

Snowden

Steps for Installation

1. Download extension. (<https://nusnowden.herokuapp.com/ext>)
2. enter "chrome://extensions" in the address bar of web browser.
3. Select developer mode and then select "Load unpacked"
4. Choose the folder with extension
5. Download the host app
6. Go to the directory containing the host app and run "sh ./setup.sh"

Tips

setup.sh file needs to be omitted as follows:

- Replacing sh with Bash
- Paths also need to be changed accordingly in the setup file.
- Edit chrome-extension Id in com.snowden.connect.json.

Errors received

I also faced a connection refused error which was fixed by configuring the port on which the nucypher node was running and the port which the application was trying to connect.

./install_host.sh: 33: ./install_host.sh: Bad substitution. To fix this the setup file was needed to be updated as mentioned in the tip section.

Application Critique

Snowden is a google chrome extension which encodes the posts into emojis granting access to all your friends . Nobody except them could read and understand what you want to share in your news feed. The privacy is controlled by the user themselves. The extension makes use of the nucypher technology. The text message is encrypted in the form of emojis and with the help of proxy re-encryption the message gets re-encrypted and the receiver can then decrypt with the help of their private key.

The application is is a good way to maintain privacy without getting censored but the app could have been more better if certain changes are made to the application. Firstly, using a third party

platform id not a good idea as what if the platform providing server fails, instead on can use a decentralized storage from where the receivers can access the data. Secondly, the documentation of the application needs to be more clear and precise. Next certain error messages should not take place when the script is executed again such as regarding the installation of nucypher as well as moving of com.snowden.connect.json file. The instructions should include as to what changes are needed to be made in the respective files. The main bug in the application is running of chrome extension even after terminating or stopping the services of nucypher. Overall the idea behind the implementation is pretty good but it need a bit of improvements. It can get rid of censorship.