ECE 455: CYBERSECURITY

Lecture #9

Daniel Gitzel

Announcements

- Read papers for quiz next week.
- Continue work final project.
 - Project check-in tonight.
- Lab 2 will be posted after the holiday.

In the news

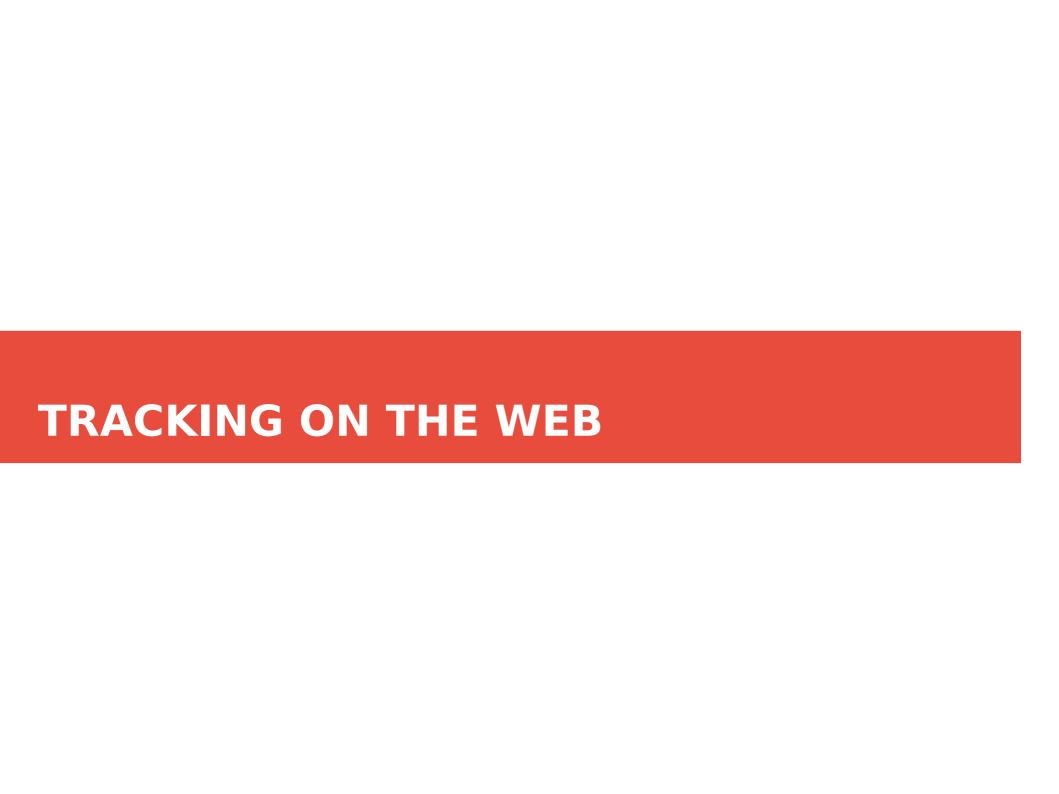
"The org that doles out .org websites just sold itself to a for-profit company" - The Verge

".ORG gets sold to a private equity firm called Ethos Capital"

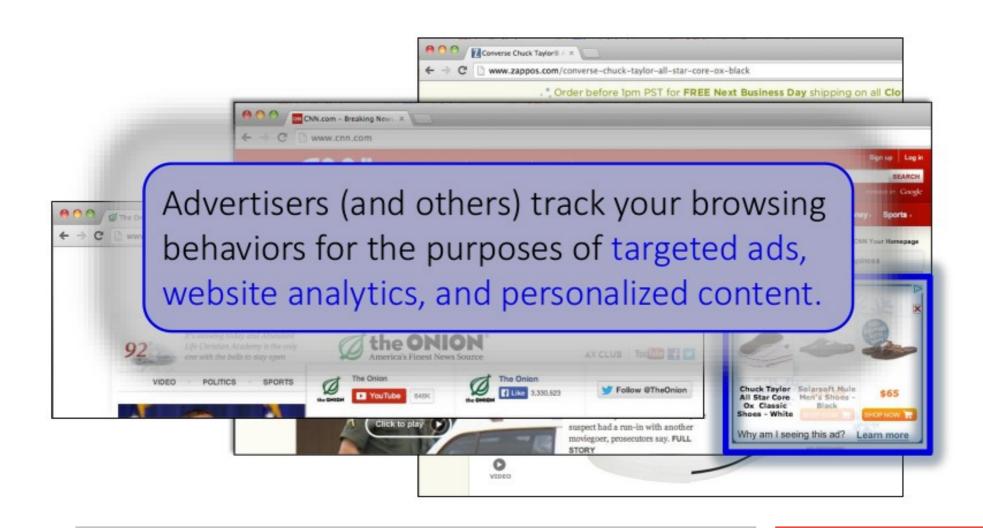
Update 2020:

ICANN rejects sale of .org registry to for-profit investor group

[1] https://www.reuters.com/article/us-icann-org-sale-idUSKBN22D4FV



Those ads that seem to follow you...



What does a site learn about you when you visit?

- The URLs you're interested in
 - Google/Bing also learns what you're searching for
- Your IP address
 - Thus, your service provider & geo-location
 - Can often link you to other activity including at other sites
- Your browser's capabilities, which OS you run, which language you prefer
- Which URL you looked at that took you there
 - Via the HTTP "Referrer" header
- They also learn about cookies

They also learn about cookies

Why could this be harmful?

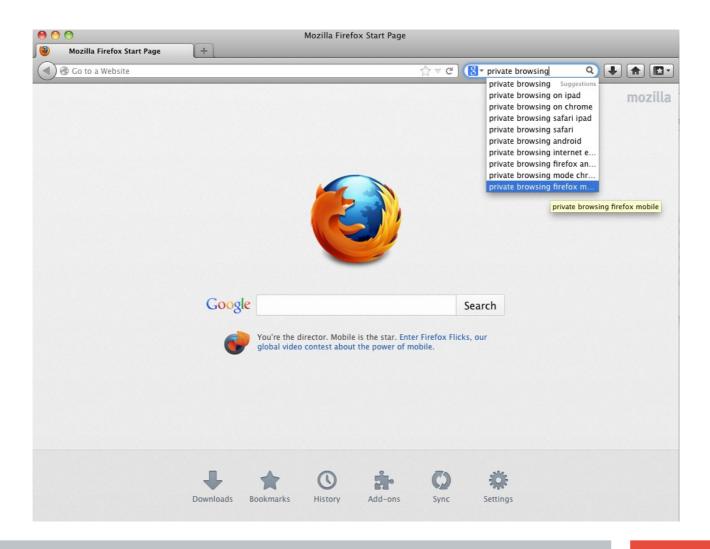
What happens when we remove cookies?



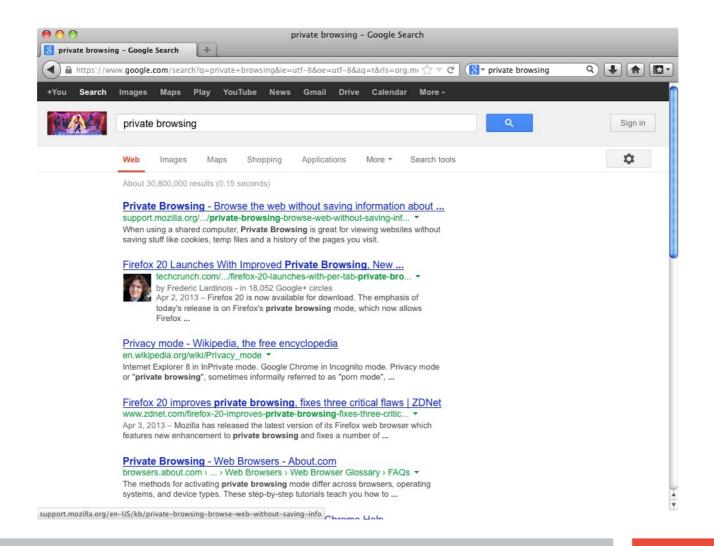
Cookies deleted!



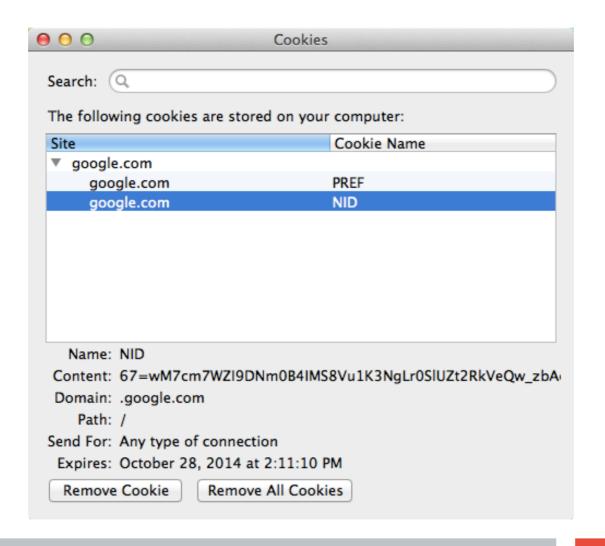
Now search Google...



We get some results...



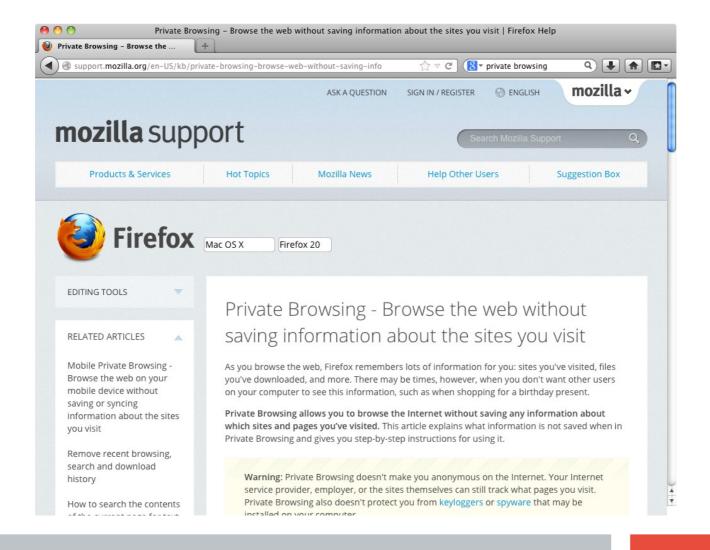
Google has stored some cookies...



Private Browsing

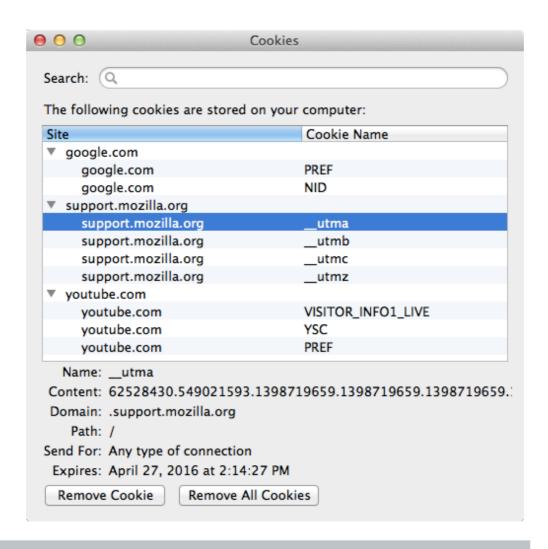
- You can turn on a mode called "private browsing" in your browser
- What is this?
- Does it protect you against tracking?

From Mozilla

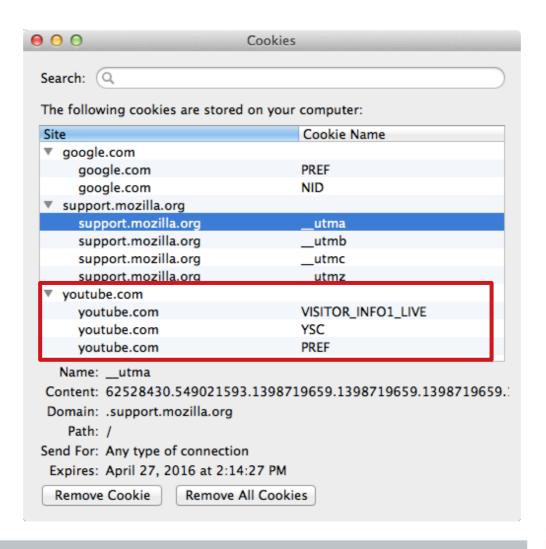


- "Private Browsing allows you to browse the Internet without saving any information about which sites and pages you've visited."
 - deletes history of URL visits, passwords, and cookies
- Private Browsing maintains cookies for as long as the private browsing window is open. Once you quit the browser, it gets deleted
 - So still tracked for a good while!

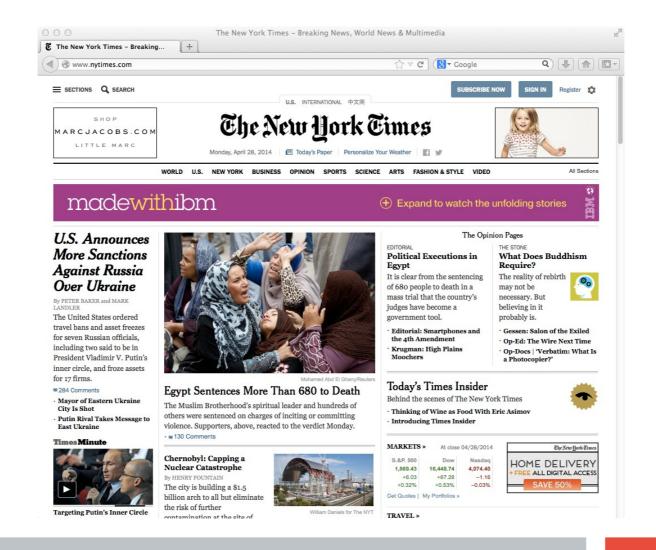
Ironically, we've collected some cookies



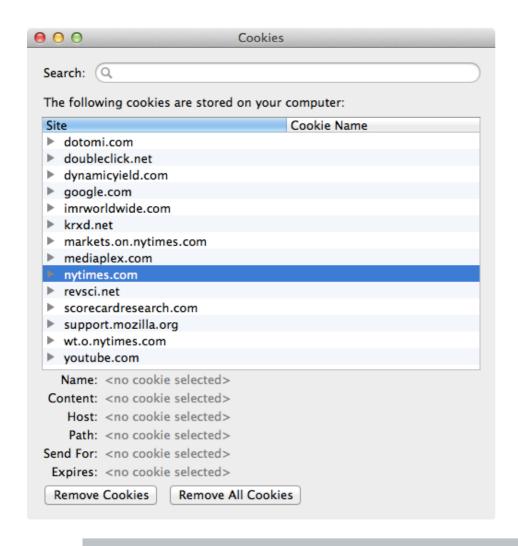
How did youtube get involved?



Let's go to a news site...

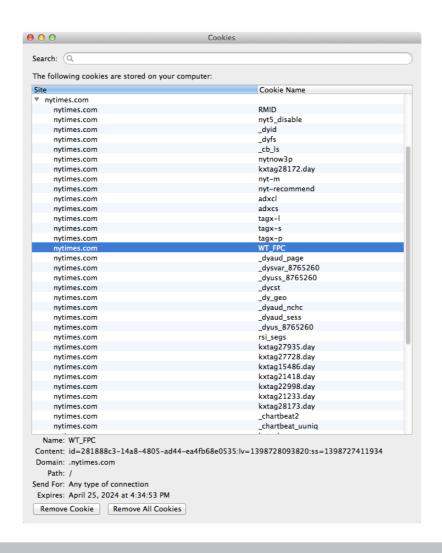


Delicious cookies!

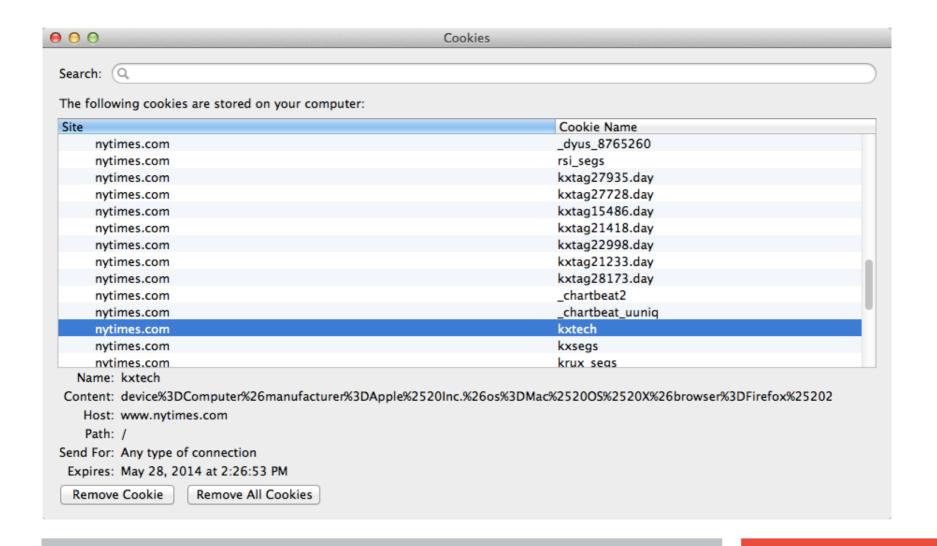




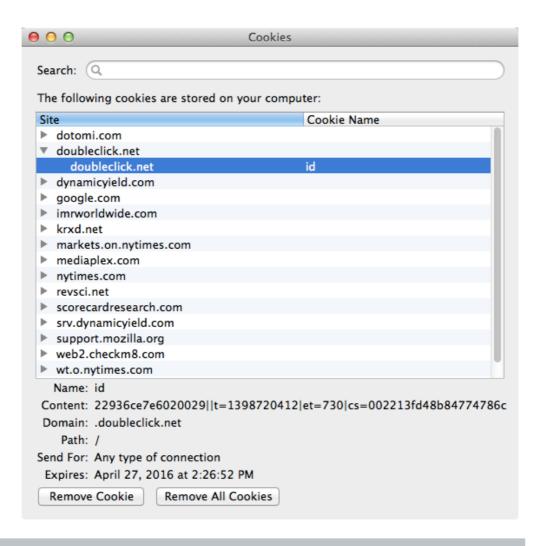
Nytimes.com alone sets several dozen



Tracks device ID, system, and browser

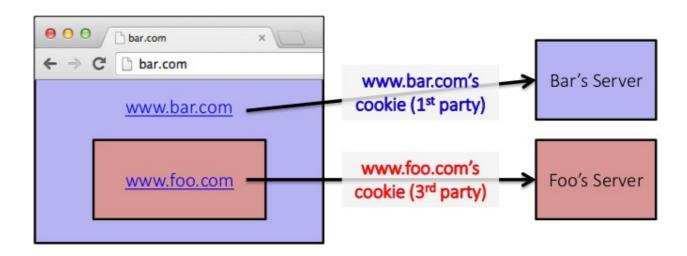


Doubleclick is a google tracking cookie



First and Third Parties

- First-party cookie: belongs to top-level domain.
- Third-party cookie: belongs to domain of embedded content (such as image, iframe).

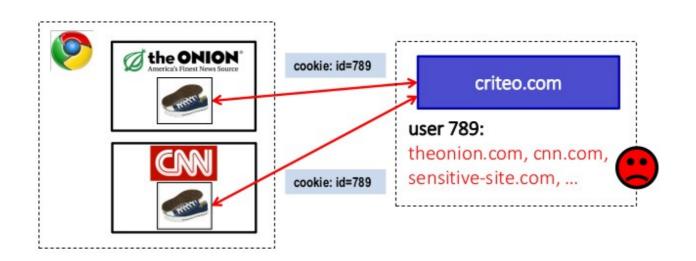


Third-Party Cookies

- How can a web site enable a third party to plant cookies in your browser & later retrieve them?
 - Include on the site's page (for example):
 -
- Why would a site do that?
 - Site has a business relationship w/ DoubleClick
- Why can this track you?
 - Now DoubleClick sees all of your activity that involves their web sites
 - Because your browser dutifully sends them their cookies for any web page that has that img
 - Identifier in cookie ties together activity as == YOU

Anonymous Tracking

Trackers included in other sites use third-party cookies containing unique identifiers to create browsing profiles.



Basic Tracking Concepts

Tracking requires:

- (1) re-identifying a user.
- (2) communicating id + visited site back to tracker.

→ Hypertext Transfer Protocol

▶ GET /pixel/p-3aud4J6uA4Z6Y.gif?labels=InvisibleBox&busty=2710 HTTP/1.1\r\n

Host: pixel.quantserve.com\r\n

Connection: keep-alive\r\n

Accept: image/webp,*/*;q=0.8\r\n

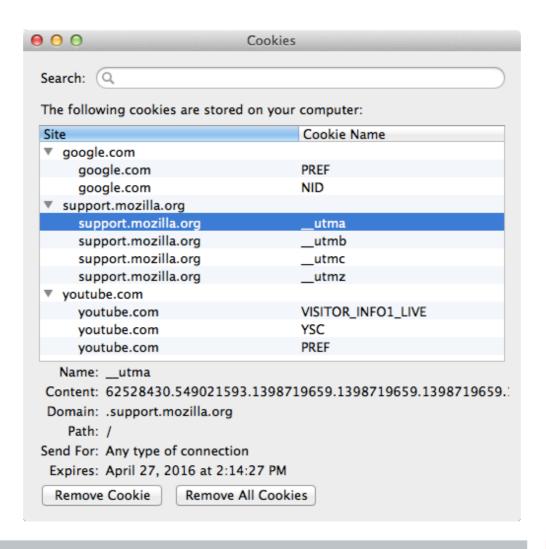
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10_9_2) AppleWebKit/537.36

Referer: http://www.theonion.com/\r\n Accept-Encoding: gzip,deflate,sdch\r\n Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.8\r\n

Cookie: mc=52a65386-f1de1-00ade-0b26e; d=ENkBRgGHD4GYEA35MMIL74MKiyDs1A2MQI1Qc

Lesson: you can be tracked by a site even if you do not visit that site

Remember this Mozilla cookie?



Google Analytics

- Any web site can (anonymously) register with Google to instrument their site for analytics
 - Gather information about who visits, what they do when they visit
- To do so, site adds a small Javascript snippet that loads http://www.google-analytics.com/ga.js
 - You can see sites that do this because they introduce a "__utma" cookie
- Code ships off to Google information associated with your visit to the web site
 - Shipped by fetching a GIF w/ values encoded in URL
 - Web site can use it to analyze their ad "campaigns"
 - Not a small amount of info ...

There's a lot encoded in that URL...

http://www.google-analytics.com/__utm.gif?utmwv=4.9.1&utmn=408493431&utmhn=www.s idereel.com&utme=8(userType)9(LoggedOut)11(2)&utmcs=UTF-8&utmsr=1680x1050&utmsc=24-bit&utmul=en-us&utmje=1&utmfl=10.2 r153&utmdt=Watch Online | American Idol Ep isodes - American Idol ep 23 - via videobb.com - SideReel&utmhid=72439433&utmr=0 &utmp=/American_Idol/season-10/episode-23/links/6541441&utmac=UA-1471387-3&utmcc=_utma=108050432.2066052302.1287459230.1291684208.1291691628.9;+__utmz=10805043 2.1287459230.1.1.utmcsr=(direct)|utmccn=(direct)|utmcmd=(none);&utmu=QqAAE

 $http://pubads.g.doubleclick.net/gampad/ads?correlator=1291905478049\&output=json_html&callback=GA_googleSetAdContentsBySlotForSync&impl=s&client=ca-pub-775864421 8383495&slotname=wlv_728x90_atf&page_slots=wlv_728x90_atf&cust_params=title=American%20Idol&state=loggedout&noautoplay=&cookie=ID=75911ff51976ad00:T=1287459230: S=ALNI_ZMQH1Jqg70f_neADngl50Ga4VbuCg&url=http://www.sidereel.com/American_Idol/seaseason=10/episode=23/links/6541441&ref=http://www.sidereel.com/American_Idol/season=10/episode=23/search&lmt=1291905477&dt=1291905478069&cc=100&biw=830&bih=772&ifi=1&adk=1569465027&u_tz=-420&u_his=5&u_java=true&u_h=1050&u_w=1680&u_ah=1000&u_aw=1680&u_cd=24&u_nplug=10&u_nmime=88&flash=10.2.153&gads=v2&ga_vid=2067052302.1287459230&qa_sid=1291691698&qa_hid=72439433&qa_fc=true$

http://googleads.g.doubleclick.net/pagead/adview?ai=B2b9cRoCZTfuHCtDaqQGpkZXqC_m q7IgCmdXb2CWBvtvXQwAQARgBIMe9rBc4AGDJltGGyKOgGbIBEHd3dy5zaWRlcmVlbC5jb226AQk3Mjh 4OTBfYXPIAQnaAUhodHRwOi8vd3d3LnNpZGVyZWVsLmNvbS9BbWVyaWNhbl9JZG9sL3NlYXNvbi0xMC9 lcGlzb2RlLTIzL2xpbmtzLzY1NDE0NDGYAoAKuAIYwAIByALhm54b4AIA6gIKNDI4NTU5MjM00JADrAK YA6wCqAMB6AOjCeqDmOjoA-YC9QMAAABE4AQB&siqh=1xAuEwn3f0w

Values Reportable via Google Analytics

Affiliation
Billing City
Billing Country
Billing Region
Browser Lang.
Complete URL
Cookie Values
Current Page
Event Tracking
Flash Version
Grand Total

Host Name
Java-enabled
Language Encoding
Order ID
Page Title
Product Code
Product Name
Profile Number
Repeat Campaign Visit
Quantity
Screen Color Depth

Screen Resolution
Shipping Cost
Special Event
Start Campaign Sess.
Tax
Tracking Code Version
Unique GIF ID
Unit Price
User Defined Var
Variations on an Item

Urchin Tracking Module (pre-GA)

- Named for "street urchins" that Sherlock Holmes pays to follow criminals
- URL parameter encoding:
 - https://www.example.com/page? utm_content=buffercf3b2&utm_medium=social&utm_source =facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer
 - Parameters encode ad-campaign data and source attribution

Parameter	Purpose	Example
utm_source	Example utm_source Identifies which site sent the traffic, and is a required parameter.	utm_source=google
utm_medium	Identifies what type of link was used, such as cost per click or email.	utm_medium=cpc
utm_campaign	Identifies a specific product promotion or strategic campaign.	utm_campaign=spring_sale
utm_term	Identifies search terms.	utm_term=running+shoes
utm_content	Identifies what specifically was clicked to bring the user to the site, such as a banner ad or a text link. It is often used for A/B testing and content-targeted ads.	utm_content=logolink or utm_content=textlink

More Tracking Techniques...

- Any scenario where browsers execute programs that manage persistent state can support tracking by cookies
 - Such as Flash?

Flash maintains separate state

Home / Support / Documentation / Flash Player Documentation /

Flash Player Help

Website Privacy Settings panel

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Flash Player Help

Settings Manager

- Global Privacy Settings Panel
- Global Storage Settings Panel
- Global Security Settings Panel
- Global Notifications Settings Panel
- Website Privacy Settings Panel
- Website Storage Settings Panel

Display Settings

Local Storage Settings

Microphone Settings

Camera Settings

Privacy Settings

Local Storage Pop-Up Question

Privacy Pop-Up Question

Security Pop-Up Question

About Updating Adobe Flash Player



Note: The Settings Manager that you see above is not an image; it is the actual Settings Manager. Click the tabs to see different panels, and click the options in the panels to change your Adobe Flash Player settings.

The list of websites above is stored on your computer only so that you can view or change your privacy settings or local storage settings. Adobe has no access to this list, or to any of the information that the websites may have stored on your computer.

Use this panel to specify privacy settings for any of the websites that have requested permission to use your camera or microphone or to store information on your computer.

Like, Tweet, Share Buttons



- What does Facebook learn?
 - Many pages include a Facebook "Like" button.
 - What are the implications, for user tracking?
- Facebook can track you on every site that you visit that embeds such a button, not only when you actually visit Facebook

Tracking - So What?

- Cookies form the core of how Internet advertising works today
 - Without them, arguably you'd have to pay for content up front a lot more
 - (and payment would mean you'd lose anonymity anyway)
 - A "better ad experience" is not necessarily bad
 - Ads that reflect your interests; not seeing repeated ads
- But: ease of gathering so much data so easily
 - Losing control of how it's used
 - Privacy concerns
 - Large amounts of private data in one place

Privacy Scandal

Trust in Facebook plummets after Cambridge Analytica scandal, Zuckerberg testimony

By Chris Ciaccia | Fox News









Careerbuilder.com More Employers Screening Candidates via Social Networking Sites

Five tips for creating a positive online image Rosemary Haefner, Vice President of Human Resources at CareerBuilder



"New Social Media Screening for U.S. Visitors Goes Into Effect" - June 2017 Social Media posts checked at border

Gone are the days when all job seekers had to worry about were their résumés and cover letters. Today, those documents remain a staple of the <u>job-search</u> process, but they are joined by a growing phenomenon: social networking.

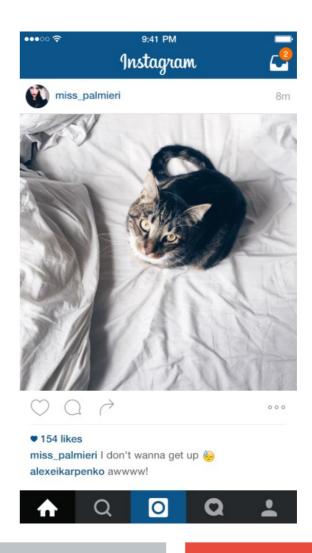
Forty-five percent of employers reported in a June 2009 CareerBuilder survey that they use social networking sites to screen potential employees, compared to only 22 percent of employers last year. Eleven percent of employers plan to start using social networking sites for the screening process. More than 2,600 hiring managers participated in the survey.

Tracking - So What?

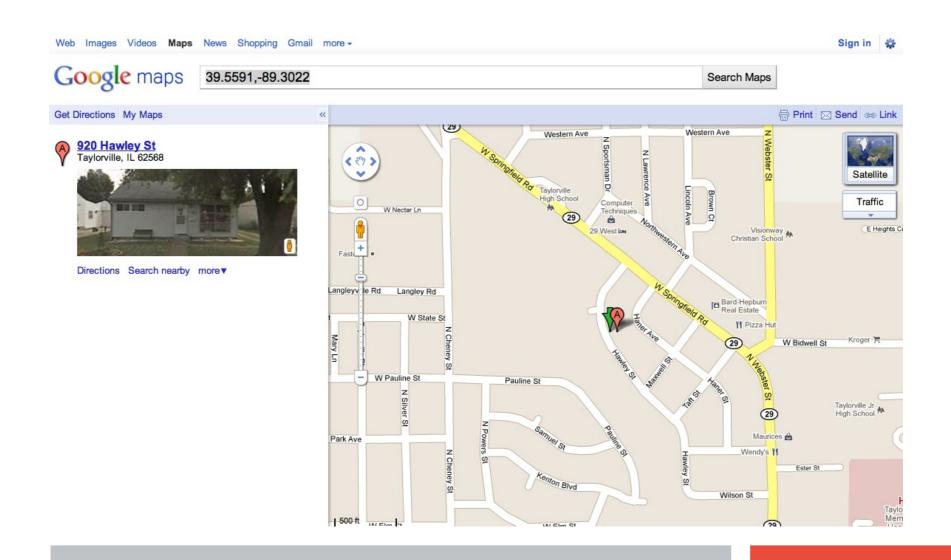
You really don't have a good sense of just what you're giving away ...

Inadvertent information leaking

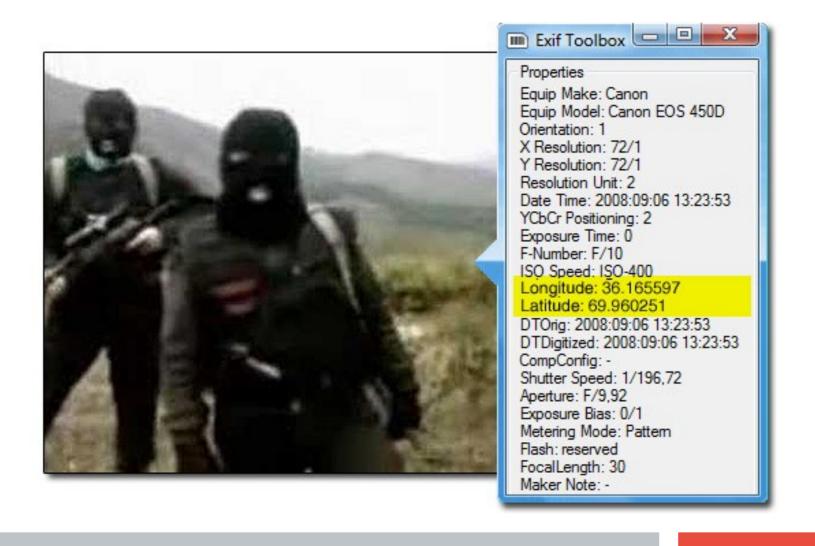
- Consider posting a picture on Twitter
- What more can a stranger figure out about you?



Photos are tagged with EXIF metadata



Also useful for catching criminals!



Tracking Technologies

- HTTP Cookies
- HTTP Auth
- HTTP Etags
- Content cache
- IE userData
- HTML5 protocol and
- content handlers
- HTML5 storage

- Flash cookies
- Silverlight storage
- TLS session ID & resume
- Browsing history
- window.name
- HTTP STS
- DNS cache
- http://samy.pl/evercookie

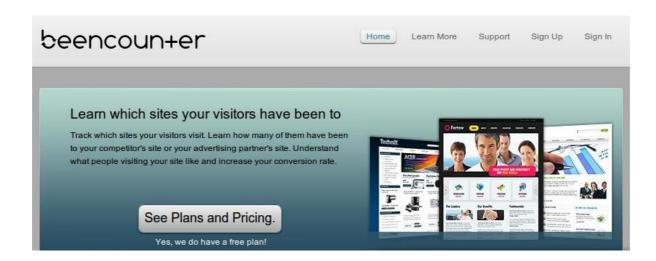
Fingerprinting Web Browsers

- User agent
- HTTP ACCEPT headers
- Browser plug-ins
- MIME support
- Clock skew

- Installed fonts
- Cookies enabled?
- Browser add-ons
- Screen resolution
- HTML5 canvas
- (differences in graphics SW/HW!)

History Sniffing

- How can a page figure out which sites you visited previously?
- Color of links
 - CSS :visited property
 - getComputedStyle()
- Cached Web content timing
- DNS timing



How Websites Get Your Identity

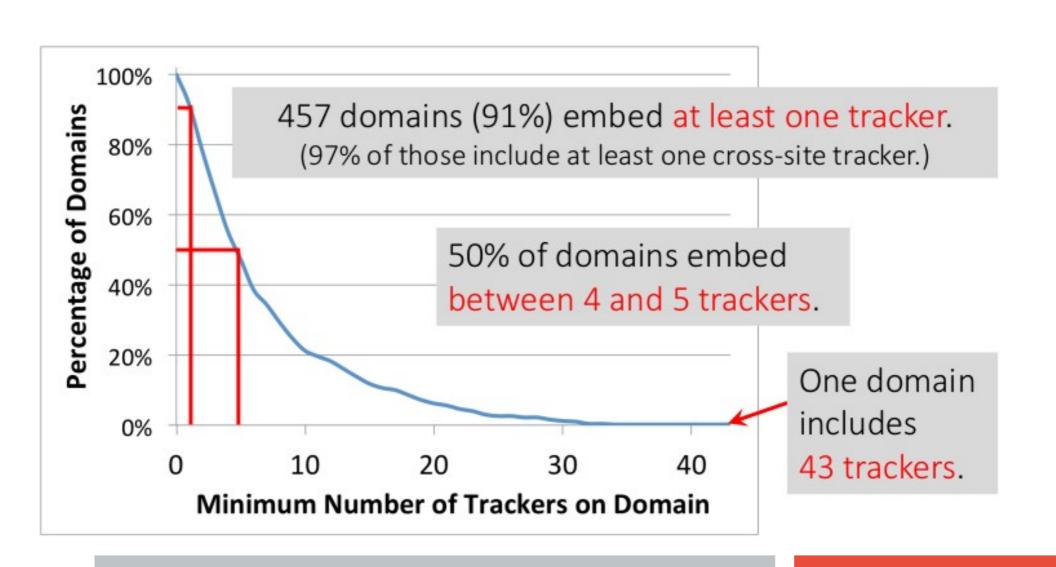
- Personal trackers
- Leakage of identifiers
- Security bugs
- Third party buys your identity
 - Profit \$

Measurement Study (2011)

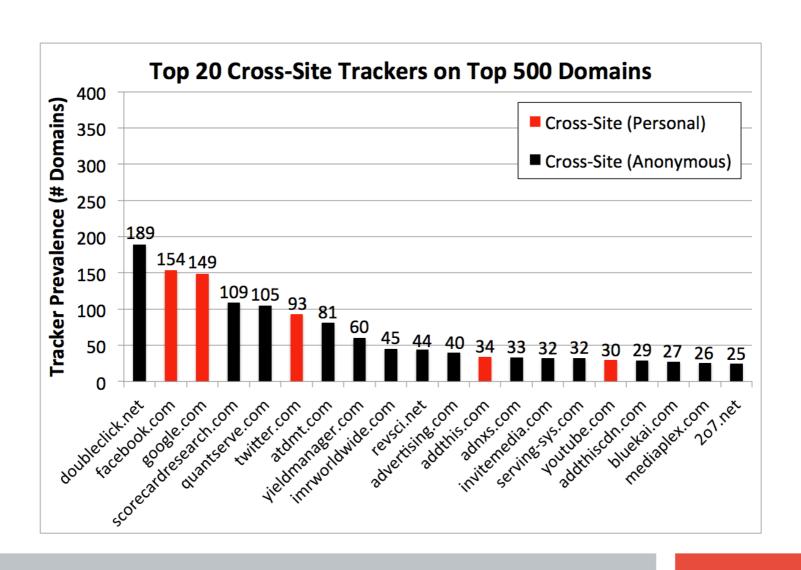
Questions:

- How prevalent is tracking (of different types)?
- How much of a user's browsing history is captured?
- How effective are defenses?
- Approach: Build tool to automatically crawl web, detect and categorize trackers based on our taxonomy.
- Longitudinal studies since then: tracking has increased and become more complex.

How prevalent is tracking?



Who/what are the top trackers? (2011)

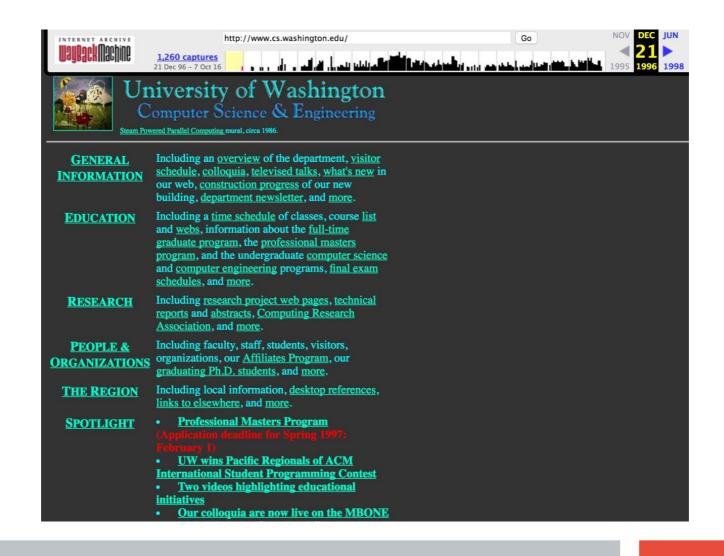


How has this changed over time?

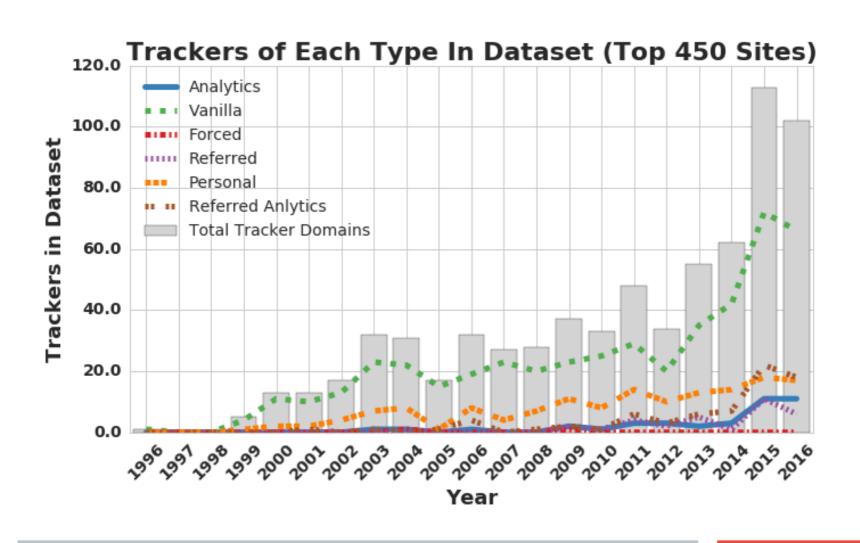
- The web has existed for a while now...
 - What about tracking before 2011?
 - What about tracking before 2009? (first academic study)



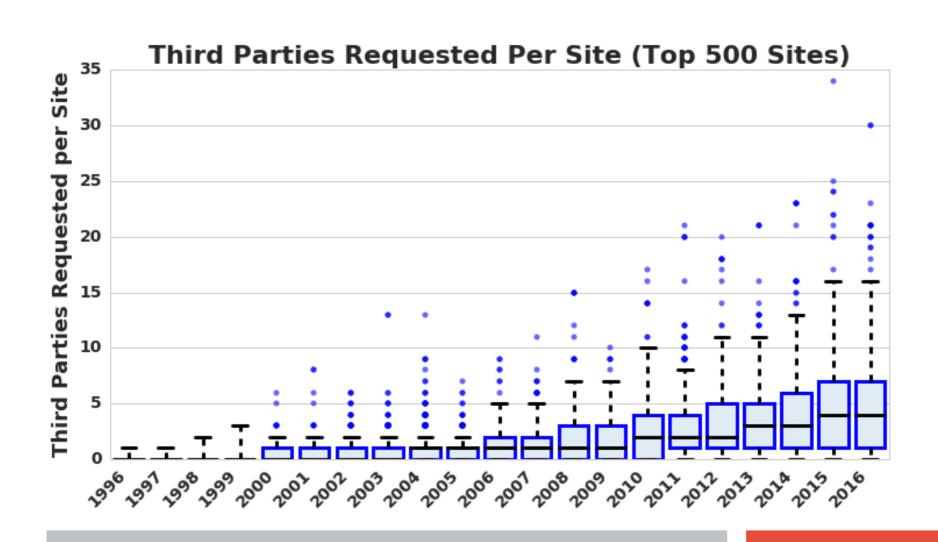
The Wayback Machine to the Rescue



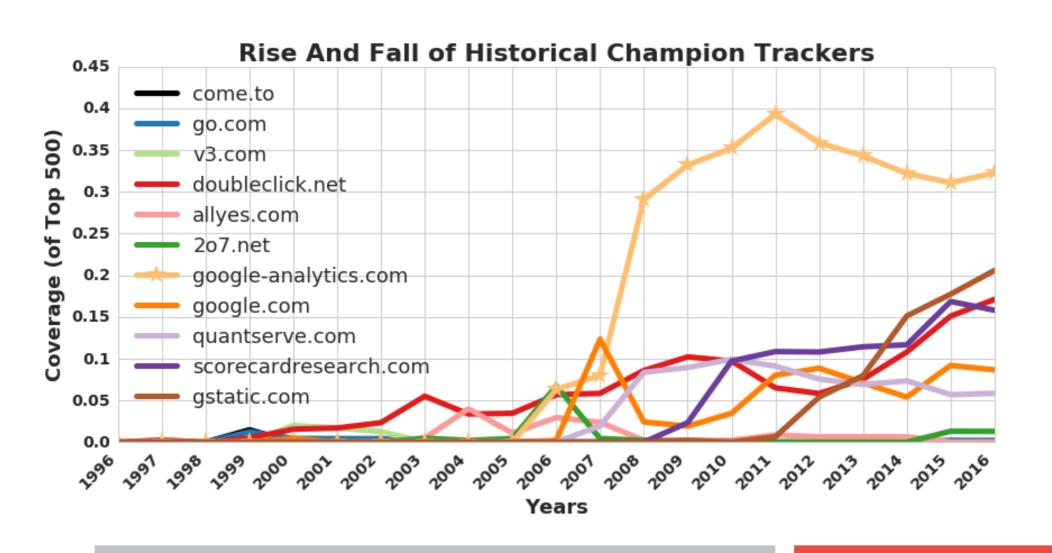
1996-2016: More & More Tracking



1996-2016: More & More Tracking



1996-2016: More & More Tracking



Why has tracking become so wide-spread?

Money and the advertising business

- Why pay for ads targeted toward everyone?
 - Sports betting targeted to young men
 - Political ads targeted to likely voters
- Traditional TV/Radio/Newspaper ads reached everyone
 - Might not want to pay for that! Only want likely customers
- Need data to support this strategy

Attribute ads to sales

- Did your ad actually work? How can we tell?
 - Link customer id to click/impression to sale
 - Need to track long-term customer behavior
- Pay advertiser based on results

ADINT (2017)

- Advertising for Intelligence Gathering
- Adversary can buy ads and use analytics from those ads to learn information about targets
 - Some ad networks provide location-based ad services
- Purchaser of ads can figure out
 - What mobile phone applications are in use in individual homes
 - A target's movements through the physical world (e.g., stores, doctors offices, etc)

How to Maintain Better Privacy?

Discuss with your classmates

How to Maintain Better Privacy?

Force of law

- Example #1: web site privacy policies
 - US sites that violate them commit false advertising
 - But: policy might be "Yep, we sell everything about you, Ha Ha!"

Nobody Ever Reads the EULA!

Collection of Viewing Information. You acknowledge that you are aware of and consent to the collection of your viewing information during your use of the Software and/or Content.

Viewing information may include, without limitation, the time spent viewing specific pages, the order in which pages are viewed, the time of day pages are accessed, IP address and user ID.

This viewing information may be linked to personally identifiable information, such as name or address and shared with third parties.

How to Maintain Better Privacy?

Force of law

- Example #2: SB 1386 (bill in CA legislature)
 - Requires an agency, person or business that conducts business in California and owns or licenses computerized 'personal information' to disclose any breach of security (to any resident whose unencrypted data is believed to have been disclosed)
 - Quite effective at getting sites to pay attention to securing personal information
- Example #3: GDPR law

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

- New European law (2018) designed to allow individuals to better control their personal data
 - Requires consent or strong reason to process and store personal information
 - Gives a user the right to know what information is held about them
 - Allows a user to request that their information is deleted and that they are 'forgotten'
 - Requires that personal information is properly protected.
- Applies to all Companies with EU customers

How to Maintain Better Privacy?

Technology

- Various browser additions
- Special browser extensions
- Tor and anonymizers to hide IP addresses

Browser: "Tracking protection"

- You can choose a blocking list in your browser
- For example, from Firefox
 - Basic (default): Blocks third-party trackers based on lists.
 - Blocks commonly known analytics trackers, social sharing trackers, and advertising trackers, but allows some known content trackers to reduce website breakage.
 - Strict: blocks all known trackers.
 - Including analytics, trackers, social sharing trackers, and advertising trackers as well as content trackers. The strict list will break some videos, photo slideshows, and some social networks.

Browsers: Do not track flag

- You can turn on this flag in your browser
- What does it do?
 - Tells web servers you want to opt-out of tracking
 - It does this by transmitting a Do Not Track HTTP header every time your data is requested from a web server
- It does not enforce no tracking, it is up to the web servers whether they decide to track

Browser extensions: e.g. Ghostery

User installs browser extension:

- Recognizes third-party tracking scripts on a web page based on an actively curated database
- Blocks HTTP requests to these sites as a result, Facebook buttons don't even show
- Users can create "Whitelists" of allowed sites
 - e.g., allow FB button but note that you allow tracking by FB too

But you have to be careful...

- Users can opt-in to sending anonymously data back to Evidon, the parent company, to improve its tracking database
- Evidon sells this data to ad companies...
- Attempted excuse: strategy is transparent, users opt into this

Ghostery: A Web tracking blocker that actually helps the ad industry



Conclusions

- Third-party apps can track us even if when we don't visit their website
- Tracking is very common on the web and can collect a lot of data about you
- Some solutions exist, but have caveats