Identifying Avast Secure Browser

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Avast Secure Browser (ASB) AVG Secure Browser is based on Chromium, and so its digital footprint is similar and overlapping to Google Chrome. For some of our partners, it is important to be able to identify our browser uniquely to other browsers, including Chrome; this can be achieved in a couple of distinct ways although both have limitations.

Custom API Namespace

ASB includes a number of custom APIs offering unique functionality to users within our browser. The APIs are included within unique namespace: `chrome.avast`. These APIs are made available to extensions and so the namespace can be checked from within their JavaScript code to detect ASB:

If the browser is ASB, the custom API namespace will be defined as an `object`:

```
if (typeof chrome.avast === 'object') {
      // is ASB: do something custom for these users
}
```

If the browser is not ASB, the custom API namespace will be `undefined`:

```
if (typeof chrome.avast === 'undefined') {
      // is NOT ASB: do something custom for all other users
}
```

<u>Note:</u> this method is robust for the checking of our browser, however it is limited to whitelisted and trusted extensions only. The API will not be visible outside of the extension space or to an extension that is not considered trusted so this is an important consideration.

User Agent Token

ASB users send a unique token as part of their user agent that can be used to identify them in our browser. Example:

Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; WOW64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/64.0.3282.140 Safari/537.36 **Avast/64.0.338.140**

This user agent token can be detected via the `navigator` object:

```
if (navigator.userAgent.match(/Avast\//i)) {
      // is ASB: do something custom for these users
} else {
      // is NOT ASB: do something custom for all other users
}
```

<u>Note:</u> because user agents are exposed by browsers, any website or third-party can arbitrarily identify users of our browser with this method. However, some of our own browser Security & Privacy features may modify the user agent (e.g. Anti-Fingerprinting) and so this method will not be reliable in 100% of cases. User agents can also be tampered with using various third party extensions.

Summary

While it depends on the use case, it is our recommendation that both methods above are used in combination in order to determine an ASB user; this will ensure maximum detection compatibility across all versions of ASB.