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Owner:[obru...@igalia.com](#)**CC:**[dom@chromium.org](#)[xiaoc...@chromium.org](#)[yosin@chromium.org](#)[shivanisha@chromium.org](#) [haraken@chromium.org](#)[arthu...@chromium.org](#) [chrisht@chromium.org](#)[mas...@chromium.org](#)**Status:**Fixed (*Closed*)**Components:**[Blink>HTML>IFrame](#)[Blink>HTML](#)[Privacy](#)[Blink>Editing>Selection](#)**Modified:**

Jul 29, 2022

Backlog-Rank:

Editors:

EstimatedDays:

NextAction:

OS:[Linux](#), [Android](#), [Windows](#), [Chrome](#), [Mac](#), [Lacros](#)**Pri:**

2

Type:[Bug-Security](#)[reward-0](#)[Security_Severity-Low](#)[allpublic](#)[CVE_description-submitted](#)[external_security_report](#)[FoundIn-97](#)[Security_Impact-Extended](#)[Release-0-M101](#)[CVE-2022-1501](#)

Issue 1293191: Propagating inertness into nested browsing contexts leaks information, privacy concern?

Reported by [obru...@igalia.com](#) on Tue, Feb 1, 2022, 6:38 PM EST

Project Member

 Code

Chrome Version: 97.0.4692.99

OS: Ubuntu 20.04

What steps will reproduce the problem?

(1) Load this page:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<button onclick="dialog.showModal()">Open modal</button>
<dialog id="dialog" style="text-align: center">
  I'm a modal dialog<br>
  <button onclick="dialog.close()">Close</button>
</dialog>
<br>
<iframe sandbox="allow-scripts" srcdoc="
  <style>:focus { border: solid black }</style>
  I'm a cross-origin iframe, but I know that the modal dialog in my embedder is:
  <div id='result'></div>
  <script>
    setInterval(() => {
      getSelection().selectAllChildren(document.documentElement);
      result.textContent = getSelection().toString().trim() ? 'CLOSED' : 'OPEN';
      getSelection().empty();
    }, 60);
  </script>
"></iframe>
```

(2) Note the cross-origin iframe knows that the modal dialog is CLOSED.

(3) Click "Open modal" button

(4) Note the cross-origin iframe knows that the modal dialog is OPEN.

(5) Click "Close" button

(6) Note the cross-origin iframe knows that the modal dialog is CLOSED.

Note this behavior is correct according to the spec:

<https://html.spec.whatwg.org/multipage/interaction.html#inert>

- > While a browsing context container is marked as inert,
- > its nested browsing context's active document,
- > and all nodes in that Document, must be marked as inert.

But it seems strange to leak this information into (possibly evil) cross-origin iframes...

For example, if they know the embedder has a modal dialog where the user is supposed to type something, they can

measure how long the dialog is open as an estimation of how fast the user can type in a keyboard, and use this for tracking or something?

I don't think it's a huge deal, but it can be a privacy concern, so I'm filing this as Bug-Security, so that the privacy experts can analyze if it's fine or not.

Note the behavior is present at least since version 46.
Gecko and WebKit are not affected (they don't follow the HTML spec).

[Comment 1](#) by [sheriffbot](#) on Tue, Feb 1, 2022, 6:41 PM EST

Labels: external_security_report

[Comment 2](#) by [mas...@chromium.org](#) on Wed, Feb 2, 2022, 11:50 AM EST

Cc: domfarolino@google.com haraken@chromium.org chrisht@chromium.org

+ some fenced frame folks: this might represent an information leakage path into at least the shadow DOM implementation of fenced frames.

[Comment 3](#) by [dom@chromium.org](#) on Wed, Feb 2, 2022, 11:59 AM EST

Cc: -domfarolino@google.com dom@chromium.org

Please see the #inert chat room in slack for our question about this relating to fenced frames

[Comment 4](#) by [mas...@chromium.org](#) on Wed, Feb 2, 2022, 12:38 PM EST

Ahh, thanks for the pointer.

[Comment 5](#) by [xinghuilu@chromium.org](#) on Wed, Feb 2, 2022, 1:43 PM EST

Status: Assigned (was: Untriaged)

Owner: arthu...@chromium.org

Cc: xiaoc...@chromium.org yosin@chromium.org

Labels: Security_Severity-Low FoundIn-97 OS-Android OS-Chrome OS-Linux OS-Mac OS-Windows OS-Lacros

Components: Blink>Editing>Selection Blink>HTML>IFrame

Thanks for the report. I'm able to reproduce. It only works with the "allow-scripts" tag, so it's not iframe sandbox escape. Marking severity as low.

+arthursonzogni@, could you weigh in on whether this is a concern from iframe security point of view? Adding xiaochengh@ and yosin@ to see how this issue can be addressed from the editing API side. Thanks!

[Comment 6](#) by [sheriffbot](#) on Wed, Feb 2, 2022, 1:43 PM EST

Labels: Security_Impact-Extended

[Comment 7](#) by [obru...@igalia.com](#) on Wed, Feb 2, 2022, 2:07 PM EST Project Member

Be aware that getSelection() is not the only way to observe inertness. It can also be detected e.g. with focusability. Note the allow="focus-without-user-activation *" may be needed to bypass BlockingFocusWithoutUserActivation. It's an experimental feature, so typically allow="focus-without-user-activation *" isn't actually needed.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<button onclick="dialog.showModal()">Open modal</button>
<dialog id="dialog" style="text-align: center">
```

```
  I'm a modal dialog<br>
  <button onclick="dialog.close()">Close</button>
</dialog>
```

```

</dialog>
<br>
<iframe sandbox="allow-scripts" allow="focus-without-user-activation *" srcdoc="
  I'm a cross-origin iframe, but I know that the modal dialog in my embedder is:
  <div id='result' tabindex='-1'></div>
  <script>
    setInterval(() => {
      result.blur();
      result.focus();
      result.textContent = document.activeElement === result ? 'CLOSED' : 'OPEN';
      result.blur();
    }, 60);
  </script>
"></iframe>

```

So I don't think this should be addressed from the editing API side.

If this is really a problem, I would just stop propagating inertness into nested browsing contexts.

This would be a nice code cleanup (<https://crrev.com/c/3302103>), and would align Blink with Gecko and WebKit.

Comment 8 by [arthu...@chromium.org](#) on Thu, Feb 3, 2022, 12:37 PM EST

Owner: obru...@igalia.com

Cc: arthu...@chromium.org

Yes, I agree this is a form of cross-site leak. Do you know if this works, when the iframe's document is loaded from a different process (by using a real cross-origin URL)?

This can probably be used as "communication channel" in between two documents that are willing to cooperate and exfiltrate information about the user through the FencedFrame.

obrufau@, I don't know much about those API: Selection / Modal dialog. Do you know who would be a good owner of this bug?

Comment 9 by [sheriffbot](#) on Thu, Feb 3, 2022, 1:23 PM EST

Labels: -Pri-3 Pri-2

Setting Pri-2 to match security severity Low. If this is incorrect, please reset the priority. Sheriffbot won't make this change again.

For more details visit <https://www.chromium.org/issue-tracking/autotriage> - Your friendly Sheriffbot

Comment 10 by [obru...@igalia.com](#) on Thu, Feb 3, 2022, 2:11 PM EST Project Member

> Do you know if this works, when the iframe's document is loaded from a different process (by using a real cross-origin URL)

Yes, I have tried with localhost and 127.0.0.1 which should be cross-origin, and it still works.

Note the code for propagating inertness is in `cross_process_frame_connector.h`, `remote_frame.h`, etc.

> This can probably be used as "communication channel" in between two documents that are willing to cooperate and exfiltrate information about the user through the FencedFrame.

I have tried with fenced frames and they are affected too. So the embedder can pass information to the fenced frame even without `postMessage`, `resizing`, etc. I don't think the fenced frame can use this to pass information to the embedder, though.

> I don't know much about those API: Selection / Modal dialog. Do you know who would be a good owner of this bug?

> I don't know much about those API: Selection / Modal dialog. Do you know who would be a good owner of this bug?

It's not just selection, inertness can also be detected with focusability, `document.elementFromPoint()`, etc. And not shipped yet, but it will be possible to trigger inertness without modal dialogs (nor fullscreen elements), via the 'inert' attribute. So I think the problem is actually the propagation of inertness. Rather than trying to add workarounds for all things that may be affected by inertness, I would just stop propagating inertness into frames. If this approach seems reasonable, I can do it. In fact I already wrote the patch in the past, to see which tests would fail: <https://crrev.com/c/3302103>

Comment 11 by [arthu...@chromium.org](#) on Thu, Feb 3, 2022, 4:34 PM EST

Cc: shivanisha@chromium.org

Thanks!

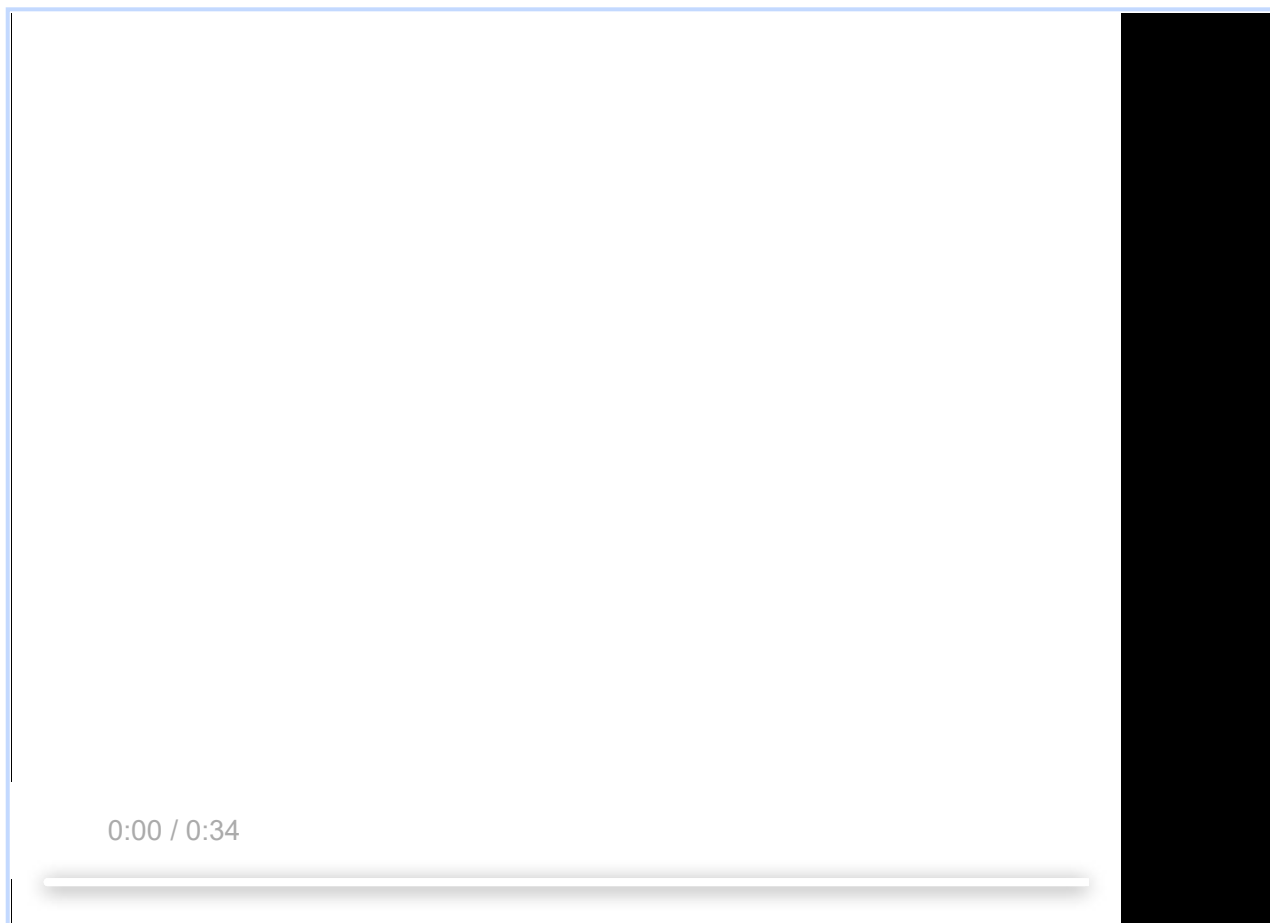
This is interesting!

This would need to be fixed, because this is XS leaks, and especially if we want to ship fencedframe.

Mostly for fun, I made a demo where you can transmit arbitrary data through a fencedframe using your idea: <https://fenced-frame-dialog-selection-pipe-gigantic-calcium.glitch.me/>

test-2022-02-03_22.31.05.mp4

171 KB [View](#) [Download](#)



Comment 12 by [obru...@igalia.com](#) on Thu, Feb 3, 2022, 5:01 PM EST Project Member

Is it fine to mention "cross-site leak" in the CL description, and if I open an issue to the HTML spec to remove inert propagation?

Comment 13 by [arthu...@chromium.org](#) on Fri, Feb 4, 2022, 3:55 AM EST

> Is it fine to mention "cross-site leak" in the CL description, and if I open an issue to the HTML spec to remove inert

propagation?

;-)

I have the same kind of issue when submitting security fix in Chrome. I don't really have clear recommendations for myself. I guess it is fine, because you won't be understood otherwise. You can also probably focus on adopting Firefox behavior. Also, I don't believe this is very severe and give an important kind of information to the iframe.

[Comment 14](#) by [Git Watcher](#) on Fri, Feb 18, 2022, 1:08 PM EST

The following revision refers to this bug:

<https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromium/src/+a486ffcc6d5ecf0d9827d6468ece0eae4306eb50>

commit [a486ffcc6d5ecf0d9827d6468ece0eae4306eb50](#)

Author: Oriol Brufau <obrufau@igalia.com>

Date: Fri Feb 18 18:05:48 2022

[inert] Stop propagating inertness into nested browsing contexts

Doing so was a cross-site leak. This change is against the HTML spec, but it aligns Blink with Gecko. WebKit is also not propagating inertness for the selection API, but it does for focusability.

I already changed the spec <https://github.com/whatwg/html/issues/7605> and updated WPT in <https://github.com/web-platform-tests/wpt/pull/32817>.

Note this only affects the webexposed behavior. The accessibility tree still considers the contents of an inert frame to be inert, as tested by `All/DumpAccessibilityTreeTestWithIgnoredNodes.AccessibilityModalDialogAndIframes/*`

Therefore `Frame::is_inert_` and related flags are kept for accessibility, but they will no longer effect `ComputedStyle::IsInert()`.

Also note that even if the contents in the nested browsing contexts are not marked as inert, if the browsing context container is inert, they won't respond to mouse interactions, and they won't be reached by sequential navigation.

[Bug: 1293194](#)

TEST=All/DumpAccessibilityTreeTestWithIgnoredNodes.InertAttribute/*

TEST=All/SitePerProcessBrowserTest.CrossProcessInertSubframe/*

TEST=All/SitePerProcessBrowserTest.CrossProcessIsInertPropagation/*

TEST=third_party/blink/web_tests/external/wpt/html/semantics/interactive-elements/the-dialog-element/inert-focus-in-frames.html

TEST=third_party/blink/web_tests/external/wpt/html/semantics/interactive-elements/the-dialog-element/inertness-with-modal-dialogs-and-iframes.html

TEST=third_party/blink/web_tests/fast/dom/inert/inert-focus-in-frames.html

AX-Relnotes: n/a.

Change-Id: I70820d2aeca98e1c4036bd3f8c41ef0129a97a63

Reviewed-on: <https://chromium-review.googlesource.com/c/chromium/src/+3302103>

Reviewed-by: Aaron Leventhal <aeventhal@chromium.org>

Reviewed-by: Mason Freed <masonf@chromium.org>

Reviewed-by: Mason Freed <masonr@chromium.org>

Reviewed-by: Arthur Sonzogni <arthursonzogni@chromium.org>

Commit-Queue: Oriol Brufau <brufau@igalia.com>

Cr-Commit-Position: refs/heads/main@{#973015}

[modify] <https://crrev.com/a486fcc6d5ecf0d9827d6468ece0eae4306eb50/content/test/data/accessibility/html/inert-attribute-expected-blink.txt>

[modify] https://crrev.com/a486fcc6d5ecf0d9827d6468ece0eae4306eb50/third_party/blink/renderer/core/frame/frame.cc

[modify] https://crrev.com/a486fcc6d5ecf0d9827d6468ece0eae4306eb50/third_party/blink/renderer/core/css/resolver/style_resolver.cc

[modify] https://crrev.com/a486fcc6d5ecf0d9827d6468ece0eae4306eb50/third_party/blink/web_tests/external/wpt/html/semantics/interactive-elements/the-dialog-element/inert-focus-in-frames.html

[modify] https://crrev.com/a486fcc6d5ecf0d9827d6468ece0eae4306eb50/third_party/blink/renderer/modules/accessibility/ax_object.cc

[modify] https://crrev.com/a486fcc6d5ecf0d9827d6468ece0eae4306eb50/third_party/blink/renderer/core/css/resolver/style_resolver_test.cc

[modify] https://crrev.com/a486fcc6d5ecf0d9827d6468ece0eae4306eb50/third_party/blink/web_tests/fast/dom/inert/inert-focus-in-frames.html

[modify] https://crrev.com/a486fcc6d5ecf0d9827d6468ece0eae4306eb50/third_party/blink/web_tests/external/wpt/html/semantics/interactive-elements/the-dialog-element/inertness-with-modal-dialogs-and-iframes.html

[modify] https://crrev.com/a486fcc6d5ecf0d9827d6468ece0eae4306eb50/content/browser/site_per_process_browsertest.cc

[modify] https://crrev.com/a486fcc6d5ecf0d9827d6468ece0eae4306eb50/third_party/blink/renderer/core/layout/layout_embedded_content.cc

[modify] https://crrev.com/a486fcc6d5ecf0d9827d6468ece0eae4306eb50/third_party/blink/renderer/core/frame/local_frame.cc

Comment 15 by obru...@igalia.com on Fri, Feb 18, 2022, 3:19 PM EST Project Member

Status: Fixed (was: Assigned)

Should be fixed now. Only the accessibility tree will continue considering that contents of an inert frame are inert, and this shouldn't be webexposed.

Comment 16 by sheriffbot on Sat, Feb 19, 2022, 12:41 PM EST

Labels: reward-topanel

Comment 17 by sheriffbot on Sat, Feb 19, 2022, 1:39 PM EST

Labels: Restrict-View-SecurityNotify

Comment 18 by amyressler@chromium.org on Thu, Mar 31, 2022, 5:12 PM EDT

Labels: -reward-topanel reward-0

Thanks for this report. As this issue was reported by a contributor/embedder, it is unfortunately ineligible for a VRP reward.

Comment 19 Deleted

[Comment 20](#) by amyressler@chromium.org on Mon, Apr 25, 2022, 8:45 PM EDT

Labels: -Release-0-M100 Release-0-M101

:-|

[Comment 21](#) by amyressler@google.com on Tue, Apr 26, 2022, 4:33 PM EDT

Labels: CVE-2022-1501 CVE_description-missing

[Comment 22](#) by [sheriffbot](#) on Sun, May 29, 2022, 1:31 PM EDT

Labels: -Restrict-View-SecurityNotify allpublic

This bug has been closed for more than 14 weeks. Removing security view restrictions.

For more details visit <https://www.chromium.org/issue-tracking/autotriage> - Your friendly Sheriffbot

[Comment 23](#) by amyressler@google.com on Tue, Jul 26, 2022, 5:37 PM EDT

Labels: CVE_description-submitted -CVE_description-missing

[Comment 24](#) by amyressler@chromium.org on Fri, Jul 29, 2022, 5:26 PM EDT

Labels: -CVE_description-missing --CVE_description-missing

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