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This project was challenging for me as I had no prior experience with JavaScript and limited experience with HTML and CSS.

My goal for this project was to effectively and provocatively visualize users' browsing activity. Specifically, I wanted to display to the user an in-depth analysis of how they navigate online. Investigation of the Mozilla WebExtensions JavaScript APIs led me to the history, topSites, and WebNavigation APIs. Thus, I decided to create a two-part extension consisting of a homepage URL override and a pop-up window. The homepage is more informative. It tells the user about their most visited sites and most commonly used navigation methods. The pop-up is more provocative. It tells the user how many times they have visited their current site and displays the exact visit time of up to 30 of their visits--a creepy visualization. Additionally, I decided to display in my pop-up the number of cookies used by a given site to show how users' navigation behavior is being studied. Similarly, I decided to include the users' operating system and architecture on the homepage. Finally, if a user has visited a given site more than 100 times, the pop-up will say that that site "is watching you!". Similarly, if a site uses more than 5 cookies, the pop-up will say that that site "is studying you!".

My initial idea for this project was to get as much information as possible about users and hide that information in the websites they visit. I decided that this was too big an endeavor for one week, however, given enough time I think this could make for a very interesting browser extension. This extension plays on the idea that large companies try and hide what they know about you. Instead of withholding that information, this extension would use natural language processing to seamlessly blend information about you with the text of a given webpage (changing pronouns to your name, numbers to your search statistics…). This extension would make finding such information much more surprising, striking, and creepy compared to a simple visualization. Overall, I think finding information about yourself and your browsing activities hidden in a New York Times article would be more memorable than seeing that information in one of my extension's visualizations.