

Who Decides Your Browsing Privacy?

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Professional Techniques – T31



The "CyberSizelt" logo is rendered in a large, stylized, red font with a white outline. The letters are slightly irregular and have a hand-drawn feel. In the background, there is a silhouette of the San Francisco skyline, including the Golden Gate Bridge and various skyscrapers, set against a light yellow and orange gradient sky.

WHAT WE ARE *NOT* GOING TO TALK ABOUT

- Which is the best browser for privacy?
- What add-ons are the most secure?
- Can I trust Google Play and the iOS app store?
- What's the risk anyway?

(Surely my information isn't that valuable...)

WHAT WE *ARE* GOING TO TALK ABOUT

- Why track?
- HTTP User Agents
- HTTP Referrers (or is that 'Referers'*)
- Cookies
- Some tools that we can use to reveal/control browser behavior

* Infamous typo in RFC 1945 (May 1996)

WHAT'S THE MOTIVATION?

- Advertising \$\$\$
- Funding all of those 'free' web services
- In 2014, Google made an estimated \$59bn from advertising¹
 - Approximately 90% of their total income

¹ Source: Statista.com

USER AGENTS

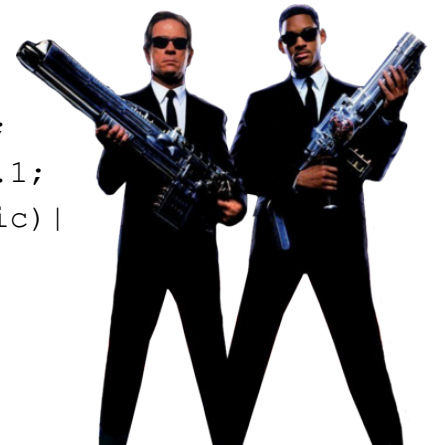
- String that identifies:
 - Browser/compatibility
 - OS Platform
 - Might also include
 - Hardware
 - Plugins
- Used to provide tailored content

Not user agents



A USER AGENT STRING IN TRAFFIC

```
GET /chart/bottom HTTP/1.1
Host: www.imdb.com
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; rv:34.0)Gecko/20100101 Firefox/34.0
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.8
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
DNT: 1
Referer: http://www.bing.com/search?q=worst+movies+of+all+time&qs=n&
        form=QBLH&pq=worst+movies+of+all+time&sc=8-24&sp=-1&sk=
Cookie: uu=BCYsgfw8aPz87X98E86qEVPgKI-
        f64_DpuIOrpBbN_1EZuNVwks6zStWqfeRbvWuTcW9cm5NKcH6CN899ZglJwsCrm-
        SzUdaf7I1s3Du01PZgItroId2R_8E9qVF0RmlufyNw8HQhFkaDZqV4-
        shKngE2xq6paLMzkXNwuI_0dnntj62nb7UjyMDpukWvw-
        niXcOL4C6i3v-jrFS4W66ZrFmEggixD0toGMtVltxVa5FzRDC-
        82MzLAYX7KxgftCn8oe3BsJfoliDNw_Clc06cSTVA;
        session-id=328-9994670-5212602; session-id-time=1507674670;
        __utma=68898382.662959808.1349994673.1349994673.1349994673.1;
        __utmz=68898382.1349994673.1.1.utmcsr=google|utmccn=(organic)|
        utmcmd=organic|utmctr=(not%20provided)
Connection: keep-alive
```



OTHER EXAMPLES

Mozilla/5.0 (compatible, MSIE 10.0; Windows NT 6.2; Win64; IA64; Trident/6.0)

Mozilla/5.0 (iPhone; CPU iPhone OS 6_0 like Mac OS X) AppleWebKit/536.26 (KHTML, like Gecko) Version/6.0 Mobile/10A5376e Safari/8536.25

Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64) AppleWebKit/537.22 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/25.0.1364.97 Safari/537.22

Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Ubuntu; Linux i686; rv:16.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/16.0

WHAT IS A REFERRER?



A REFERRER STRING IN TRAFFIC

GET /chart/bottom HTTP/1.1

Host: www.imdb.com

User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; rv:34.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/34.0

Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.8

Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5

Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate

DNT: 1

Referer: <http://www.bing.com/search?q=worst+movies+of+all+time&qsn&form=QBLH&pq=worst+movies+of+all+time&sc=8-24&sp=-1&sk=>

Cookie: uu=BCYsgfw8aPz87X98E86qEVPgKI-

f64_DpuIOrpBbN_1EZuNVwks6zStWqfeRbvWuTcW9cm5NKcH6CN899ZglJwsCrm-

SzUdaf7Ils3Du01PZgItroId2R_8E9qVF0RmlufyNw8HQhFkaDZqV4-

shKngE2xq6paLMzkXNwuI_0dnntj62nb7UjyMDpukWvw-

niXcOL4C6i3v-jrFS4W66ZrFmEggixD0toGMtVltxVa5FzRDC-

82MzLAYX7KxgftCn8oe3BsJfoliDNw_Clc06cSTVA;

session-id=328-9994670-5212602; session-id-time=1507674670;

__utma=68898382.662959808.1349994673.1349994673.1349994673.1;

__utmz=68898382.1349994673.1.1.utmcsr=google|utmccn=(organic)|

utmcmd=organic|utmctr=(not%20provided)

Connection: keep-alive



A WORKED EXAMPLE

GET /

- ① Host: www.google.com
Referer: *null*

GET /search.htm?q=isaca

- ② Host: www.google.com
Referer: www.google.com

Google



- ③ User clicks link in search results

ISACA[®]
Trust in, and value from, information systems



GET /

- ④ Host: www.isaca.org
Referer: www.google.com/search.htm?q=isaca

HOW MUCH DOES THIS HAPPEN?

- A lot!
- Referrer-based tracking underpins pay-per-click (PPC) advertising
- Also used heavily for profiling by social media
- Let's take a look...

COOKIES

- What is a cookie?
- What types are there?
- What do/can they do?
- Who uses cookies?



WHAT IS A COOKIE?

- Originally specified in RFC 2109 (Feb 1997)
- Small amount of text (<4KB)
 - Set/updated by a server
 - Stored by your browser
 - Sent with every request to server
- Attached to a domain, e.g. google.com
- Must have a name
 - Multiple cookies are allowed per domain
 - Usually limited to 20 (browser specific)

WHAT TYPES OF COOKIES ARE THERE?








- Session
- Persistent
- ‘Secure’ - only sent over HTTPS connection
- 3rd party
- HTTP only
 - No client-side access via (e.g.) JavaScript
- Supercookies
 - Use other technologies, e.g. Flash, to store data in the browser

COOKIES IN TRAFFIC

```
GET /chart/bottom HTTP/1.1
Host: www.imdb.com
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; rv:34.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/34.0
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.8
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
DNT: 1
Referer: http://www.bing.com/search?q=worst+movies+of+all+time&qs=n&form=QBLH&pq=worst+movies+of+all+time&sc=8-24&sp=-1&sk=
Cookie: uu=BCYsgfw8aPz87X98E86qEVPgKI-f64_DpuIOrpBbN_1EZuNVwks6zStWqfeRbvWuTcW9cm5NKcH6CN899ZglJwsCrm-SzUdaf7I1s3Du01PZgItroId2R_8E9qVF0RmlufyNw8HQhFkaDZqV4-shKngE2xq6paLMzkXNwuI_0dnnTj62nb7UjyMDpukWvw-niXcOL4C6i3v-jrFS4W66ZrFmEggixD0toGMtVltxVa5FzRDC-82MzLAYX7KxgftCn8oe3BsJfoliDNw_Clc06cSTVA;
session-id=328-9994670-5212602; session-id-time=1507674670;
__utma=68898382.662959808.1349994673.1349994673.1349994673.1;
__utmoz=68898382.1349994673.1.1.utmcsr=google|utmccn=(organic)|
utmcmd=organic|utmctr=(not%20provided)
Connection: keep-alive
```



Panoptick

Help us increase our sample size:       

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HANDS-ON TIME!

- Please open your laptops
- Are you ready to try your hand as a network forensics analyst?