

# (DNS) User Taxonomy

A spotters guide

..note well

- Users are very often more than one type simultaneously:
  - E.g. application X on mobile device (running OS Y) on fixed-line broadband internet access from ISP A via WiFi hub from company B.
  - Parent, employee and adult individual at different times of day.
  - One man's terrorist is another's freedom fighter
- A single person will have varying priorities between privacy, security and practicality *within the same day*...

## Some reusable identity-roles (direct “users”)

- A child
- An adult
- A senior citizen
- Rebellious teenager
- Employee
- Whistle-blower
- Dissident in repressive regime
- Terrorist in benevolent regime

## More roles (responsible/indirect)

- Parent of an under-10
- Adult with duty of care for other diminished-responsibility adult(s)
- Parent of multiple children; e.g. an X-year old and a Y-year old (where  $X < Y-3$  and  $X < 9$ )
- Parent whose kids have friends who bring devices
- Corporate network admin (w. sector variance)
- Non-profit organisation or civil sector network admin
- Commercial organisation with WiFi for site visitors/guests

# “Operators” (who monetise internet access and/or data about it)

- Internet café owner
- Café with Wi-Fi owner
- Public Wi-Fi service operator
- ISP network engineer (inc CDN costs budget line)
- Public DNS service company
- Browser (generalised internet access) software company
- App (specific-use internet access) software company
- Content Delivery Network engineer
- User-tracking -> behaviour-driving company
- Malware author
- Malware bot-controller
- Internet/network threat-intelligence company
- Domain registrars and registries
- On-path and off-path attackers (w. various motivations)

# Other potential “third parties”

- Telco operator regulator
- Elected government representative (non-repressive)
- Pseudo- or un-elected government representative (mildly-fairly repressive)
- Dictator’s apparatchik (definitely repressive)
- Governmental security agency
- User Data protection legislator/regulator
- IoT device vendors
- Content owners

## In short

- It's complex with a lot of overlapping roles at individual and group levels.
- It might be worth us settling on a semi-limited set of identity terms to improve comparability of work/thought.
- There may be other areas that could use a glossary –
  - Privacy terminology
  - Security (more well-covered by RFC(s))
  - Hardware and software components – e.g. CPE, home gateway, BNG, proxy, stub resolver.
- This set -> EDDI GIT, right?