

# Leaky Forms: A Study of Email and Password Exfiltration Before Form Submission

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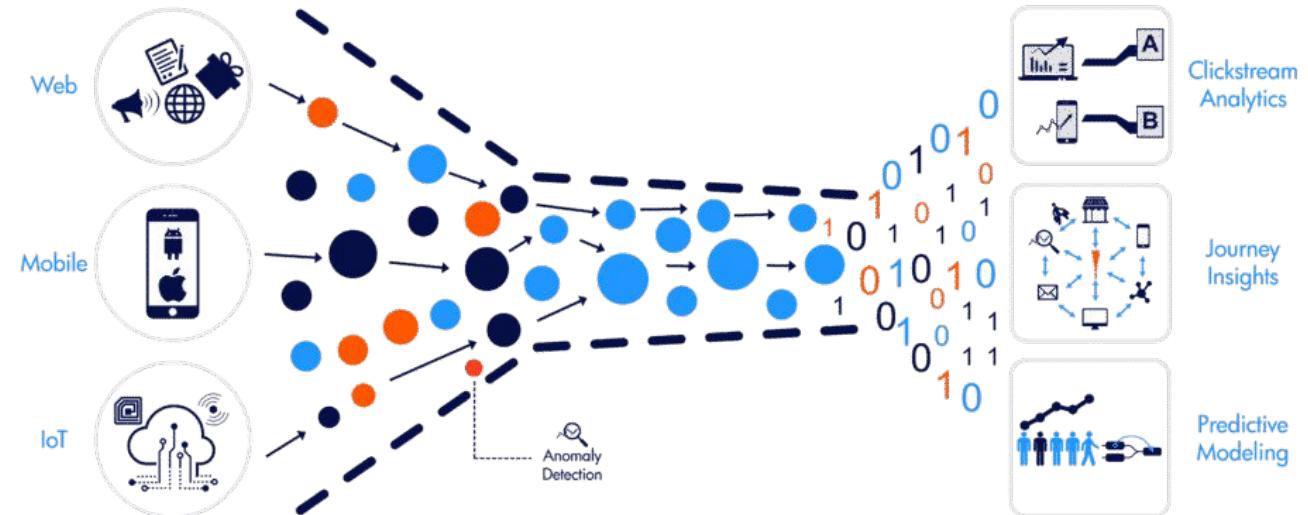
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# Background

- Websites use advertising and marketing for monetization
  - built-in anti-tracking countermeasures
  - potential third-party cookie phase-out
- Tracking by email addresses
  - enables cross-site, cross-platform, persistent tracking



<https://medium.com/@ugurekmekci/real-time-user-activity-tracking-w-divolte-collector-and-kafka-d8c106313400>

# Motivation

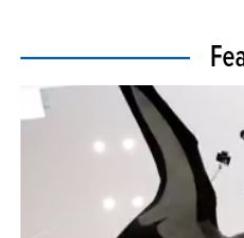
- PII collection before form submission on a mortgage calculator website (Gizmodo, 2017)
- A 2018 survey (n=502):
  - 81% abandoned forms at least once
  - 59% abandoned a form in the last month [6].

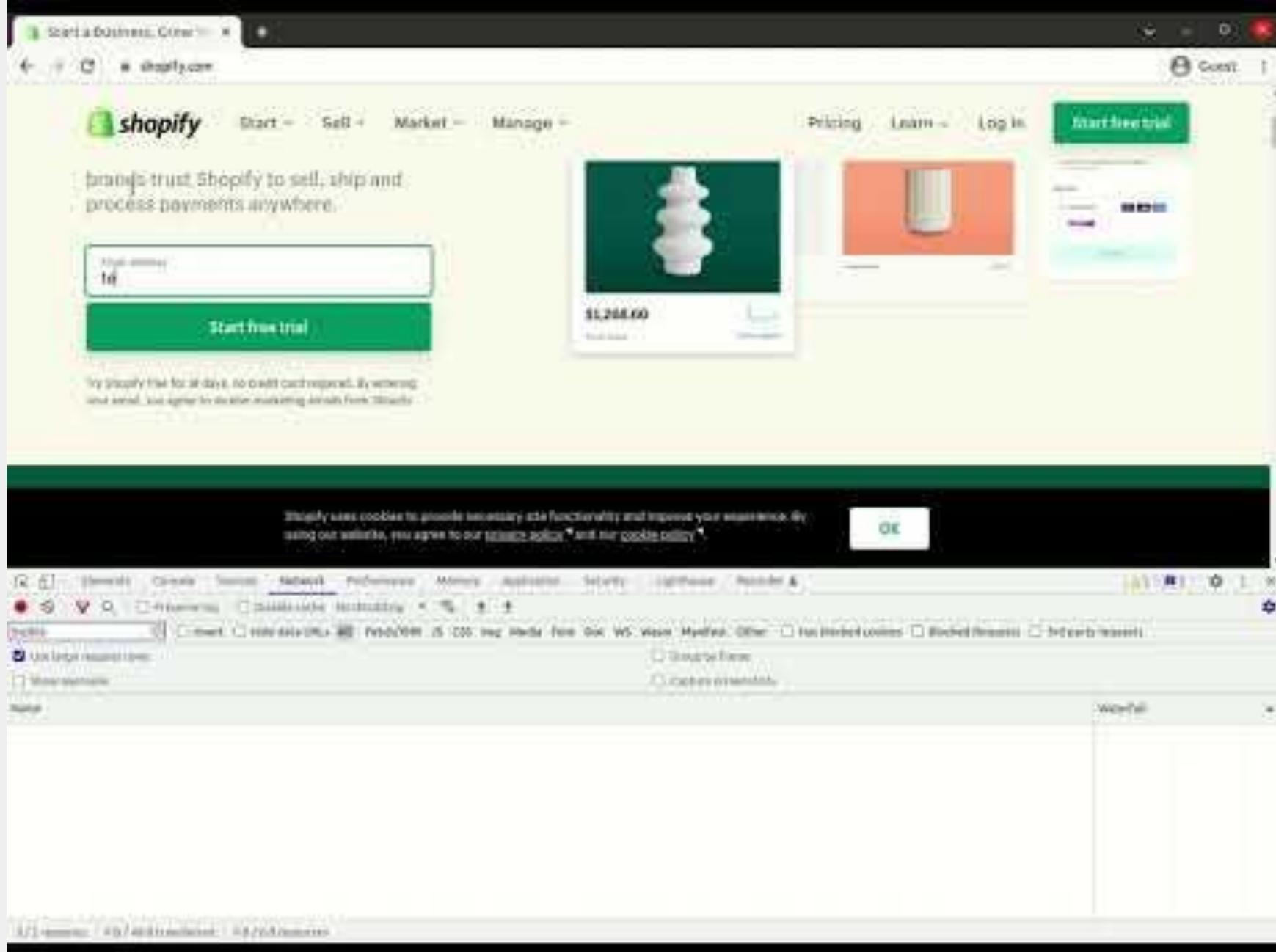
GIZMODO | HOME LATEST TECH NEWS REVIEWS SCIENCE EARTHER IO9

GIZMODO ORIGINALS

## Before You Hit 'Submit,' This Company Has Already Logged Your Personal Data

By Surya Mattu and Kashmir Hill | 6/20/17 2:23PM | Comments (103)





# Objectives

- Measure email and password collection prior to form submission
  - effect of location: EU vs. US
  - effect of consent
  - mobile vs. desktop

New Tab x LZString compress/decon x +

← → ⌛ Search Google or type a URL

Guest

## You're browsing as a Guest

Pages you view in this window won't appear in the browser history and they won't leave other traces, like cookies, on the computer after you close all open Guest windows. Any files you download will be preserved, however.

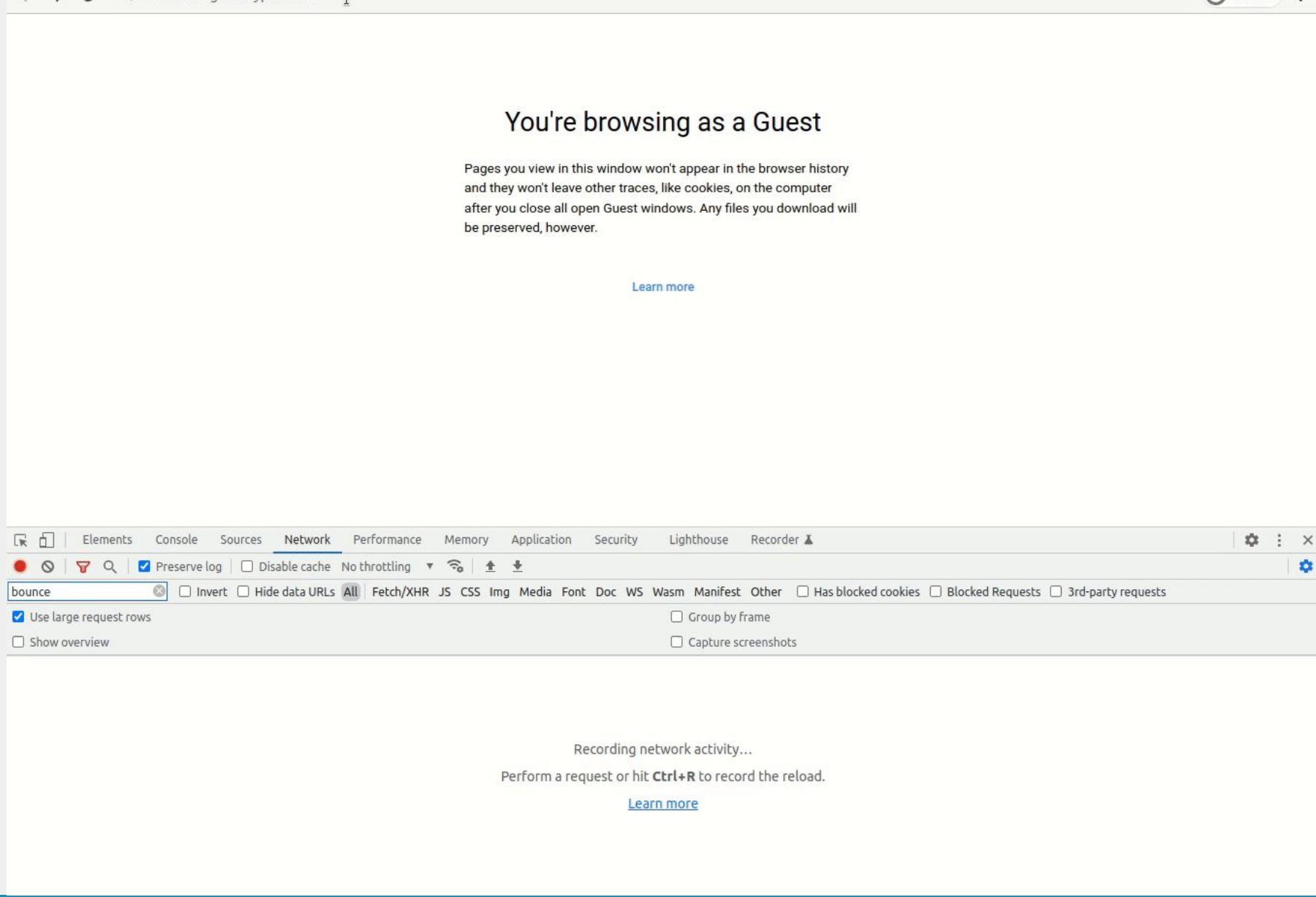
[Learn more](#)

Elements Console Sources Network Performance Memory Application Security Lighthouse Recorder

bounce  Invert  Hide data URLs All Fetch/XHR JS CSS Img Media Font Doc WS Wasm Manifest Other  Has blocked cookies  Blocked Requests  3rd-party requests

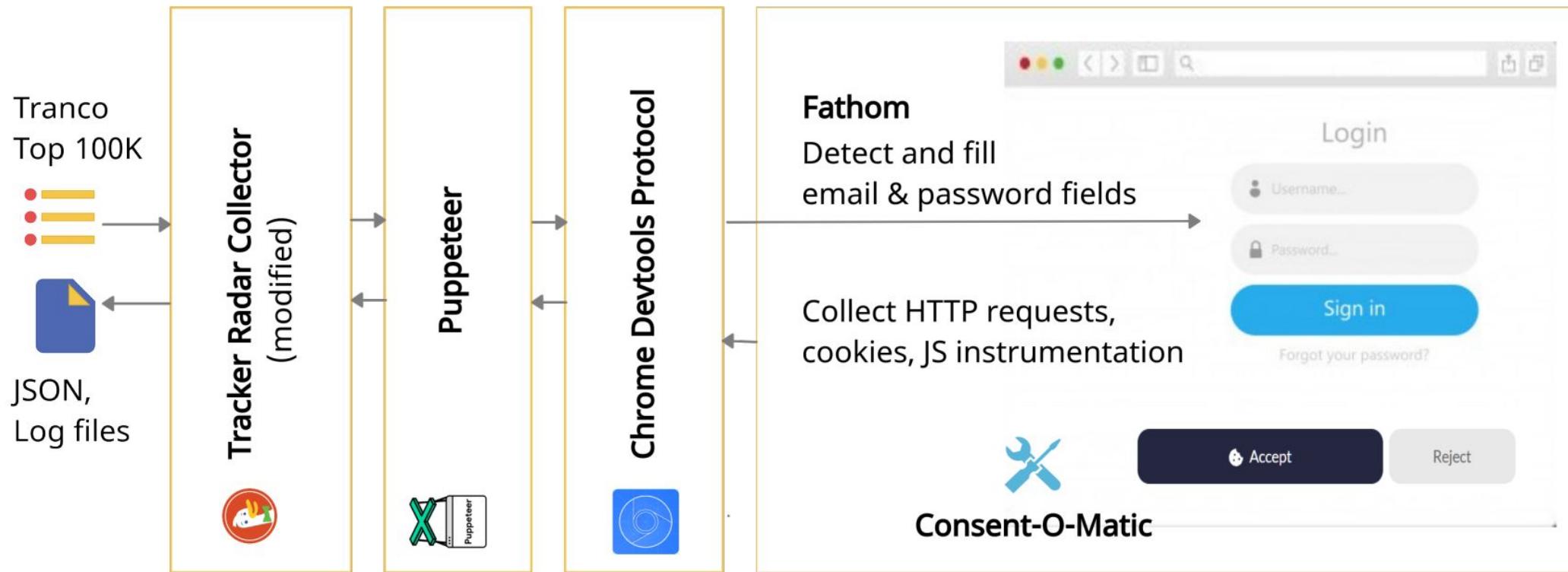
Use large request rows  Group by frame  
 Show overview  Capture screenshots

Recording network activity...  
Perform a request or hit **Ctrl+R** to record the reload.  
[Learn more](#)



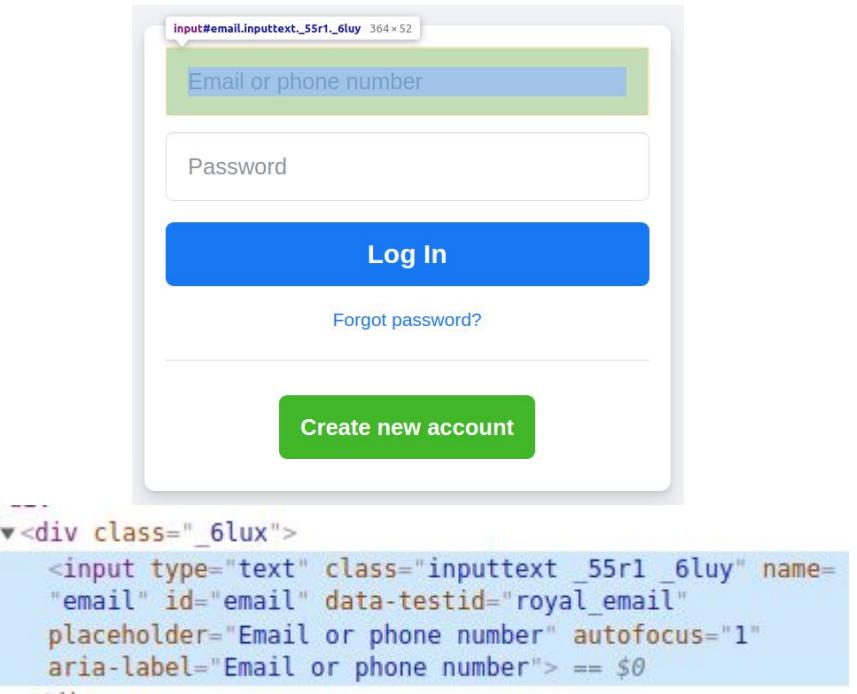
# Method – Web Crawler

- Built on Tracker Radar Collector (developed by DuckDuckGo)



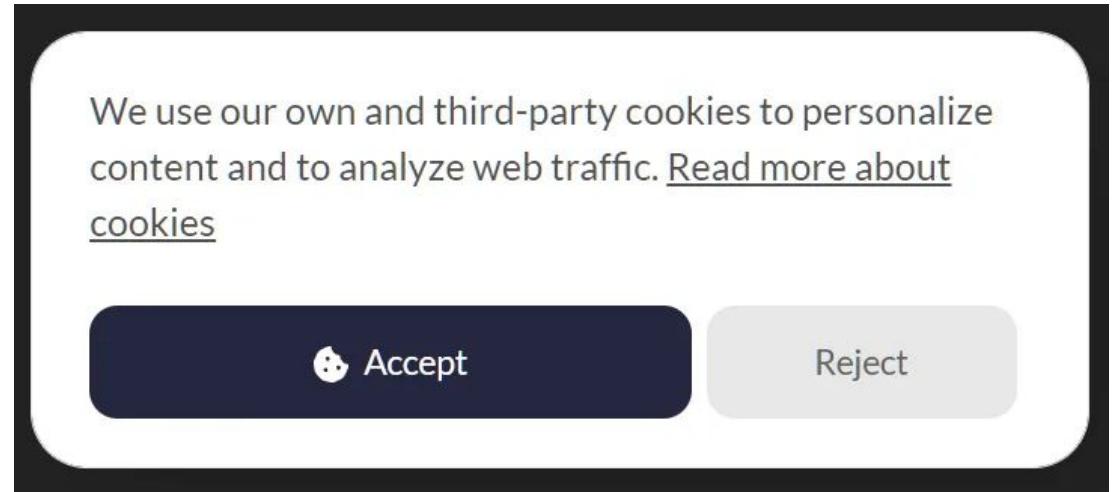
# Method – Email field detection

- **Fathom:** A supervised learning framework specialized to detect webpage parts [8]



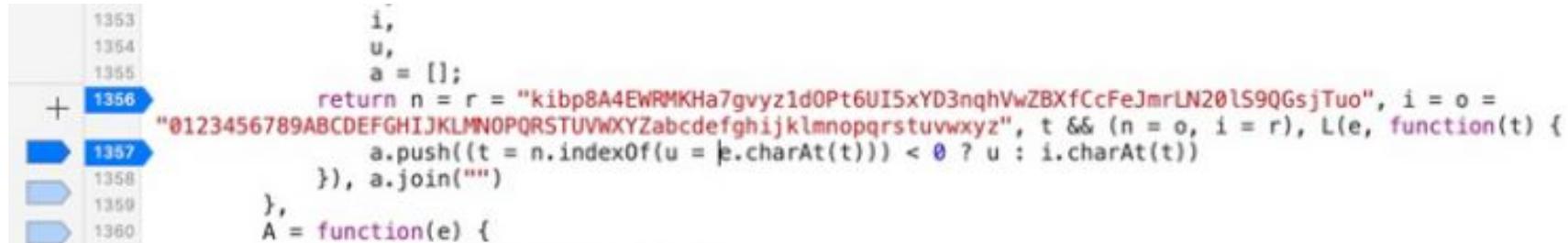
# Method – CMP detection

- **Consent-O-Matic:** browser extension that can recognize and interact with Consent Management Provider (CMP) pop-ups [7]
- Consent modes:
  - No-action
  - Accept-all
  - Reject-all
- $\approx 7,700/100K$



# Method – Leak Detection

- Based on Englehardt et al.'s method [3]
  - search for different encodings and hashes of search terms
- Identified two new encodings and a hashing method
  - LZString, custom mapping, hashing with a fixed salt



The screenshot shows a code editor with several numbered lines on the left and some annotations on the right. The code is as follows:

```
1353     i,
1354     u,
1355     a = [];
+ 1356     return n = r = "kibp8A4EWRMKHa7gvyz1d0Pt6UI5xYD3nqhVwZBXfCcFeJmrLN20lS9QGsjTuo", i = o =
"0123456789ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz", t && (n = o, i = r), L(e, function(t) {
  1357       a.push((t = n.indexOf(u = e.charAt(t))) < 0 ? u : i.charAt(t))
  1358     }), a.join("")
  1359   },
  1360   A = function(e) {
```

Annotations include:

- A blue arrow points to line 1356.
- A blue arrow points to line 1357.
- Blue numbers 1357, 1358, 1359, and 1360 are placed next to their respective lines.

# Method – Tracker Labeling

- Only considered leaks to tracker domains
- Block-lists we used:
  - Disconnect
  - Whotracks.me
  - DuckDuckGo (tds.json)
  - uBlock Origin
  - + Manual labeling

# Crawls

- 8 Crawls, 100K websites, 2.8M pages, May & June 2021
- 2 locations: EU (Frankfurt), US (NYC)
- 3 consent modes:
  - no action (100K)
  - accept all (7,220)
  - reject all (7,220)
- Mobile
  - EU, US
  - 100K – no action

# Dataset

Crawl Option	EU				US			
	No Action	Accept All	Reject All	Mobile	No Action	Accept All	Reject All	Mobile
Crawled URLs	100K	7,720	7,720	100K	100K	7,720	7,720	100K
Successfully loaded websites	99,380	7,716	7,716	99,363	99,437	7,714	7,716	99,409
Crawled pages	625,143	44,752	40,385	597,791	690,394	51,735	49,260	668,848
Websites where we filled email	52,055	5,076	5,115	47,825	53,038	5,071	5,077	49,615
Websites where we filled password	31,002	2,306	2,342	29,422	31,324	2,263	2,283	30,356

Overview of crawl statistics based on servers located in EU and the USA

## Results - Leaks

	EU			US		
	All	Third party	Tracking related	All	Third party	Tracking related
Email	4,395	2,633	<b>1,844</b>	5,518	3,790	<b>2,950</b>
Password	88	86	<b>46</b>	92	87	<b>48</b>

- Discovered 41 unlisted tracker domains

# Results - Email Leaks

EU							US						
Leak Type	Entity Name	Tracker Domain	Key by key	Num. sites	Prom.	Min. Rank	Entity Name	Tracker Domain	Key by key	Num. sites	Prom.	Min. Rank	
email	Taboola	taboola.com	No	327	302.9	154	TowerData	rlcdn.com	No	524	553.8	217	
	Adobe	bizable.com	Yes	160	173.0	242	Taboola	taboola.com	No	383	499.0	95	
	FullStory	fullstory.com	Yes	182	75.6	1,311	Bounce Exchange	bouncex.net	No	189	224.7	191	
	Awin Inc.	zenaps.com*	No	113	48.7	2,043	Adobe	bizable.com	Yes	191	212.0	242	
		awin1.com*	No	112	48.5	2,043	Awin	zenaps.com*	No	119	111.2	196	
	Yandex	yandex.com	Yes	121	41.9	1,688		awin1.com*	No	118	110.9	196	
	AdRoll	adroll.com	No	117	39.6	3,753	FullStory	fullstory.com	Yes	230	105.6	1,311	
	Glassbox	glassboxdigital.io*	Yes	6	31.9	328	Listrak	listrakbi.com	Yes	226	66.0	1,403	
	Listrak	listrakbi.com	Yes	91	24.9	2,219	LiveRamp	pippio.com	No	138	65.1	567	
	Oracle	bronto.com	Yes	90	24.6	2,332	SmarterHQ	smarterhq.io*	Yes	32	63.8	556	
	TowerData	rlcdn.com	No	11	20.0	567	Verizon Media	yahoo.com*	Yes	255	62.3	4,281	
	SaleCycle	salecycle.com	Yes	35	17.5	2,577	AdRoll	adroll.com	No	122	48.6	2,343	
	Automatic	gravatar.com*	Yes	38	16.7	2,048	Yandex	yandex.ru	Yes	141	48.1	1,648	
	Facebook	facebook.com	Yes	21	14.8	1,153	Criteo SA	criteo.com*	No	134	46.0	1,403	
	Salesforce	pardot.com*	Yes	36	30.8	2,675	Neustar	agkn.com*	No	133	45.9	1,403	
	Oktopost	okt.to*	Yes	31	11.4	6,589	Oracle	addthis.com	No	133	45.9	1,403	

# Answers to Your Top Questions About Hashed Email [Video]



November 24, 2015 By [Phil Davis](#)

Did you know your subscribers leave a digital fingerprint behind on all their online activities? Even better, did you know you already have everything you need to access this information?



Email hashing is the perfect way to connect the dots on customer behavior—across

[Taboola Ads](#)[Getting Started](#)[Create & Manage Great Campaigns](#) ▾[Create A New Campaign](#)[Edit Campaigns](#)[Campaign Targeting Options](#) ▾[Send your 1st Party Audiences via DMP or MMP](#)

# Lookalike Targeting

Look-alike models are used to increase scale by finding new people likely to be interested in your business because they resemble existing customers.

Use your CRM data to create lookalike audiences on Taboola! You can upload either a customer list of hashed email addresses, mobile device IDs, or 5 digit US zip codes and Taboola's predictive engine will find similar users that are more likely to convert based on the assumption that these users will be "like" your current customers in your database.

Visit our Advertiser Data Use Policy [here](#).

[Create and manage accounts](#)[Publish and distribute content](#)[Advertise](#)[Sell on Facebook and Instagram](#)[Monetise your content or app](#)

# Business Help Centre



Hi Ali, how can we help?

## About advanced matching for web

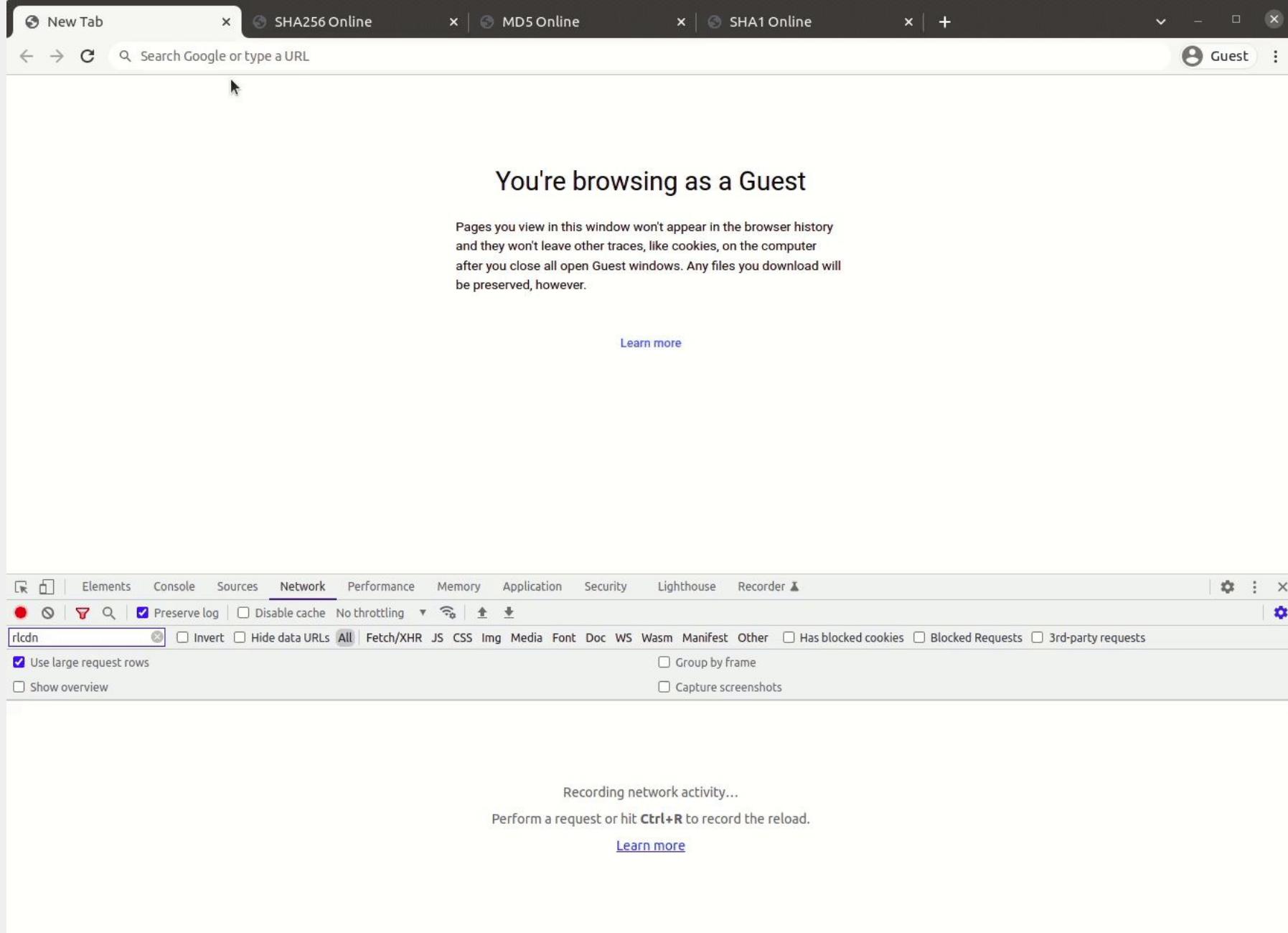
15,463 views

Advanced matching can help you optimise your Meta ads to drive better results. With advanced matching, you can send us hashed customer information along with your pixel events, which can help you attribute more conversions and reach more people. We hash the customer information on the website before they're sent to Facebook to help protect user privacy.

You can use advanced matching to help:



Tr



New Tab x LZString compress/decon x +

← → ⌛ Search Google or type a URL

Guest

## You're browsing as a Guest

Pages you view in this window won't appear in the browser history and they won't leave other traces, like cookies, on the computer after you close all open Guest windows. Any files you download will be preserved, however.

[Learn more](#)

Elements Console Sources Network **Performance** Memory Application Security Lighthouse Recorder

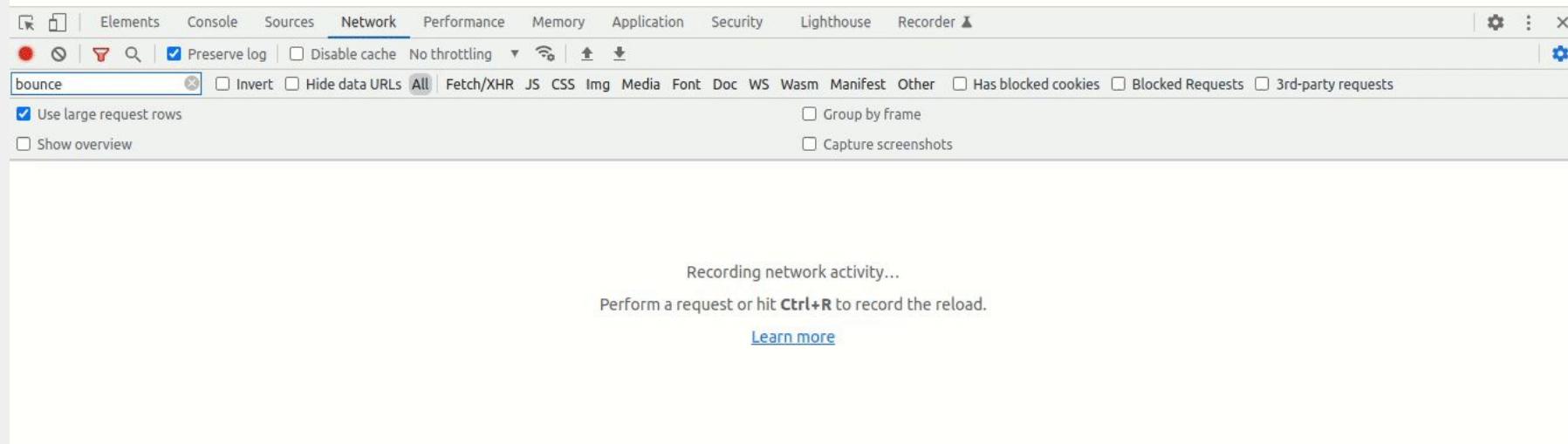
Preserve log  Disable cache No throttling

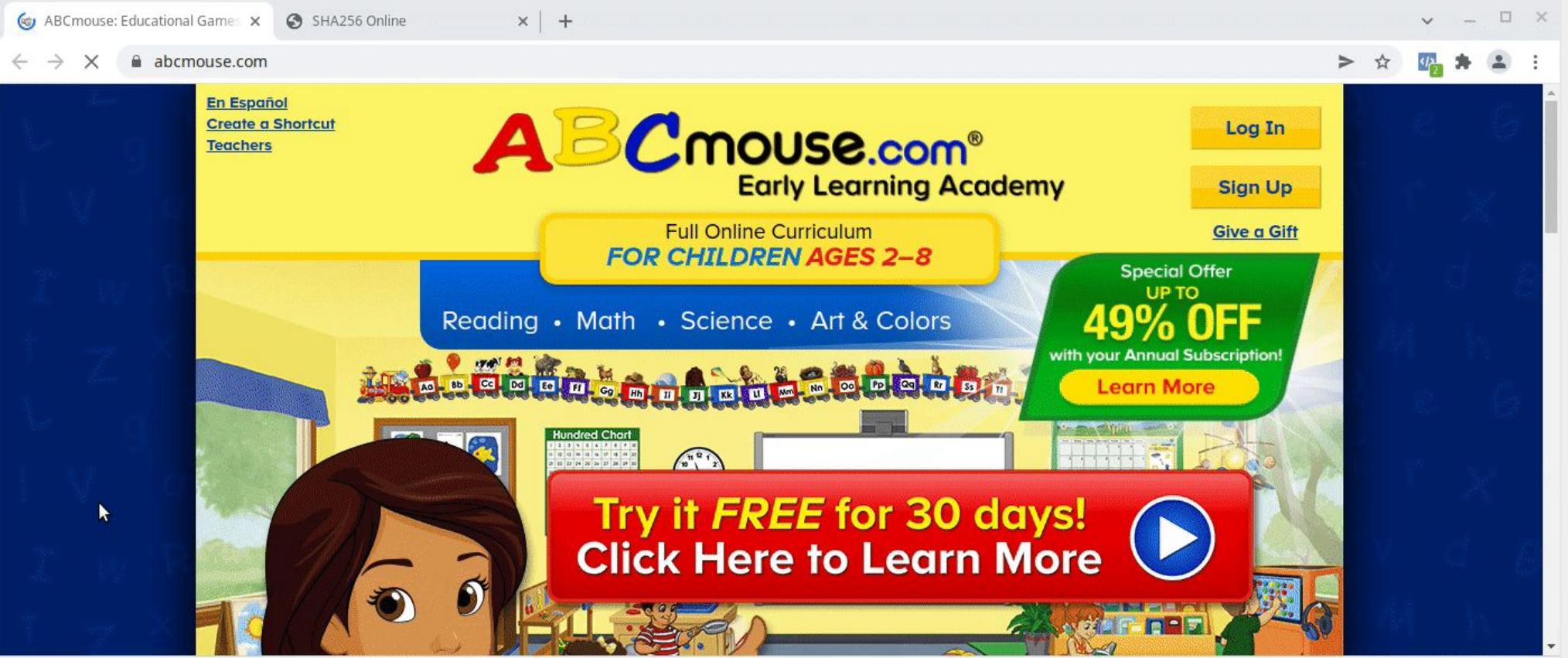
bounce  Invert  Hide data URLs All Fetch/XHR JS CSS Img Media Font Doc WS Wasm Manifest Other  Has blocked cookies  Blocked Requests  3rd-party requests

Use large request rows  Group by frame  Capture screenshots

Show overview

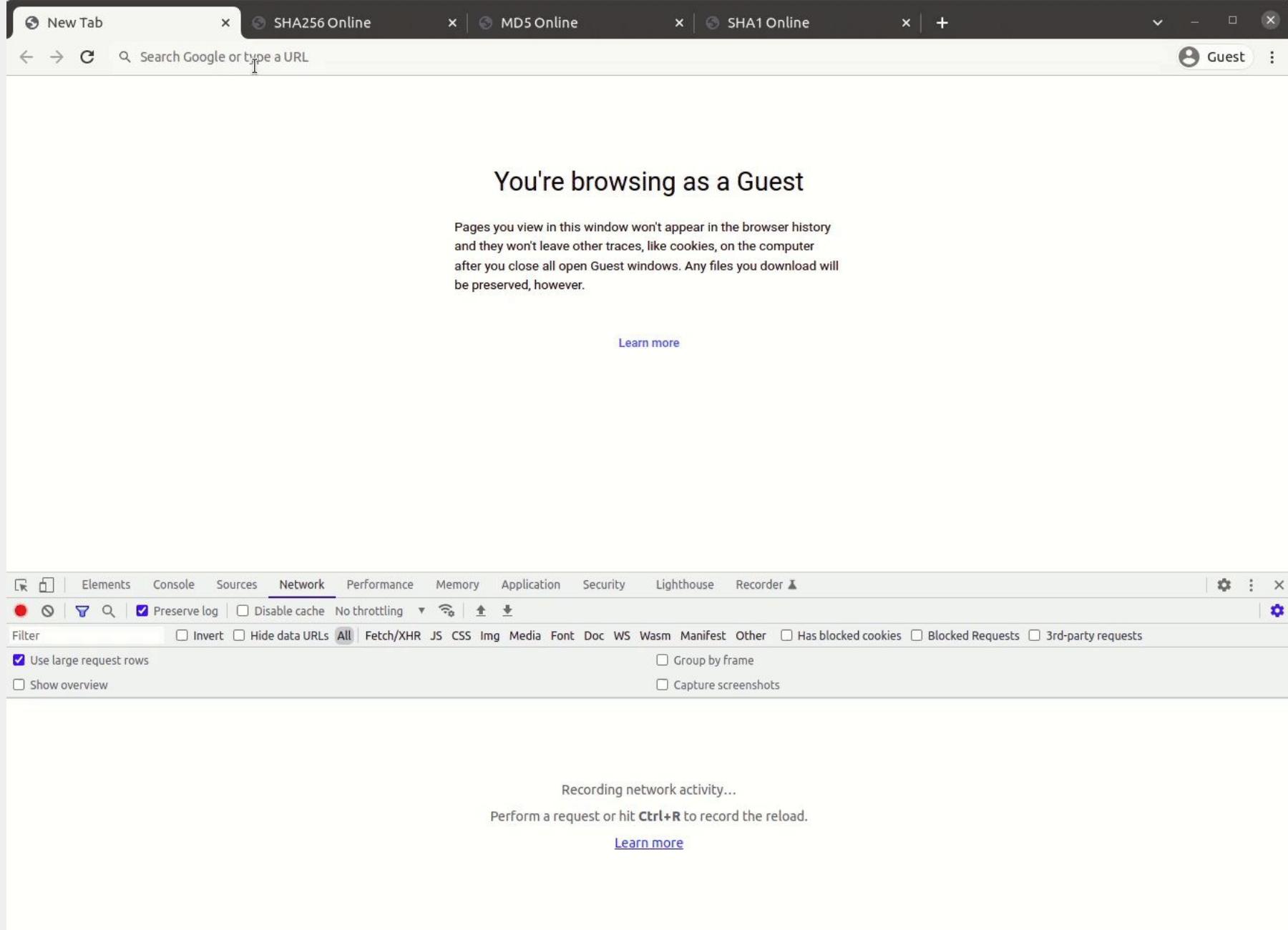
Recording network activity...  
Perform a request or hit **Ctrl+R** to record the reload.  
[Learn more](#)





Network							
Name	Status	Domain	Type	Initiator	Size	Time	Waterfall
task.nextcloud.com				script		0 B	000ms
?id=686407008078166&ev=Microdata&dl=https... www.facebook.com/tr	200	www.facebook.com	gif	www.facebook.com/ Redirect	91 B 44 B	29 ms 25 ms	
?id=686407008078166&ev=Microdata&dl=https... www.facebook.com/tr	307	www.facebook.com	/ Redirect	VM915 main.min.js:6 Script	0 B 0 B	Pending	
trace www.cloudflare.com/cdn-cgi	200	www.cloudflare.com	xhr	(index):6 Script	439 B 296 B	242 ms 239 ms	
p b.px-cdn.net/api/v1/PXTUoh5FRQ/d	200	b.px-cdn.net	xhr	(index):6 Script	19 B 3 B	98 ms 94 ms	

18 requests | 23.5 kB transferred | 54.7 kB resources



# Results - Top ten websites

EU				US			
Rank	Website	Third-party	Hash/encoding/compression	Rank	Website	Third-party	Hash/encoding/compression
154	<a href="#">usatoday.com*</a>	taboola.com	Hash (SHA-256)	95	<a href="#">issuu.com</a>	taboola.com	Hash (SHA-256)
242	<a href="#">trello.com*</a>	bizable.com	Encoded (URL)	128	<a href="#">businessinsider.com</a>	taboola.com	Hash (SHA-256)
243	<a href="#">independent.co.uk*</a>	taboola.com	Hash (SHA-256)	154	<a href="#">usatoday.com</a>	taboola.com	Hash (SHA-256)
300	<a href="#">shopify.com</a>	bizable.com	Encoded (URL)	191	<a href="#">time.com</a>	bouncex.net	Compression (LZW)
328	<a href="#">marriott.com</a>	glassboxdigital.io	Encoded (BASE-64)	196	<a href="#">udemy.com</a>	awin1.com	Hash (SHA-256 with salt)
567	<a href="#">newsweek.com*</a>	rlcdn.com	Hash (MD5, SHA-1, SHA-256)	217	<a href="#">healthline.com</a>	rlcdn.com	Hash (SHA-256 with salt)
705	<a href="#">prezi.com*</a>	taboola.com	Hash (SHA-256)	234	<a href="#">foxnews.com</a>	rlcdn.com	Hash (MD5, SHA-1, SHA-256)
754	<a href="#">branch.io*</a>	bizable.com	Encoded (URL)	242	<a href="#">trello.com*</a>	bizable.com	Hash (MD5, SHA-1, SHA-256)
1,153	<a href="#">prothomalo.com</a>	facebook.com	Hash (SHA-256)	278	<a href="#">theverge.com</a>	rlcdn.com	Encoded (URL)
1,311	<a href="#">codecademy.com</a>	fullstory.com	Unencoded	288	<a href="#">webmd.com</a>	rlcdn.com	Hash (MD5, SHA-1, SHA-256)
1,543	<a href="#">azcentral.com*</a>	taboola.com	Hash (SHA-256)			rlcdn.com	Hash (MD5, SHA-1, SHA-256)

# Results - Website Categories

Categories	Sites	EU/US		EU		US	
		Filled sites	Leaky sites	Filled sites	Leaky sites	Filled sites	Leaky sites
Fashion/Beauty	1,669	1,176	131 (11.1%)	1,179	224 (19.0%)		
Online Shopping	5,395	3,658	345 (9.4%)	3,744	567 (15.1%)		
General News	7,390	3,579	235 (6.6%)	3,848	392 (10.2%)		
Software/Hardware	4,933	2,834	138 (4.9%)	2,855	162 (5.7%)		
Business	13,462	7,805	377 (4.8%)	7,924	484 (6.1%)		
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Games	2,173	925	9 (1.0%)	896	11 (1.2%)		
Public Information	2,346	1,049	8 (0.8%)	1,084	27 (2.5%)		
Govern.Military	3,754	939	5 (0.5%)	974	7 (0.7%)		
Uncategorized	1,616	636	3 (0.5%)	646	2 (0.3%)		
<b>Pornography</b>	<b>1,388</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>0 (0.0%)</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>0 (0.0%)</b>		



Gmail Images



# Results - HTTP - WebSocket Usage



- 15 websites in the EU
- 14 websites in the US

WebSocket

- To four tracker domains:
  - hotjar.com
  - freshrelevance.com
  - noibu.com
  - decibelinsight.net

# Results - EU vs US

	EU		US		
	Distinct websites (All)	Distinct websites (Leaks to 3rd P)	Distinct websites (All)	Distinct websites (Leaks to 3rd P)	Distinct websites (Tracking related)
Email	4,395	2,633	1,844	5,518	3,790

60% difference

addthis.com, yahoo.com,  
doubleclick.net and criteo.com



Only appear in the US crawl

## Results - EU vs US

# rlcdn.com sends HTTP 451 error: Unavailable For Legal Reasons

# Results - EU vs US

Same script (from securedvisit.com) served with **different content**

```
1 /* sv_ea082ada0bf69f160b0bc84078d230c0.js
2 THIS APPLICATION CONTAINS INFORMATION PROPRIETARY TO SECUREDVISIT.COM
3 TO USE THIS SOFTWARE, YOU MUST BE AN AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEE OR AGENT
4 OF SECUREDVISIT.COM.
5 ALL RIGHTS NOT GRANTED TO YOU HEREIN ARE EXPRESSLY AND UNCONDITIONALLY
6 RESERVED. YOU MAY NOT REMOVE ANY PROPRIETARY NOTICE FROM ANY COPY OF THE SOFTWARE.
7 YOU MAY NOT PUBLISH, DISPLAY, DISCLOSE, RENT, LEASE, LICENSE,
8 SUBLICENSE, MODIFY, RENAME, LOAN, DISTRIBUTE, OR CREATE DERIVATIVE WORKS
9 BASED ON ANY PART OF THE SOFTWARE. YOU MAY NOT REVERSE ENGINEER,
10 DECOMPILE, TRANSLATE, ADAPT, OR DISASSEMBLE ANY PART OF THE SOFTWARE,
11 NOR SHALL YOU ATTEMPT TO CREATE THE SOURCE CODE FROM THE OBJECT CODE FOR
12 ANY PART OF THE SOFTWARE.
13 JQuery Sizzle:
14 This software consists of voluntary contributions made by many
15 individuals. For exact contribution history, see the revision history
16 available at https://github.com/jquery/sizzle
17 MD5 (Message-Digest Algorithm):
18 available at http://www.webtoolkit.info/
19 window.sv_DNT=true;
```

```
20 !function(e){var t,n=!!e.sv_DNT,r=e.sv_px,o="https://track.securedvisit.com/citecapture",i=r&&"string"==typeof
f.r.url&&"https://"==r.url.substring(0,6)?r.url:"https://track.securedvisit.com",u=i+"/identity",a={key:"sv_px_
domain_data",value:r&&r.domain_data?r.domain_data:void 0},c={key:"sv_pubid",value:e.sv_pubid},s={key:"sv_ci
d",value:e.sv_cid},l=!!e.sv_idq_wait&&[],f=function(e){function t(e,t,n,r){var o,i,u,a,c,l,d,v=t&&t.ownerDocu
ment,p=t.nodeType:9;if(n=n||[],"string"!=typeof e||!e||1==p&&9!=p&&11==p)return n;if(!r&&(t?t.ownerDocu
```

in the EU

```
1 /* sv_ea082ada0bf69f160b0bc84078d230c0.js
2 THIS APPLICATION CONTAINS INFORMATION PROPRIETARY TO SECUREDVISIT.COM
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11 NOR SHALL YOU ATTEMPT TO CREATE THE SOURCE CODE FROM THE OBJECT CODE FOR
12 ANY PART OF THE SOFTWARE.
13 JQuery Sizzle:
14 This software consists of voluntary contributions made by many
15 individuals. For exact contribution history, see the revision history
16 available at https://github.com/jquery/sizzle
17 MD5 (Message-Digest Algorithm):
18 available at http://www.webtoolkit.info/
19 window.sv_px={"url":"https://track.securedvisit.com","domain_data":{"sid_found":false,"ver":"1.0.0","sid_va
l":""}}
20 window.c=function(){var i="1.0.1";var e="onready";var g="fire";function f(j){if(Array.isArray){return Array.
isArray(j)}else{return Object.prototype.toString.apply(j)=="[object Array]"}}function b(j,l){var k=l?l:j;if
(typeof k==="object"){k=JSON.stringify(k)}if(l){k=j+": "+k}console.log(k)}function h(j){this.name=j;this.call
backs=[]}h.prototype.registerCallback=function(j){this.callbacks.push(j)};function d(){this.type="";this.data
il="";this.timeStamp=Date.now()}function a(){this.dataLayer=[];this.events={};this.isReady=false}a.prototype.
registerEvent=function(j){this.events[j]=new h(j)};a.prototype.on=a.prototype.addEventListener=function(j,k)
{if(!this.events.hasOwnProperty(j)){this.registerEvent(j)}}this.log("listening for",j,k);this.events[j].regis
terCallback(k);a.prototype.fire=a.prototype.dispatchEvent=function(k,j){if(this.events.hasOwnProperty(k)){for
(var l=0;l<this.events[k].callbacks.length;l++){var n=this.events[k].callbacks[l];if(n){var m=new d();m.type=
k;m.detail=j;this.log("firing",k,j);n.call(this,m)}else{this.log("dispatching event with no callback",k,n)}}}
else{this.log("dispatching an event with no registered listeners",k,j)}};a.prototype.ready=function(){this.is
Ready=true;this.dispatchEvent(e,this)};a.prototype.push=function(o){var k=this,j=arguments.length;if(!f(o)){re
turn}for(var m=0;m<j;m++){try{k.arguments[m][0].apply(k,arguments[m].slice(1))}catch(n){}}a.prototype.log
=function(m,l,j){var k;if(this.debug){k=m+" _svData.Event<"+l+">";b(k,j)}};function c(){var k=window._svData,
j=null;if(k){if(f(k)){j=new a();if(k.hasOwnProperty("debug")){j.debug=k.debug}j.push.apply(j,k);j.ready()}}el
se{j=new a();j.ready()}return j?j:k}return c()}();
21 !function(e){var t,n=!!e.sv_DNT,r=e.sv_px,o="https://track.securedvisit.com/citecapture",i=r&&"string"==typeof
f.r.url&&"https://"==r.url.substring(0,6)?r.url:"https://track.securedvisit.com",u=i+"/identity",a={key:"sv_px_
domain_data",value:r&&r.domain_data?r.domain_data:void 0},c={key:"sv_pubid",value:e.sv_pubid},s={key:"sv_ci
d",value:e.sv_cid},l=!!e.sv_idq_wait&&[],f=function(e){function t(e,t,n,r){var o,i,u,a,c,l,d,v=t&&t.ownerDocu
ment,p=t.nodeType:9;if(n=n||[],"string"!=typeof e||!e||1==p&&9!=p&&11==p)return n;if(!r&&(t?t.ownerDocu
```

in the US

# Results - The Effect of Consent

<b>Consent modes</b>	<b>EU</b>	<b>US</b>
Accept all	239	242
Reject all	201	199
No action	202	228

# Results - Mobile

	<b>Leaky/ Filled Sites EU</b>	<b>Leaky/ Filled Sites US</b>
<b>Desktop</b>	1,844 / 60,008 (3.0%)	2,950 / 60,999 (4.8%)
<b>Mobile</b>	1,745 / 55,738 (3.1%)	2,744 / 57,715 (4.8%)

# Results - Received Emails

- 290 emails from 88 distinct sites

Email from: diabetes.org.uk  
Tracker domain: freshaddress.biz

A friendly reminder Inbox x



Diabetes UK <[donate@diabetes.org.uk](mailto:donate@diabetes.org.uk)>  
to cosicadam0+diabetes.org.uk ▾

**DIABETES UK**  
KNOW DIABETES. FIGHT DIABETES.

We noticed that you were on our online donation form but didn't complete it. If you still feel able to donate, then please take a moment to [complete our form](#).

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Thank you,

Diabetes UK

\*Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

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# Results - Received Emails

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**Thanks For  
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When I started MyPillow, my passion was to help people get the best sleep of their life! What a blessing it has been to see that dream become a reality!

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Email from: [mypillow.com](http://mypillow.com)  
Tracker domain: [listrakbi.com](http://listrakbi.com)

¡Se despide Hot Days! 18 MSI + BONIFICACIÓN [Inbox x](#)



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OUTLET | TV Y VIDEO | BEBÉS | VIDEOJUEGOS | MUEBLES | CELULARES



Hasta  
**18** Meses Sin Intereses + 3 meses de bonificación en Edo. Cta.

Exclusivo en linea. Válido del 21 al 31 de mayo de 2021. Compra mínima para MSI es de \$1,500 acumulables sin incluir costo de envío. Compra mínima para bonificación en Estado de Cuenta es de \$3,000 a 18 MSI sin incluir costo de envío. Consulta términos y condiciones en: [www.walmart.com.mx/beneficios](http://www.walmart.com.mx/beneficios)



Email from: [walmart.com.mx](http://walmart.com.mx)  
Tracker domain: [veinteractive.com](http://veinteractive.com)

# Results - Password Leaks on 52 websites

Incidental collection by

- Yandex Metrica: due to React framework (50 websites)
- Mixpanel: due to outdated SDK usage (1 website)
- LogRocket: No response (1 website)

Официальный сайт Toyota: [toyota.ru](#) Settings

toyota.ru/#/publish/my\_toyota\_login

Elements Console Sources Network Performance Memory »

webvisor  Hide data URLs All XHR JS CSS Img Media Font Doc WS Manifest Other

Has blocked cookies  Blocked Requests

Name	Status	Type	Initiator	Size	T...	Waterfall
44886451?wmode=0&wv-part=2&wv... mc.yandex.ru/webvisor	200	xhr	ruxitagentjs IC...	145 B	7...	
44886451?wmode=0&wv-part=2&wv... mc.yandex.ru/webvisor	200	xhr	ruxitagentjs IC...	73 B	6...	
44886451?wmode=0&wv-part=3&wv... mc.yandex.ru/webvisor	200	xhr	ruxitagentjs IC...	145 B	5...	
44886451?wmode=0&wv-part=3&wv... mc.yandex.ru/webvisor	200	xhr	ruxitagentjs IC...	73 B	5...	

4 requests | 436 B transferred | 172 B resources

# МОЯ TOYOTA

Войти в личный кабинет

Электронная почта/Имя пользователя

Пароль

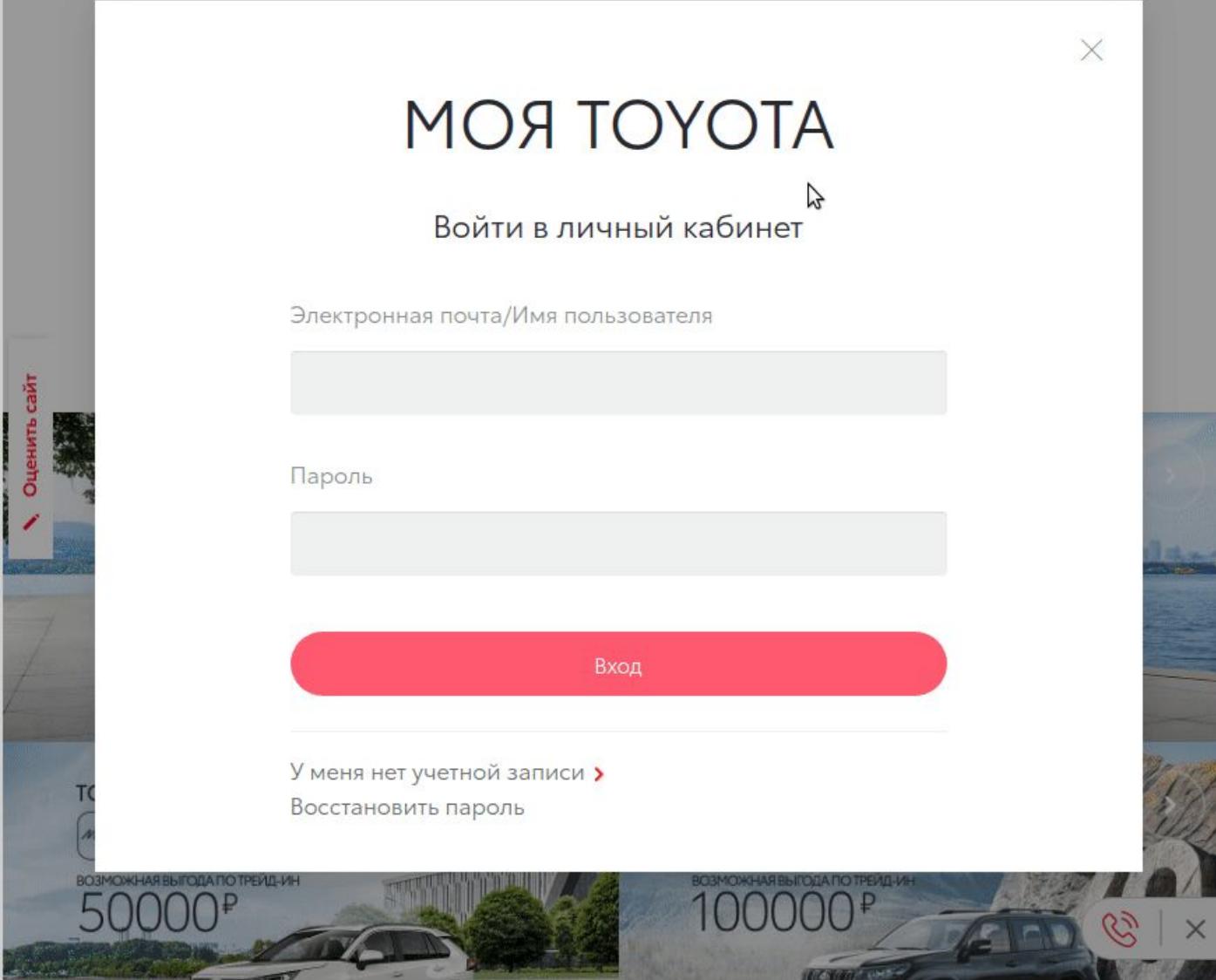
Вход

У меня нет учетной записи [›](#)

Восстановить пароль

Возможная выгода по трейд-ин 50000 ₽

Возможная выгода по трейд-ин 100000 ₽



Оценить сайт

# Password collection disclosures

- Notified more than 50 websites about the password collection
- Reached out to all third parties
  - Yandex and MixPanel released an update
  - LogRocket never replied
- Reached out to first parties
  - With Russian translation of the email

# Does Email Exfiltration Comply With the GDPR?

Is the controller  
is based in the  
EU?

**Is the GDPR relevant for companies outside Europe?**

Do the company  
'monitors' the  
behavior of people  
in the EU?

Does the company offers  
goods or services to  
Europeans?

# Does Email Exfiltration Comply With the GDPR?

1

## Transparency principle

Personal data must be processed  
'fairly and in a transparent manner'

2

## Purpose limitation principle

Controllers can only collect personal data if  
they specify a clear purpose in advance

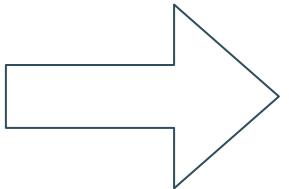
3

## The requirement for a legal basis such as consent

The controller always needs a 'legal  
basis' to process personal data

# GDPR Requests

52%



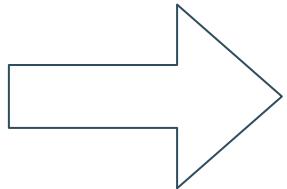
30/58 first parties replied

- Were not aware & removed
  - [fivethirtyeight.com](http://fivethirtyeight.com) (via Walt Disney's DPO)
  - [trello.com](http://trello.com) (Atlassian)
  - [lever.co](http://lever.co), [branch.io](http://branch.io) and [cision.com](http://cision.com)
- Marriott: Glassbox is used for **customer care, technical support, and fraud prevention**
- Tapad, not offering their services to UK & EEA users since August, 2021

# GDPR Requests

53%

15/28 third parties replied

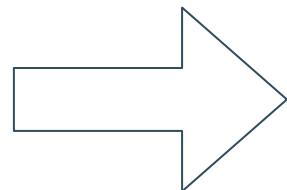


- Adobe and Yandex: Referred to corresponding first parties
- Taboola: CMP misconfiguration
- Adroll: Promised to rollout a comprehensive solution

# Outreach to identified websites in the US crawl

0%

0/33 first parties replied



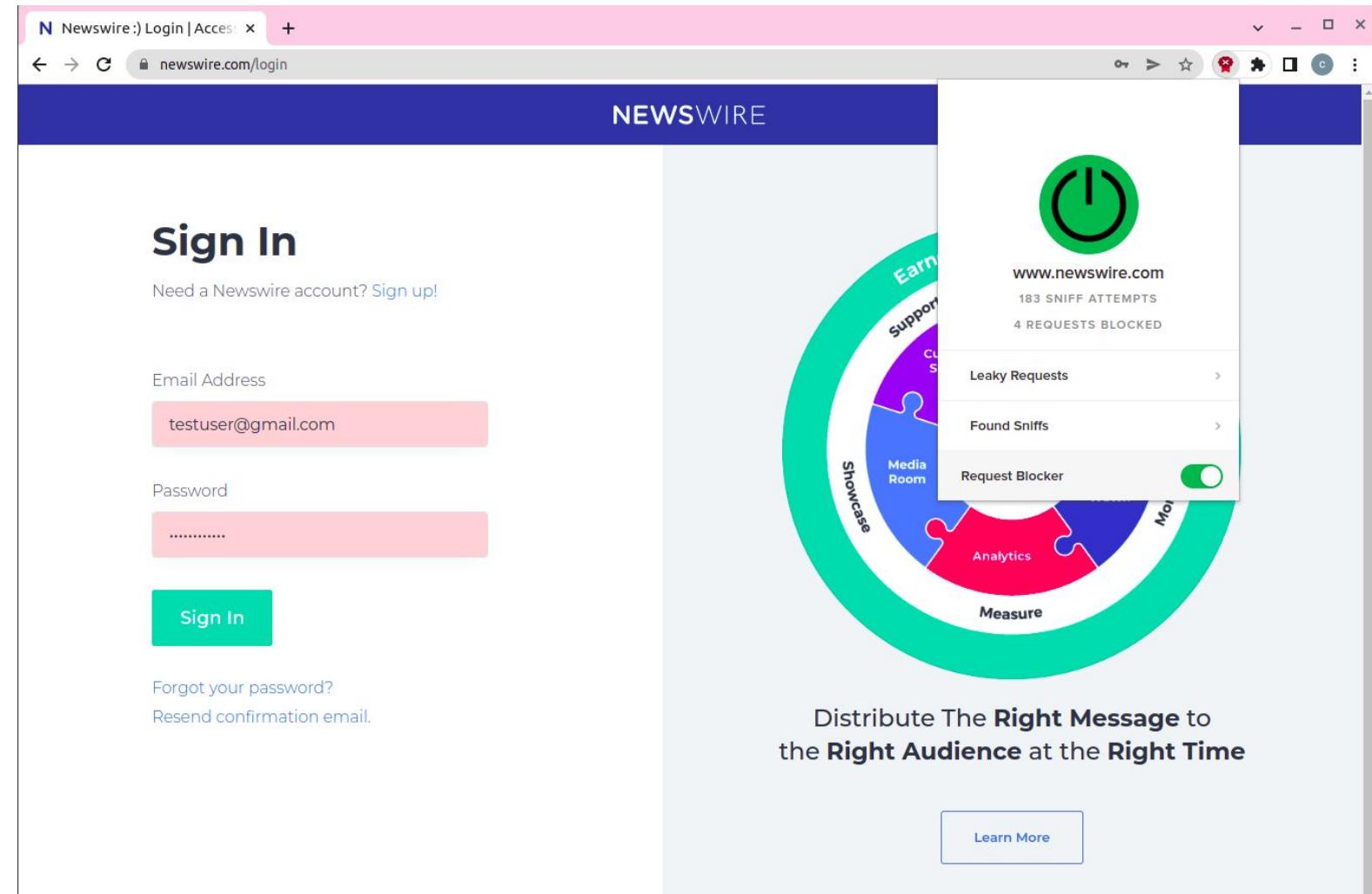
- We sent a friendly notification rather than a formal GDPR request.
- We did not get any response from these 33 websites.

# Countermeasures

- Browser add-ons **block requests** to tracker domains
- Private **email relay** services hide users' emails
  - Apple, Mozilla, DuckDuckGo
  - e.g. testuser@duck.com-> testuser@gmail.com
- **NO** tool for detection and prevention of **sniff & exfiltration** on online forms

# Browser add-on: LEAKINSPECTOR

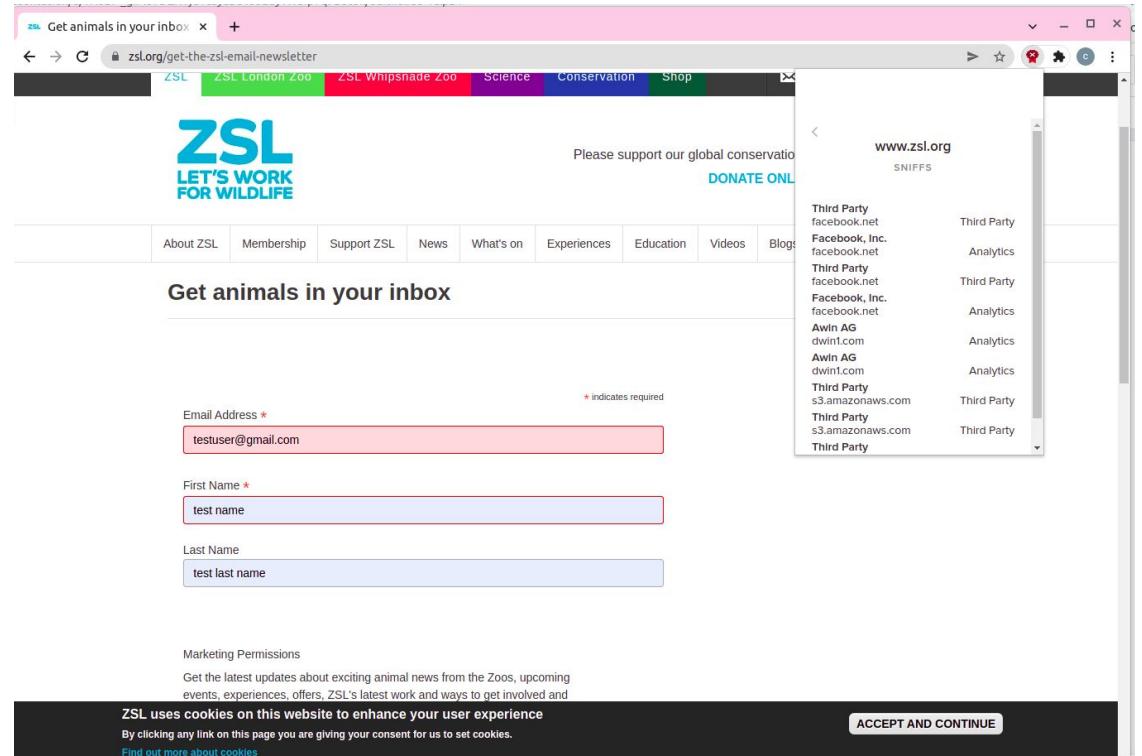
- Detect sniff attempts
- Request Blocker
  - Filters & blocks leaky requests to trackers
- The UI is based on DuckDuckGo Privacy Essentials



# Implementation Details - Detection of Sniff Attempts

## Check all interesting input fields

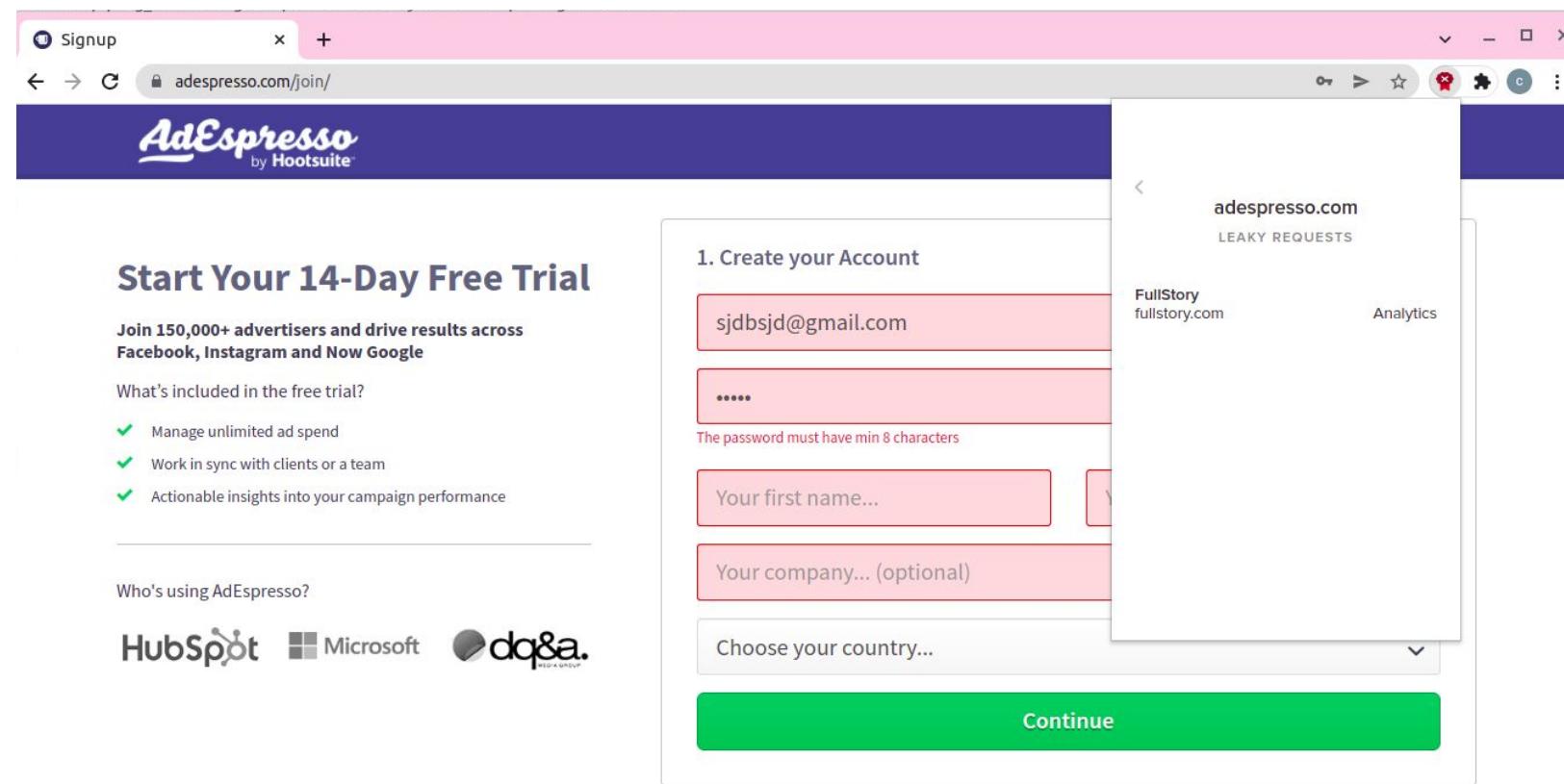
- Modify getter method of HTMLInputElement
- Process the stack trace
- Compose a list of script origins
- Check the script domain is same or not with the domain of the page URL
- Highlight the sniffed input field

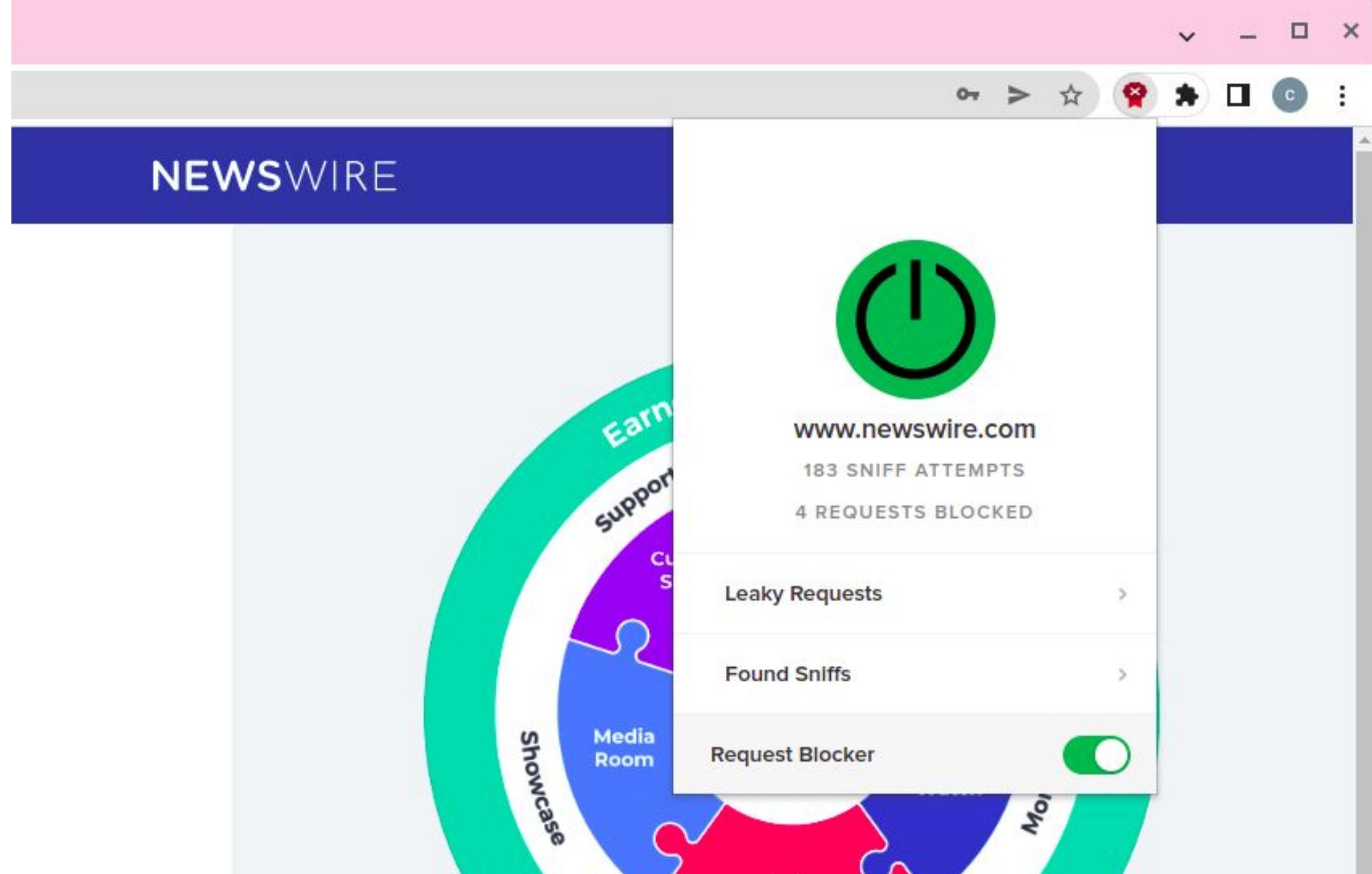


# Implementation Details- Detection of Leaky Requests

Before each request was sent to the its end points

- Check the POST body and URL in the request
- Encoded, hashed, obfuscated, cleartext version of the input value is in the request
- Leak detector implemented based on methodology proposed by Englehardt et al. (PETS'18) [3]





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# Press Release Distribution

## Empowering the Earned Media Advantage

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Distribute the **Right Message** to the **Right Audience** at the **Right Time**

Let's Get Started - Press Release Distribution

 Capterra ★★★★★ USER REVIEWS Trustpilot ★★★★★ 1500+ RATINGS SHOPPER Approved

TrustScore 4.6 | 215 reviews

# Leaks to Facebook & TikTok

- Triggered when the user clicks any button on the page.

The screenshot shows the homepage of The Independent website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Subscribe' and 'LOGIN'. Below the header, there are two small video player boxes featuring Rosemary Dartnall and Victoria Richards. The main content area has a section titled 'Latest headlines' with several news items. One prominent headline is about Starmer demanding swift action against a mystery 'porn-watching' Tory MP. Another section titled 'Ukraine under attack' shows images related to the conflict. The overall layout includes various news categories like 'LIVE', 'UK POLITICS', 'SPACE', 'EUROPE', and 'WORLD'.

# Leaks to Facebook & TikTok

- Disclosed to Facebook and TikTok

	<b>EU</b>	<b>US</b>
Facebook	7,379	8,438
TikTok	147	154



Login | Logout

Online Tools

## SHA256

SHA256 - Online Hash Function

Input

Output

Input type: Text

Hash: SHA256  Auto Update

Hash	File Hash
CRC-32	CRC-32
MD2	MD2
MD4	MD4
MD5	MD5
SHA1	SHA1
SHA224	SHA224
SHA256	SHA256
SHA384	SHA384
SHA512	SHA512
SHR32034	SHR32034
SHA11038	SHA11038
SHA3-224	SHA3-224
SHA3-256	SHA3-256
SHA3-384	SHA3-384
SHA3-512	SHA3-512
Kasumi-224	Kasumi-224
Rijndael-256	Rijndael-256
Rijndael-384	Rijndael-384
Rijndael-512	Rijndael-512
Blake-128	Blake-128
Blake-256	Blake-256
Encode	Decode
Base64	Base64
Base32 File	Base32 File
Base64	Base64
Base32 File	Base32 File

# Wrap up

- Email leaks on 1844, 2950 websites, EU, US, resp.
- Password leaks on 52 websites due to session replay scripts
- Uncovered 41 unlisted tracking domains
- Developed a transparency extension that detects PII sniffs and leaks

Any  
Questions?

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