universally perceived as creepy. This proved incorrect. Although the

Table 4: Does data predict creepiness? No. Spearman correlation is low (i.e., similarity between data and five-point Likert responses) and the null hypothesis for Hotelling is accepted (i.e., similar mean vectors between grouped Likert responses into two buckets).

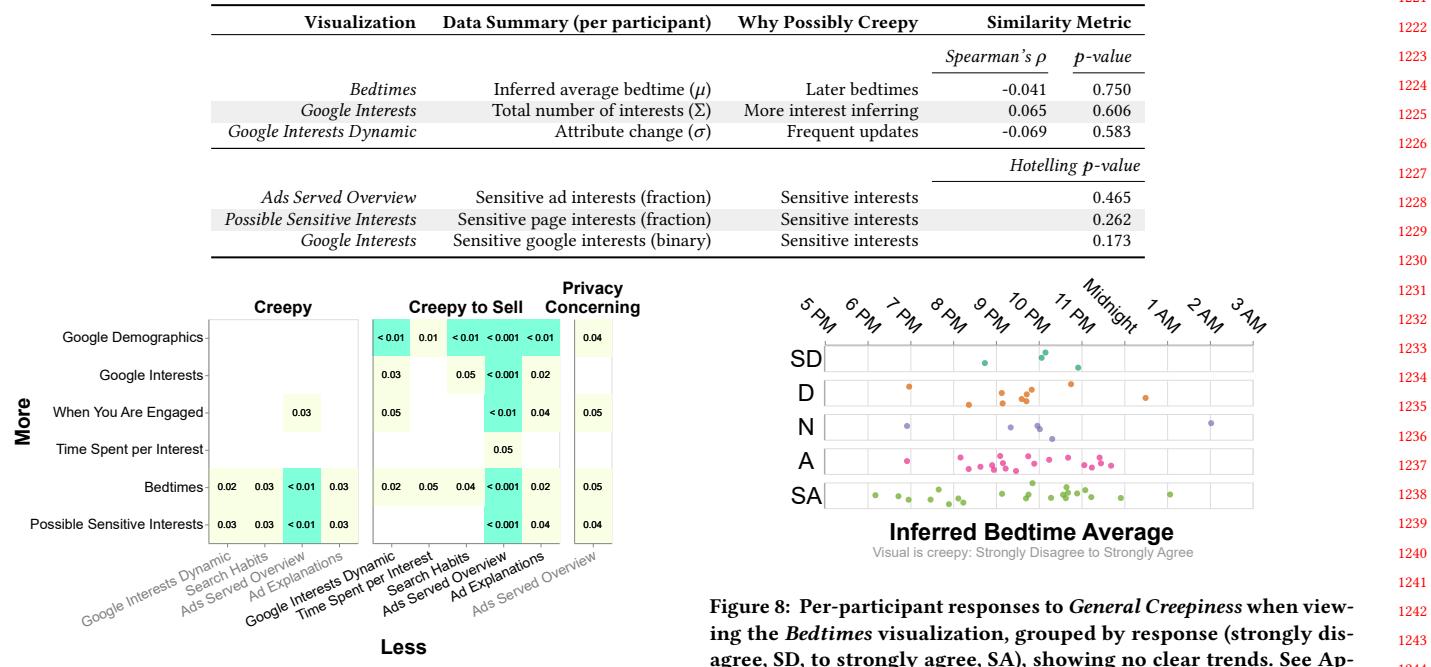


Figure 7: Some visualizations were perceived as creepier than others. This figure reports BH-corrected pairwise MWU tests. The *y* axis lists the creepier visualization (e.g., *Bedtimes*' creepiness ratings were significantly higher than *Google Interests Dynamic*'s).

vast majority of participants found at least one visualization in our extension creepy, opinions on which visualizations were creepy did not coalesce to more than two thirds of the participants (Figure 6).

The *Possible Sensitive Interests* visualization had the most participants agreeing or strongly agreeing it was creepy (66%), but still 21% of participants felt otherwise. Likewise, the visualization with the most participants strongly agreeing it was creepy, *Bedtimes* (33%), had 23% of participants disagree or strongly disagree on creepiness. The same was true when mentioning how data brokers might sell the information visualized. Although 82% of participants who viewed *Google Demographics* deemed it creepy to sell this information, 18% were either unsure or disagreed. Conversely, although *Ads Served Overview* and *Google Interests Dynamic* were viewed as the least creepy (the highest rate of strongly disagree plus disagree, 40% each), for each of these visualizations, at least 35% of participants agreed or strongly agreed they were creepy.

Next, we consider whether participants found some TT2 visualizations creepier than others (Figure 6). In Figure 7, we compare visualization Likert responses against each other (pairwise, grouped per question) using an MWU corrected for multiple testing using Benjamini-Hochberg [14]. We confirm that *Bedtimes* and *Possible Sensitive Interests* were statistically significantly creepier than many other visualizations. Further, adding context (informing participants that a data broker could sell this information), highlights creepiness

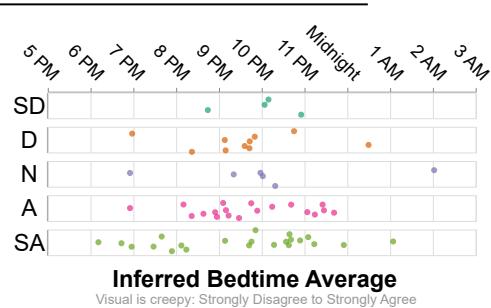


Figure 8: Per-participant responses to *General Creepiness* when viewing the *Bedtimes* visualization, grouped by response (strongly disagree, SD, to strongly agree, SA), showing no clear trends. See Appendix D, Figure 11, for another example.

differences among visualizations, with *Google Demographics* and *Bedtimes* being creepier than most other visualizations.

Similar visualizations, differing opinions To further assess why some participants found something creepy, but others did not, we looked to the data underlying visualizations (Table 4). Our hypothesis was that participants with specific types of data might feel more strongly about a visualization's creepiness. For example, participants with very late bedtimes might find the *Bedtimes* visualization creepier than those with earlier bedtimes (i.e., social norms on late bedtimes [43]). To our surprise, this was not the case: participants who viewed substantially similar visualizations felt very differently about their creepiness.

To test this hypothesis, we compare a summarized version of each participant's data (e.g., average bedtime, see Figure 8) with the participant's Likert response to the *General Creepiness* question. We use two similarity metrics, Spearman's ρ [99] (five-point Likert) and a multivariate T-test, Hotelling [64] (two buckets), depending on the type of data. We assessed six visualizations.

We find little correlation between Likert responses and underlying data. All visualizations analyzed using Spearman's ρ show near-zero correlation and high *p*-values, meaning there is insufficient evidence to show a linear relationship between data and creepiness. Likewise, all of the Hotelling tests returned high *p*-values as well, allowing us to accept the null hypothesis that the means are similar between groups [52]. In short, creepiness was not strongly related to the data itself: visualizations were not creepier because some participants had data which was sensitive or violated a social norm.

Table 5: Regression results showing how much more likely participants are to find something creepy if they agree with a CREEP FACTOR. Coefficients exponentiated to create Odds Ratios (OR); confidence intervals are [2.5%, 97.5%]; statistically significant p-values noted in bold. Pseudo- R^2 (Aldrich-Nelson) is 0.77.

	Odds Ratio	CI	p
<i>Privacy Factors</i>			
f1 Creepy to Sell	9.0	[6.3, 13.1]	<0.001
f4 Privacy Concerning	5.4	[3.7, 8.0]	<0.001
f5 Take Action	3.1	[2.2, 4.4]	<0.001
f3 Accurate, Browsing	1.0	[0.8, 1.3]	0.94
f2 Accurate, Me	0.8	[0.6, 1.0]	0.04
<i>Demographic Covariates</i>			
Age	1.3	[1.1, 1.7]	0.018
Tech. Experience	0.7	[0.5, 0.9]	<0.01

Creepiness is related to context, personal privacy invasion, and willingness to take action We consider how factors of general technology creepiness from the literature (Table 2) apply specifically in our OBA transparency setting. We use a regression to analyze how each of the CREEPINESS FACTORS (e.g., the visualization *accurately describes my browsing*) relate to *General Creepiness* (dependent variable).

Table 5 shows how participants were 5.4× and 9.0× more likely to perceive a visualization as creepy (*General Creepiness*) if they also found the visualization invasive of their personal privacy f1 or a violation of a social norm f1, respectively. This confirms prior work showing how these two factors are indicative of creepiness in the general technology setting (see Table 2). Likewise, participants who reported wanting to take privacy-protective action were three times more likely increase a step in reported *General Creepiness*. These results mirror responses to Likert-scale questions in S2 about how creepiness relates to the CREEPINESS FACTORS. Most participants agreed or strongly agreed that privacy concern and willingness to take action were related to creepiness (87%, and 80%, respectively).

Accuracy somewhat increases creepiness Notably, the regression (Table 5) showed some correlation between self-descriptive accuracy and *General Creepiness*, and no relationship between browsing accuracy and *General Creepiness*. To explore this in more detail, we calculated Spearman’s ρ between *General Creepiness* and the CREEPINESS FACTORS per visualization (Figure 6, p-values corrected with Benjamini-Hochberg [14]).

We find that accuracy can decrease comfort, contrary to prior work suggesting that accuracy increases comfort [21, 26, 117]. Self-descriptive accuracy was correlated with *General Creepiness* for visualizations like *Ads Served Overview* or *Ad Explanations*. And browsing accuracy was correlated with *General Creepiness* for visualizations like *Search Habits* and *Possible Sensitive Interests*. In contrast, willingness to take action and personal privacy invasion were significantly correlated for every visualization.

Accuracy decreasing comfort was also supported by participants’ survey answers. When asked directly, 61% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that accuracy was related to creepiness. We hypothesize that the 39–61 split occurs because some tracking practices may be creepy regardless of accuracy: “The fact that the

advertising companies are *attempting* to get data off me is creepy. The data collected doesn’t have to be accurate to be creepy” (P-28).

6 DISCUSSION

We built a design probe to explore creepiness in online tracking, and used it in a week-long field study ($n = 200$). Some participants saw visualizations we designed and feature-tested to be creepy, while others saw basic aggregate information not designed to maximize creepiness. Regardless of condition, the vast majority of participants found *something* in our extension creepy, providing insights on what creepiness means in the OBA context.

Social norms are in flux. Although many people viewed something in our extension as creepy (>80% in TT2), no single visualization was considered creepy by more than 66% of participants. This suggests that norms surrounding OBA are, even 27 years after its advent, still forming [111]. Everyone knows it is inappropriate to peek through your neighbors’ windows [111], but not everyone feels it is inappropriate to collect and target users for having an interest in a potentially sensitive topic. This lack of cohesion also likely means there is little social pressure on companies to change their tracking practices; 34% of our participants were comfortable or unsure with even the visualization most frequently seen as creepy.

Transparency matters. Participants using our updated extension identified a previously-unknown discomfort with companies inferring their interests, suggesting that transparency can improve understanding. However, the specifics of transparency designs matter. For example, we found that adding context strongly affected comfort (e.g., *Google Demographics* was deemed creepy by only 57% of participants, but “creepy to sell” by 82%). Likewise, our presentation of opinionated visualizations (e.g., using red colors to connote late bedtimes in Figure 1 6) seems to have affected attitudes more strongly than Weinshel et al.’s original study, which did not find significant differences in comfort pre- to post-extension use. These findings highlight a potential conflict between companies and users: If increases in meaningful transparency negatively affect attitudes toward tracking, it may discourage company-provided transparency, or encourage potentially misleading claims about “not sell[ing] your data” [34] that elide context.

Surprising findings on accuracy and sensitivity. We found evidence to suggest that more accurate targeting is creepier, although this contradicts prior work and seemed to depend on the specific visualization being presented. Our hypothesis is that our study was able to uncover this nuance because our extension provided information on real-time browsing data. Accuracy is difficult to measure given the dynamic nature of human interests [94, 104], and unless the measurement tool operates on a real-time basis, like ours did and others did not [26, 117], perceptions of accuracy are likely clouded by time. We also note that our results shed light on a growing concern among legal privacy scholars: protecting “sensitive” data is fraught with error, both in terms of being able to define sensitive, and, as we now show, because sensitive data does not always correlate with feelings of creepiness. We urge future works to look more closely both at accuracy and sensitivity as it relates to perceptions of OBA.

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A AD URL PARSING

Example full URL flagged by TT2 as originating from an ad server:

This URL has an inferred final destination of hbomax.com.

B QUESTIONNAIRES

B.1 Feature Testing Interview

Welcome. Thank you for participating in our study. The purpose of this study is to inform the design of an app to help users like you learn more about browsing the internet and online trackers. You are allowed to leave at any time.

Today’s study has two parts. First, I have a couple background questions about your experiences with online tracking, and I’ll also explain what the app is supposed to do. Second is the main part, where we’ll have you visit some web pages and then walk through a section of the app. At the end, we have a few short overall questions. As a reminder, as stated in the consent form, we will record your screen and what you say for later analysis. We will remove any identifying information before we analyze the recordings.

I will now start the recording, please make sure your video is off and you are sharing your screen.

- In your own words, could you explain to me what you know/think about online tracking?
- How do you feel about online tracking?

Today we are testing an app called “Tracking Transparency.” It was developed by researchers at [redacted]. The app is a browser extension that gives you an advertiser’s (i.e., trackers) perspective of your online habits---what they can learn **about you**, what might be **sensitive** and **unique**, and what this means in terms of what **ads** are shown to you.

We were hired by the researchers to get feedback on their Tracking Transparency app. There is not one particular design the researchers hope you’ll like better than the others; they’re most interested in your honest and blunt feedback. As you go through the app, I would like you to think-aloud for me as you answer.

Thinking aloud means saying, out loud, whatever comes into your head as you use the site and decide what to do next. As an example, if I thought aloud while trying to remember what I had for dinner earlier this week...

<Do example>

Now, I’d like you to give it a try: Think aloud while answering the question: How many windows are there in the home where you grew up?

Let’s get started. I’m going to have you click on the link which will start our demo.

<Give link>

Please click this link. This is the starting page. Today, we’re going to be working on [feature set {about you, unique you, sensitive you, ads}]. Please click on [feature set]. This software will guide you through a few websites with prompts and then we’ll show you the parts of the app we’re hoping to get your feedback on. Ok, now please follow the prompts, let me know at any time if you get stuck, and please remember to think aloud.

Per-Visual Questions

1. What do you think of this (*open ended*)
 - a. What do you think this visualization is showing you?
2. Did you learn anything from this?
 - a. [If yes] What?
 - b. Is anything here new or surprising to you?

- 1741 3. Is anything here confusing
1742 a. [If yes] What? And what would you change or add to
1743 make this less confusing?
1744 4. Is there anything you'd like to know that isn't covered here,
1745 or anything you want to see added to this visualization?
1746 5. How does this make you feel
1747 a. Does anything about this make you **happy**, or is some-
1748 thing you find enjoyable
1749 b. Does anything about this make you **sad/upset**, or is some-
1750 thing you do not find enjoyable
1751 i. Would you say this is creepy
1752 ii. [if sad/creepy] If this could be stopped without
1753 impacting your experience online, would you
1754 stop it?
1755 1. If it was a little harder, and possibly made
1756 things difficult to do online (like logging in
1757 more times) would you feel the same way
1758 6. Let's look at another visual here [loop back to 1]

1760 Overall Questions

- 1761 1. Do you have any thoughts about all of what you've just
1762 seen as a group (*open ended*)
1763 2. What was most surprising (or interesting) to you
1764 3. What do you think you had the strongest reaction to (most
1765 happy or most sad or most creeped out)
1766 4. Do you think you would want to use a tool like this with
1767 your real browser? Why or why not?
1768 a. What do you think you would use it for?
1769 5. After looking at a tool like this, do you think you would
1770 change anything about your web browser or your browsing
1771 habits? Why or Why not?
1772 a. If yes, what would you change?
1773 6. Did you learn anything about online tracking during this
1774 session today? If so, what did you learn?
1775 7. Have your feelings about online tracking changed at all
1776 after this session? Why or why not?
1777 a. If yes, how have they changed?

1778 Thank you for your participation. Is there anything else you would
1779 like to share about your experience today? We are very grateful
1780 for all your comments today, and will be passing them on to the
1781 researchers' for their final design. You will be paid through the
1782 survey provider and if you have any questions about this research,
1783 you may contact our Principal Investigator or the IRB at the contact
1784 info on the consent form. Thank you again!

1785 B.2 Field Study, Part I

1786 <validate desktop device>
1787 <note about Apple CPUs>

1788 Please note, this study requires a desktop computing device using
1789 Google Chrome and will require you to download an extension
1790 from the Chrome Web Store. Additionally, the extension you will
1791 download is largely incompatible with newer Apple computers
1792 relying on Apple Silicone processing chips. If you have an Apple

1793 computer (apple icon in the top left-hand corner of your computer
1794 screen > "About This Mac" > "Chip" > "Apple [M1, M2, or variant]"')
1795 with an M1 or M2 chip, then please return this survey. Please return
1796 this task if you are unable to do so.

- 1797 • I do not have an Apple computer with an M1 or M2 chip
- 1798 • I am willing to download a Google Chrome extension from
1799 the Chrome Web Store

1800 Thank you for participating in Part I of our two-part study! In this
1801 first part, you will:

- 1802 • Install a Chrome browser extension
- 1803 • Answer preliminary questions about your attitudes and
1804 opinions on the Internet ecosystem
- 1805 • In closing, answer a few demographic-type questions

1806 The survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete,
1807 including time to download the extension.

1808 Consenting Instrument

1809 Which of the following browsers do you regularly use? Select all
1810 that apply.

- 1811 • Chrome
- 1812 • Firefox
- 1813 • Safari
- 1814 • Opera
- 1815 • Internet Explorer/Edge
- 1816 • Epic
- 1817 • Brave
- 1818 • Firefox Focus
- 1819 • Tor
- 1820 • Other <free-text>

1821 What percentage of your online browsing is on the **device and
1822 browser** you are using right now, compared to other devices or
1823 other browsers?

1824 <slider 0-100> <less on this device to more on this device>

1825 How often do you make purchases online using a web browser (as
1826 opposed to through an app)?

- 1827 • Never
- 1828 • Rarely
- 1829 • Monthly
- 1830 • Weekly
- 1831 • Daily
- 1832 • Multiple times a day
- 1833 • Don't know

1834 Have you ever heard of or used the following software, browser
1835 extensions, websites, or tools? {don't use it and have never heard
1836 of it, don't use it, but have heard of it, previously used it, currently
1837 use it}

- 1838 • AdBlock Plus
- 1839 • AdBlock
- 1840 • Disconnect
- 1841 • Facebook
- 1842 • Firefox Tracking Protection
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- 1844
- 1845
- 1846
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- 1856

- 1857 • Ghostery
 1858 • Gmail
 1859 • HTTPS Everywhere
 1860 • Privacy Badger
 1861 • uBlock Origin
- 1862 Have you seen this icon <adChoices> while browsing online?
 1863 • Yes
 1864 • No
 1865 • Don't know
- 1867 Have you ever looked at your Google ad settings (partial example
 1868 shown below)?
 1869 • Yes
 1870 • No
 1871 • Don't know
- 1873 Please download the Tracking Transparency Chrome Extension be-
 1874 fore continuing. Downloading and installing this browser extension
 1875 is required in order to successfully complete this survey.
 1876 • Download the Chrome extension [here](#)
 1877 • Add the extension to Chrome
 1878 • Wait for the automated pop-up page!
 1879 • Pin the extension (see automated pop-up page for how to
 1880 do this)
- 1882 <message passing, verify install, set condition>
- 1884 Thank you for installing the Tracking Transparency extension!
- 1886 If you do not see the next button:
 1887 • Make sure you've installed the Tracking Transparency ex-
 tension ([here](#))
 1888 • Make sure you've seen the automated pop-up page!
 1889 • If you still do not see the next button, it means there was
 1890 an error installing the extension, please return the task or
 1891 contact us at: [email redacted].
- 1894 During the rest of this survey, we use the term “online advertising
 1895 companies” to refer to companies that show you advertisements
 1896 online. Note that the companies selecting and displaying advertise-
 1897 ments are distinct from the companies whose products are being
 1898 advertised.
- 1900 Please select the answer choices that best describes your agreement
 1901 or disagreement with the statements shown below.
- Attitudes Block
- I would like to see ads that are relevant to my interests, as opposed
 1906 to generic ads.
 1907 • Strongly agree
 1908 • Agree
 1909 • Somewhat agree
 1910 • Neither agree nor disagree
 1911 • Somewhat disagree
 1912 • Disagree
- 1915 • Strongly disagree
- 1916 I would be comfortable with "online advertising companies" guess-
 1917 ing my interests based on which websites I visit.
 1918 <same selectors as previous question>
- 1919 If it were available, I would like to use a system that shows me what
 1920 information has been collected about me online.
 1921 <same selectors as previous question>
- 1922 I feel that "online advertising companies" adequately explain why I
 1923 received a particular ad.
 1924 <same selectors as previous question>
- 1925 I feel that I understand how "online advertising companies" deter-
 1926 mine which advertisements I see.
 1927 <same selectors as previous question>
- 1928 I would consider it **fair** for advertising companies to track which
 1929 websites I visit in order to show me ads that are relevant to my
 1930 interests.
 1931 <same selectors as previous question>
- 1932 I would consider it **creepy** for advertising companies to track which
 1933 websites I visit in order to show me ads that are relevant to my
 1934 interests.
 1935 <same selectors as previous question>
- 1936 I would consider it **creepy** for advertising companies to track which
 1937 websites I visit in order to show me ads that are relevant to my
 1938 interests.
 1939 <same selectors as previous question>
- 1940 How likely are you to seek out more information about online
 1941 advertising?
 1942 <Intents Block>
 1943
- 1944 • Extremely likely
 1945 • Likely
 1946 • Neutral
 1947 • Unlikely
 1948 • Extremely unlikely
 1949 • Don't know
- 1950 How likely are you to use a browser's private browsing mode?
 1951 <same selectors as previous question>
- 1952 How likely are you to use browser extensions that block ads and/or
 1953 online tracking?
 1954 <same selectors as previous question>
- 1955 The Do Not Track (DNT) setting is a browser setting to indicate
 1956 to web pages you visit that you do not want to be tracked online.
 1957 How likely are you to use the DNT setting?
 1958 <same selectors as previous question>
- 1959 How likely are you to click on ads?
 1960 <same selectors as previous question>
- 1961 Imagine that online advertising companies provided a page to show
 1962 you what topics they guessed you are interested in. How likely are
 1963 you to spend time looking at such a page?
 1964 <same selectors as previous question>
- 1965

IUIPC

{strongly agree, agree, somewhat agree, neutral, somewhat disagree, disagree, strongly disagree}

- Consumer online privacy is really a matter of consumers' right to exercise control and autonomy over decisions about how their information is collected, used, and shared.
- Consumer control of personal information lies at the heart of consumer privacy.
- I believe that online privacy is invaded when control is lost or unwillingly reduced as a result of a marketing transaction.
- Companies seeking information online should disclose the way the data are collected, processed, and used.
- A good consumer online privacy policy should have a clear and conspicuous disclosure.
- It usually bothers me when online companies ask me for personal information.
- When online companies ask me for personal information, I sometimes think twice before providing it.
- I'm concerned that online companies are collecting too much personal information about me.

Demographics

With what gender do you identify?

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Other
- Prefer not to say

What is your age?

- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65 or older
- Prefer not to say

What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school
- Some college
- Trade, technical, or vocational training
- Associate's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Professional degree
- Doctorate
- Prefer not to say

Which of the following best describes your educational background or job field?

- I have an education in, or work in, the field of computer science, engineering, or IT.
- I do not have an education in, or work in, the field of computer science, engineering, or IT.
- Prefer not to say

What is the time where you currently live right now?

<free-text>

(Optional) Do you have any final thoughts or questions about today's survey?

<free-text>

Thank you for completing Part 1 of our survey! In order to be eligible to complete Part 2 of this study, you MUST:

- Keep our extension downloaded in your browser until you are contacted (via Prolific) to complete the second survey (in approximately one week)
- View the extension's dashboard page **at least three times** during the week by opening the Tracking Transparency dashboard (**the video below shows how**)
- If you uninstall and re-install the extension, your data will no longer be valid and payment for Part 2 will not be processed
- Please try to refrain from using private browsing mode while using the Tracking Transparency extension throughout the week

In addition to payment for completing Part 1 (this survey, \$3.00), you will be compensated \$7.00 for successful completion of Part 2. When you hit next, you will be redirected to Prolific. Remember, you must "Open the Tracking Transparency Dashboard" page **a total of three times** over the next week to become eligible for the second survey!

B.3 Field Study, Part II

<validate extension install, applicable visualizations, participant_ID>

Thank you for participating in Part II—**the final part**—of our study! This survey is about Tracking Transparency, the extension you installed about a week ago. The survey will take approximately 30 minutes to complete and, roughly, consists of two sections:

- Your attitudes and opinions on the Internet ecosystem
- Opinions on your data—as visualized by the Tracking Transparency extension you installed about a week ago

Part of this survey requires you to answer questions while looking at the extension's dashboard; you must take this survey using Google Chrome, on the browser where you installed the Tracking Transparency extension.

Attitudes Block Repeat

2089

Intents Block Repeat

2090

IUIPC Block Repeat

2091

<for each visual in each condition (loop)>

2092

You have this visualization in your extension. This is an example (above) of what the visualization looks like. Answer the following questions using your own extension. agree strongly, agree, neither agree or disagree, disagree, disagree strongly, don't see visual]

2093

- I find it creepy that this information is associated with me.
- I find it creepy that data brokers could sell this information to anyone who wants to pay for it.
- The information presented about me in this visualization accurately reflects me as a person.
- This visualization increases my concern about my privacy.
- I want to take privacy protective actions based on this visualization.
- The information presented about me in this visualization accurately reflects my web browsing.

2094

Please explain why you find this information creepy or not creepy.
<free text>

2095

<per-visualization validation checks>

2096

<for participants in TT1-Dashboard >

2097

- (1) In your own extension, in the "Your Top Trackers" visualization, what is the #2 tracker listed? <free-text>
- (2) In your own extension, in the "Your Top Interests" visualization, what is the #1 interest listed? <free-text>
- (3) In your extension, in the "Recent Interests" and "Recent Sites" visualization, what is the first interest listed? <free-text>
- (4) In your extension, of the "Trackers encountered, Pages visited, and Potential interests," which of these numbers did you find most surprising? <free-text>

2098

<for participants in TT1-Everything >

2099

- (1) In your own extension, after clicking on one of the sections in the chart (marked with a star above), what "interest" is shown in the center of the circle? <free-text>
- (2) In your own extension, in the "Who is tracking you" visualization, which "tracker" is found on the highest percent of pages from your browsing history? If there are none, say "none." <free-text>
- (3) In your extension, in the "Where were you tracked" visualization, what is the name of one of the sites listed (shown with a star in the image above) in the "Sites without trackers" list? If there are none, say "none." <free-text>
- (4) In your extension, when hovering over one of the dots in the "When were you tracked" visualization (noted with a star in the example image shown above), how many pages were visited at this time? <free-text>

2100

<for participants in TT2 (dependent on per-participant data)>

- (1) In your own extension, which piece of information presented in the "Your demographics" visualization was most surprising to you (e.g., Age, Household Income, Marital Status, etc.)? <free-text>
- (2) In your extension, in the "Your inferred interests" visualization, of the "Most specific interests" listed (top-left box), what interest is listed first? <free-text>
- (3) In your extension, in the "Your interests over time" visualization, what is the highest number of interests ever recorded (e.g., 68 interests is the all time high for the example image shown above)? <free-text>
- (4) In your extension, in the "When you're engaged" visualization, what was your "Top-Time Interest" (noted in "Slice Notes" in the bottom right-hand corner of the example image shown above)? <free-text>
- (5) In your extension, in the "How you spend your time" visualization, which of the listed interests did you find most surprising? <free-text>
- (6) In your extension, in the "When you go to sleep" visualization, hover your cursor over one of the dots; what "Late night interest" is shown? <free-text>
- (7) In your extension, in the "Search habits" visualization, what is one of the grouped search terms shown (e.g., "Gift" as shown in the example image above). <free-text>
- (8) In your extension, in the "Possible sensitive interests" visualization, list one of the categories of sensitive websites (e.g., from the example image above: politics). <free-text>
- (9) In your extension, in the "Ads you've been served (overview)" visualization, how many ads have you been served? <free-text>
- (10) In your extension, in the "Ad explanations" visualization, what is one of the ad categories shown (e.g., "Business Services" and "Living Room Furniture" are shown as ad categories in the example image provided above)? <free-text>

How much would you be willing to pay—**per month**—to stop this kind of information (all of what you've seen today) from being associated with you? Please enter a number. <free-text> <validated number>

I am willing to take the following actions to stop this information from being associated about me:

- Stop using email (e.g., Gmail, Outlook, Yahoo)
- Install a privacy-focused browser extension which will likely slow down my Internet connection
- Use a privacy-focused browser which may slow down my Internet connection
- Stop using Google as my search engine
- Only use encrypted text messaging services (e.g., iMessage, Signal, Telegram)
- Only browse the Internet from multiple-user devices (e.g., public libraries or shared cell phones)

<show most-creepy visualization (Likert) plus accuracy response (Likert)> Do you think creepiness and accuracy are related? <yes

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2205 or no> How are creepiness and accuracy related <alternative> why
 2206 are creepiness and accuracy not related? <free-text>

2207 <show most-creepy visualization (Likert) plus privacy concern re-
 2208 sponse (Likert)> Do you think creepiness and privacy concern are
 2209 related? <yes or no> How are creepiness and privacy concern re-
 2210 lated <alternative> why are creepiness and privacy concern not
 2211 related? <free-text>

2212 <show most-creepy visualization (Likert) plus willingness to act
 2213 response (Likert)> Do you think creepiness and willingness to
 2214 take privacy protective actions are related? <yes or no> How are
 2215 creepiness and willingness to take privacy protective actions related
 2216 <alternative> why are creepiness and willingness to take privacy
 2217 protective actions not related? <free-text>

2218 (Optional) Do you have any final thoughts or questions about to-
 2219 day's survey?
 2220 <free-text>

2221 Thank you for participating in our study about opinions on the
 2222 online tracking ecosystem. The purpose of this study is to: (1) show
 2223 participants, visually, how tracking is occurring online; and (2)
 2224 collect opinions on this tracking by asking questions about the
 2225 visualizations. Thank you for your participation!

2226 **To uninstall your extension, please click the uninstall button
 2227 in the popup** (instructional video below).

2228 By clicking next, you will be redirected to Prolific to process your
 2229 payment.

C TRACKING TRANSPARENCY PRIVACY POLICY

2230 The goal of this project is to measure and study how users inter-
 2231 act with personalized information regarding online tracking. If
 2232 any data collected pursuant to this project is sensitive, it will be
 2233 anonymized. This means that any data collected will not be Person-
 2234 ally Identifiable Information (PII). We are committed to protecting
 2235 the privacy of all users of our extension. We have established this
 2236 privacy policy to help explain what information we collect through
 2237 the extension and how this information will be used. In this policy,
 2238 “the researchers,” “our,” “we,” or similar terms refer to any and all
 2239 researchers or assistants otherwise involved in this project. This
 2240 project involves personnel from –redacted–.

1. Information Gathered

2241 As you browse the web, the extension will gather information. This
 2242 information will be presented to you in order to provide a “tracker’s
 2243 perspective” of you and your browsing habits.

2244 Information gathered by the extension may include:

1.1 Overview

- 2245 • Data about the web pages you visit, including:
 - 2246 – The page’s title and URL

- 2247 – Date and time information about pages visited
- 2248 – The trackers present on the page
- 2249 – A guess about what the page is about (inferred topic)
- 2250 – Google adsSettings information over time AdsSettings
- 2251 – Modified (i.e., readable, or stop-words removed) web-
 2252 page content if that page falls into a particular inferred
 2253 topic
- 2254 – Information about advertisements served, included
 2255 what the ad is about (i.e., the inferred topic) and where
 2256 the ad links to (i.e., the final destination click-through)
- 2257 • Analytics regarding interaction with the extension
- 2258 • Whether you have other ad or tracker blocker extensions
 2259 installed

1.2 Sharing Data with Researchers

2260 The extension may also share anonymous data with researchers—
 2261 not PII—which includes the following: configuration of computers,
 2262 operating systems, browsers, browsers’ plugins, browsing patterns,
 2263 adblockers and other privacy software. Although it is theoretically
 2264 possible for this data to form a ‘fingerprint’ that could be used to
 2265 track individuals, the researchers will not use the data provided for
 2266 that purpose.

2267 For clarity, here is an example of what anonymous data may
 2268 look like. Please note, this example shows a particular case which
 2269 only occurs when: (1) you are logged in to Google adsSettings; (2)
 2270 Google adsSettings information is updated; and (3) you were visiting
 2271 webpages within a three-minute window from when adsSettings
 2272 was updated. If all of these conditions are met, then the extension
 2273 would send the following information:

-
- 2274 • date: 1656702538754
 - 2275 • account: '8d9f19fe73ba0...d172c8'
 - 2276 • inferences:
 - 2277 – {type: ‘demographic’, value: ‘35-44 years old’}
 - 2278 – {type: ‘demographic’, value: ‘Male’}
 - 2279 – {type: ‘interest - company’, value: ‘USAA’}
 - 2280 – ...
 - 2281 • difference from previous adsSettings data:
 - 2282 – {type: ‘interest’, value: ‘/Beauty & Fitness/Fitness’}
 - 2283 – {type: ‘interest’, value: ‘/Home & Garden/Home Appliances’}
 - 2284 – {type: ‘interest’, value: ‘/Home & Garden/Kitchen & Dining’}
 - 2285 – ...
 - 2286 • pages visited
 - 2287 – “21 Best Yoga Pants For Women, According To Reviews
 In 2022 [Fitness, womenshealthmag.com]”
 - 2288 – “Colorblock Studio Legging | Light Oregano – Vuori
 Clothing [Fashion & Style, googleadservices.com]”
 - 2289 – ...
-

2290 Notably, this entry occurred on Friday, July 1, 2022 at around 3PM.
 2291 Account information (i.e., ‘account’) is anonymzed, but the
 2292 inferences are not. The inferences, however, are guesses, made my
 2293 Google, taken from the Google adsSettings page (<https://adssetting>

2321 s.google.com/authenticated). Again, this level of detail only occurs
 2322 if Google adsSettings is updated while you are browsing the web.
 2323

2324 PII will exist *only* on your local copy of the extension (i.e., on the
 2325 local device). If any of the data listed above is considered PII, then
 2326 it will be anonymized prior to collection by us.
 2327

2. Purposes in Data Collection

2328 Web history data: In order to help you visualize your web browsing,
 2329 the extension keeps a local database with the pages that you visit
 2330 while the extension is installed and enabled. While page titles and
 2331 URLs are stored on the local copy of the extension (i.e., your com-
 2332 puter), this information is never sent to the researchers. Instead,
 2333 anonymized metrics will be sent in order to identify aggregate
 2334 trends in web browsing and tracker activity or inferred topics.
 2335

2336 Tracker data: This extension gathers information about the track-
 2337 ers that you may have interacted with online. This information is
 2338 stored locally, and is also used to help you visualize what happens
 2339 when you browse online. Anonymized information about the track-
 2340 ers will be sent to the researchers to gain insights about online
 2341 tracking, without connection to you specifically.
 2342

2343 Inferred topics: When you browse web pages, our extension will
 2344 make inferences about the topics of visited web pages and store this
 2345 information locally, in order to improve the visualizations shown
 2346 in the extension. Anonymized metrics about the inferred topics
 2347 will be sent to the researchers to determine trends in web brows-
 2348 ing and potential inferences, without connection to you specifically.
 2349

2350 Google adsSettings data: As you browse the web, our extension
 2351 will periodically check the Google AdsSettings webpage for new
 2352 information. We collect this information to improve the visualiza-
 2353 tions you see in the extension, information which is stored locally.
 2354 Anonymized information about this data (e.g., number of interests
 2355 or number of demographics) may be shared with the researchers,
 2356 but will not include PII.
 2357

2358 Advertising data: The extension captures information about adver-
 2359 tisements you've been served while browsing the web. This includes
 2360 the inferred interest of the advertisement, which is gathered by
 2361 fetching the URL of the advertisement (i.e., the final destination
 2362 of the click-through link) and guessing the topic of the resulting
 2363 webpage. This information is collected in order to improve visual-
 2364 izations found in the extension. Anonymized information about this
 2365 data (e.g., number of ads or inferred ad topics or provided ad expla-
 2366 nations) may be shared with the researchers, but will not include PII.
 2367

2368 Usage data: We collect usage data for the dashboard visualization
 2369 page in our extension. This includes data about which components
 2370 were clicked, but not any identifying data about your web browsing
 2371 habits. We collect this information in order to determine which
 2372 parts of the dashboard are more frequently used. Usage data will
 2373 not be connected to you specifically.
 2374

2375 Other installed extensions: We access a list of your installed exten-
 2376 sions in order to determine if you have another ad or tracker
 2377 blocker installed. We do not record the specific names of any exten-
 2378 sions you have installed, only whether there is such an extension
 2379 currently enabled. This is so that we can determine whether such
 2380 extensions change the behavior of the extension.
 2381

3. Updating or Removing Your Information

2382 To protect your privacy, we use various techniques to anonymize
 2383 the data, and have agreed in this policy to refrain from any attempts
 2384 at re-identification of the data. Because of our use of anonymization,
 2385 we will be unable to know which entry in our data set is yours.
 2386 Additionally, we have no way to allow you to access, update, or
 2387 remove any specific data. If you have any questions about this,
 2388 please contact us at the links below.
 2389

4. Sharing of Your Data

2390 As part of this project, we may share datasets derived from this
 2391 project with research partners. Before sharing, we will evaluate
 2392 whether further sanitization or aggregation of data is necessary to
 2393 reduce the likelihood that inferences about identifiable individu-
 2394 als' activities might be made from the published dataset. Because
 2395 anonymization is a complex problem, we cannot promise that our
 2396 techniques will be perfect. If we find that a dataset may contain
 2397 information that is sensitive or vulnerable to re-identification, we
 2398 will not publish it, and if we share such data with research part-
 2399 ners, we will place them under a contractual obligation to keep the
 2400 dataset confidential and to refrain from attempts to re-identify.
 2401

2402 Furthermore, we may publicly release and publish anonymized
 2403 information from datasets to further general scientific knowledge.
 2404 The datasets we may share or publish will not intentionally contain
 2405 PII. As part of the surveys for this project, you will be asked whether
 2406 you are willing to allow anonymized data from your responses to
 2407 be publicly released for scientific purposes. This decision will not
 2408 affect your participation or compensation in any way.
 2409

5. Data Storage and Retention

2410 We will retain the dataset for as long as the data remains useful for
 2411 research topics related to online tracking, privacy, and personalized
 2412 web visualizations.
 2413

6. Security

2414 We employ industry standard security measures to protect the loss,
 2415 misuse, and alteration of the information under our control, includ-
 2416 ing appropriate technical and organizational measures to ensure a
 2417 level of security appropriate to the risk, such as the pseudonymiza-
 2418 tion, the encryption of personal data, data backup systems, and
 2419 engaging security professionals to evaluate our systems effective-
 2420 ness. Although we make good faith efforts to store information
 2421 collected by us in a secure operating environment, we cannot guar-
 2422 antee complete security.
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2437 7. Contact

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If you have any questions about our privacy and data protection
2439 practices, you can reach our Principal Investigators at:
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2444 8. Changes Made

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This privacy policy may change periodically. However, any revised
2446 privacy policy will be consistent with the purposes of this research
2447 project. If we make any substantive changes to our policies, we will
2448 post notice of changes on this page.
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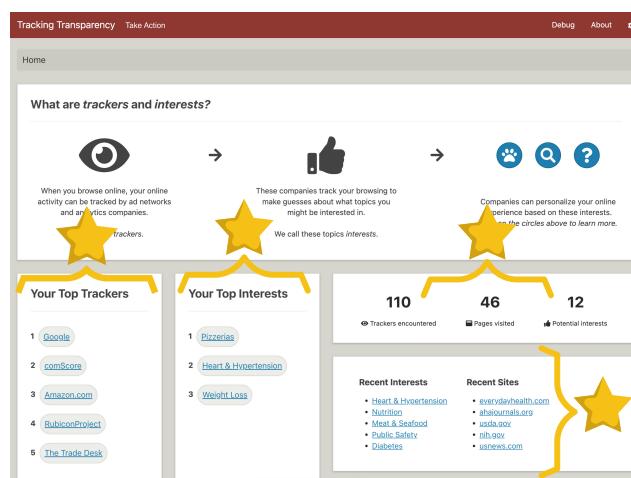
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2452 D ADDITIONAL FIGURES

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Figure 9: TT1-Dashboard. Stars show locations where the participant was prompted to verify they were responding to the correct visualization (e.g., “[i]n your own extension, in the ‘Your Top Trackers’ visualization, what is the #2 tracker listed?”). Participants in this condition answered one set of CREEP FACTOR questions per informational box (i.e., Interests, Trackers, Sites, and Activity).

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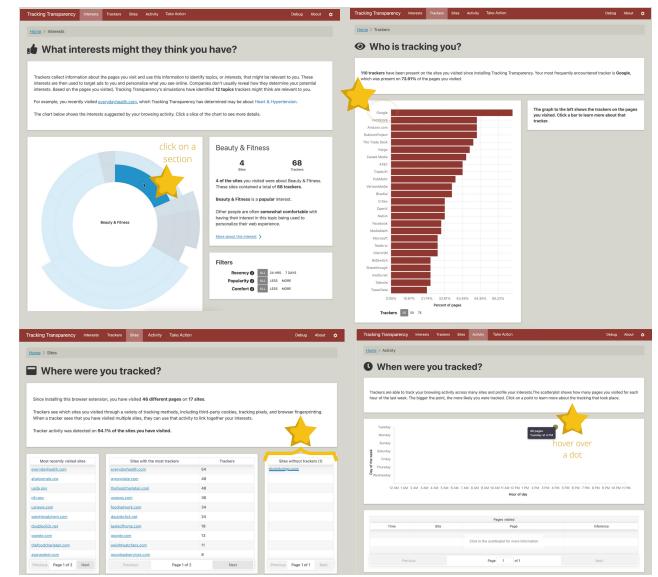


Figure 10: TT1-Everything example. Stars as in Figure 9. Participants in this condition answered one set of CREEP FACTOR questions per tab (i.e., Interests, Trackers, Sites, and Activity).

Page Interest Jaccard Similarity

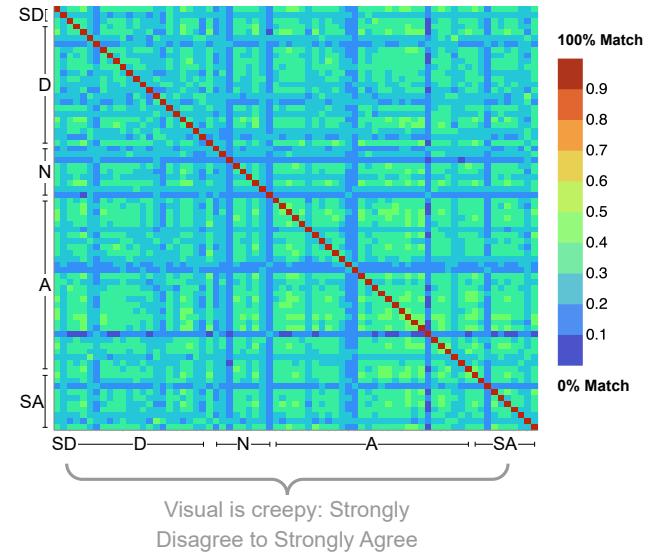


Figure 11: Jaccard similarity (colors) for pairwise comparisons between participants’ inferred web page interests, grouped by Likert responses to the *General Creepiness* question for the *Time Spent per Interest* visualization. The lack of discernible trends among Likert groups indicates that particular interests do not appear to correlate with creepiness.

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Table 6: Model performance per type. For a full breakdown of performance on all categories included in the final model, see our anonymous GitHub repository. The Word2Vec is self-trained.

	Reduced Text Accuracy (%)		
	Train	Test	No. Param.
BoW + SLP	99.8	48.9	15699191
TF-IDF + SLP	33.0	24.1	15280536
Word2Vec + 1 LSTM + 1FC	37.7	18.4	2772859
GloVe + 1 LSTM + 1FC	59.9	29.0	2772859
GloVe + 3 Bidirect. LSTM + 2FC	50.0	33.3	24935727

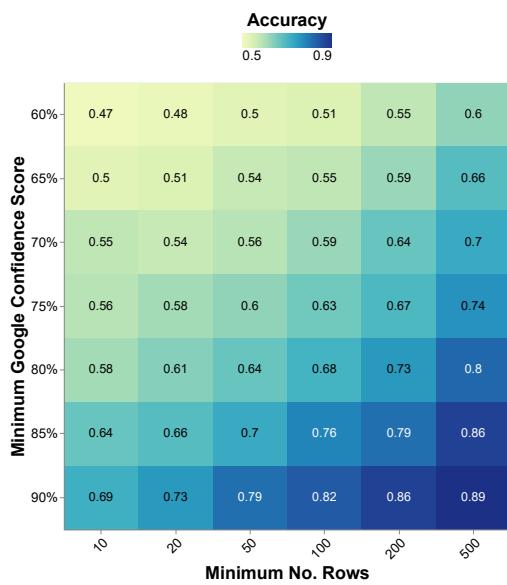


Figure 12: Heatmap of experimental results with different parameters, varying minimum value of Google confidence score and minimum number of rows per category.



Figure 13: Cumulative Distributions of Precision, Recall, F1 Scores across Content Categories.

Table 7: Test performance metrics per interest category, listing only categories found in the final model (i.e., some categories found in [38] may be missing from this list).

Testing Performance (per label)				
	precision	recall	f1-score	support
Adult	0.94	0.96	0.95	106
Arts & Entertainment	0.50	0.12	0.20	8
Celebrities & Entertainment News	1.00	0.67	0.80	3
Comics & Animation	1.00	1.00	1.00	3
Anime & Manga	0.83	1.00	0.91	5
Cartoons	0.00	0.00	0.00	2
Comics	1.00	0.50	0.67	8
Film & TV Industry	0.00	0.00	0.00	4
Recording Industry	0.83	0.83	0.83	6
Events & Listings	0.78	0.88	0.82	8
Bars, Clubs & Nightlife	0.80	0.50	0.62	8
Concerts & Music Festivals	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
Expo & Conventions	0.58	1.00	0.74	7
Film Festivals	1.00	0.67	0.80	3
Fun & Trivia	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
Humor	0.61	0.92	0.73	12
Funny Pictures & Videos	0.83	0.83	0.83	6
Movies	0.65	0.83	0.73	41
Music & Audio	0.56	0.58	0.57	24
Classical Music	0.79	0.92	0.85	12
Country Music	0.25	1.00	0.40	1
Dance & Electronic Music	1.00	0.50	0.67	14
Jazz & Blues	1.00	0.67	0.80	6
Music Education & Instruction	0.90	0.60	0.72	15
Music Equipment & Technology	0.86	0.92	0.89	13
Music Reference	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
Radio	0.91	0.91	0.91	11
Religious Music	1.00	0.33	0.50	3
Rock Music	0.57	0.80	0.67	5
Urban & Hip-Hop	0.83	0.71	0.77	14
World Music	1.00	0.50	0.67	2
Online Media	0.60	0.57	0.59	21
Online Image Galleries	0.50	1.00	0.67	1
Performing Arts	0.57	0.33	0.42	12
Acting & Theater	0.64	0.70	0.67	10
Circus	1.00	0.20	0.33	5
Dance	0.75	0.60	0.67	5
Magic	1.00	0.50	0.67	2
TV & Video	0.00	0.00	0.00	2
Online Video	0.20	0.33	0.25	3
TV Shows & Programs	0.78	0.82	0.80	17
Visual Art & Design	0.40	0.40	0.40	5
Architecture	0.92	0.79	0.85	14
Art Museums & Galleries	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
Design	0.56	0.45	0.50	11
Painting	0.71	0.62	0.67	8
Photographic & Digital Arts	0.59	0.59	0.59	17
Autos & Vehicles	0.44	0.70	0.54	10
Bicycles & Accessories	0.57	0.72	0.63	18
Boats & Watercraft	0.75	0.60	0.67	5
Campers & RVs	0.82	0.82	0.82	11
Classic Vehicles	1.00	0.67	0.80	3
Cargo Trucks & Trailers	0.00	0.00	0.00	3
Motor Vehicles (By Type)	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
Hybrid & Alternative Vehicles	1.00	0.90	0.95	10
Motorcycles	0.75	0.60	0.67	10
Off-Road Vehicles	0.00	0.00	0.00	3
Trucks & SUVs	0.86	0.86	0.86	7
Vehicle Codes & Driving Laws	0.67	0.86	0.75	7
Vehicle Licensing & Registration	0.74	0.93	0.82	15
Vehicle Parts & Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
Vehicle Parts & Accessories	0.57	0.44	0.50	9
Vehicle Repair & Maintenance	0.60	0.90	0.72	10
Vehicle Shopping	0.63	0.81	0.71	21
Used Vehicles	1.00	0.29	0.44	7
Vehicle Shows	0.00	0.00	0.00	3
Beauty & Fitness	0.33	0.29	0.31	7
Beauty Pageants	1.00	0.67	0.80	3
Body Art	1.00	0.71	0.83	7
Cosmetic Procedures	0.60	0.43	0.50	7
Cosmetic Surgery	0.30	0.30	0.30	10
Cosmetology & Beauty Professionals	0.62	0.71	0.67	7
Face & Body Care	0.67	0.55	0.60	11
Hygiene & Toiletries	0.00	0.00	0.00	2
Make-Up & Cosmetics	0.78	0.86	0.82	21
Perfumes & Fragrances	0.75	0.75	0.75	4
Skin & Nail Care	0.80	0.75	0.77	16
Unwanted Body & Facial Hair Removal	1.00	0.33	0.50	3
Fashion & Style	0.82	0.90	0.86	10
Fashion Designers & Collections	1.00	0.75	0.86	4
Fitness	0.60	0.75	0.67	20
Hair Care	0.76	0.84	0.80	19
Hair Loss	0.75	0.60	0.67	5
Spas & Beauty Services	0.80	1.00	0.89	4
Massage Therapy	1.00	0.60	0.75	5
Weight Loss	0.38	0.50	0.43	6
Books & Literature	0.64	0.73	0.68	22
Children's Literature	1.00	0.73	0.84	11
E-Books	1.00	1.00	1.00	4
Fan Fiction	0.80	1.00	0.89	4

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Continued from previous column				
	precision	recall	f1-score	support
Literary Classics	0.82	0.75	0.78	12
Poetry	0.80	0.80	0.80	5
Writers Resources	0.95	0.95	0.95	19
Business & Industrial	0.35	0.50	0.41	58
Public Relations	0.50	0.25	0.33	4
Space Technology	0.86	0.86	0.86	14
Agriculture & Forestry	0.71	0.50	0.59	10
Forestry	0.50	0.50	0.50	2
Business Education	1.00	1.00	1.00	3
Business Finance	0.50	0.33	0.40	3
Venture Capital	0.67	1.00	0.80	2
Business Operations	0.73	0.76	0.74	21
Business Plans & Presentations	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
Management	0.77	0.62	0.69	16
Business Services	0.72	0.79	0.75	107
Corporate Events	0.50	0.50	0.50	2
E-Commerce Services	0.74	0.74	0.74	34
Fire & Security Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
Office Supplies	0.71	0.83	0.77	12
Writing & Editing Services	0.75	0.50	0.60	6
Chemicals Industry	0.72	0.76	0.74	17
Plastics & Polymers	1.00	0.58	0.74	12
Construction & Maintenance	0.53	0.75	0.62	12
Building Materials & Supplies	0.53	0.56	0.55	16
Energy & Utilities	0.80	0.73	0.76	11
Electricity	0.00	0.00	0.00	2
Oil & Gas	0.88	0.75	0.81	20
Renewable & Alternative Energy	0.67	1.00	0.80	10
Hospitality Industry	0.50	0.50	0.50	4
Event Planning	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
Industrial Materials & Equipment	1.00	1.00	1.00	3
Heavy Machinery	0.80	0.67	0.73	6
Manufacturing	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
Metals & Mining	0.75	0.43	0.55	7
Pharmaceuticals & Biotech	0.83	1.00	0.91	5
Printing & Publishing	0.50	0.40	0.44	5
Retail Equipment & Technology	1.00	0.50	0.67	2
MLN & Business Opportunities	0.58	0.78	0.67	9
Textiles & Nonwovens	1.00	0.83	0.91	6
Transportation & Logistics	0.65	0.82	0.72	38
Freight & Trucking	0.77	0.59	0.67	17
Mail & Package Delivery	0.83	0.56	0.67	9
Maritime Transport	1.00	0.50	0.67	2
Moving & Relocation	0.75	0.86	0.80	7
Packaging	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
Parking	0.82	0.60	0.69	15
Rail Transport	1.00	0.20	0.33	5
Urban Transport	0.00	0.00	0.00	2
Computers & Electronics	0.20	0.08	0.11	13
CAD & CAM	0.33	0.33	0.33	6
Computer Hardware	0.50	0.33	0.40	6
Computer Components	1.00	0.78	0.88	9
Computer Drives & Storage	0.89	0.89	0.89	18
Computer Peripherals	1.00	0.50	0.67	6
Desktop Computers	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
Laptops & Notebooks	0.91	0.83	0.87	12
Computer Security	0.79	0.89	0.83	54
Hacking & Cracking	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
Consumer Electronics	0.56	0.64	0.60	14
Audio Equipment	0.73	0.80	0.76	10
Camera & Photo Equipment	0.68	0.89	0.77	19
Drones & RC Aircraft	1.00	0.33	0.50	3
GPS & Navigation	1.00	0.33	0.50	3
Game Systems & Consoles	1.00	0.70	0.82	10
TV & Video Equipment	0.83	0.77	0.80	13
Electronics & Electrical	1.00	0.67	0.80	3
Electronic Components	0.50	1.00	0.67	2
Power Supplies	1.00	0.33	0.50	3
Enterprise Technology	0.33	0.17	0.22	6
Data Management	0.83	0.62	0.71	8
Networking	0.77	0.77	0.77	13
Data Formats & Protocols	0.00	0.00	0.00	2
Network Monitoring & Management	0.88	0.64	0.74	11
VPN & Remote Access	0.71	1.00	0.83	10
Programming	0.66	0.65	0.65	86
Java (Programming Language)	0.50	0.33	0.40	3
Software	0.29	0.36	0.32	11
Business & Productivity Software	0.89	0.73	0.80	22
Device Drivers	0.89	0.89	0.89	9
Internet Software	0.50	0.36	0.42	11
Multimedia Software	0.71	0.81	0.76	27
Operating Systems	0.80	0.36	0.50	11
Finance	0.33	0.20	0.25	5
Accounting & Auditing	0.33	0.33	0.33	3
Tax Preparation & Planning	0.88	0.88	0.88	8
Banking	0.67	0.92	0.77	13
Credit & Lending	0.80	0.57	0.67	7
Credit Cards	1.00	0.57	0.73	7
Credit Reporting & Monitoring	1.00	1.00	1.00	4
Loans	0.90	0.96	0.93	46
Financial Planning & Management	0.88	0.70	0.78	10
Retirement & Pension	0.82	1.00	0.90	14
Grants, Scholarships & Financial Aid	0.83	0.96	0.89	25
Study Grants & Scholarships	1.00	0.25	0.40	4
Insurance	0.82	0.96	0.88	24

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		precision	recall	f1-score	support
2785					
2786	Health Insurance	0.80	0.80	0.80	5
2787	Investing	0.78	0.83	0.81	30
2788	Commodities & Futures Trading	1.00	0.67	0.80	3
2788	Currencies & Foreign Exchange	0.88	0.85	0.86	33
2789	Food & Drink	0.57	0.44	0.50	9
2789	Beverages	0.80	1.00	0.89	4
2790	Alcoholic Beverages	0.97	0.86	0.91	36
2790	Coffee & Tea	0.71	0.91	0.80	11
2791	Juice	0.00	0.00	0.00	3
2791	Cooking & Recipes	0.60	0.88	0.71	24
2792	BBQ & Grilling	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
2793	Desserts	0.62	0.50	0.56	10
2793	Soups & Stews	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
2794	Food	0.20	0.33	0.25	3
2794	Food & Grocery Retailers	0.80	0.80	0.80	5
2795	Baked Goods	0.00	0.00	0.00	2
2795	Breakfast Foods	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
2796	Candy & Sweets	0.83	0.50	0.62	10
2796	Grains & Pasta	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
2797	Meat & Seafood	1.00	0.38	0.55	8
2797	Snack Foods	1.00	0.67	0.80	6
2798	Restaurants	0.73	0.73	0.73	11
2798	Pizzerias	1.00	1.00	1.00	8
2799	Games	0.25	0.67	0.36	3
2800	Arcade & Coin-Op Games	0.80	1.00	0.89	8
2800	Board Games	1.00	0.33	0.50	3
2801	Chess & Abstract Strategy Games	1.00	0.78	0.88	9
2801	Minatures & Wargaming	1.00	0.77	0.87	13
2802	Card Games	1.00	0.80	0.89	5
2802	Collectible Card Games	1.00	0.88	0.93	8
2803	Poker & Casino Games	0.88	0.94	0.91	16
2803	Computer & Video Games	0.54	0.79	0.64	19
2804	Casual Games	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
2805	Driving & Racing Games	1.00	0.80	0.89	5
2805	Fighting Games	0.00	0.00	0.00	4
2806	Music & Dance Games	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
2806	Sandbox Games	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
2807	Shooter Games	1.00	0.67	0.80	9
2807	Sports Games	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
2808	Strategy Games	1.00	0.71	0.83	7
2808	Video Game Emulation	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
2809	Drawing & Coloring	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
2810	Gambling	0.82	0.90	0.86	10
2810	Lottery	1.00	0.86	0.92	7
2811	Massively Multiplayer Games	0.00	0.00	0.00	5
2812	Puzzles & Brainteasers	0.75	1.00	0.86	12
2812	Roleplaying Games	0.46	0.69	0.55	16
2813	Table Games	1.00	0.20	0.33	5
2813	Billiards	0.93	0.93	0.93	15
2813	Word Games	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
2814	Health	0.31	0.38	0.34	13
2814	Aging & Geriatrics	0.71	0.62	0.67	8
2815	Health Conditions	0.48	0.50	0.49	26
2815	AIDS & HIV	0.92	1.00	0.96	12
2816	Allergies	0.77	1.00	0.87	10
2817	Arthritis	1.00	1.00	1.00	6
2817	Cancer	0.69	1.00	0.81	11
2818	Diabetes	0.76	0.76	0.76	17
2818	Ear Nose & Throat	1.00	0.77	0.87	13
2819	Eating Disorders	1.00	0.80	0.89	10
2819	Endocrine Conditions	0.62	0.71	0.67	7
2820	Genetic Disorders	0.80	0.57	0.67	7
2820	Heart & Hypertension	0.85	0.88	0.87	26
2821	Infectious Diseases	0.80	0.50	0.62	8
2821	Neurological Conditions	0.50	0.25	0.33	8
2822	Obesity	0.90	0.82	0.86	11
2823	Pain Management	0.80	0.67	0.73	12
2823	Respiratory Conditions	0.91	0.77	0.83	13
2824	Skin Conditions	0.83	0.71	0.77	14
2824	Sleep Disorders	0.75	1.00	0.86	12
2825	Health Education & Medical Training	0.62	0.57	0.59	23
2825	Health Foundations & Medical Research	0.71	0.71	0.71	7
2826	Medical Devices & Equipment	0.50	0.20	0.29	5
2826	Medical Facilities & Services	1.00	0.29	0.44	7
2827	Hospitals & Treatment Centers	0.64	0.82	0.72	11
2827	Medical Procedures	0.66	0.59	0.62	49
2828	Physical Therapy	0.86	0.67	0.75	9
2829	Men's Health	1.00	0.67	0.80	3
2829	Mental Health	0.50	0.93	0.65	14
2830	Anxiety & Stress	0.82	0.82	0.82	11
2830	Depression	0.60	0.50	0.55	6
2831	Nursing	0.76	0.73	0.74	22
2831	Assisted Living & Long Term Care	0.80	0.67	0.73	6
2832	Nutrition	0.90	0.69	0.78	13
2832	Special & Restricted Diets	1.00	0.50	0.67	2
2833	Vitamins & Supplements	0.58	0.64	0.61	11
2834	Oral & Dental Care	0.88	0.71	0.79	21
2834	Pharmacy	1.00	0.64	0.78	11
2835	Drugs & Medications	0.50	0.25	0.33	4
2835	Public Health	0.29	0.33	0.31	6
2836	Occupational Health & Safety	0.50	0.25	0.33	8
2836	Reproductive Health	0.33	0.29	0.31	7
2837	Substance Abuse	0.00	0.00	0.00	2
2837	Drug & Alcohol Treatment	0.89	0.89	0.89	9
2838	Smoking & Smoking Cessation	0.86	0.86	0.86	14
2838	Steroids & Performance-Enhancing Drugs	1.00	0.80	0.89	5
2839	Vision Care	0.86	1.00	0.92	6

Continued on next column

Continued from previous column

		precision	recall	f1-score	support
2840					
2840	Women's Health	0.84	0.78	0.81	27
2840	Hobbies & Leisure	0.54	0.60	0.57	70
2840	Clubs & Organizations	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
2840	Youth Organizations & Resources	1.00	0.75	0.86	4
2840	Crafts	0.60	0.60	0.60	5
2840	Fiber & Textile Arts	0.88	0.88	0.88	8
2840	Merit Prizes & Contests	0.33	0.40	0.36	5
2840	Outdoors	0.50	0.33	0.40	6
2840	Fishing	1.00	1.00	1.00	8
2840	Hiking & Camping	0.88	0.83	0.86	18
2840	Paintball	1.00	0.60	0.75	5
2840	Radio Control & Modeling	0.83	0.62	0.71	8
2840	Model Trains & Railroads	0.88	1.00	0.93	7
2840	Special Occasions	0.27	0.38	0.32	8
2840	Holidays & Seasonal Events	0.20	0.33	0.25	6
2840	Weddings	0.20	0.10	0.13	10
2840	Water Activities	0.83	0.42	0.56	12
2840	Boating	0.90	0.82	0.86	11
2840	Surf & Swim	0.77	0.94	0.85	18
2840	Home & Garden	0.43	0.38	0.40	8
2840	Bed & Bath	0.75	0.75	0.75	8
2840	Bathroom	0.80	0.80	0.80	10
2840	Cleaning Services	0.59	1.00	0.74	16
2840	Gardening & Landscaping	0.76	0.87	0.81	15
2840	HVAC & Climate Control	0.66	0.68	0.67	31
2840	Fireplaces & Stoves	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
2840	Home & Interior Decor	0.57	0.57	0.57	7
2840	Home Appliances	0.56	1.00	0.71	5
2840	Home Furnishings	0.55	0.71	0.62	24
2840	Curtains & Window Treatments	0.86	0.75	0.80	8
2840	Lamps & Lighting	0.73	0.85	0.79	13
2840	Living Room Furniture	0.60	0.75	0.67	4
2840	Rugs & Carpets	0.72	0.72	0.72	18
2840	Home Improvement	0.41	0.57	0.48	21
2840	Construction & Power Tools	1.00	0.82	0.90	11
2840	Doors & Windows	0.75	0.60	0.67	10
2840	Flooring	0.83	1.00	0.91	5
2840	House Painting & Finishing	0.75	1.00	0.86	3
2840	Plumbing	0.86	0.86	0.86	7
2840	Home Safety & Security	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
2840	Home Storage & Shelving	0.75	0.86	0.80	7
2840	Home Swimming Pools, Saunas & Spas	0.96	1.00	0.98	27
2840	Kitchen & Dining	0.50	0.33	0.40	3
2840	Cookware & Diningware	1.00	0.50	0.67	2
2840	Major Kitchen Appliances	0.50	0.25	0.33	4
2840	Small Kitchen Appliances	0.75	0.60	0.67	5
2840	Laundry	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
2840	Washers & Dryers	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
2840	Pest Control	1.00	0.75	0.86	8
2840	Yard & Patio	0.88	0.67	0.76	21
2840	Lawn Mowers	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
2840	Internet & Telecom	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
2840	Radio Equipment	1.00	0.50	0.67	4
2840	Email & Messaging	0.80	0.80	0.80	5
2840	Voice & Video Chat	0.60	0.75	0.67	4
2840	Mobile & Wireless Accessories	0.67	0.40	0.50	5
2840	Mobile Apps & Add-Ons	0.42	0.53	0.47	15
2840	Mobile Phones	0.57	0.73	0.64	11
2840	Service Providers	0.87	0.93	0.90	14
2840	Cable & Satellite Providers	1.00	1.00	1.00	4
2840	Web Services	0.65	0.70	0.67	60
2840	Affiliate Programs	0.75	0.75	0.75	4
2840	Web Design & Development	0.66	0.70	0.68	30
2840	Jobs & Education	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
2840	Education	0.43	0.63	0.51	51
2840	Colleges & Universities	0.70	0.81	0.75	57
2840	Distance Learning	0.75	1.00	0.86	3
2840	Homeschooling	0.67	1.00	0.80	4
2840	Primary & Secondary Schooling (K-12)	0.70	0.79	0.75	24
2840	Standardized & Admissions Tests	0.55	0.67	0.60	18
2840	Teaching & Classroom Resources	1.00	0.86	0.92	7
2840	Training & Certification	0.33	0.33	0.33	3
2840	Vocational & Continuing Education	0.00	0.00	0.00	4
2840	Jobs	0.00	0.00	0.00	2
2840	Career Resources & Planning	0.67	1.00	0.80	2
2840	Job Listings	0.77	0.94	0.85	18
2840	Resumes & Portfolios	0.88	1.00	0.93	14
2840	Law & Government	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
2840	Government	0.50	0.25	0.33	8
2840	Courts & Judiciary	0.88	1.00	0.93	7
2840	Visa & Immigration	0.88	0.88	0.88	8
2840	Legal	0.69	0.69	0.69	26
2840	Bankruptcy	1.00	0.83	0.91	6
2840	Legal Education	1.00	0.82	0.90	11
2840	Legal Services	1.00	1.00	1.00	2
2840	Military	0.74	0.85	0.79	20
2840	Public Safety	0.58	0.76	0.66	41
2840	Crime & Justice	0.80	0.44	0.57	9
2840	Emergency Services	0.67	0.57	0.62	7
2840	Law Enforcement	0.71	0.56	0.63	9
2840	Security Products & Services	0.89	0.76	0.82	21
2840	Social Services	1.00	0.62	0.77	8
2840	News	0.5			

Continued from previous column					
	precision	recall	f1-score	support	
2901					
2902	Online Communities	0.80	0.67	0.73	6
2903	----Blogging Resources & Services	0.65	0.83	0.73	18
2904	----Dating & Personals	0.94	1.00	0.97	48
2905	----Matrimonial Services	1.00	0.33	0.50	3
2906	----File Sharing & Hosting	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
2907	----Clip Art & Animated GIFs	1.00	0.80	0.89	5
2908	----Skins, Themes & Wallpapers	1.00	0.55	0.71	11
2909	----Social Networks	0.38	1.00	0.55	3
2910	----Virtual Worlds	0.00	0.00	0.00	2
2911	People & Society	0.56	0.42	0.48	12
2912	----Family & Relationships	0.00	0.00	0.00	2
2913	----Family	0.57	0.62	0.59	13
2914	----Marriage	0.65	0.78	0.71	36
2915	----Troubled Relationships	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
2916	----Children's Interests	1.00	0.43	0.60	7
2917	----Religion & Belief	0.78	0.86	0.82	114
2918	----Seniors & Retirement	1.00	0.40	0.57	5
2919	----Social Issues & Advocacy	0.38	0.43	0.40	21
2920	----Charity & Philanthropy	0.67	0.89	0.76	27
2921	----Discrimination & Identity Relations	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
2922	----Green Living & Environmental Issues	0.00	0.00	0.00	3
2923	----Poverty & Hunger	1.00	0.33	0.50	3
2924	----Work & Labor Issues	0.90	0.82	0.86	11
2925	----Social Sciences	0.59	0.59	0.59	17
2926	----Political Science	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
2927	----Psychology	0.54	0.88	0.67	8
2928	----Subcultures & Niche Interests	0.00	0.00	0.00	2
2929	Pets & Animals	0.68	0.64	0.66	53
2930	----Pet Food & Supplies	0.89	0.53	0.67	15
2931	----Veterinarians	0.86	0.96	0.91	70
2932	----Pets	0.00	0.00	0.00	2
2933	----Birds	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
2934	----Cats	1.00	0.57	0.73	7
2935	----Dogs	0.57	0.44	0.50	9
2936	----Exotic Pets	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
2937	----Fish & Aquaria	0.83	1.00	0.91	10
2938	----Horses	0.75	0.75	0.75	4
2939	----Rabbits & Rodents	0.33	0.50	0.40	2
2940	----Reptiles & Amphibians	0.75	0.60	0.67	5
2941	----Wildlife	0.54	0.64	0.58	11
2942	Real Estate	0.68	0.68	0.68	19
2943	----Real Estate Listings	0.33	0.40	0.36	10
2944	----Bank-Owned & Foreclosed Properties	1.00	0.50	0.67	8
2945	----Commercial Properties	1.00	1.00	1.00	2
2946	----Lots & Land	0.50	0.33	0.40	3
2947	----Residential Rentals	1.00	1.00	1.00	14
2948	----Residential Sales	0.69	0.75	0.72	12
2949	----Timeshares & Vacation Properties	1.00	1.00	1.00	5
2950	----Real Estate Services	0.73	0.57	0.64	14
2951	Reference	0.00	0.00	0.00	5
2952	----Business & Personal Listings	0.67	0.67	0.67	3
2953	----Biographies & Quotations	0.00	0.00	0.00	2
2954	----Calculators & Reference Tools	1.00	0.50	0.67	2
2955	----Dictionaries & Encyclopedias	0.80	0.80	0.80	10
2956	----Forms Guides & Templates	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
2957	----Public Records	0.43	1.00	0.60	6
2958	----Time & Calendars	0.75	0.50	0.60	6
2959	----Maps	0.75	0.75	0.75	12
2960	----History	0.83	0.83	0.83	6
2961	----Myth & Folklore	1.00	0.25	0.40	4
2962	----Philosophy	0.92	0.92	0.92	12
2963	----Language Resources	1.00	0.88	0.93	8
2964	----Foreign Language Resources	0.80	0.57	0.67	7
2965	----Libraries & Museums	0.70	1.00	0.82	23
2966	----Museums	0.48	0.73	0.58	15
2967	Science	1.00	0.17	0.29	6
2968	----Astronomy	1.00	0.67	0.80	9
2969	----Biological Sciences	0.67	0.80	0.73	5
2970	----Neuroscience	0.50	1.00	0.67	1
2971	----Chemistry	0.87	1.00	0.93	13
2972	----Computer Science	0.40	0.49	0.44	39
2973	----Earth Sciences	0.72	0.72	0.72	18
2974	----Atmospheric Science	0.75	0.75	0.75	4
2975	----Geology	1.00	0.75	0.86	12
2976	----Ecology & Environment	0.00	0.00	0.00	2
2977	----Climate Change & Global Warming	0.00	0.00	0.00	3
2978	----Engineering & Technology	0.00	0.00	0.00	4
2979	----Robotics	0.88	1.00	0.93	7
2980	----Mathematics	0.80	0.80	0.80	5
2981	----Statistics	1.00	0.71	0.83	7
2982	----Physics	0.86	0.75	0.80	16
2983	Sensitive Subjects	0.68	0.67	0.67	63
2984	Shopping	0.10	0.20	0.13	10
2985	----Antiques & Collectibles	0.73	0.89	0.80	9
2986	----Apparel	0.50	0.67	0.57	24
2987	----Athletic Apparel	0.00	0.00	0.00	2
2988	----Casual Apparel	0.00	0.00	0.00	3
2989	----Children's Clothing	1.00	0.86	0.92	7
2990	----Clothing Accessories	0.91	0.89	0.90	36
2991	----Costumes	1.00	0.80	0.89	5
2992	----Eyewear	0.81	1.00	0.89	17
2993	----Footwear	0.84	0.87	0.86	31
2994	----Formal Wear	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
2995	----Headwear	1.00	0.25	0.40	4
2996	----Men's Clothing	1.00	0.20	0.33	5
2997	----Swimwear	0.88	0.78	0.82	9
2998	----Undergarments	1.00	0.60	0.75	10

Continued on next column

Continued from previous column					
	precision	recall	f1-score	support	
2999					
3000	----Women's Clothing	0.75	0.43	0.55	7
3001	----Auctions	0.57	0.67	0.62	6
3002	----Classifieds	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
3003	----Consumer Resources	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
3004	----Consumer Advocacy & Protection	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
3005	----Coupons & Discount Offers	0.75	0.50	0.60	6
3006	----Gifts & Special Event Items	1.00	0.67	0.80	3
3007	----Cards & Greetings	0.67	1.00	0.80	2
3008	----Flowers	0.88	0.92	0.90	24
3009	----Gifts	0.67	0.50	0.57	4
3010	----Photo & Video Services	1.00	0.50	0.67	6
3011	----Tobacco Products	0.50	0.14	0.22	7
3012	----Toys	1.00	0.50	0.67	4
3013	----Building Toys	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
3014	Sports	0.53	0.59	0.56	29
3015	----Animal Sports	0.50	0.67	0.57	3
3016	----College Sports	0.67	0.90	0.77	31
3017	----Combat Sports	0.00	0.00	0.00	5
3018	----Boxing	0.88	0.70	0.78	10
3019	----Martial Arts	0.91	0.91	0.91	32
3020	----Wrestling	0.75	0.75	0.75	8
3021	----Extreme Sports	1.00	0.67	0.80	6
3022	----Fantasy Sports	0.88	0.88	0.88	8
3023	----Individual Sports	0.40	0.33	0.36	6
3024	----Cycling	0.83	0.71	0.77	7
3025	----Golf	0.90	0.75	0.82	12
3026	----Gymnastics	1.00	0.57	0.73	7
3027	----Racquet Sports	0.92	0.92	0.92	13
3028	----Skate Sports	1.00	0.50	0.67	4
3029	----Track & Field	0.67	0.67	0.67	3
3030	----Olympics	0.50	0.80	0.62	5
3031	----Motor Sports	1.00	0.50	0.67	6
3032	----Sporting Goods	0.43	0.33	0.38	18
3033	----Sports Memorabilia	1.00	0.83	0.91	6
3034	----Winter Sports Equipment	1.00	0.17	0.29	6
3035	----Sports Coaching & Training	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
3036	----Team Sports	0.00	0.00	0.00	5
3037	----American Football	0.86	0.80	0.83	15
3038	----Baseball	0.60	0.43	0.50	7
3039	----Basketball	0.75	0.43	0.55	14
3040	----Cheerleading	1.00	0.88	0.93	8
3041	----Cricket	1.00	0.80	0.89	5
3042	----Hockey	0.86	0.95	0.90	19
3043	----Rugby	0.67	0.67	0.67	3
3044	----Soccer	0.80	1.00	0.89	4
3045	----Volleyball	1.00	0.86	0.92	7
3046	----Winter Sports	0.00	0.00	0.00	3
3047	----Ice Skating	1.00	0.83	0.91	6
3048	----Skiing & Snowboarding	0.57	1.00	0.73	8
3049	Travel	0.53	0.74	0.62	35
3050	----Air Travel	0.84	0.89	0.86	18
3051	----Airport Parking & Transportation	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
3052	----Bus & Rail	0.71	0.71	0.71	7
3053	----Car Rental & Taxi Services	0.89	0.80	0.84	10
3054	----Cruises & Charters	1.00	0.82	0.90	17
3055	----Hotels & Accommodations	0.57	0.84	0.68	19
3056	----Vacation Rentals & Short-Term Stays	1.00	0.33	0.50	9
3057	----Specialty Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	2
3058	----Tourist Destinations	0.29	0.17	0.21	12
3059	----Beaches & Islands	0.79	0.73	0.76	15
3060	----Mountain & Ski Resorts	1.00	0.80	0.89	10
3061	----Regional Parks & Gardens	0.50	1.00	0.67	2
3062	----Theme Parks	0.75	0.50	0.60	6
3063	----Zoos-Aquariums-Preserves	0.00	0.00	0.00	2
3064	accuracy	0.71	0.71	0.71	0
3065	macro avg	0.66	0.60	0.61	5893
3066	weighted avg	0.73	0.71	0.71	5893