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PART 1:

If you use a web browser like Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer, Edge, or Safari, then you’ve probably picked up a few cookies along the way. Cookies are used to remember things about websites: your login information, what you have in your shopping cart, what language you prefer. They are created by websites and sit in your browser until they expire. Some cookies are harmless, but others remain active even on websites that they didn’t originate from, gathering information about your behavior and what you click on. These are called third-party persistent cookies or, more colloquially, tracking cookies.Tracking cookies can be so invasive that many antivirus programs classify them as spyware. Despite their bad reputation, they have become so ubiquitous that it’s nearly impossible to avoid them. In this article, we’ll go into detail and explain how tracking cookies record your web activity, why they’re so popular, and how to stop them.

Cookies work as a tagging mechanism to identify your computer out of the millions of users accessing the Internet. The information contained in a cookie is used to track a user’s activity when visiting pages online. This tracking is done anonymously, but the user needs to give permission before a site can store a cookie on the machine. Most web browsers nowadays allow users to disable cookies permanently or delete them upon exit.

Cookie Cons

* **Privacy:** The main concern for most users is privacy. Cookie enabled web browsers keep track of all the websites you have visited. This means that with permission (or not in Google’s case), third parties can access the information stored by these cookies. These third parties can be advertisers, other users, or even the government in some cases.
* **Security:** The concern is that many security holes have been found in different browsers. Some of these holes were so serious that they allowed malicious webmasters to gain access to users’ email, different passwords, and credit card information.

Cookie Pros

* **Conveniency:** Cookies not only remember which websites you have been to, they also remember information about forms. Cookies can make filling out address forms quick and efficient. Most online shopping websites nowadays allow cookies for address and email information but make you fill out your credit card information each time..
* **Ease of Control:** It is actually really easy to manage your cookies if you know how. Most browsers make it easy for you to clear your browsing history. Just go to tools, clear history and select cookies. Cookies are stored on your hard drive in a text file under cookie.txt, and since it is a text file you can use just about any viewer or text editor to display, edit, and delete them.

Are cookies ethical?

Cookies are not an invasion of privacy and they are ethical. Because cookies do not do anything to your computer, and are just a piece of data, we feel that they should continue to be allowed for use, just the way that they are legally allowed to be used today.