

TEU00311

What is the Internet doing to me?
(witidtm)

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<https://github.com/sftcd/witidtm>
<https://down.dsg.cs.tcd.ie/witidtm>

Blackboard Assignment - AS2

- Research and report on:
 - 1) the ways in which a real device/OS you possess or use exposes you to potential device-based tracking, as you normally use the device/OS
 - 2) how the browser(s) you use accumulate cookies and other state and how you could reduce or avoid that
- Report: ~4-5 pages, more if needed but try keep it short, use URLs/references/appendices for tech detail or screen shots
- Content:

For (1): say how that tracking could work, describe your exposure, say what you think about that and what you will or will not do about it - justify that last part, esp. If you conclude you'll do nothing

For (2): we'll chat after we learn a bit more about Advertising

Blackboard Assignment - AS2

- “Deadline”: Dec 1st – this is a heads up in case you want to start during reading week, I’ll talk about it again later
- You can re-submit as many times as you like, I’ll only look at the last submission, probably after the semester’s over
- Marks: 40%, higher marks for the unexpected and for thorough research!
- We’ll talk later about two tracking examples, you can’t use those for the assignment
- More on this after reading week, feel free to ask questions.... esp. In Monday “office-hour”

AS2 Part-1 Outline (1)

- If you were to use location-in-EXIF for the assignment (which you can't:-) then your assignment might look like:
 - Intro para: summarise all below like a paper abstract
 - Para describing the general vulnerability: device tracking as a risk to device-owner
 - Para describing EXIF, GPS, how **your** camera uses that (or used to, if that's the case)
 - Describe potential for tracking: uploaded images giving a location history
 - What'd you do about it?
 - Default to location-services off, scrub images before upload (say how), check earlier uploaded images (and do what with 'em?), get a new device/camera
 - Or, if your response is “do-nothing,” then justify that, e.g. I don't upload images but get lost a lot so need location-services:-) Or maybe argue that image locations aren't a big deal except in unrealistic movie-plot scenarios
 - References – if reference is to peer-reviewed paper, good; if reference is URL then include “accessed-at date”

AS2 Part-1 Outline (2)

- Try make it something you'd not be embarrassed to show your buddies in a year's time
- It's ok if the tracking you describe is low-risk, i.e., you do not have to find some mega-concerning risk to write about
- It's ok if you reference something where you don't fully grok all the details but if so, say so and we can chat about that in class if you want
- **PLEASE** submit a PDF
- It's ok to work together on this one, but do say with whom you've worked but the conclusions must be your own
- Effort:
 - 4-5 pages the entire assignment is fine, as is more
 - Maybe spend an hour researching (20 mins searching, 40 reading) and another hour writing for Part-1
- Possible starting point: Google scholar (want a bit of a demo?)
 - https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=0%2C5&q=device+tracking+image+exif+location+data&btnG

AS2 Part-2

- Investigate and write-up how the set of cookies stored in your desktop browser evolves with your normal web usage
- More on this later but you may well be able to figure it out yourself