

Leaky Forms: A Study of Email and Password Exfiltration Before Form Submission

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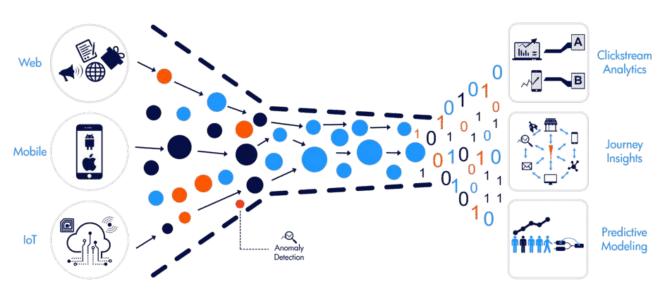
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Background

- Websites use advertising and marketing for monetization
 - built-in anti-tracking countermeasures
 - potential third-party cookie phase-out
- Tracking by email addresses
 - enables cross-site, cross-platform, persistent tracking



https://medium.com/@ugurekmekci/real-time-user-activity-tracking-w-divolte-collector-and-kafka-d8c106313400



Motivation

- PII collection before form submission on a mortgage calculator website (Gizmodo, 2017)
- A 2018 survey (n=502):
 - 81% abandoned forms at least once
 - 59% abandoned a form in the last month [6].



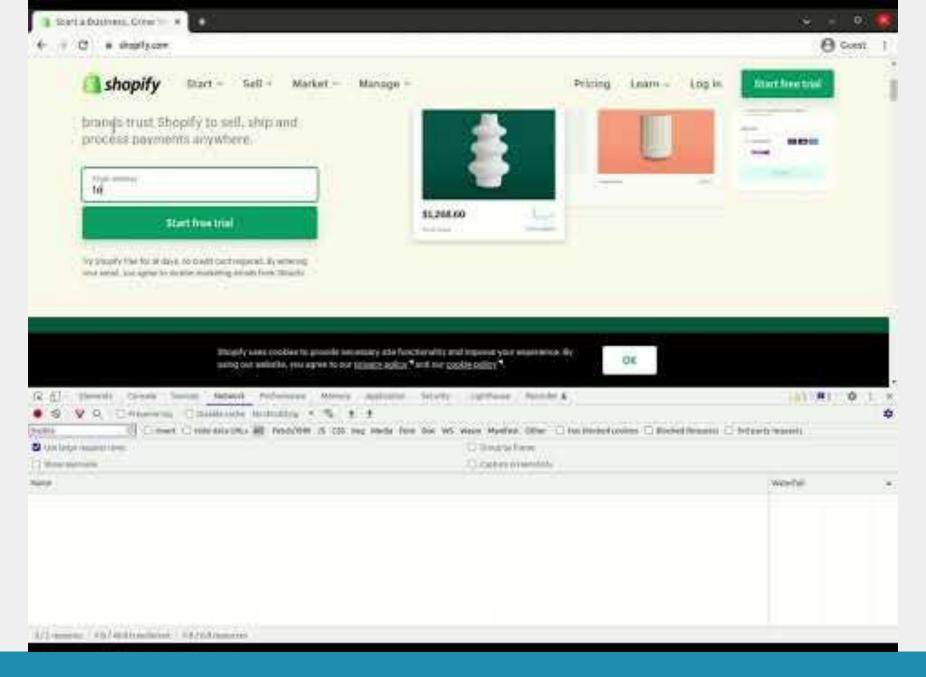
GIZMODO ORIGINALS

Before You Hit 'Submit,' This Company Has Already Logged Your Personal Data







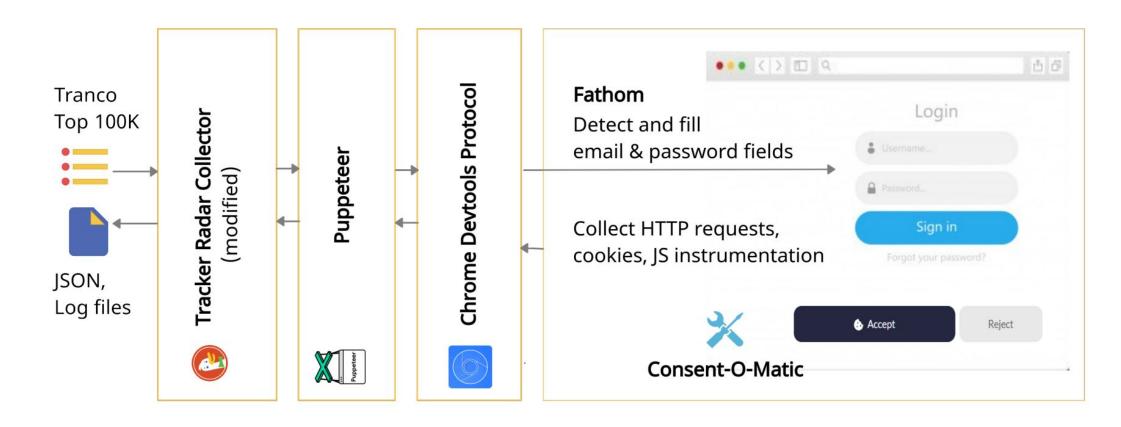


Objectives

- Measure email and password collection prior to form submission
 - effect of location: EU vs. US
 - effect of consent
 - mobile vs. desktop

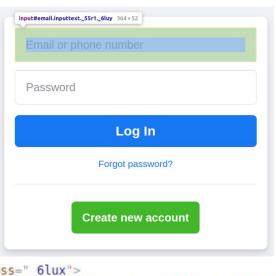
Method – Web Crawler

Built on Tracker Radar Collector (developed by DuckDuckGo)



Method – Email field detection

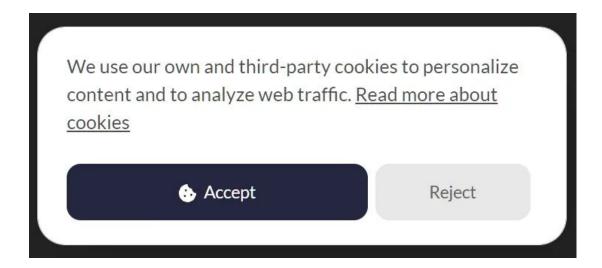
• **Fathom**: A supervised learning framework specialized to detect webpage parts [8]





Method – CMP detection

- Consent-O-Matic: browser extension that can recognize and interact with Consent Management Provider (CMP) pop-ups [7]
- Consent modes:
 - No-action
 - Accept-all
 - Reject-all
- ≈7,700/100K



Method – Leak Detection

- Based on Englehardt et al.'s method [3]
 - search for different encodings and hashes of search terms
- Identified two new encodings and a hashing method
 - LZString, custom mapping, hashing with a fixed salt

```
i,
u,
1355
a = [];
return n = r = "kibp8A4EWRMKHa7gvyz1d0Pt6UI5xYD3nqhVwZBXfCcFeJmrLN20lS9QGsjTuo", i = o =
"0123456789ABCDEFGHIJKLMN0PQRSTUVWXYZabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz", t && (n = o, i = r), L(e, function(t) {
    a.push((t = n.index0f(u = |e.charAt(t))) < 0 ? u : i.charAt(t))
}, a.join("")
},
A = function(e) {
```



Method – Tracker Labeling

- Only considered leaks to tracker domains
- Block-lists we used:
 - Disconnect
 - Whotracks.me
 - DuckDuckGo (tds.json)
 - uBlock Origin
 - + Manual labeling



Dataset & Results (No interaction with the consent dialogs)

	En	nail	Password		
	EU	us	EU	us	
Visited websites	99,380	99,437	99,380	99,437	
Websites where we filled	52,055	53,038	31,002	31,324	
Leaks to 1st party	4,395	5,518	89	92	
Leaks to 3rd party	2,633	3,790	87	87	
Leaks to trackers	1,844	2,950	48	49	

Overview of crawl statistics based on servers located in EU and the USA

Results - Email Leaks

		E	U					τ	JS			
Leak Type	Entity Name	Tracker Domain	Key by key	Num. sites	Prom.	Min. Rank	Entity Name	Tracker Domain	Key by key	Num. sites	Prom.	Min. Rank
	Taboola	taboola.com	No	327	302.9	154	LiveRamp	rlcdn.com	No	524	553.8	217
	Adobe	bizible.com	Yes	160	173.0	242	Taboola	taboola.com	No	383	499.0	95
	FullStory	fullstory.com	Yes	182	75.6	1,311	Bounce Exchange	bouncex.net	No	189	224.7	191
A	A : T	zenaps.com*	No	113	48.7	2,043	Adobe	bizible.com	Yes	191	212.0	242
	Awin Inc.	awin1.com*	No	112	48.5	2,043	Awin	zenaps.com*	No	119	111.2	196
	Yandex	yandex.com	Yes	121	41.9	1,688	Awin	awin1.com*	No	118	110.9	196
_	AdRoll	adroll.com	No	117	39.6	3,753	FullStory	fullstory.com	Yes	230	105.6	1,311
email	Glassbox	glassboxdigital.io*	Yes	6	31.9	328	Listrak	listrakbi.com	Yes	226	66.0	1,403
5	Listrak	listrakbi.com	Yes	91	24.9	2,219	LiveRamp	pippio.com	No	138	65.1	567
	Oracle	bronto.com	Yes	90	24.6	2,332	SmarterHQ	smarterhq.io*	Yes	32	63.8	556
	LiveRamp	rlcdn.com	No	11	20.0	567	Verizon Media	yahoo.com*	Yes	255	62.3	4,281
	SaleCycle	salecycle.com	Yes	35	17.5	2,577	AdRoll	adroll.com	No	122	48.6	2,343
	Automattic	gravatar.com*	Yes	38	16.7	2,048	Yandex	yandex.ru	Yes	141	48.1	1,648
	Facebook	facebook.com	Yes	21	14.8	1,153	Criteo SA	criteo.com*	No	134	46.0	1,403
	Salesforce	pardot.com*	Yes	36	30.8	2,675	Neustar	agkn.com*	No	133	45.9	1,403
	Oktopost	okt.to*	Yes	31	11.4	6,589	Oracle	addthis.com	No	133	45.9	1,403

Home > ... > Lookalike Targeting

Taboola Ads

Getting Started

Create & Manage Great Campaigns 🗸

Create A New Campaign

Edit Campaigns

Campaign Targeting Options

Send your 1st Party Audiences via DMP or MMP

Lookalike Targeting

Look-alike models are used to increase scale by finding new people likely to be interested in your business because they resemble existing customers.

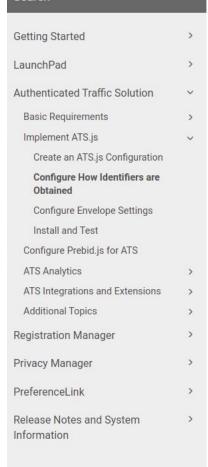
Use your CRM data to create lookalike audiences on Taboola! You can upload either a customer list of hashed email addresses, mobile device IDs, or 5 digit US zip codes and Taboola's predictive engine will find similar users that are more likely to convert based on the assumption that these users will be "like" your current customers in your database.

Visit our Advertiser Data Use Policy here.





Search



If you selected a method that includes On-page detection, you must configure when ATS should detect the identifier, which element to trigger the detection, and where to find the identifier.

Use the Start Detecting Identifier on dropdown to choose the listener event type for when ATS needs to actually detect the identifier on the website:

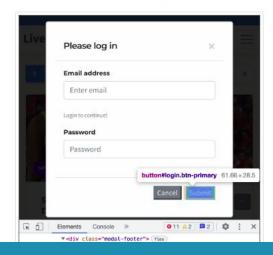
- . Click Event: Click event will fire off whenever a specified element is clicked .
- . Submit Event: Submit event will fire off whenever a specified form is submitted.
- Blur Event: Blur event will fire off whenever a specified input field loses focus for example when a user clicks outside of the input field.

Warning

The 'Blur Event' method doesn't require human interaction for identifiers to be obtained, while other methods require users to click on a button such as "Submit" or "Ok". To your users, this may give the perception that malicious activities are happening in the background, which is not the case because ATS.js will only start detection with proper consent in place.

Blur Event detection also leaves room for incorrect identifiers because it will not wait for actions from the user like clicking on a login button. For these reasons, we recommend using Click Event or Submit Event method instead.

- f you selected Click Event or Submit Event, add the element selectors to define which elements on your page should trigger the event.
 - For Click Event: Specify the element ID or element class of the button the user needs to click. In the Enter Element Selector field, you must add a .. at the beginning of a class, and a # at the beginning of an ID.





Results - Top ten websites

		EU				US	
Rank	Website	Third-party	Hash/encoding/compression	Rank	Website	Third-party	Hash/encoding/compression
154	usatoday.com*	taboola.com	Hash (SHA-256)	95	issuu.com	taboola.com	Hash (SHA-256)
242	trello.com*	bizible.com	Encoded (URL)	128	businessinsider.com	taboola.com	Hash (SHA-256)
243	independent.co.uk*	taboola.com	Hash (SHA-256)	154	usatoday.com	taboola.com	Hash (SHA-256)
300	shopify.com	bizible.com	Encoded (URL)	191	time.com	bouncex.net	Compression (LZW)
328	marriott.com	glassboxdigital.io	Encoded (BASE-64)	196	udomy com	awin1.com	Hash (SHA-256 with salt)
567	newsweek.com*	rlcdn.com	Hash (MD5, SHA-1, SHA-256)	190	udemy.com	zenaps.com	Hash (SHA-256 with salt)
705	prezi.com*	taboola.com	Hash (SHA-256)	217	healthline.com	rlcdn.com	Hash (MD5, SHA-1, SHA-256)
754	branch.io*	bizible.com	Encoded (URL)	234	foxnews.com	rlcdn.com	Hash (MD5, SHA-1, SHA-256)
1,153	prothomalo.com	facebook.com	Hash (SHA-256)	242	trello.com*	bizible.com	Encoded (URL)
1,311	codecademy.com	fullstory.com	Unencoded	278	theverge.com	rlcdn.com	Hash (MD5, SHA-1, SHA-256)
1,543	azcentral.com*	taboola.com	Hash (SHA-256)	288	webmd.com	rlcdn.com	Hash (MD5, SHA-1, SHA-256)

Results - Website Categories

	EU/US		EU		US
Categories	Sites	Filled sites	Leaky sites	Filled sites	Leaky sites
Fashion/Beauty	1,669	1,176	131 (11.1%)	1,179	224 (19.0%)
Online Shopping	5,395	3,658	345 (9.4%)	3,744	567 (15.1%)
General News	7,390	3,579	235 (6.6%)	3,848	392 (10.2%)
Software/Hardware	4,933	2,834	138 (4.9%)	2,855	162 (5.7%)
Business	13,462	7,805	377 (4.8%)	7,924	484 (6.1%)
•••			•••		
Games	2,173	925	9 (1.0%)	896	11 (1.2%)
Public Information	2,346	1,049	8 (0.8%)	1,084	27 (2.5%)
Govern.Military	3,754	939	5 (0.5%)	974	7 (0.7%)
Uncategorized	1,616	636	3 (0.5%)	646	2 (0.3%)
Pornography	1,388	528	0 (0.0%)	645	0 (0.0%)

Results - EU vs US

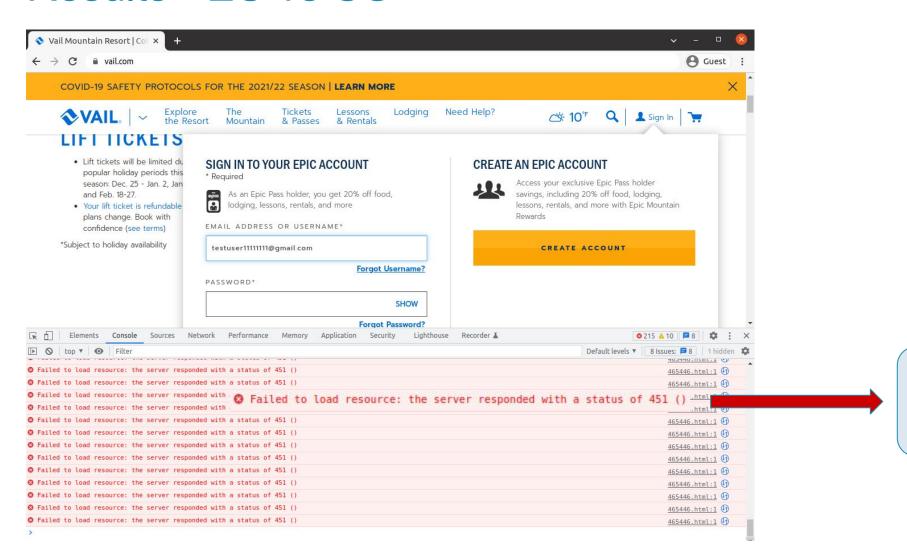
	EU	US
Visited websites	99,380	99,437
Websites where we filed	52,055	53,038
Emails sent to 1st party	4,395	5,518
Emails sent to 3rd party	2,633	3,790
Emails sent to trackers	1,844	2,950

60% difference

addthis.com, yahoo.com, doubleclick.net and criteo.com

Only appear in the US crawl

Results - EU vs US



rlcdn.com sends HTTP
451 error: Unavailable For
Legal Reasons

Results - EU vs US

Same script (from securedvisit.com) served with different content

- 1 /* sv_ea082ada0bf69f160b0bc84078d230c0.js 2 THIS APPLICATION CONTAINS INFORMATION PROPRIETARY TO SECUREDVISIT.COM 3 TO USE THIS SOFTWARE, YOU MUST BE AN AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEE OR AGENT 4 OF SECUREDVISIT.COM. 5 ALL RIGHTS NOT GRANTED TO YOU HEREIN ARE EXPRESSLY AND UNCONDITIONALLY 6 RESERVED. YOU MAY NOT REMOVE ANY PROPRIETARY NOTICE FROM ANY COPY OF THE SOFTWARE. 7 YOU MAY NOT PUBLISH, DISPLAY, DISCLOSE, RENT, LEASE, LICENSE, 8 SUBLICENSE, MODIFY, RENAME, LOAN, DISTRIBUTE, OR CREATE DERIVATIVE WORKS 9 BASED ON ANY PART OF THE SOFTWARE. YOU MAY NOT REVERSE ENGINEER, 10 DECOMPILE, TRANSLATE, ADAPT, OR DISASSEMBLE ANY PART OF THE SOFTWARE, 11 NOR SHALL YOU ATTEMPT TO CREATE THE SOURCE CODE FROM THE OBJECT CODE FOR 12 ANY PART OF THE SOFTWARE. 13 JQuery Sizzle: 14 This software consists of voluntary contributions made by many 15 individuals. For exact contribution history, see the revision history 16 available at https://github.com/jquery/sizzle 17 MD5 (Message-Digest Algorithm): 18 available at http://www.webtoolkit.info/ */ 19 window.sv DNT=true:
- 20 !function(e){var t,n=!!e.sv_DNT,r=e.sv_px,o="https://track.securedvisit.com/citecapture",i=r&&"string"==typeo
 f r.url&&"https:"==r.url.substring(0,6)?r.url:"https://track.securedvisit.com",u=i+"/identity",a={key:"sv_px_
 domain_data",value:e.&&r.domain_data?r.domain_data:void 0},c={key:"sv_pubid",value:e.sv_pubid},s={key:"sv_cid
 d",value:e.sv_cid},l=!!e.sv_idq_wait&&[],f=function(e){function t(e,t,n,r){var o,i,u,a,c,l,d,v=t&&t.ownerDocu
 ment,p=t?t.nodeType:9;if(n=n||[],"string"!=typeof e|||1!==p&&9!=p&&11!==p)return n;if(!r&&((t?t.ownerDocu

1 /* sv_ea082ada0bf69f160b0bc84078d230c0.js

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10 DECOMPILE, TRANSLATE, ADAPT, OR DISASSEMBLE ANY PART OF THE SOFTWARE,

11 NOR SHALL YOU ATTEMPT TO CREATE THE SOURCE CODE FROM THE OBJECT CODE FOR

12 ANY PART OF THE SOFTWARE.

13 JOuery Sizzle:

14 This software consists of voluntary contributions made by many

15 individuals. For exact contribution history, see the revision history

16 available at https://github.com/jquery/sizzle

17 MD5 (Message-Digest Algorithm):

18 available at http://www.webtoolkit.info/ */

19 window.sv_px={"url":"https://track.securedvisit.com", "domain_data":{"sid_found":false, "ver":"1.0.0", "sid_val":""}};

20 window.c=(function(){var i="1.0.1";var e="onready";var g="fire";function f(j){if(Array.isArray){return Array.} isArray(j)}else{return Object.prototype.toString.apply(j)==="[object Array]"}}function b(j,l){var k=l?l:j;if (typeof k==="object"){k=JSON.stringify(k)}if(l){k=j+": "+k}console.log(k)}function h(j){this.name=j;this.call backs=[]}h.prototype.registerCallback=function(j){this.callbacks.push(j)};function d(){this.type="";this.deta il="";this.timeStamp=Date.now()}function a(){this.dataLayer={};this.events={};this.isReady=false}a.prototype. registerEvent=function(j){this.events[j]=new h(j)};a.prototype.on=a.prototype.addEventListener=function(j,k) {if(!this.events.hasOwnProperty(j)){this.registerEvent(j)}this.log("listening for",j,k);this.events[j].regist erCallback(k)};a.prototype.fire=a.prototype.dispatchEvent=function(k,j){if(this.events.hasOwnProperty(k)){for (var l=0;l<this.events[k].callbacks.length;l++){var n=this.events[k].callbacks[l];if(n){var m=new d();m.type=</pre> k;m.detail=j;this.log("firing",k,j);n.call(this,m)}else{this.log("dispatching event with no callback",k,n)}}} else{this.log("dispatching an event with no registered listeners",k,j)}};a.prototype.ready=function(){this.is Ready=true; this.dispatchEvent(e, this)}; a.prototype.push=function(o) {var k=this, j=arguments.length; if(!f(o)) {r eturn}for(var m=0;m<j;m++){try{k[arguments[m][0]].apply(k,arguments[m].slice(1))}catch(n){}}};a.prototype.log =function(m,l,j){var k;if(this.debug){k=m+" _svData.Event<"+l+">";b(k,j)}};function c(){var k=window._svData, j=null;if(k){if(f(k)){j=new a();if(k.hasOwnProperty("debug")){j.debug=k.debug}j.push.apply(j,k);j.ready()}}el se{j=new a();j.ready()}return j?j:k}return c()}());

21 !function(e){var t,n=!!e.sv_DNT,r=e.sv_px,o="https://track.securedvisit.com/citecapture",i=r&&"string"==typeo
 f r.url&&"https:"==r.url.substring(0,6)?r.url:"https://track.securedvisit.com",u=i+"/identity",a={key:"sv_px_
 domain_data",value:r&&r.domain_data?r.domain_data:void 0},c={key:"sv_pubid",value:e.sv_pubid},s={key:"sv_ci
 d",value:e.sv_cid},l=!!e.sv_idq_wait&&[],f=function(e){function t(e,t,n,r){var o,i,u,a,c,l,d,v=t&&t.ownerDocu
 ment,p=t?t.nodeType:9;if(n=n||[],"string"!=typeof e|||i!==p&&9!==p&&1!==p)return n;if(!r&&(t?t.ownerDocu

in the EU

in the US



29/07/2022

Results - The Effect of Consent

Consent m	odes	EU	US
Accept all	0.05%	239	242
Reject all		201	199
No action		202	228

Results - Mobile

	Leaky/ Filled Sites EU	Leaky/ Filled Sites US		
Desktop	1,844 / 60,008 (3.0%)	2,950/ 60,999 (4.8%)		
Mobile	1,745 / 55,738 (3.1%)	2,744 / 57,715 (4.8%)		

Results - Received Emails

290 emails from 88 distinct sites

Email from: diabetes.org.uk

Tracker domain: freshaddress.biz

A friendly reminder Inbox ×



Diabetes UK <donate@diabetes.org.uk> to cosicadam0+diabetes.org.uk ▼



We noticed that you were on our online donation form but didn't complete it. If you still feel able to donate, then please take a moment to <u>complete our form</u>.

Is there anything we can help with? If you have any questions please email us at helpline@diabetes.org.uk or call us on 0345-123-2399* we are happy to help you.

Thank you,

Diabetes UK

*Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

View our Privacy and Cookies policies.



Results - Received Emails

Searching for products that actually work? Inbox x



MyPillow <mike.lindell@mail.mypillow.com> Unsubscribe to cosicadam0+mypillow.com ▼



Thanks For Stopping By

When I started MyPillow, my passion was to help people get the best sleep of their life! What a blessing it has been to see that dream become a reality!

To help you best care for your MyPillow, please read our product care recommendations. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to

Email from: mypillow.com

Tracker domain: listrakbi.com

¡Se despide Hot Days! 18 MSI + BONIFICACIÓN Inbox ×











Email from: walmart.com.mx

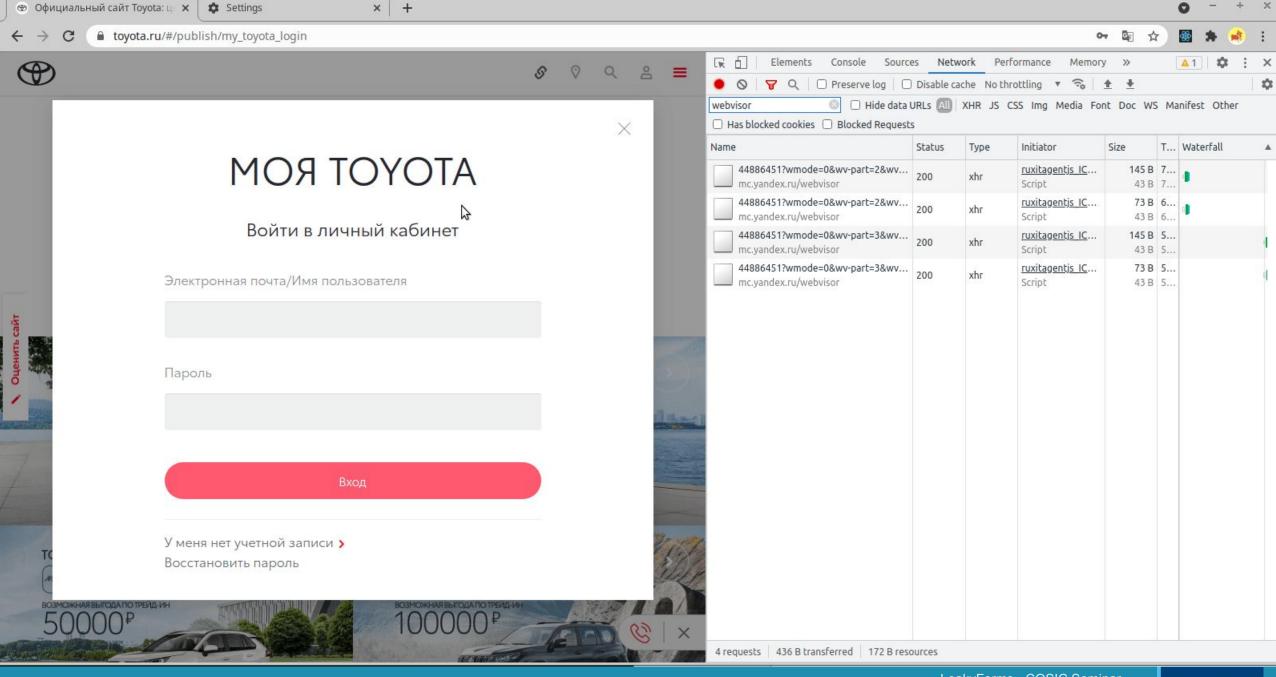
Tracker domain: veinteractive.com



Results - Password Leaks on 52 websites

Incidental collection by

- Yandex Metrica: due to React framework (50 websites)
- Mixpanel: due to outdated SDK usage (1 website)
- LogRocket: No response (1 website)



GDPR Requests

First parties: 30/58 replied



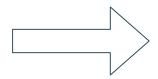
- Were not aware & removed
 - fivethirtyeight.com (via Walt Disney's DPO)
 - trello.com (Atlassian)
- Marriott: Glassbox is used for customer care, technical support, and fraud prevention

Third parties: 15/28 replied



- Adobe and Yandex: Referred to corresponding first parties
- Taboola: ad & content personalization, CMP misconfiguration

0/33 first parties replied (Websites in the US crawl)



No response from these 33 websites.

Leaks to Facebook & TikTok

Due to Automatic Advanced
 Matching feature of
 Facebook/Tiktok Pixel
 (scrapes forms)

Meta for Business Meta Business Help Centre

Create and manage accounts

Publish and distribute content

Advertise

Sell on Facebook and Instagram

Monetise your content or app

Business Help Centre

Q

Hi Ali, how can we help?

About advanced matching for web

15,463 views

Advanced matching can help you optimise your Meta ads to drive better results. With advanced matching, you can send us hashed customer information along with your pixel events, which can help you attribute more conversions and reach more people. We hash the customer information on the website before they're sent to Facebook to help protect user privacy.

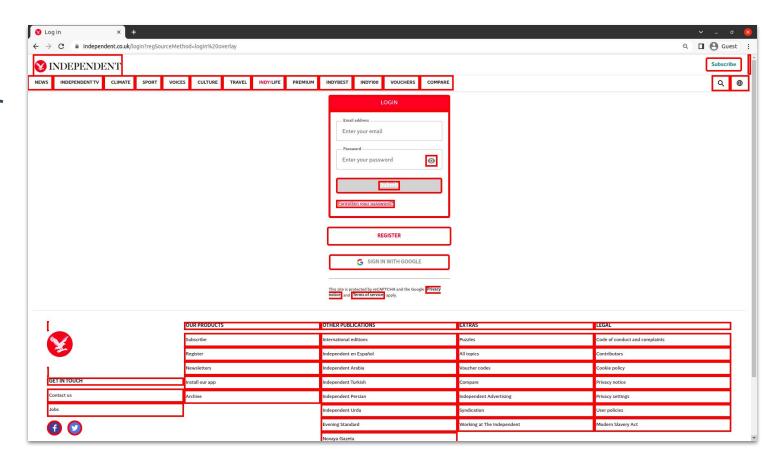
You can use advanced matching to help:



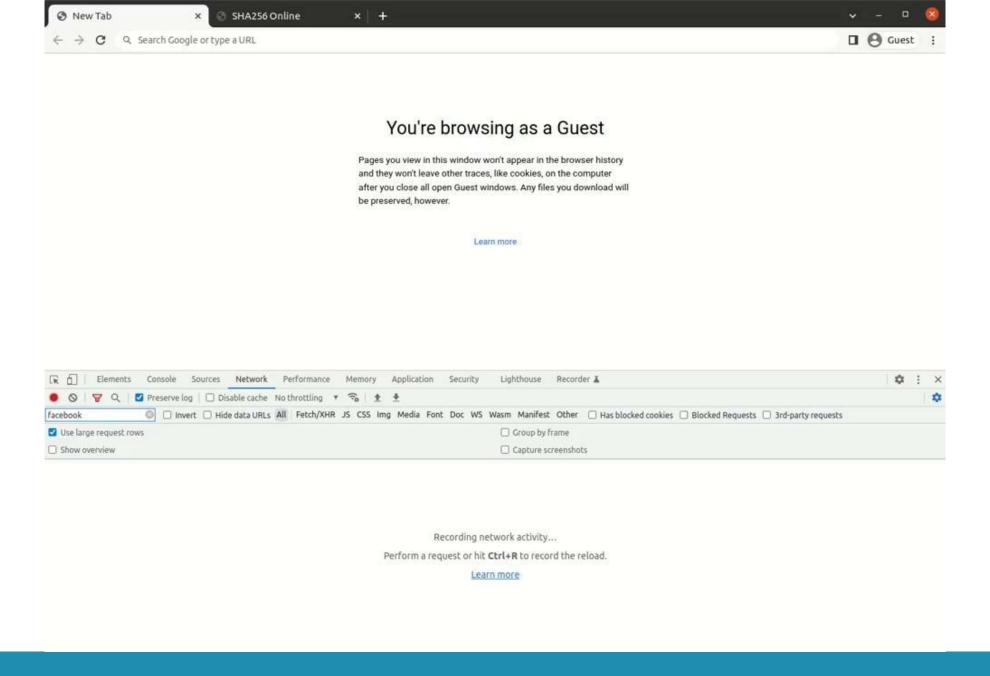
Leaks to Facebook & TikTok

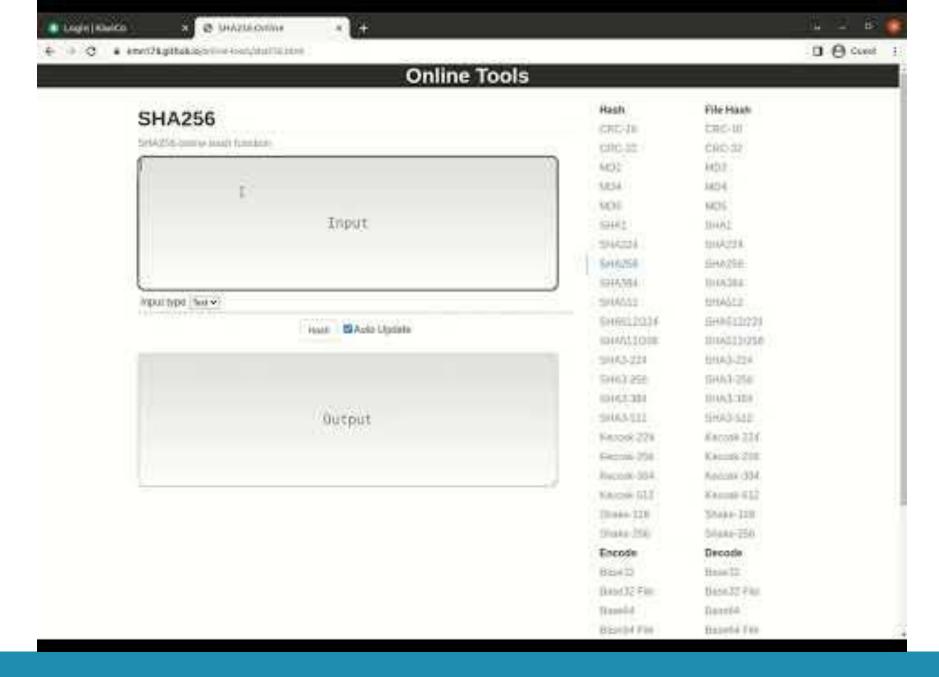
- Triggered when the user clicks any link (Facebook) or button on the page.

	EU	US
Facebook	7,379	8,438
TikTok	147	154







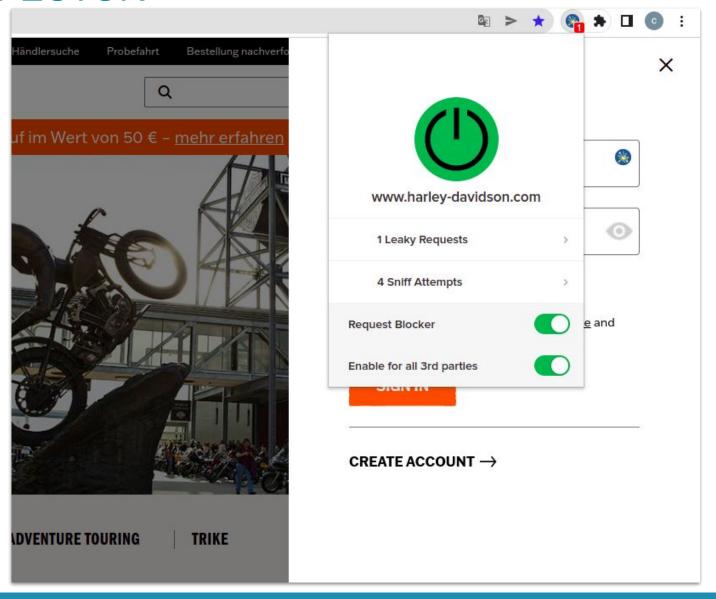


Countermeasures

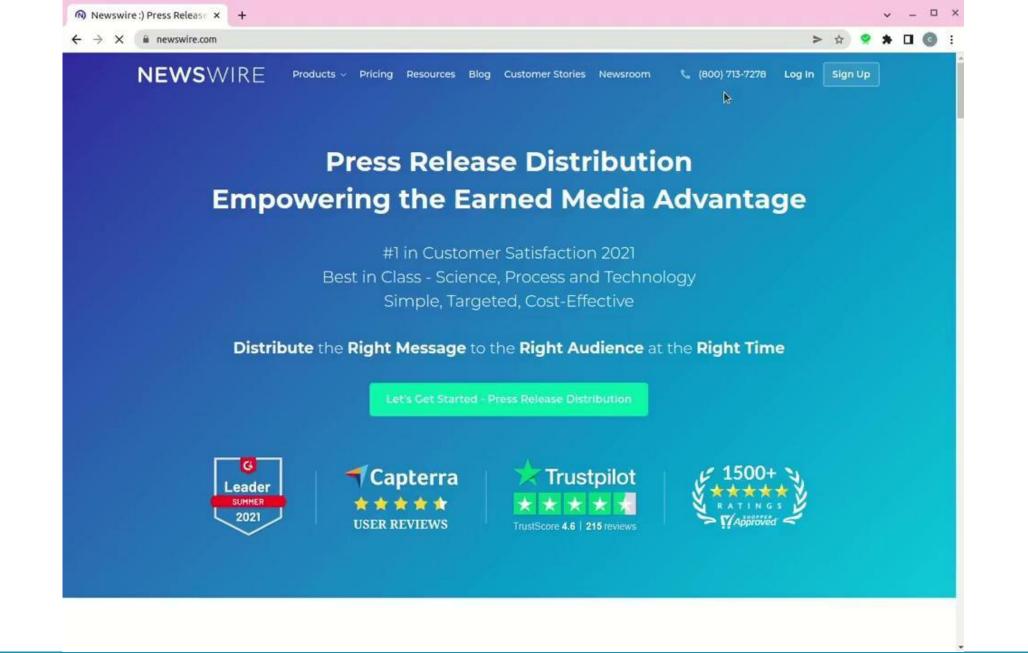
- Browser add-ons block requests to tracker domains
- Private email relay services hide users' emails
 - Apple, Mozilla, DuckDuckGo
 - e.g. testuser@duck.com-> testuser@gmail.com
- NO tool for detection and prevention of sniff & exfiltration on online forms

Browser add-on: LEAKINSPECTOR

- Detects sniff attempts
- Blocks leaky requests
- https://github.com/leaky-forms/leak-inspector







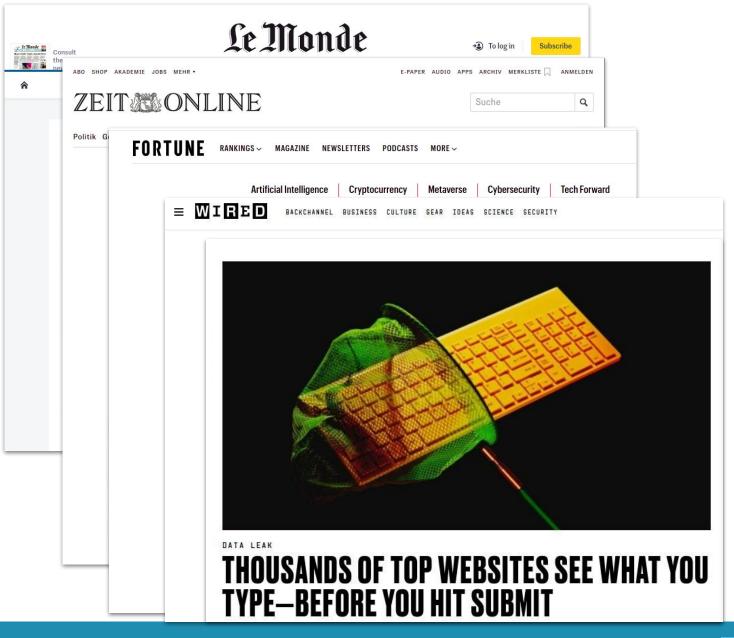
Summary

- Email leaks on 1,844 (EU), 2,950 (US) websites
- Password leaks on 52 websites due to session replay scripts
- Uncovered 41 unlisted tracking domains
- Developed a transparency browser add-on that detects and blocks personal data exfiltration from online forms



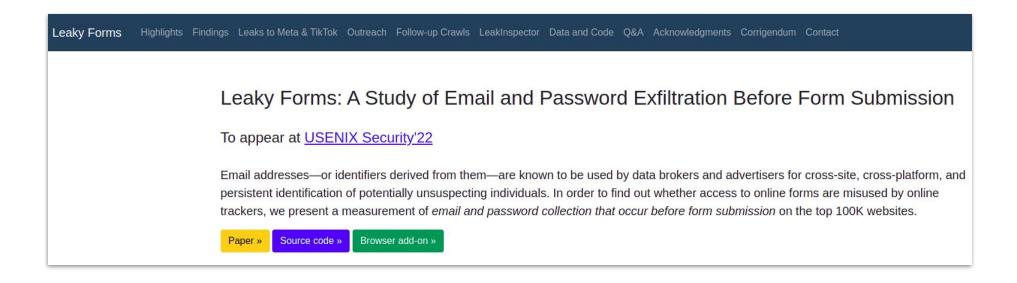
Press

- WIRED
- Le Monde
- Zeit
- Fortune
-





Any Questions?



Source code: <a href="https://github.com/leaky-forms/l

Project website: https://homes.esat.kuleuven.be/~asenol/leaky-forms

