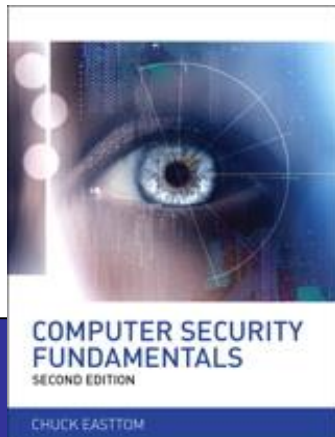

Computer Security Fundamentals

by Chuck Easttom



Chapter 3 Cyber Stalking, Fraud, and Abuse

Chapter 3 Objectives

- Know the various types of Internet investment scams and auction frauds
- Know specific steps you can take to avoid fraud on the Internet
- Have an understanding of what identity theft is and how it is done
- Know specific steps that can be taken to avoid identity theft

Chapter 3 Objectives- Cont.

- Understand what cyber stalking is,
- Know how to configure a web browsers privacy settings

Introduction

- Besides hacking and virus creation, fraud is one of the most common dangers of the Internet
- Snake oil salesmen
- Committing an Internet fraud does not require the technical expertise that hacking and virus creation require
- There are a great number of people engaging in various forms of online commerce, and this large amount of business creates a great many opportunities for fraud

Internet Fraud Works

■ Investment offers

- ❑ The Internet has allowed investment offers—both genuine and fraudulent—to be more easily disseminated to the general public
- ❑ Inbox
- ❑ Email
- ❑ Online newsletters

Internet Fraud Works

■ Investment Scams

- Nigerian fraud
- Bank account to “park” the funds temporarily
- Why...

Internet Fraud Works

■ Investment Advice

- ❑ Some companies pay the people who write online newsletters to recommend their stocks
- ❑ Biased and paid
- ❑ Pump and dump
- ❑ Circulating rumors on various Internet bulletin boards and chat rooms that the stock is about to go up significantly
- ❑ Simply push the stock on as many people as possible. The more people vying to buy a stock, the higher its price will rise

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission lists several tips for avoiding such scams:⁴

1. Consider the source. Especially if you are not well versed in the market, make sure you accept advice only from well-known and reputable stock analysts.
2. Independently verify claims. Do not simply accept someone else's word about anything.
3. Research. Read up on the company, the claims about the company, its stock history, and so forth.
4. Beware of high-pressure tactics. Legitimate stock traders do not pressure customers into buying. They help customers pick stocks that customers want. If you are being pressured, that is an indication of potential problems.
5. Be skeptical. A healthy dose of skepticism can save you a lot of money. Or, as the saying goes, "If it's too good to be true, it probably isn't."
6. Make sure you thoroughly research any investment opportunity.

Auction Fraud

□ Autograph

- Failure to send the merchandise
- Sending something of lesser value than advertised
- Failure to deliver in a timely manner
- Failure to disclose all relevant information about a product or terms of the sale

Auction Fraud

- Shill bidding
 - when fraudulent sellers (or their “shills”) bid on the seller’s items to drive up the price
- Bid shielding
 - when fraudulent buyers submit very high bids to discourage other bidders from competing for the same item. The fake buyers then retract their bids so that people they know can get the item at a lower price
- Bid siphoning

Identity Theft

- One person to take on the identity of another
 - Credit cards in the victim's name
 - Driver's license
 - Phishing
 - Cross-site scripting
 - Cross-site scripting can be prevented by web developers filtering all user input

Cyber Stalking

- What is it?
- Refer to the use of the Internet, e-mail, or other electronic communications devices to stalk another person

Protecting Against Investment Fraud

- Only invest with well-known, reputable brokers.
- If it sounds too good to be true, then avoid it.
- Ask yourself why this person is informing you of this great investment deal. Why would a complete stranger decide to share some incredible investment opportunity with you?
- Remember that even legitimate investment involves risk, so never invest money that you cannot afford to lose.

Protect Yourself Against Identity Theft

- Do not provide your personal information to anyone if it is not absolutely necessary.
- Destroy documents that have personal information on them.
- Check your credit frequently.
- If your state has online driving records, then check yours once per year.

Protect Yourself Against Auction Fraud

- Only use reputable auction sites.
- If it sounds too good to be true, don't bid.
- Some sites actually allow you to read feedback other buyers have provided on a given seller. Read the feedback, and only work with reputable sellers.
- When possible use a separate credit card (one with a low limit) for online auctions.

FireFox Privacy and Security

- Open source
- Don't use proprietary browsers
- Default search engine
- plugins
- adblock

Protect Yourself Against Cyber Stalking

- If you use chat rooms, discussion boards, and so forth, do not use your real name. Set up a separate email account with an anonymous service, such as Yahoo!, Gmail, or Hotmail. Then use that account and a fake name online. This makes it hard for an online stalker to trace back to you personally.

Protect Yourself Against Cyber Stalking (cont.)

- If you are the victim of online harassment, keep all the e-mails in both digital and printed format. Use some of the investigative techniques you explore later in this book to try to identify the perpetrator. If you are successful, then you can take the e-mails and the information on the perpetrator to law enforcement officials.

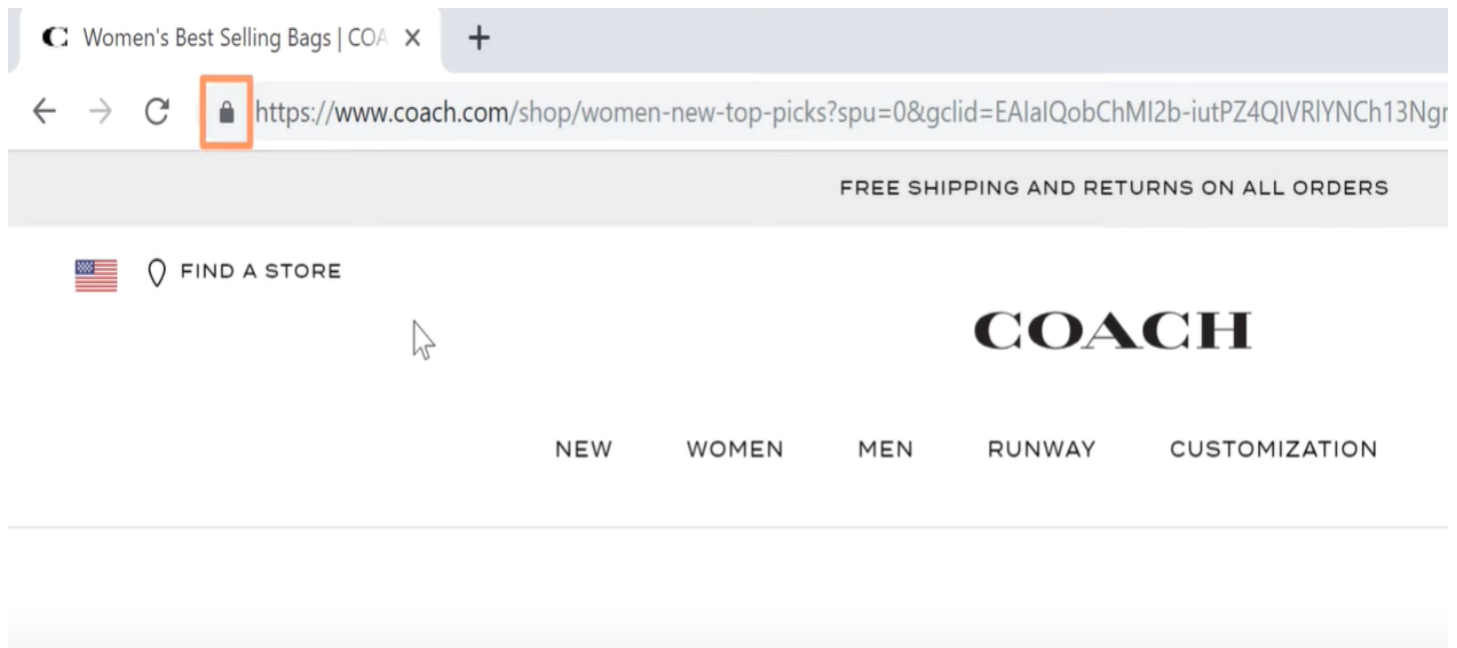
Protect Yourself Against Cyber Stalking (cont.)

- Do not, in any case, ignore cyber stalking.

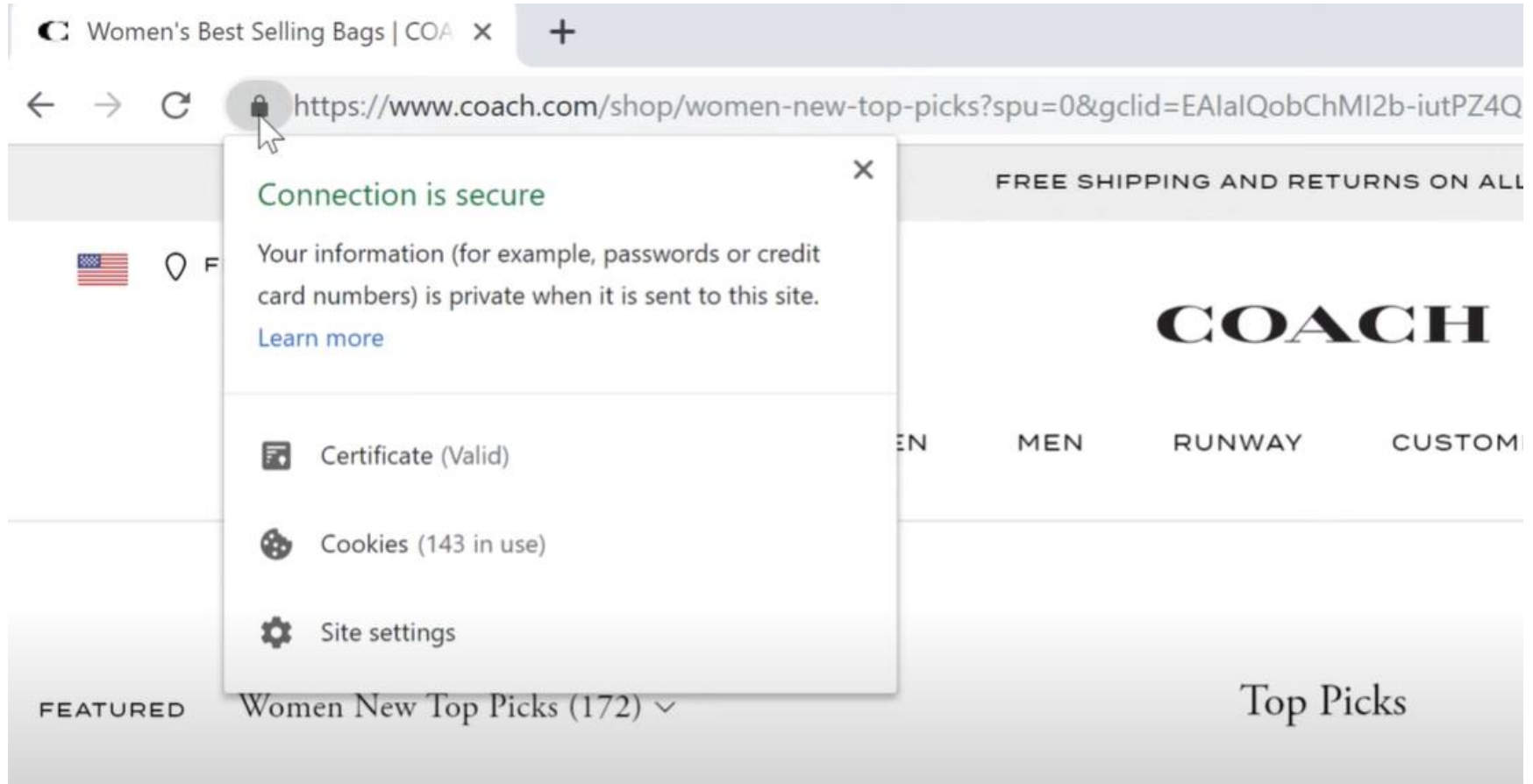
Secure Browser Settings

- Internet Explorer
- Firefox
- Chrome

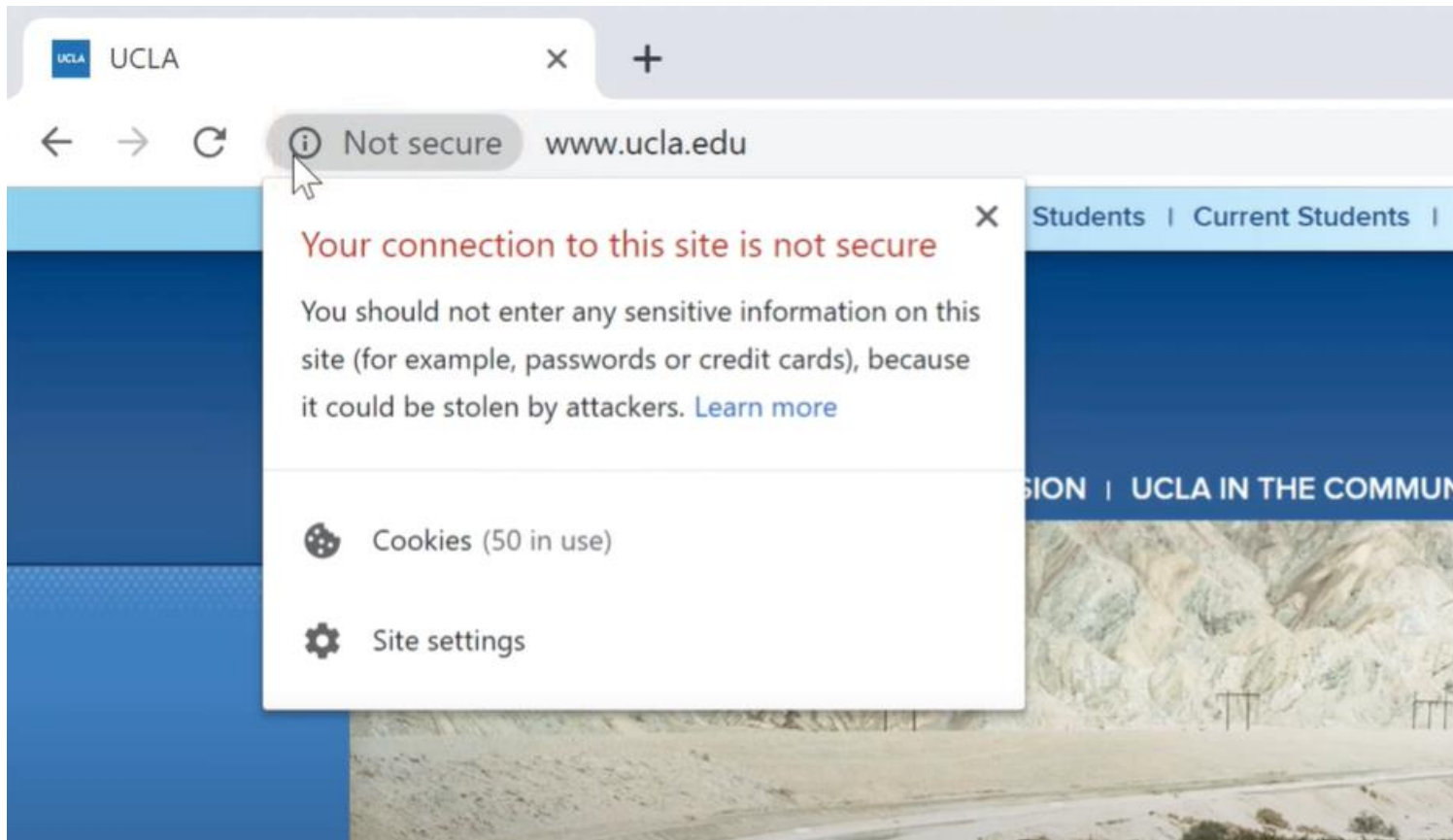
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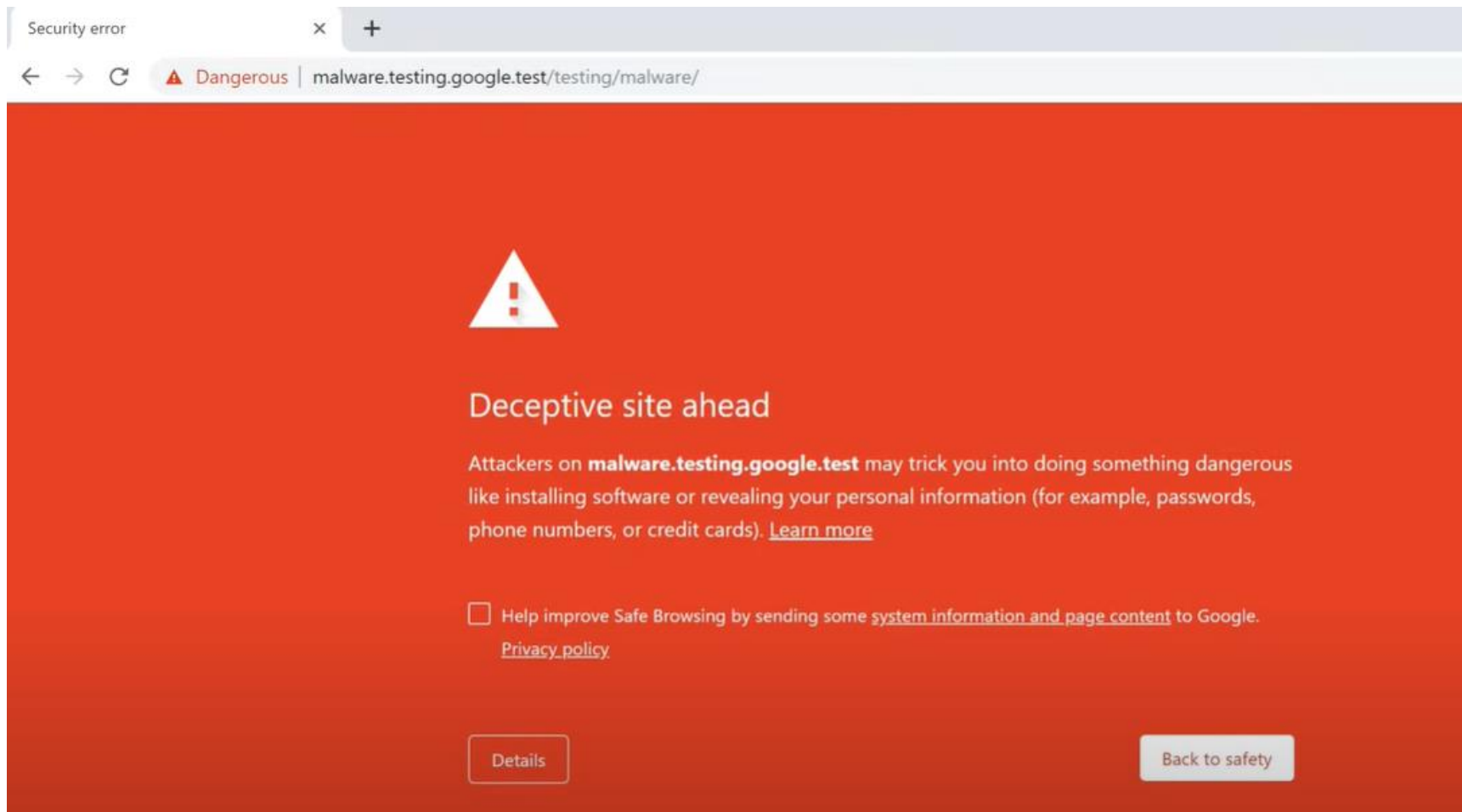
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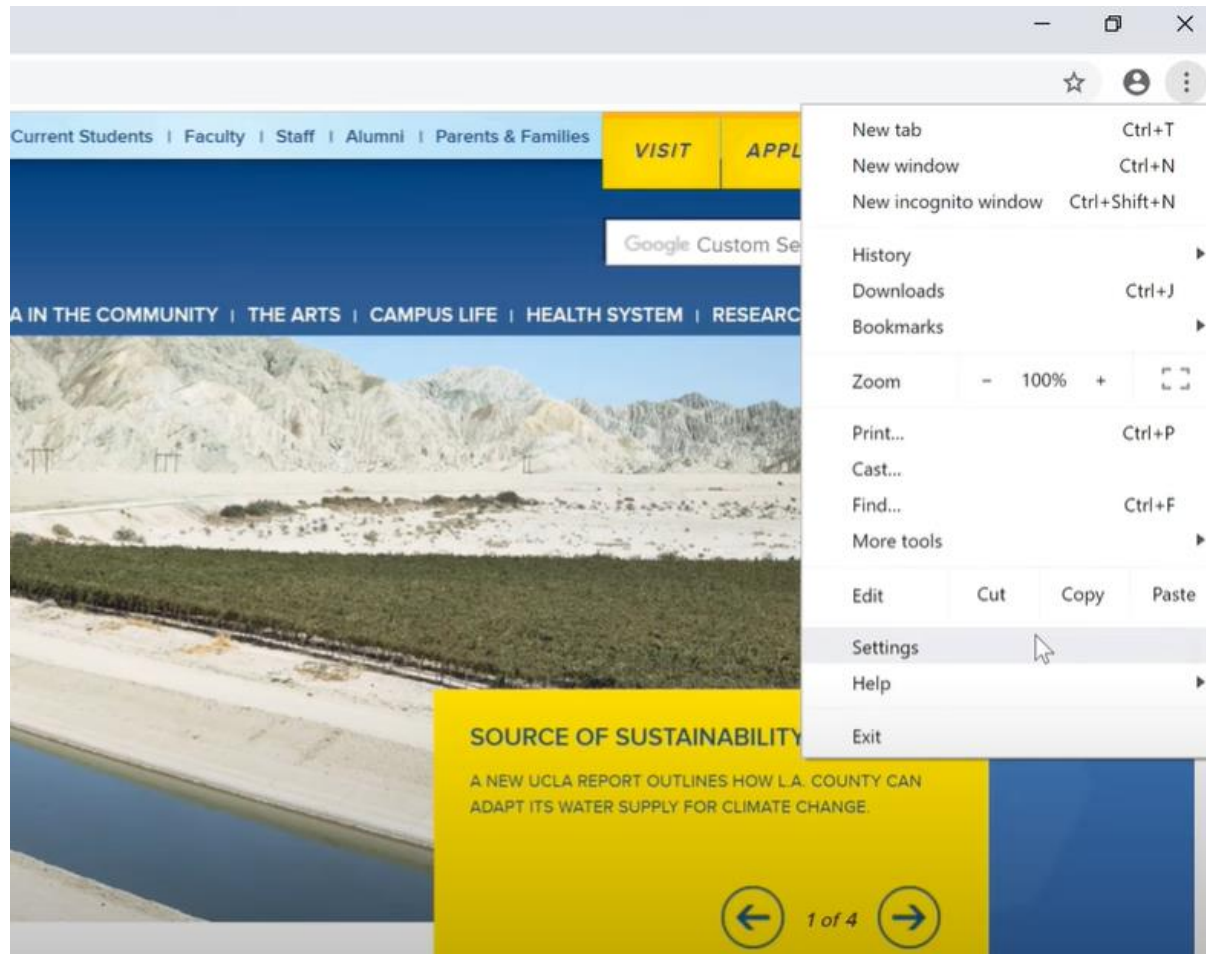
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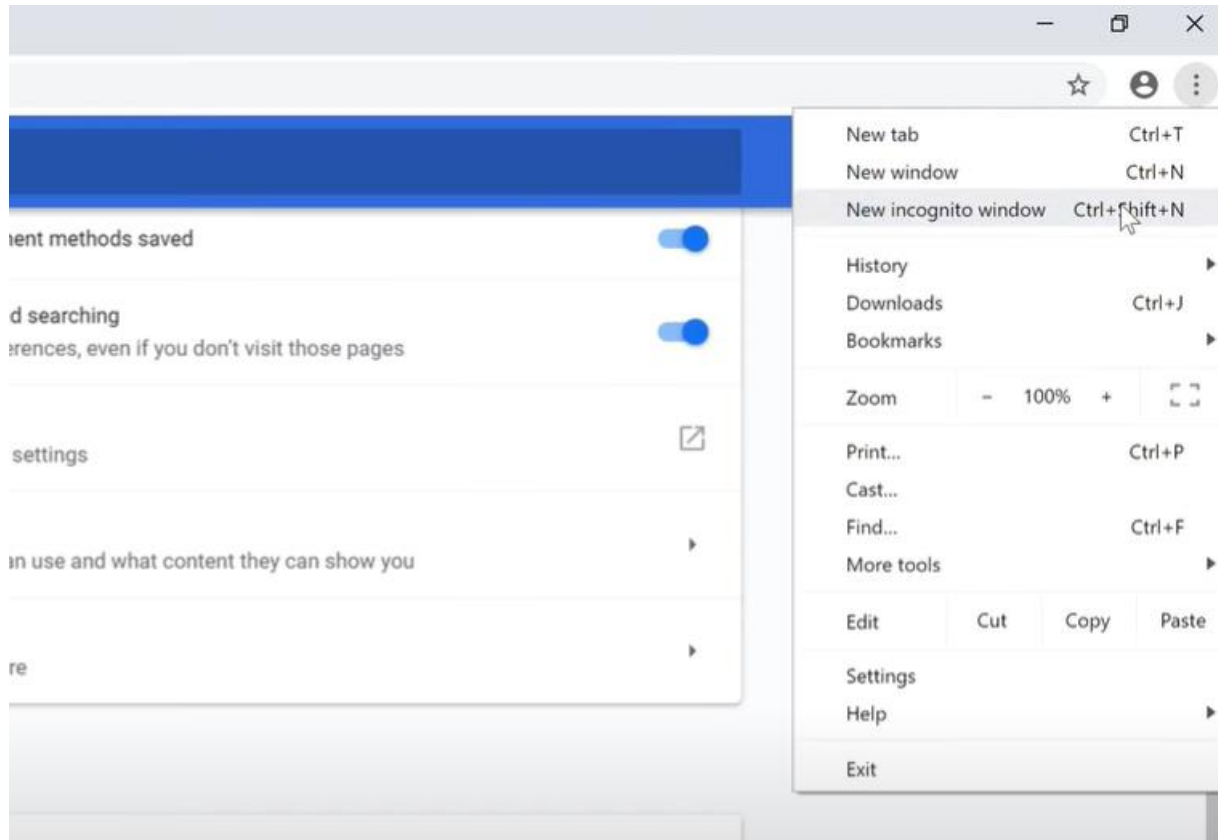
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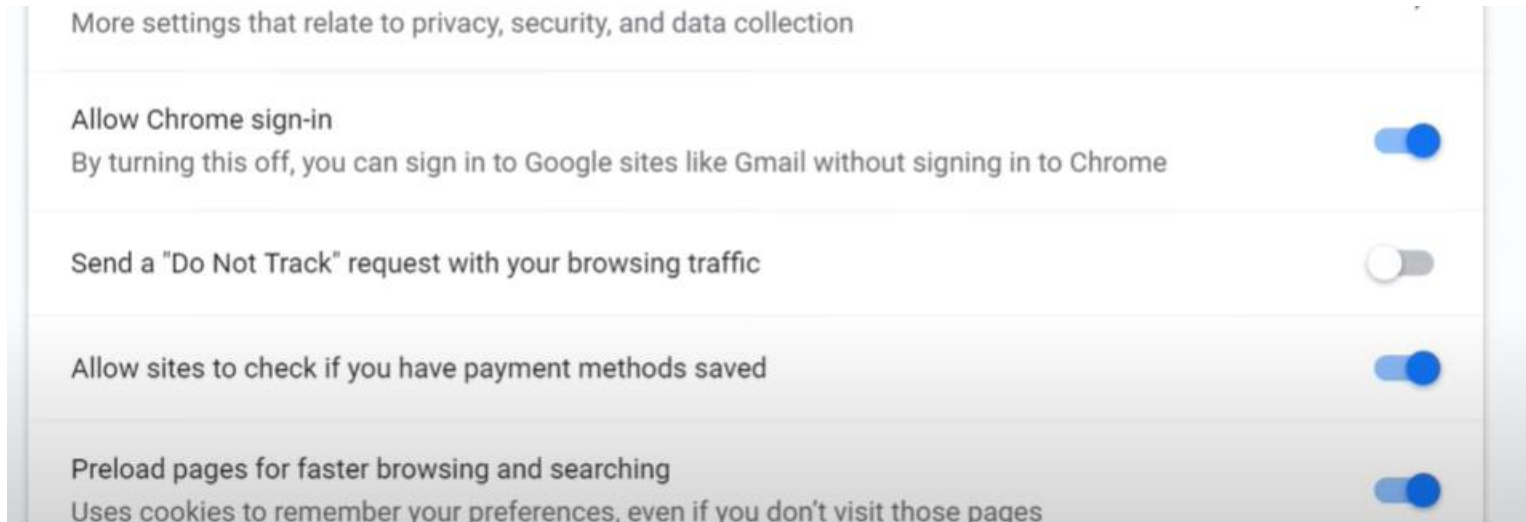
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FireFox Privacy and Security

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Summary

- Clearly, fraud and identity theft are real and growing problems. In this modern age of instant access to information and online purchasing, it is critical that everyone takes steps to protect themselves against this issue.
- Cyber stalking is one area that is often new to both civilians and law enforcement. Unfortunately, cyber stalking cases can escalate into real-world violence.