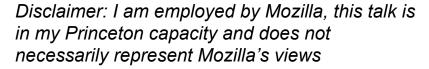
No boundaries: Data exfiltration by third-party tracking scripts

Steven Englehardt

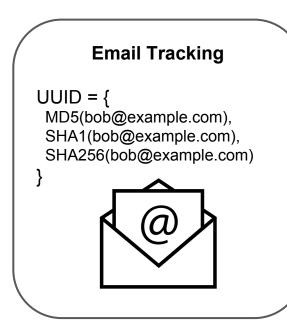
Joint work with:
Güneş Acar, Jeffrey Han, and
Arvind Narayanan







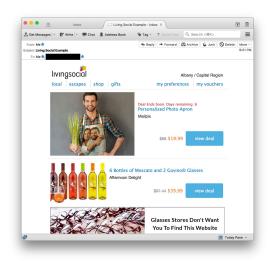
Third parties collecting PII on the web and in emails



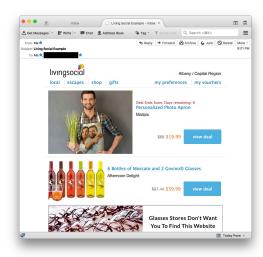




"No boundaries: Exfiltration of personal data by session-replay scripts" (freedom-to-tinker.com)
"No boundaries for user identities: Web trackers exploit browser login managers" (freedom-to-tinker.com)
Englehardt, Han, and Narayanan, "I never signed up for this! Privacy implications of email tracking" (PETS 2018)



What happens when you load remote content in an email?



Your device contacts 24 companies

- → 20 can track you (if supported)
- → 10 receive an MD5 hash of your email address

Receives MD5(email address) & Sets a Cookie

American List Counsel (alcmpn.com)

LiveIntent (liadm.com)

Oracle (nexac.com)

Acxiom (rlcdn.com, pippio.com, acxiom-online.com)

Criteo (criteo.com)

Conversant Media (dotomi.com)

V12 Data (v12group.com)

VideoAmp (videoamp.com)

<Unknown> (alocdn.com)

Sets a Cookie

OpenX (openx.net)

comScore (scorecardresearch.com, voicefive.com)

Oracle (bluekai.com)

Google (doubleclick.net)

Realtime Targeting Aps (mojn.com)

MediaMath (mathtag.com)

TapAd (tapad.com)

IPONWEB (bidswitch.net)

AOL (advertising.com)

Centro (sitescout.com)

The Trade Desk (adsrvr.org)

Adobe (demdex.net)

Receives MD5(email addr.)

Criteo (emailretargeting.com) **Neustar** (agkn.com)

Receives Bare Request

LiveIntent (licasd.com)
Google (2mdn.net)

Akamai (akamai.net)

LiveIntent Blog Post

Source: https://blog.liveintent.com/people-based-marketing-not-complicated/

As an identifier, **email is both deterministic and persistent**. That is, when a consumer gives out a verified email, it usually belongs to only that consumer. That can't be said of all typical advertising identifiers. Cookies, for example, live on desktop browsers that are often shared with no way to distinguish who's using it. And whereas **email is cross-device**, cookies aren't.

LiveIntent Privacy Policy

Source: https://liveintent.com/services-privacy-policy

...we collect non-personal information that does not reveal your specific identity. LiveIntent may also receive non-personal information from **online and offline sources**, including the types described below, from our business partners

How it works: A redirect chain for a single pixel

Row	Request URL
0	http://inbox.washingtonexaminer.com/imp?s=&e= <email>&p=0</email>
1	$\label{limit} http://p.liadm.com/imp?\&m = < MD5 > \&sh = < SHA1 > \&sh2 = < SHA256 > \&dom = < EMAIL_DOMAIN >$
2	http://x.bidswitch.net/sync?ssp=liveintent&bidder_id=5298&licd=3357&x=EGF.M
3	http://x.bidswitch.net/ul_cb/sync?ssp=liveintent&bidder_id=5298&licd=3357&x=EGF.M
4	http://p.adsymptotic.com/d/px/?_pid=12688&_psign=d3e69&bidswitch_ssp_id=liveintent&_redirect=
5	http://p.adsymptotic.com/d/px/?_pid=12688&_psign=d3e69&bidswit&_redirect=&_expected_cookie=
6	http://x.bidswitch.net/sync?dsp_id=126&user_id=84f3&ssp=liveintent
7	$\verb http://i.liadm.com/s/19751?bidder_id=5298\&licd=3357\&bidder_uuid=$
8	http://cm.g.doubleclick.net/pixel?google_nid=liveintent_dbm&google_cm&google_sc
9	http://cm.g.doubleclick.net/pixel?google_nid=liveintent_dbm&google_cm=&google_sc=&google_tc=
10	http://p.liadm.com/match_g?bidder_id=24314&bidder_uuid= <uuid_2>&google_cver=1</uuid_2>
11	http://x.bidswitch.net/sync?ssp=liveintent&bidder_id=5298&licd=
12	http://pool.udsp.iponweb.net/sync?ssp=bidswitch&bidswitch_ssp_id=liveintent

Measuring email tracking at scale

Sign up for email & get 25% off*			
Email, please			
Confirm your	email		
	SIGN UP NOW		
*Val	id for first-time registrants only & applies to reg. price items only. Privacy Policy		
	reg. price items only. <u>Privacy Policy</u>		

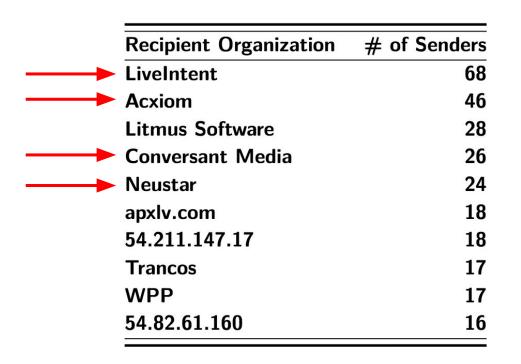
Received nearly 13,000 emails from ~900 sites

Top recipients of leaked email addresses

29% of emails (from 19% of senders) leak the email address to third parties

Recipient Organization	# of Senders
LiveIntent	68
Acxiom	46
Litmus Software	28
Conversant Media	26
Neustar	24
apxlv.com	18
54.211.147.17	18
Trancos	17
WPP	17
54.82.61.160	16

Why collect email address?



The top email collectors all sell "identity-based" marketing. Allowing advertisers to reach individuals on any device and connect with individual purchase data and other offline data.

Third parties collecting PII on the web and in emails







"No boundaries: Exfiltration of personal data by session-replay scripts" (freedom-to-tinker.com)
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Login manager abuse for web tracking

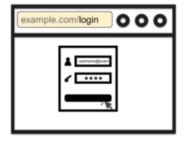


Built-in login managers

- Remembers username & passwords (opt-in)
- Autofills login forms
- Different than CC and address autofill



User submits a login or registration form, clicks "Save" to store the credentials.



Third-party script is not present on the login page



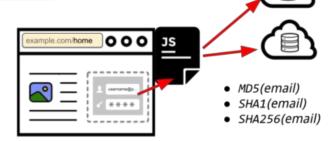
User visits a non-login page on the same site; this time the third party script is present



Third-party script injects an invisible login form

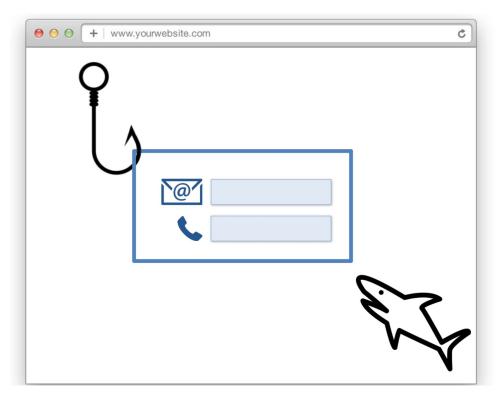


 Login manager fills in user's email and password



The script reads the email address from the form and sends it hashes to third-party servers

Injecting PII into the web: bait technique



Instrumentation and measurement



- Crawl 50K sites with OpenWPM, main page and 5 inner pages
- Firefox's nslLoginManager interface to add login credentials
- Mutation events to monitor element insertion (e.g. forms)
- HTMLInputElement instrumentation to intercept access to form input fields
- HTTP instrumentation: request and response headers, POST payloads

OpenWPM

Findings

Company	Script address	No of sites
Adthink	https://static.audienceinsights.net/t.js	1047
OnAudience	http://api.behavioralengine.com/scripts/be-init.js	63

Adthink (audienceinsights.net)

- sends MD5, SHA1 and SHA256 hashes of the email address to its server (secure.audienceinsights.net)
- triggers another request containing the MD5 hash of the email to data broker
 Acxiom (p-eu.acxiom-online.com)

OnAudience (behavioralengine.com)

- sends the MD5 hash of the email to its server
- also collects hash of browser plugins, MIME types, screen dimensions,
 language, timezone information, user agent string, OS and CPU information
- 45 of the 63 sites that contain OnAudience script have ".pl" ccTLD



BUY BILLIONS OF USER PROFILES

Mailing Exchange combines programmatic buying with e-mail marketing for fully automatic one-to-one advertising.

Moreover, it involves 3rd party data including general interests, purchase intentions, geolocalization, demographics and much more.



SELL MONETIZE YOUR DATABASE

Mailing Exchange gives you a new revenue stream and keeps your business model intact. You have the full control over trading terms and conditions.



We do not collect any personally identifiable information



Do-Not-Track

We respect DNT headers sent by web browsers



Opt-Out

We support IAB recommendations

0

FIGURES

We own one of the biggest data warehouses in the world.



LiveIntent Privacy Policy

Source: https://liveintent.com/services-privacy-policy

<u>To de-identify this information</u>, either we or our business partners [hash it].

Criteo Privacy Policy

Source: https://www.criteo.com/privacy/

we use a double hashing method ... to <u>ensure the non-reversibility</u> of your information. A hash of your email corresponds to a series of characters that <u>does not permit your identification</u>.

Email addresses aren't secrets!

Use email database leaks...



...and just guess the rest.

GPU cloud computer: \$24.48 / hour → 450 billion MD5 hashes / second

~4.7 billion email addresses total. If we generate a real address every 1 in 1 million guesses, we can generate the entire space for less than \$75.

Past research recovered 45-70% of emails.

Don't want to guess? Reverse hashes for \$0.04/email

theleadswarehouse.com



infutor.com



datafinder.com



Third parties collecting PII on the web and in emails



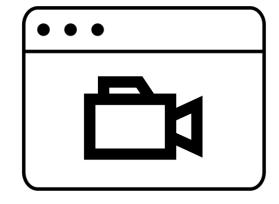




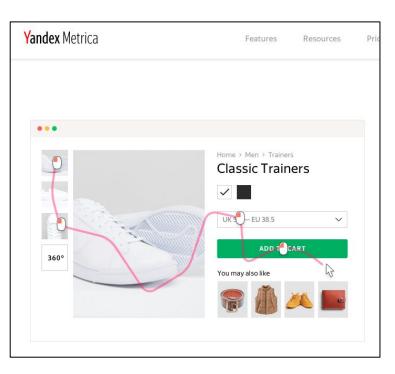
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What are session recording scripts?

- Session recording scripts create a "video" of all of a user's actions on a site.
 - Key presses
 - Mouse clicks, mouse movements
 - Scrolling behavior...
- Publishers can later review the videos.



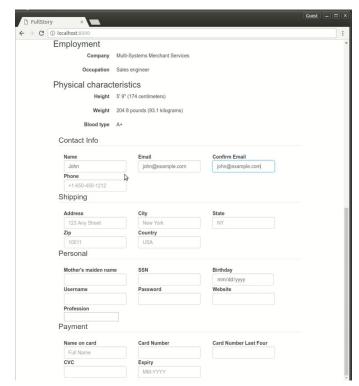
Why use session recording scripts?



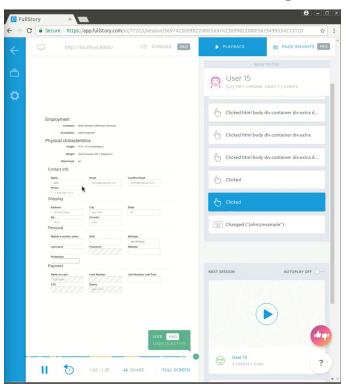
Answer questions like:

- Who are my most valuable customers?
- Who added items to the cart but didn't convert?
- Where do users leave the onboarding flow?
- Where are users frustrated?

Exfiltration of personal data by session recordings



Live website



Publisher Dashboard

Demo video: https://youtu.be/mh_NpUu0LS4

The problem: recordings require a ton of data



Full page source and text

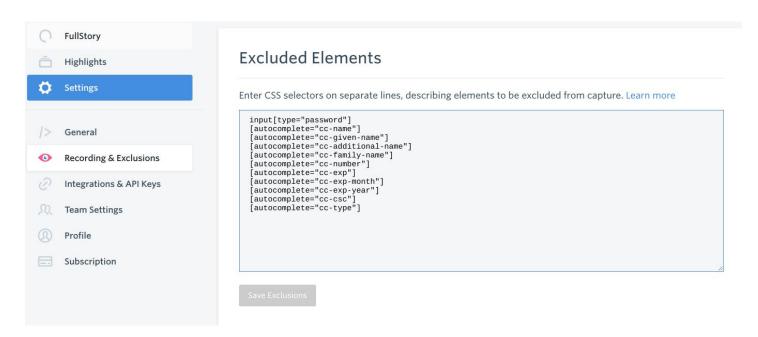


Mouse movements & clicks

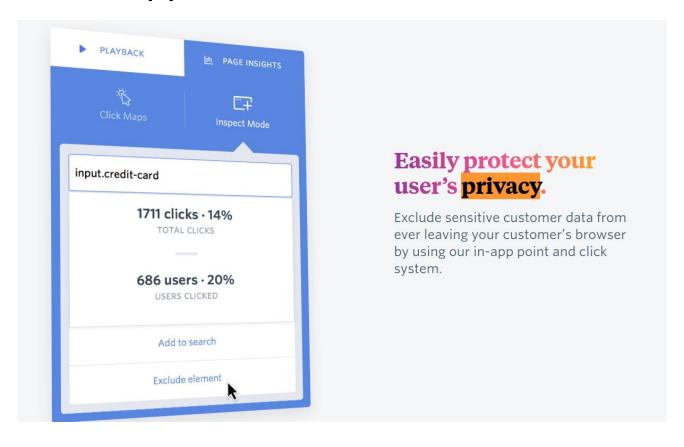


Keypresses

Scripts have automated exclusion...



Scripts also support manual redaction



How can things go wrong?

Redactions miss sensitive information

- Name
- CC#
- $\mathbb{C} \setminus \setminus \setminus$

esponse Cookies Timing

ind: 15, Args: [79]

ind: 14, Aras: [69]

ind: 15, Args:

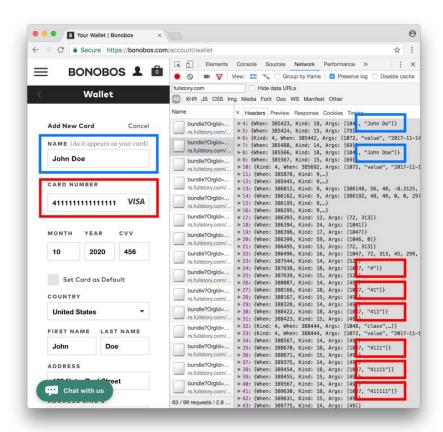
```
B Your Wallet | Bonobos
                                                                                                                                                                                  立:

→ C 

A Secure https://bonobos.com/account/wallet
                                                                                                                      Elements Console Sources Network Performance >>
                                                                                                                                                                                 : ×
                                                                         BONOBOS 2 0
                                                                                                                              View: 🔚 🐾 🗌 Group by frame 🛛 Viewerve log 🗀 Disable cache
                                                                                                                                      Hide data URLs
                                                                              Wallet
                                                                                                           XHR JS CSS Img Media Font Doc WS Manifest Other
                                                                                                                               × Headers Preview Response Cookies
                                                                                                                               ▶ 4: {When: 385423, Kind: 18, Args: [104, "John Do"]}
                                                                                                               bundle?Orald=...
                                                                   Add New Card
                                                                                             Cancel
                                                                                                                               ▶ 5: {When: 385424, Kind: 15, Args: [79]
                                                                                                               rs.fullstory.com/...
                                                                                                                                ▶ 6: {Kind: 4, When: 385442, Args: [1072, "value", "2017-11-14
                                                                   NAME (As it appears on your card)
                                                                                                                bundle?Orgld=...
                                                                                                                               ▶ 7: {When: 385488, Kind: 14, Args: (69)
                                                                                                               rs.fullstory.com/...
                                                                                                                                ▶ 8: {When: 385566, Kind: 18, Apgs: [104, "John Doe"]}
                                                                    John Doe
                                                                                                                                ▶ 9: {When: 385567, Kind: 15, Args: [69]
                                                                                                                bundle?Orald=..
                                                                                                                               ▶ 10: {Kind: 4, When: 305692, Args: [1072, "value", "2017-11-1
                                                                                                                rs.fullstory.com/..
                                                                                                                                ▶ 11: {When: 385878 Kind: 9,...}
                                                                                                                bundle?Orgld=...
                                                                                                                                ▶ 12: {When: 395945, Kind: 9,...}
                                                                   CARD NUMBER
                                                                                                               rs.fullstory.com/...
                                                                                                                               ▶ 13: {Whee: 386012, Kind: 9, Args: [386148, 56, 48, -8.3125,
                                                                                                                                ▶ 14: When: 386162, Kind: 9, Args: [386192, 48, 48, 0, 0, 297
                                                                                                                bundle?Orald=
                                                                    41111111111111 VISA
                                                                                                                                15: {When: 386195, Kind: 9,...}
                                                                                                                rs.fullstorv.com/
                                                                                                                                ▶ 16: {When: 386295, Kind: 9,...}
                                                                                                                               ▶ 17: {When: 386393, Kind: 12, Args: [72, 313]}
                                                                                                                               ▶ 18: {When: 386394, Kind: 24, Args: [1041]}
                                                                                                                                ▶ 19: {When: 386396, Kind: 17, Args: [1047]}
                                                                   MONTH
                                                                              YEAR
                                                                                          CVV
                                                                                                               oundle?Orald=.
                                                                                                                                ▶ 20: {When: 386399, Kind: 59, Args: [1046, 0]}
                                                                                                               rs,fullstory.com/...
                                                                                                                                ▶ 21: {When: 386495, Kind: 13, Args: [72, 313]}
                                                                                2020
                                                                                                               bundle?Orald=...
                                                                                                                               ▶ 22: {When: 386496, Kind: 16, Args: [1047, 72, 313, 45, 299,
                                                                                                                                ▶ 23: {When: 387544, Kind: 14, Args: [52]
                                                                                                               rs.fullstory.com/...
                                                                                                                                ▶ 24: {When: 387638, Kind: 18, Args: [10,7, "4"]}
                                                                                                                bundle?Orgld=..
                                                                                                                               ▶ 25: {When: 387639, Kind: 15, Args: [52
                                                                       Set Card as Default
                                                                                                               rs.fullstory.com/..
                                                                                                                                ▶ 26: {When: 388087, Kind: 14, Args: [49]
                                                                                                                               ▶ 27: {When: 388166, Kind: 18, Args: [10,7, "41"]}
                                                                                                                bundle?Orald=...
                                                                                                                               ▶ 28: {When: 388167, Kind: 15, Args: [49
                                                                                                               rs.fullstorv.com/...
                                                                                                                                ▶ 29: {When: 388328, Kind: 14, Args: [49]
                                                                                                               bundle?Orgld=...
                                                                              tates
                                                                                                                                ▶ 30: {When: 388422, Kind: 18, Args: [10,7, "411"]}
                                                                                                               rs.fullstory.com/..
                                                                                                                                ▶ 31: {When: 388423, Kind: 15, Args: [49
                                                                                                                                ▶ 32: {Kind: 4, When: 388444, Args: [1048, "class",...]}
                                                                                                               bundle?Orgld=...
                                                                              ME LAST NAME
ind: 18, Args: [104], "John Do"]}
                                                                                                                               ▶ 33: {Kind: 4, When: 388444, Args: [1072, "value", "2017-11-1
                                                                                                              rs.fullstory.com/...
                                                                                                                                ▶ 34: {When: 388567, Kind: 14, Args: [49
                                                                                     Doe
                                                                                                               bundle?Orald=...
                                                                                                                               ▶ 35: {When: 388670, Kind: 18, Args: [10 7, "4111"]}
                                                                                                               rs.fullstory.com/...
                                                                                                                               ▶ 36: {When: 388671, Kind: 15, Args: [49
                                                                                                                                ▶ 37: {When: 389375, Kind: 14, Args: [49]
B85442, Args: [1072, "value", "2017-11-
                                                                                                               bundle?Orald=...
                                                                                                                                ▶ 38: {When: 389454, Kind: 18, Args: [10 7, "41111"]}
                                                                                                             rs.fullstory.com/...
                                                                                                                                ▶ 39: {When: 389455, Kind: 15, Args: [49
                                                                                  Street
                                                                                                               bundle?Orgld=...
                                                                                                                                ▶ 40: {When: 389567, Kind: 14, Args: [49]
                                                                                                                               ▶ 41: {When: 389630, Kind: 18, Args: [10 7, "411111"]}
                                                                                                            rs,fullstory.com/...
ind: 18, Args: [104], "John Doe"]}
                                                                                                                                ▶ 42: {When: 389631, Kind: 15, Args: [49
                                                                                                           63 / 99 requests | 2.8 ...
                                                                                                                               ▶ 43: {When: 389775, Kind: 14, Args: [49]}
 385692, Args: [1072, "value", "2017-11
```

```
[72, 313]}
[1047, 72, 313, 45, 29
    7, "411"]}
[1048, "class",...]}
[1072, "value", "2017-1
[1057, "4111"]}
```

What happened?



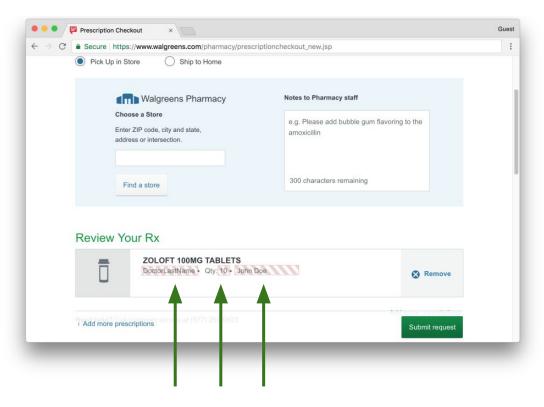
Bonobos used:

<input type="text"></input>

Bonobos should have used:

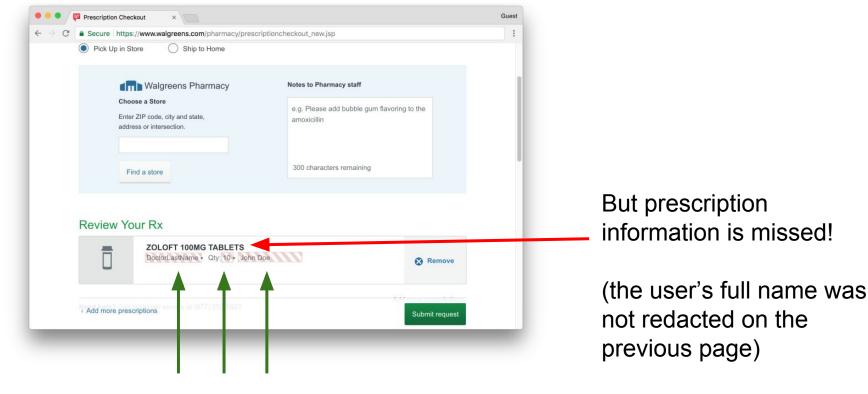
<input type="text"
autocomplete="cc-number"></input>

Walgreens misses fields during redaction

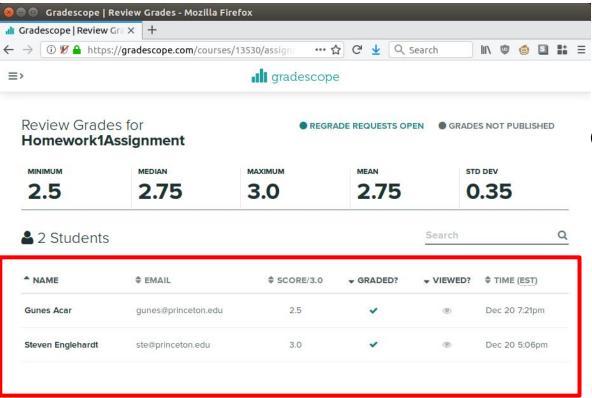


Walgreens makes thorough use of redaction

Walgreens misses fields during redaction



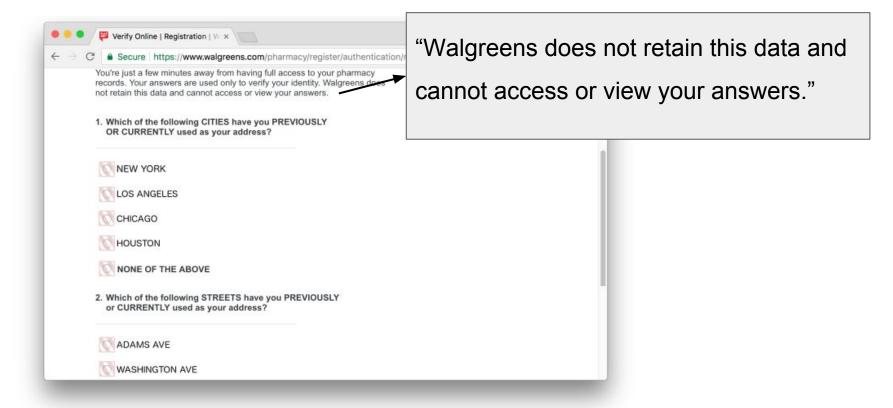
Walgreens makes thorough use of redaction



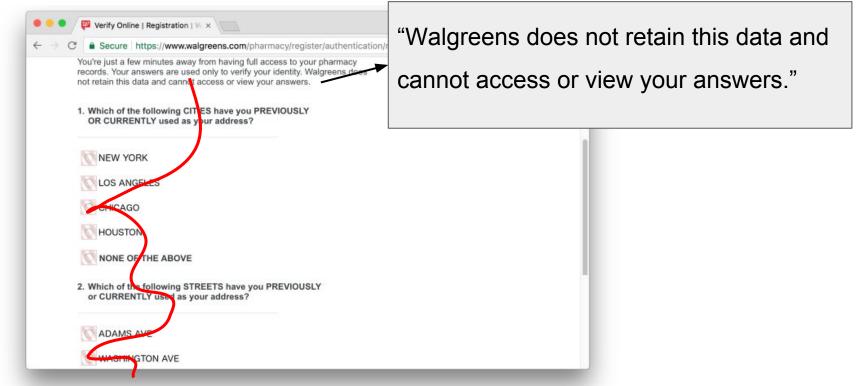
Gradescope recordings included:

- Student name
- Student emails
- Student grades
- Professor comments

Redactions miss sensitive data



Redactions miss sensitive data



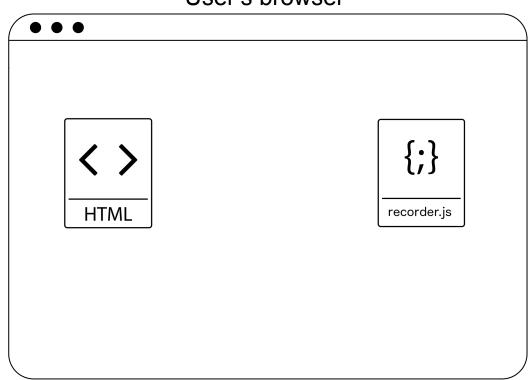
Although selection inputs redacted, mouse trace is still recorded.

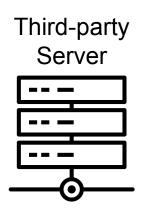
Session recordings are widespread

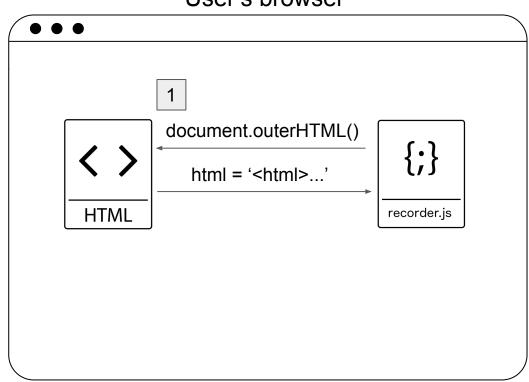
- 14+ analytics company offer recording services
 - Present on 99,174 of the top 1 million sites
- Evidence of recording on 7,918 sites.
 - Likely a lower bound as recording scripts sample users

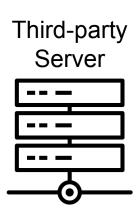
Session recording present on ~1 - 10% of the top 1 million sites. We found several severe PII leaks after manually reviewing ~30 sites.

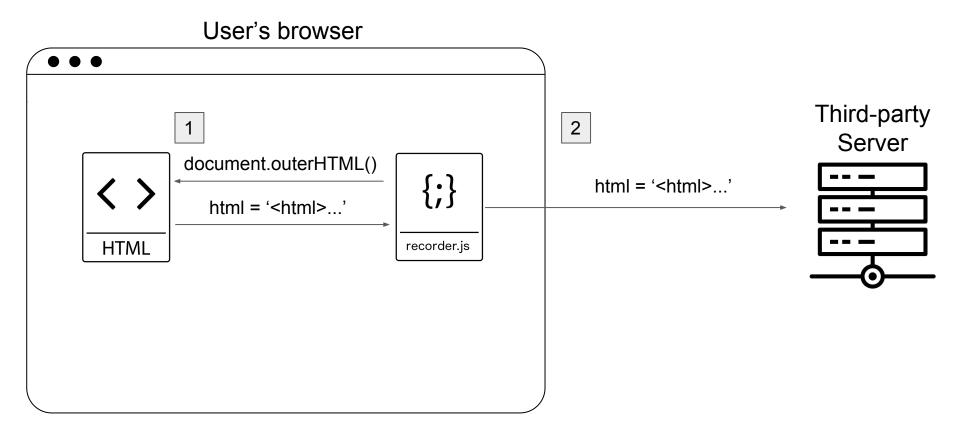
→ How many more leaks are out there?

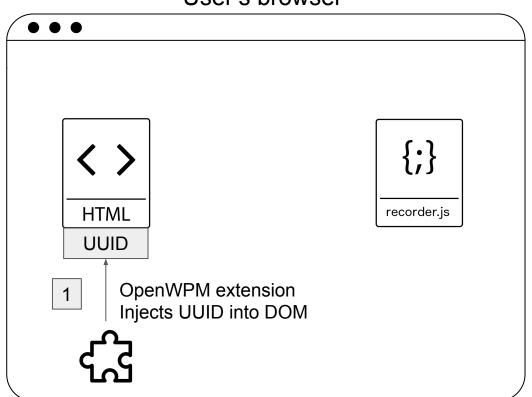


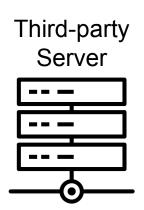


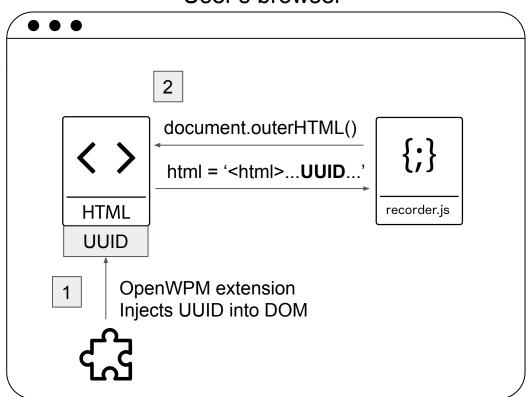


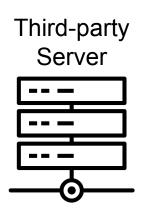


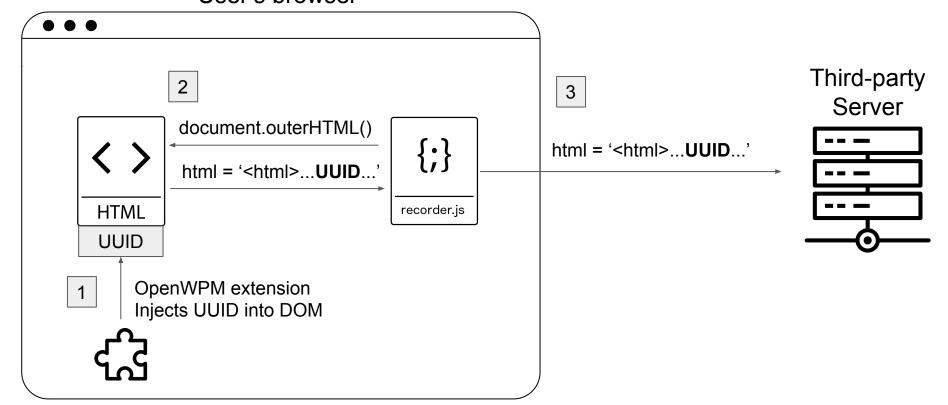












User's browser Third-party Server document.outerHTML() **{;**} html = '<html>...**UUID**...' html = '<html>...**UUID**...' **HTML** recorder.js UUID OpenWPM inspects OpenWPM extension 4 network traffic Injects UUID into DOM

Problem: Payload compression in JavaScript!

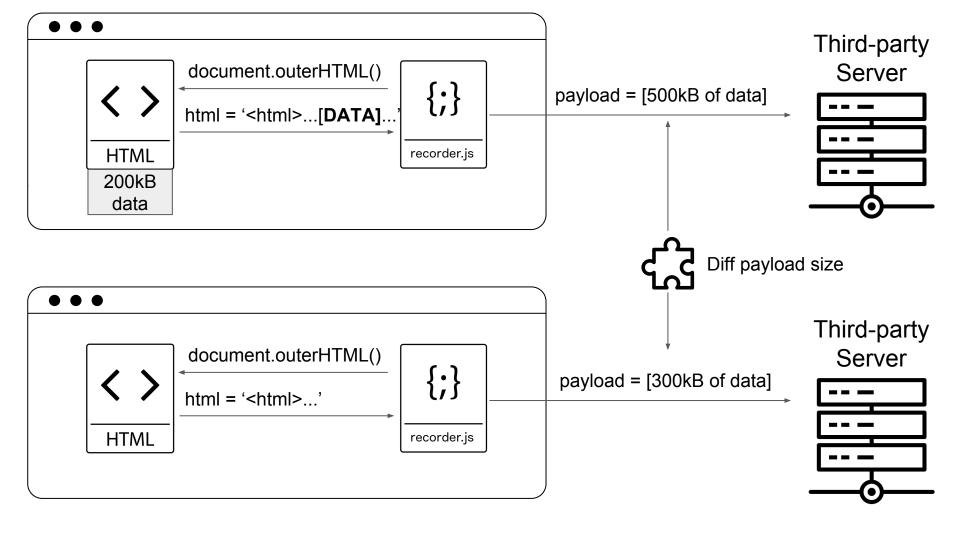
Before

```
e.tvpe = a. a = "multi"
                                                                             ▶ cdList: [{...}]
this.setPreparedParam(a, e),
                                                                               coll: true
!k(c) && (e.data = c, c = "[{"type":"patch", "data":{"content":"[{\"
                                                                               cssChanged: false
e.dataLength = c.length,
!e.noBase))
                                 "[{"type":"patch","data":{"content":"[{\"mX\":447,\"mY\":2038,\"pN\":11,\"t\":252798}]"},"offset":261}]" | tsuite.com"]
    try {
                                                                              dAttr: "on,ng-,data-"
        e.data = this.compress(e.data)
                                                                              dC: 7
    } catch (f) {
                                                                              d0: 0
        rb()
                                                                              diLoc: "https://cdn.decibelinsight.net/i/13733/95994/di.js"
this.pBLT = J(),
                                                                               eC: 0
Cb.boolTrue.test(ua(b.body, "di-heatmap")) || (d.sendBeacon && e.asyr
                                                                              f: true
e.async = 10,
```

After

```
e.tvpe = a. a = "multi"
                                                                             ▶ cdList: [{...}]
this.setPreparedParam(a, e),
                                                                               coll: true
!k(c) && (e.data = c, c = "[{"type":"patch", "data":{"content":"[{\"r
                                                                               cssChanged: false
e.dataLepath - c length
!e.noBas ( "DIP1;\|#uzqf#;#qbudi#-#ebub#; |#dpoufou#;#\|]#nY]#;558-]#nZ]#;3149-]#q0]#;22-]#u]#;3638:9~^#~-#pqqtfu#;372~^"
                                                                                                                          .com", "signup.hootsuite.com"]
                                         e = {key: k/ , uata:
                                                                               dAttr: "on,ng-,data-"
        e.data = this.compress(e.data) "multi", preparedParam: "type
                                                                              dC: 7
    } catch (f) {
                                                                              d0: 0
        rb()
                                                                              diLoc: "https://cdn.decibelinsight.net/i/13733/95994/di.js"
this.pBLT = J(),
                                                                              eC: 0
Cb.boolTrue.test(ua(b.body, "di-heatmap")) || (d.sendBeacon && e.asyr
                                                                              f: true
e.asvnc = !0.
```

User's browser Third-party Server document.outerHTML() **{;**} payload = [500kB of data] html = '<html>...[**DATA]**...' **HTML** recorder.js 200kB data OpenWPM extension Injects data chunk into DOM



Methodological details

- Use stack traces to attribute DOM access
- Instrument addEventlistener:
 - which script listens to which events (mousemove, mouseover, keydown...)
- HTTP instrumentation + JS stacktrace
 - which script initiated the HTTP request
- Manual analysis and debugging for confirmation

Who is at fault?

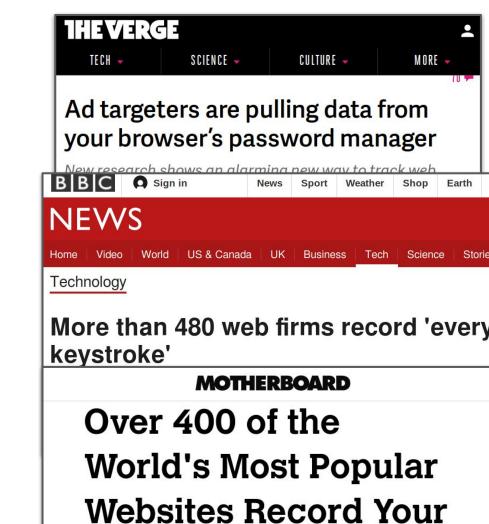
- Browser vendors?
- Technology, e.g. Same Origin Policy?
- Publishers?

What can we do?

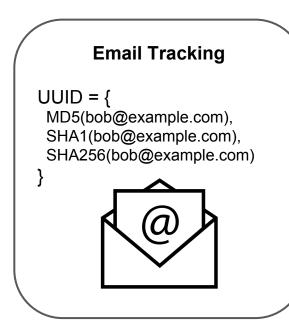
- Just keep measuring?
- Try to plug holes in browsers?
- Push for regulation?

Updates

- Walgreens, Gradescope, Bonobos removed Fullstory
- Adthink and OnAudience removed login manager abuse code
- Brave and Safari disabled password manager autofill



Third parties collecting PII on the web and in emails







"No boundaries: Exfiltration of personal data by session-replay scripts" (freedom-to-tinker.com)
"No boundaries for user identities: Web trackers exploit browser login managers" (freedom-to-tinker.com)
Englehardt, Han, and Narayanan, "I never signed up for this! Privacy implications of email tracking" (PETS 2018)

Questions?

- Credit for the autofill slides: Güneş Acar
- Contact: ste@princeton.edu
- Image assets from the Noun Project