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PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY WHILE USING A WEBSITE

February 2023
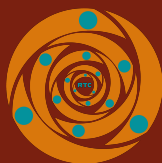
Protecting Your Privacy While Using a Website

Browsers

Web browsers frequently track your online activities and collect data about your internet connection. A typical web browser regularly collects and saves information about your online activities. Usually, the following information is transmitted to the websites you visit:

- IP address;
- Device's type;
- Browser's name;
- Cookie settings;
- Browser's add-ons;
- Clicks and movements of the mouse;
- Location and time zone;
- Screen resolution; and
- Battery level.

The majority of this information might seem trivial, but when combined, it creates a unique digital fingerprint that websites could use to identify and track you online.

The Best Browser protecting Your Privacy

Numerous browsers are available. Firefox is the most secure of the top seven browsers compared to Chrome, Edge, Safari, Opera, Brave, and Internet Explorer.

How to Use a Browser Safely

CLEAN & CLICK
Close all of your open browsers with a single click. Form data, cookies, cache, previously saved passwords, and download history from your browser are all examples of this.

PUBLICITY BADGER
Block trackers and spot suspicious behavior right away on the websites you visit. Anything prohibited by user consent is barred.

VPN CYBERGHOST
A VPN service can be used to hide your IP address. It also turns off all online tracking and maintains no activity logs.

There are alternative methods to reducing tracking and data storage on your online activity if you don't want to switch web browsers, such as limiting the number of cookies you accept, configuring your browser to block tracking ads and invisible trackers, and routinely clearing your cache and cookies to lower your risk of being tracked.

Preferred and Secure Browsers for Activists

BROWSER TOR
The most well-known privacy-focused browser, TOR, guards against illegal spying with the use of pre-configured security features and relay servers.

EPIC
The privacy setting is on by default. If you use DuckDuckGo, a private search engine, the browser will block cookies, trackers, and advertising. Additionally, they do not keep your login details, surfing history, or other data.

FIREFOX
It's one of the safest browsers available because of privacy safeguards that protect you from tracking, viruses, and cryptominers. It is also often updated to help counter threats.

Search Engines

Google and other search engines monitor every action you take online. They occasionally transfer user data to outside parties. You might be shocked by the amount of information Google and other search engines hold on you. To present you with targeted advertisements and to personalize your web browsing, they collect a lot of information.

Google

Google knows almost everything you ask. Does it know anything about you?
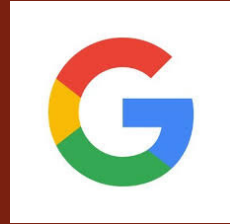
ABOUT YOU
Your name, age, gender, voice and facial recognition data, fitness data, political and religious preferences, and political opinions are all known to Google. The process of signing up for Google, Google Search, Google Fit, and Google Assistant is how it learns this.

WHERE ARE YOU
Your current location and your previous, present, and upcoming whereabouts are all known to Google. Google is also aware of your mode of transportation and location inquiries. It learns this information from Google Maps and Waze.

WHO YOU SPEAK WITH
Google is aware of all of your talks, appointments, pictures, videos, and other content you've submitted to Drive. Google may have access to sensitive information such as march routes, boycotts or strike plans, correspondence, and petitions. Google Drive, Google Calendar, Google Hangouts, and Gmail are the sources of its knowledge.

WHO YOU ARE
The books, articles, and movies you've read, watched, bought, and searched for are all known to Google. Google News, YouTube, Google Search, Google Shopping Ads, and Google Books are its knowledge sources.

WHAT YOU SEARCH
In addition to any remembered usernames and passwords, Google is aware of the history of the websites you've visited.

How to Use Chrome

You should be aware that the majority of search engines can be compelled by authorities to provide up your search and browsing data. If you frequently seek up information about dissidents and politicians, as well as legal aid and international organizations, consider what this would entail for you as an activist.
Google is the most used search engine, as we are all aware. But it's among the worst in terms of tracking and gathering user info.
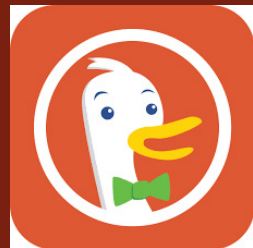
The Preferred Search Engines for Privacy

DUCKDUCKGO
It is easy to use and discreet. It does not collect user or cookie data. It also clears the IP logs for the servers.
DUKDUCKGO can be accessed at: https://duckduckgo.com/?va=b&t=hc.

METAGER
The German multilingual search engine strongly values user privacy protection, and neither creates profiles nor gathers data about its users. To access MetaGer directly, use Tor. MetaGer can be accessed at: https://metager.org.

STARTPAGE
Utilizing Google technology without monitoring provides a cozy but private browsing experience. Startpage does not keep track of or reveal any user information to other parties. Startpage is available at: https://www.startpage.com.

Resources:

https://www.mozilla.org
https://www.epicbrowser.com
https://www.lifewire.com
https://www.businessinsider.com
https://support.google.com
https://duckduckgo.com
https://metager.org
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