# Introduction to Browser Forensics

Sileniia - Blue Team Village - July 8th, 2021



#### Who Am I?

- Beginning InfoSec practitioner with 3 years of experience
  - Software Development, Security Operations, Incident Response
  - Daily use of browser forensics

- Let's Connect!
  - Blue Team Village Discord
  - Discord: Sileniia#5737
  - LinkedIn: /in/jacksonparsons/

#### Roadmap

- 1. Why browser forensics?
- 2. Privacy, ethics
- 3. Chrome directory structure
- 4. History, Cache, Login Data
- 5. Resources
- 6. Q&A

#### Why?

- Browsers are a cornucopia of value for...
- Attackers
  - Persistence (AutoRefresh extension)
  - Pivot (internal sites via bookmarks, history)
  - Post-exploitation (data exfiltration, account enumeration)
  - Scrape login data
  - Steal PII
- Security operations and incident response
  - Investigate
    - Attackers
    - Suspicious DNS requests
    - Malicious browser extensions
  - Corroborate / disprove testimony
  - Unmask HTTPS
  - Review form data
  - Recover deleted files
  - Not typically logged or reported

#### **Ethics**

- Browser artifacts can be highly sensitive
  - PII financial, education, health information
  - Encrypted connections
  - Persistence, Post-Exploitation
- Ensure that you have just cause
  - Set expectations up front about use of browser forensics techniques
- Ensure proper handling
  - Be *very* cautious of public-facing sandbox, detonation services (ANY.RUN, URLScan)
  - Delete unnecessary information / artifacts afterwards (and document deletion)
  - Report / auditing mechanism?

#### **Chrome Directory Structure**

#### Top-level directory depends on OS

#### Windows:

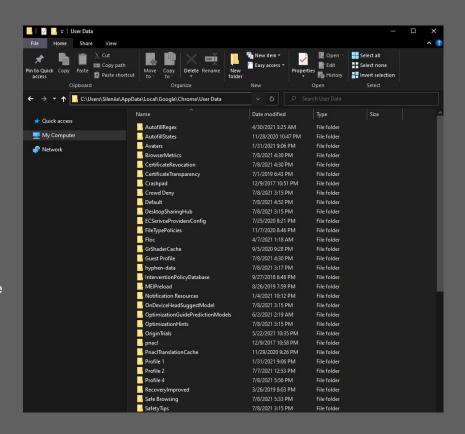
- C:\Users\<user>\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome (7+)
- C:\Documents and Settings\<user>\Local
   Settings\Application Data\Google\Chrome\ (XP)

#### - Linux:

- /home/<user>/.config/google-chrome (Google distribution)
- /home/<user>/.config/chromium/ (Linux distribution)

#### - Mac:

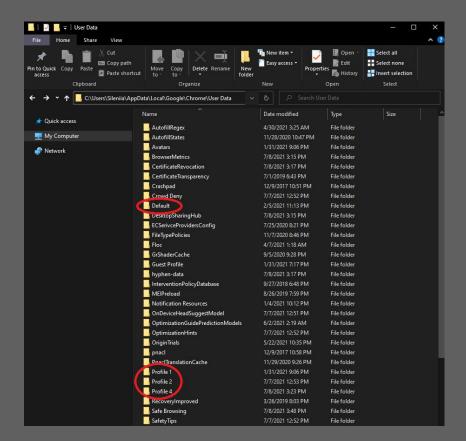
- /Users/<user>/Library/Application Support/ Google/Chrome



#### **Chrome Directory Structure**

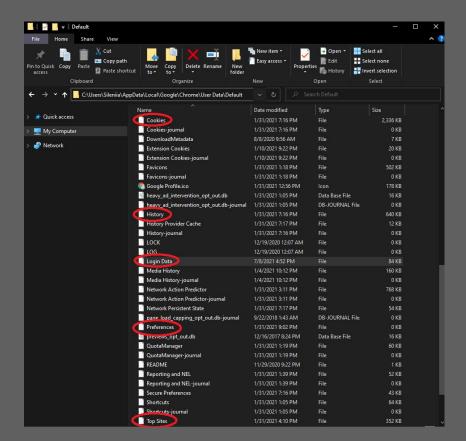
"Profiles" for multiple users or sessions

- Default ("Profile 0")
  - What we're after ~95% of the time
- Profile #
  - Created in order after Default
  - Don't necessarily stay that way



#### **Chrome Directory Structure**

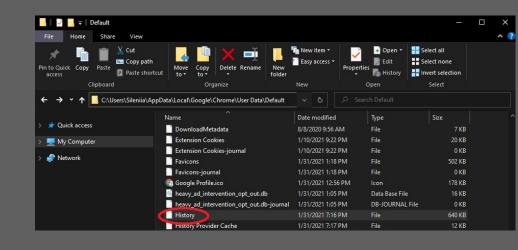
- Profiles contain tons of interesting and valuable information
  - Bookmarks
  - Cache
  - Cookies
  - Extensions
  - Form Data
  - History
  - Login Data
  - Preferences
  - Top Sites
  - Sessions (Past + Current)
  - ..



#### History

## C:\Users\<user>\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome \User Data\<profile>\History

- Silver bullet for unusual DNS traffic
  - Often ad- or resource-related
  - "Replay" their traffic in a sandbox to test your hypotheses
    - Be \*very\* careful of public-only sandboxes like ANY.RUN
- Corroborate proxy logs and behavior
  - "It doesn't *look* like their attempt to visit http[:]//evil[.].com was blocked..."
  - Discover broken proxy agents
- SQLite format
  - View with NirSoft
- Scale with SOAR, URLScan, sandbox



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https://www.google.com/search?q=dnd+save+fr	dnd save from dying medicine sta	5/22/2021 11:34:00	2	0		914	Profile 2	164	Link	Chain Start, Chain End	C:\Users\Sileniia\AppData\Local\Google\C
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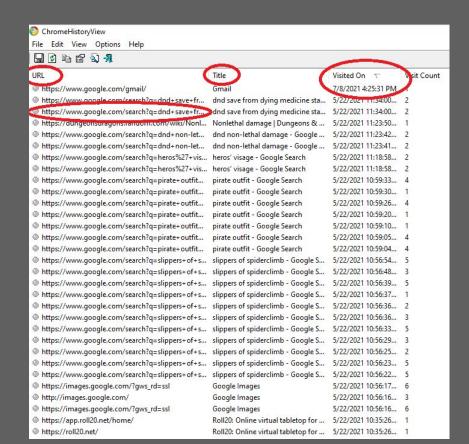
Profile 2

Form Submit

Server Redirect

C:\Users\Sileniia\AppData\Local\Google\C...

- URL
  - If not decrypting HTTPS, URI path is normally unavailable in proxy logs
  - Allows us to replay traffic for investigations
- Title
  - Takes on value of search engine queries
  - Shows visits to proxy block / redirects
- Visited On

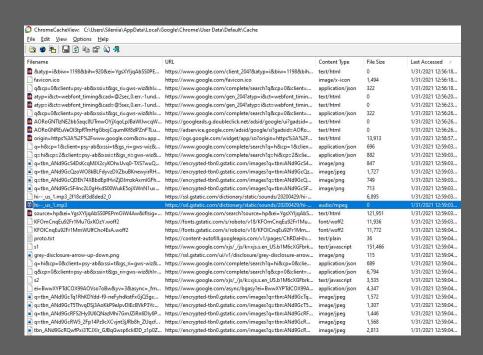


- Referrer
  - Source / where the user came from
- Profile
  - Which profile generated the traffic
- Transition Type
  - **Link**: user clicked a link
  - Typed: user typed the URL into the address bar
  - Auto\_Bookmark: user visited the site through a bookmark
  - Form\_Submit: user filled out a form and submitted
  - **Reload**: user reloaded the page

Referrer	Visit ID	Profile	URL Length	Transition Type
https://gmail.com/	3	Prome 4	29	Typed
	914	Profile 2	164	Link
	913	Profile 2	164	Generated
	912	Profile 2	56	Link
	911	Profile 2	140	Link
	910	Profile 2	140	Generated
	909	Profile 2	138	Link
	908	Profile 2	138	Generated
https://www.google.com/search?q=pirate	907	Profile 2	360	Link
https://www.google.com/search?q=pirate	906	Profile 2	381	Link
https://www.google.com/search?q=pirate	905	Profile 2	360	Link
https://www.google.com/search?q=pirate	904	Profile 2	381	Link
https://www.google.com/search?q=pirate	903	Profile 2	381	Link
https://www.google.com/search?q=pirate	902	Profile 2	360	Link
https://www.google.com/search?q=slipper	901	Profile 2	360	Link
	900	Profile 2	355	Link
	899	Profile 2	376	Link
	898	Profile 2	355	Link
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	896	Profile 2	376	Link
	895	Profile 2	376	Link
	894	Profile 2	355	Link
	893	Profile 2	376	Link
	892	Profile 2	376	Link
	891	Profile 2	355	Link
	890	Profile 2	355	Form Submit
	889	Profile 2	37	Link
	887	Profile 2	25	Typed
http://images.google.com/	888	Profile 2	37	Typed
	878	Profile 2	28	Form Submit
https://app.roll20.net/home/	879	Profile 2	19	Form Submit

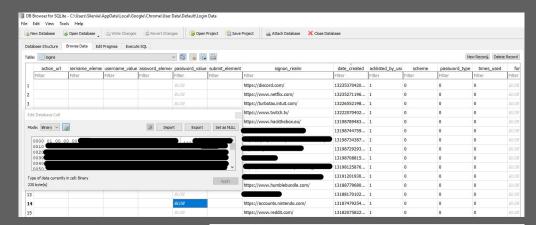
#### Cache

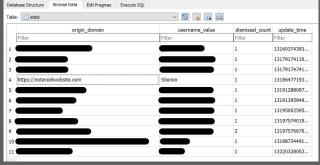
- Chrome caches various resources to help speed up browsing experience
  - HTML, CSS, JavaScript
  - Audio
  - Images
  - Executables
  - ...
- Cached files can act as backups in case originals are deleted



### Login Data

- Saving logins necessitates:
  - Origin domain
  - Plaintext usernames
  - Encrypted usernames
- Data can be used by attackers for enumeration and further compromise





#### Resources

- Kevin Hendricks
- Foxton Forensics: <u>Browser History Examiner User Guide</u>
- Foxton Forensics: Analysing Chrome Login Data
- SANS: Google Chrome Forensics (Kristinn Guðjónsson)
- NirSoft
  - BrowsingHistoryView
  - ChromeHistoryView
  - ChromeCacheView
  - ...
- Hindsight

# Questions?