Honeypot Technique of blocking spambots

Presentation by Gasser Ahmed

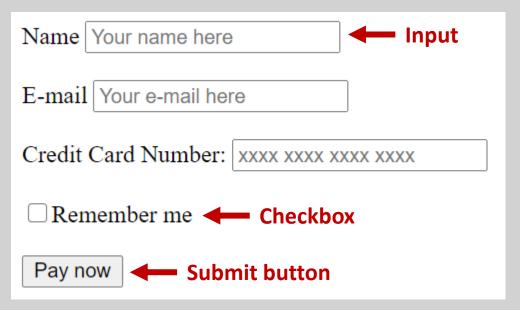


phppot.com
 Simple Secure Spam-Free
 Contact Form in PHP – Iris



What is a web form?

- An online page that allows for user input
- Rendered in modern browsers using HTML
- Form elements: input, checkbox, submit button, etc.



- Created by author



What is a spambot?

- Software written with a specific purpose of filling out of web forms with irrelevant or fake information
- Created by bots
- Malware downloads or loss of confidential information
- Generate traffic



How to stop a spambot?

- Honeypot
- Captcha
- Test question to your form



Captcha

- Text rendering image
- Human interaction and intelligence verification
- Spambots fail to defeat the challenge

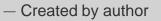


PowerPoint online pictures



Test question to your form

What is smaller, 8 or 9?
What comes first, E or Y?
What is the capital letter of "g"?





Pause and Think

 Why should we avoid using captcha and test questions techniques?



Telepathy -9 CAPTCHA Alternatives That

Won't Wreck Your UX



What is a honeypot?



Hidden field added to a web form that the user can't see



A spambot fills in a field that valid users can't see, alerting us to their activity



If the honeypot field is filled in, we can reject the form as spam.



Example: Contact Form (Before Honeypot)





```
<form id="contact-form" action="/submit">
             <label for="name">Name:</label>
label
             ≍input type="text" id="name" name="name" placeholder="Your name">
input
             <label for="email">E-mail:</label>
             <input type="email" id="email" name="email" placeholder="Your e-mail">
           </form>

    Created by author

                               Name: | label
                                Your name
               input
                               E-mail:
                                Your e-mail
```

Created by author





Create

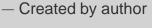
Create a honeypot field with the same name as one of the default fields

```
<form id="contact-form" action="/submit">
    <label for="name">Name:</label>
    <input type="text" id="name" name="name" placeholder="Your name">
        <label for="email">E-mail:</label>
        <input type="email" id="email" name="email" placeholder="Your e-mail">
        <label for="email">E-mail:</label>
        <input type="email"_id="email" name="email" placeholder="Your e-mail">
        </form>
```

Name:
Your name
E-mail:
Your e-mail

E-mail:
Your e-mail

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2

Rename

Rename your default fields to something random

Name:

Your name

E-mail:

Your e-mail

E-mail:

Your e-mail

Created by author



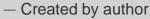


3

Hide

Hide your field

```
<style>
                                                    Name:
  .nohoney
    opacity: 0;
                                                     Your name
  position: absolute;
                                                    E-mail:
    top: 0;
    left: 0;
                                                     Your e-mail
  height: 0;
 → width: 0;
  → z-index: -1;
</style>
<form id="contact-form" action="/submit">
  <label for="nHash">Name:</label>
  <input type="text" id="nHash" name="nHash" placeholder="Your name">
  <label for="eHash">E-mail:</label>
  <input type="text" id="eHash" name="eHash" placeholder="Your e-mail">
  <label class="nohoney" for="email">E-mail:</label>
  <input class="nohoney" type="email" id="email" name="email" placeholder="Your e-mail">
</form>
```







Verify and block

Verify if your honeypot field came filled







1

Create

Create a honeypot field with the same name as one of the default fields

2

Rename

Rename your default fields to something random

3

Hide

Hide your field

4

Verify and block

Verify if your honeypot field came filled



Honeypots: Wrap up

- Don't inconvenience users
- Improve software quality
- A modern programming practice
- Use all weapons against spambots

