Fake Browsing History

## Originally Proposed Hypothesis

* Background
  + With the upcoming election, we want to test if websites target users based on their political affiliation and/or politically related searches.
* Hypothesis
  + Will organizations/companies target ads/announcements/offers/ or any form of telecommunication based on political party affiliation through recent online searches?
* Method
  + Users will visit ((Republican news/PAC/nominee sites (same for a democrat) for a proposed amount of time before visiting the designated website. If possible, the user will also “follow” accounts of political leaders/organizers/affiliated companies of the designated party to increase the likelihood of targeted ads.
    - Out of 8 designated profiles per website 3 will remain Democrat, 3 will remain Republican and the last two will stand as a control group to compare results.
      * Structure for all repeat transactions will be identical to ensure we can provide accurate results across sites.
    - (record in the paper) that we visit each of the identified links (drop Klobuchar so we have 12 each) for 25 clicks to links from each site (i.e. 300 clicks each profile), which should build a pretty rich history.

## Full Process Used to Establish History (for each multi-transaction ID)

1. In the main “Fake Identities” spreadsheet, scroll to the right, and select one of the multi-transaction IDs with an empty checkbox for “Website Complete?”. Take note of which political party is assigned, Democrat or Republican *(accounts marked Neutral are control samples to compare with other accounts for each website, and thus do not require political browsing history)*
2. Open Firefox *(ideally in a Linux environment)*, go to the “Privacy & Security” settings, and turn off all the built-in protection features *(except for Fingerprinters and Crytominers),* then manually click the “Clear Data” button under “Cookies and Site Data” and “Clear History”, to ensure no existing browsing data is leaked *(from “UAA Project Admin Tutorial - Firefox Privacy”)*
3. Turn on your VPN, and open a new browser window
4. Log into account for assigned social media website *(if adding history retroactively)*
5. ~~Make sure to manually click on the shield icon left of the URL to disable the last layer of built-in "Enhanced Tracking Protection"~~ *~~(unfortunately, this has to be re-done on each new page visited)~~*
6. Copy and paste the URLs *(below)* in new tabs to visit the websites of your Fake ID’s assigned political party *(Democrat or Republican)*, while keeping the main social media website tab open
7. ~~Repeat step 3 for every new website tab opened before next step~~
8. Scroll and click on links/objects around each site to show trackable user interaction, for a minimum of 20-30 clicks *(this is easiest to do by right-clicking all the site navigation links at the top of the main page to “open in new tab”, then randomly clicking on videos, form fields, other objects/links, etc.)*
9. Look for a click-able icon/link, for your assigned social media site, to Follow/Subscribe to the active political figure/website, if possible
10. After visiting all the websites in the list, close Firefox, and turn off VPN *(if IP hopping)*
11. Return to the main spreadsheet, and check off the “Website Complete?” box for the current Fake ID

### Political Website URLs

* Democrat
  + <https://berniesanders.com/>
  + <https://www.tulsi2020.com/>
  + <https://elizabethwarren.com/>
  + <https://democrats.org/>
  + <https://www.mikebloomberg.com/>
  + <https://www.wintheera.com/>
  + <https://www.yang2020.com/>
  + <https://joebiden.com/>
  + [https://www.cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com/)
  + <https://unitethecountry.com/>
  + <https://americanbridgepac.org/>
* Republican
  + <https://www.foxnews.com/>
  + <https://www.gop.com/>
  + <https://home.nra.org/>
  + <https://www.tedcruz.org/>
  + [~~https://jeb2016.com/~~](https://jeb2016.com/)
  + <https://www.donaldjtrump.com/>
  + <https://www.breitbart.com/>
  + <https://www.a1apac.org/leadership/>
  + <https://www.americancrossroads.org/>
  + <https://teapartypac.org/about-us/>
  + <https://www.clubforgrowth.org/>