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Google Bans AdNauseam from Chrome, the Ad Blocker That Clicks on All Ads

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By Catalin Cimpanu 07:05 AM 6 January 6, 2017 **GOOGLE** LOCKS ADNAUSEAM USERS OUT OF CHROME JOIN OUR DEMAND TO #FREEADNAUSEAM

Google has banned the AdNauseam Chrome extension from the Chrome Web Store, an add-on that became very popular with users because it automatically clicked on all ads on a page.

According to the AdNauseam developers, Google has not contacted the add-on makers beforehand about their plans, nor did Google bother explaining its decision beyond a simple phrase.

The AdNauseam Firefox and Opera extensions remain standing, and the AdNauseam source code is available on GitHub.

Nevertheless, when Google bans a Chrome extension, it also takes proactive steps that prevent users from updating or re-installing the add-on. This mechanism helps Google ban malware-laced Chrome extension, but it can inadvertently serve as a tool to blackball developers or any unwanted add-ons.

Google gave AdNauseam devs a vague explanation

According to a statement published by the AdNauseam team, Google banned their project on January 1,

2017, with the explanation that "An extension should have a single purpose that is clear to users..." Repeated attempts from the AdNauseam team requesting more information about what Google meant

"To be clear, AdNauseam has a single purpose which we believe to be readily apparent to users; namely to fight back against the mass surveillance conducted by advertising networks, of which Google is a

prime example," the AdNauseam team wrote. "We can certainly understand why Google would prefer users not to install AdNauseam, as it directly opposes their core business model, but the Web Store's Terms of Service do not (at least thus far) require

extensions to endorse Google's business model. Moreover, this is not the justification cited for the software's removal."

The real problem may lie with one of AdNauseam's configurable features that allows the extension to

AdNauseam extension goes against's Google business model

issue fake clicks on all ads on a page. For the past three years, the AdNauseam extension has helped users mask their online presence by

clicking on all adds and preventing advertisers from building a reliable profile on the user's behavior.

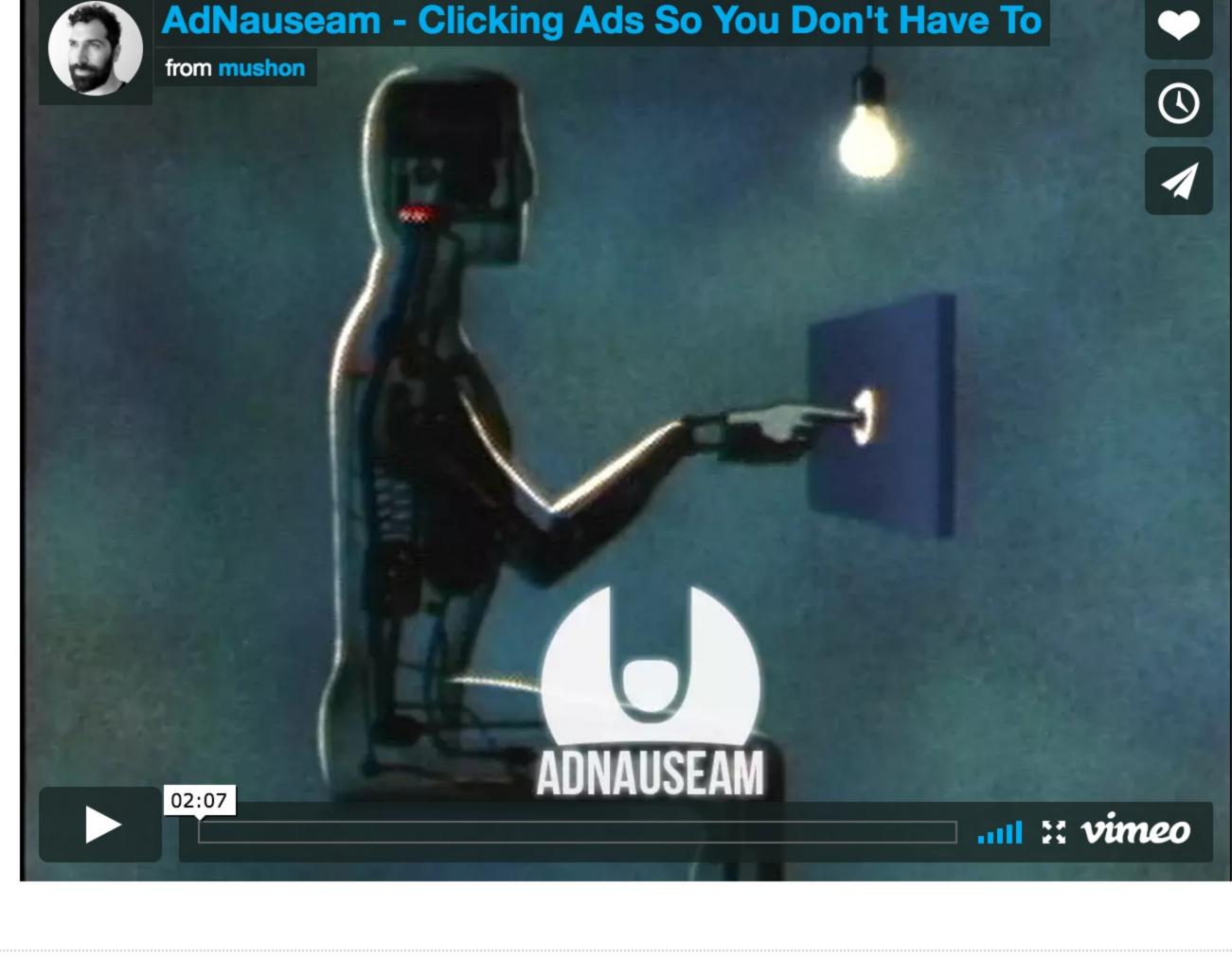
This might be the behavior the Google team is trying to block, as advertising is Google's main revenue

line. In the meantime, the AdNauseam team has resubmitted their extension for review, hoping to have it reinstated. This time around they say they've carefully reworded the options in the plugin's settings page, in order to be clearer and more transparent about its behavior.

"While we hope that Google will lift these unwarranted sanctions for AdNauseam, it highlights a much more serious problem for Chrome users," the AdNauseam team adds. "It is frightening to think that at any moment Google can quietly make your extensions and data disappear, without so much as a warning."

shows them how to load the extension using Chrome's Developer Mode.

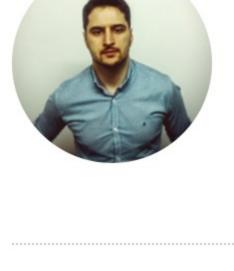
Users that want to bypass Google's ban and install the extension can do so by following this tutorial that



GOOGLE

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Catalin covers various topics such as data breaches, software vulnerabilities, exploits, hacking news, the Dark Web, programming topics, social media, web technology, product launches, and a few more.

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Comments doedoe - 1 month ago



I set my Chrome browser to block all cookies by default. If it causes problem with any site, I would then manually choose the cookies to allow. I also have a shortcut to show

my knowledge, and set up cookie filters manually. In a week or so, I was able to capture all the filters necessary to keep my cookie pool free of junks and still maintain a functional browsing experience. Hagrinas - 1 month ago

Companies are in business to make money. It's their desire to reach the people who are

most likely to be interested in their products. I have nothing against ad blockers. I have

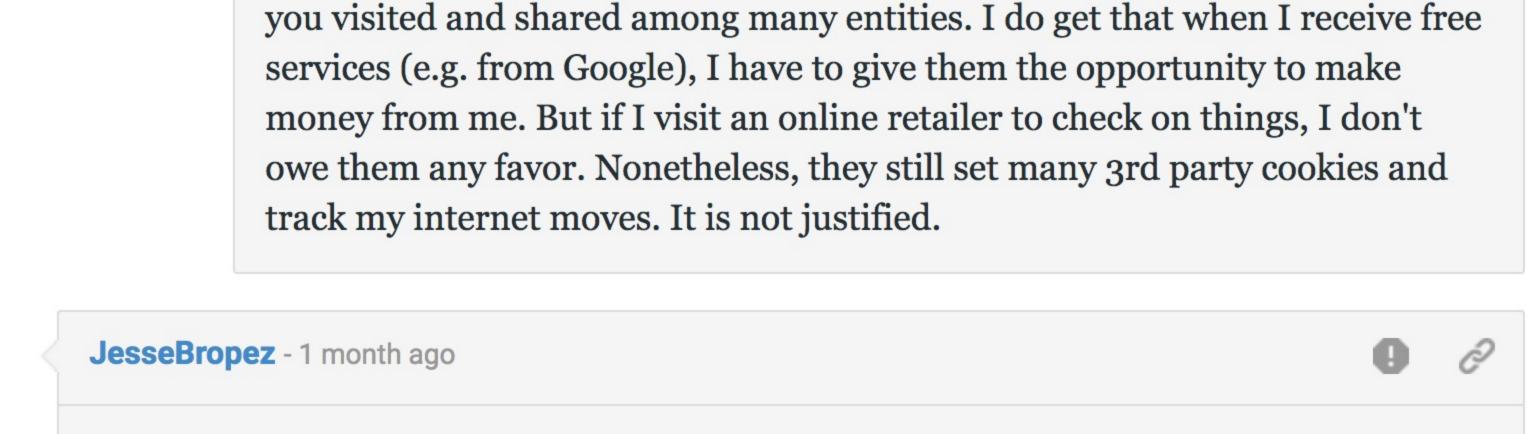
nothing against anything that tries to tailor ads to my needs because I'd rather see ads

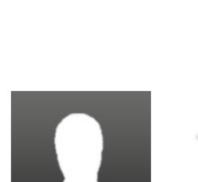
all cookies with one click to check if there are any cookies set by the extensions without



for something I might be interested in than ads for something I don't care about. Even better, I'd rather not see ads at all, but somebody has to pay the bills. Attacking people and costing them money because you don't like ads is so far beyond immature that it's pointless to try to explain it to anybody who would accept the practice. Some people are beyond hope. If you don't like ads, don't go to websites that run ads. Using their services and actively attempting to make their sponsors pay for phony clicks is beyond irrational. doedoe - 1 month ago

You don't get it. It is not about ads, but about cookies tracking all the sites





doedoe - 1 month ago I think that this app clicks the ads in the background with the developer's own affiliate

This is brilliant and it's getting installed onto my browsers.

unethical and breaks the credibility of online referral system.

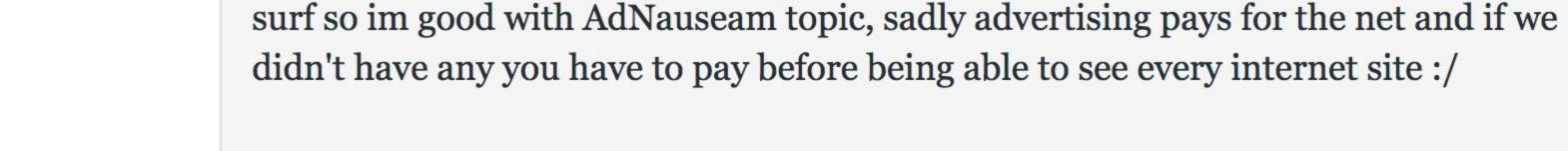


shadow_647 - 1 month ago

Bla my self i don't have a problem with messing with the internet sites that won't get off

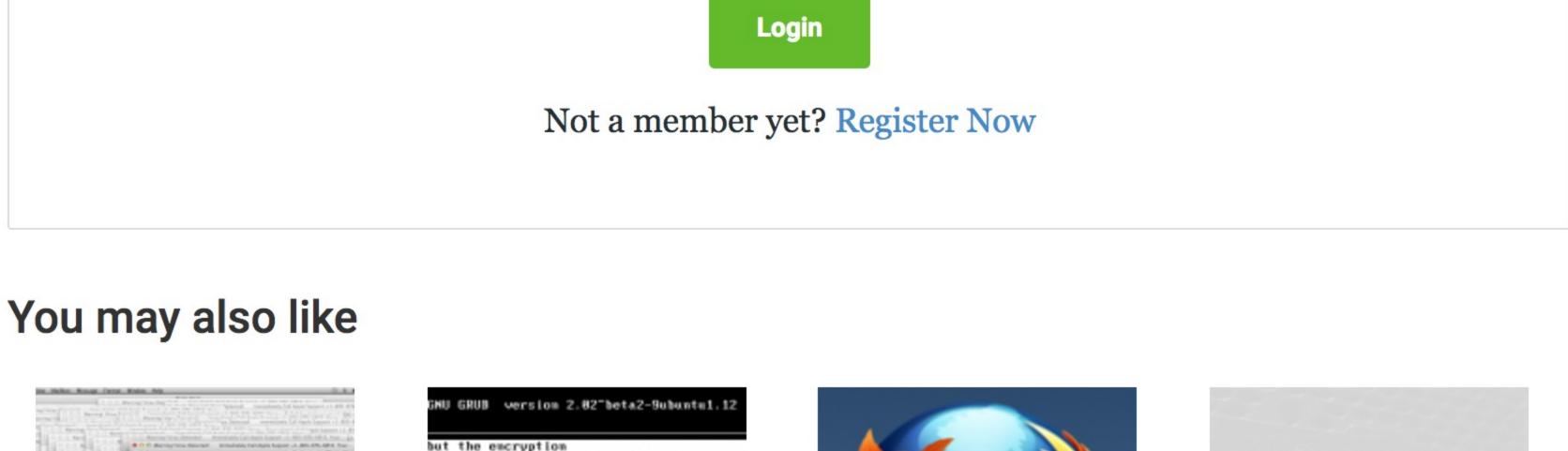
the privacy invasion topic and i have other mods to mess with internet sites online as a

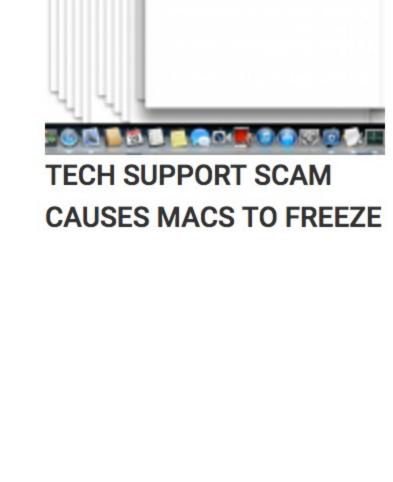
ID to get the click commissions. If this is true, then Google is 100% fair to block it as it is



Or a new system would have to be made to pay for internet sites. **Post a Comment Community Rules**

You need to login in order to post a comment



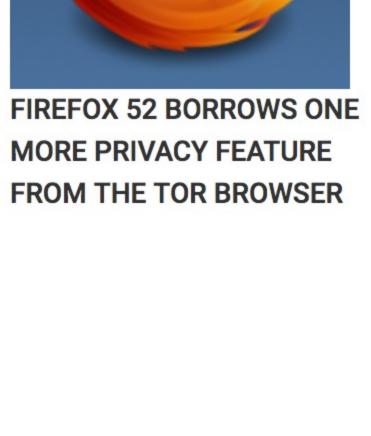


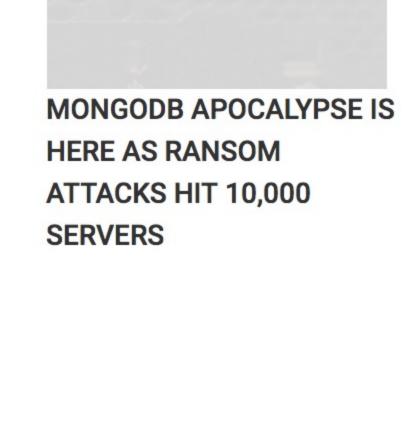
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Email Address...

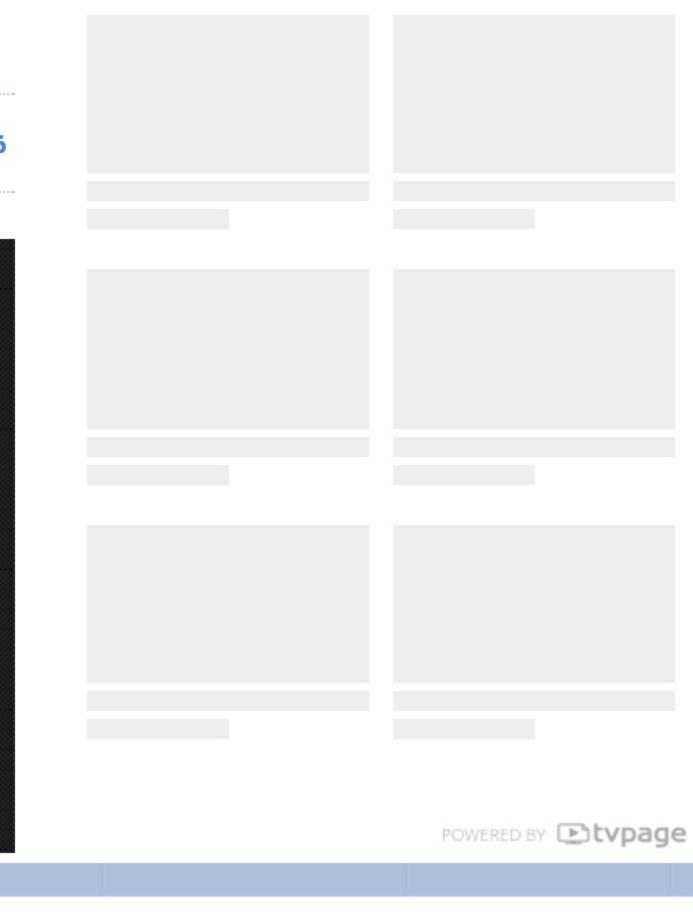


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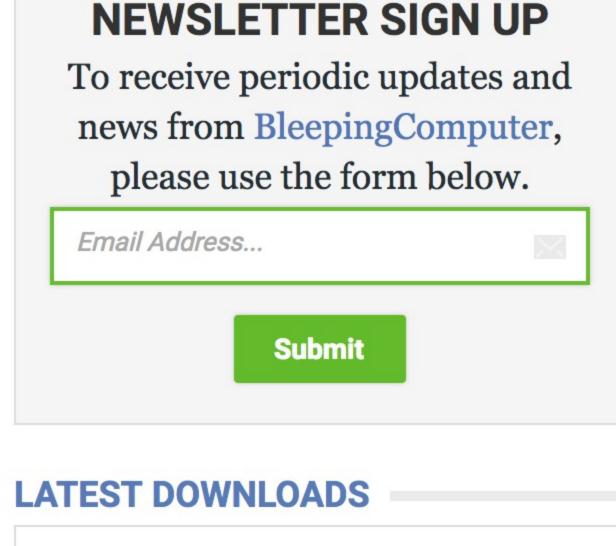
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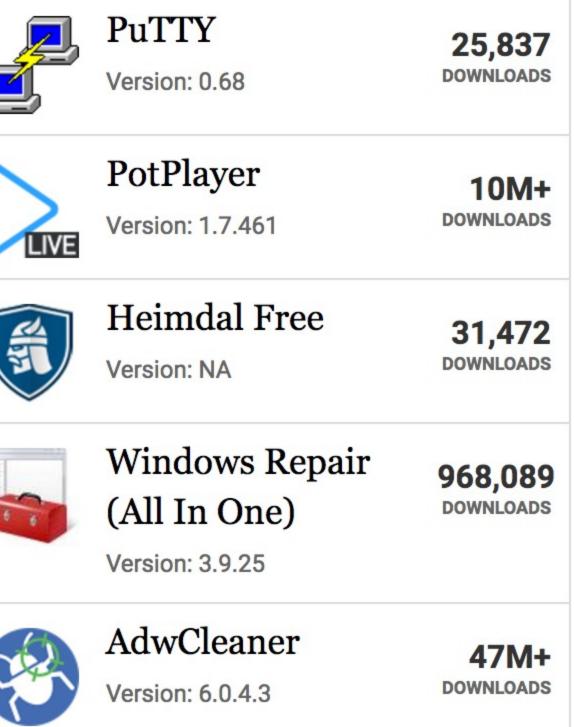
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