# Weird New Tricks for Browser Fingerprinting

yan (@bcrypt) ToorCon 2015

### real pic of me







also work on these things

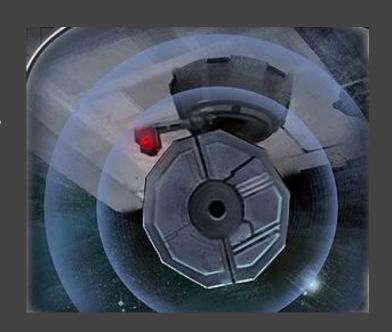


EFF staff photo, 2015



### Tracking web users is all the rage

- Show ads!
- Inject QUANTUM malware
- Cybercatch cybercriminals
- Gather website analytics
- Detect fraud / droidnets
- Enforce paywalls
- etc.



### A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away . . .

Obi-Wan tracked Luke using:

- cookies
- passive fingerprinting\*(IP address, locales, user-agent, OS, etc.)
- sweet Jedi mind tricks



\* In this presentation, fingerprinting == any non-cookie web tracking method.

### THE ADBLOCKERS\* STRIKE BACK

\* In this presentation, adblocker == any tool that blocks web tracking (including nonadvertising)









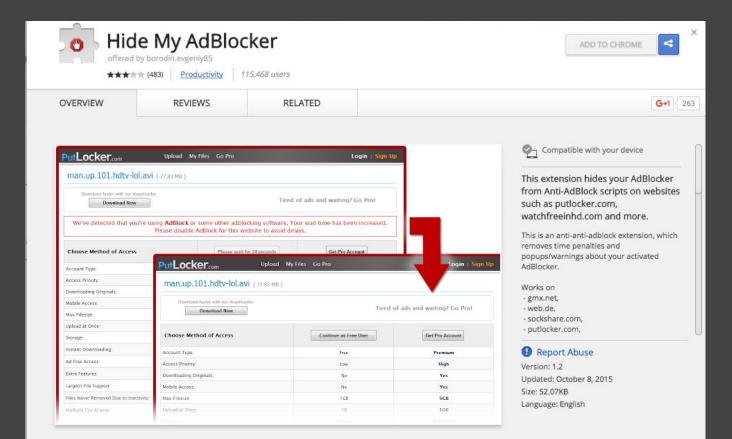




#### THE PHANTOM ADBLOCKER BLOCKERS



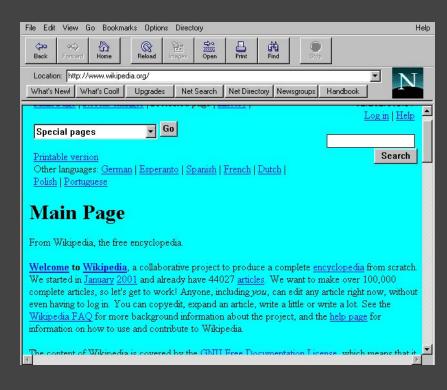
### REVENGE OF THE ADBLOCKER BLOCKER BLOCKERS!!!



### A New Hope: Browser Fingerprinting

- Evade blocking algorithms that blacklist domains based on cookie frequency (ex: Privacy Badger).
- Track users who disable 3rd party cookies (ex: Safari).
- Harder to delete than cookies.
- Can reveal new information about a user.

### new web features == new fingerprinting techniques





### **HOLY SHIT I HAVE 4 LIGHTSABERS ZOMG!!1**

- active fingerprinting (HTML5 canvas, clock skew, installed fonts
   & plugins, WebRTC...)
- **supercookies** (Flash cookies, caches, HSTS, etags...)



### Fingerprinting attacks in the wild



#### Analytics: Cookie Leakage (TS//SI)

Use cookies to identify Tor users when they are not using Tor

- Current: preliminary analysis shows that some cookies "survive" Tor use. Depends on how target is using Tor (Torbutton/Tor Browser Bundle clears out cookies).
- Goal: test with cookies <u>associated</u> with CT targets
  - Idea: what if we seeded cookies to a target?
  - Investigate Evercookie persistence

geez thx a lot Samy

### #realtalk

# How would you track a paranoid user who clears cookies & uses an adblocker?

# Could fingerprint them, but adblockers & browsers will get better at blocking you...

## ...unless blocking causes too much collateral damage.

### Collateral:

Privacy-conscious users usually care about security.

Can we fingerprint them using security features that are too important for them to turn off?

### Trick #1: Abuse HTTP Public Key Pinning

#### **HPKP (RFC 7469)**

**Server:** One of these hashes must be in the TLS cert chain you receive from me.

Browser: DOPE!! NEXT TIME I SEE YOU I WILL CHECK IT BEFORE I WRECK IT

```
Public-Key-Pins:
                                   How long to
                                   cache this shit for
                                                      SHA-256 of a pub. key
max-age=3000;
                                                      in the cert chain.
                                                      Browser checks &
pin-sha256="
                                                      caches this.
d6qzRu9z0ECb90Uez27xWltNsj0e1Md
7GkYYkVoZWmM=";
                                                     SHA-256 of a backup
                                                     pub. key (required). Must
pin-sha256="
                                                     NOT be in the cert chain.
E9CZ9INDbd+2eRQozYqqbQ2yXLVKB9+
                                                     Browser caches this.
xcprMF+44U1g=";
                                               POST endpoint to report
                                               pin validation failures
report-uri= "http://example.
                                               (optional).
com/report";
                                    Whether to pin for the host's
                                    subdomains as well (optional).
includeSubdomains;
```

### Supercookie #1: fake backup pins

- 1. https://example.com sets a unique backup
   pin for each user + includeSubdomains +
   report-uri.
- 2. <img src="https://bad.example.com"> serves a
   chain that deliberately fails pin
   validation.
- 3. A validation failure report is sent which includes a unique cached backup pin!

### Trick #2: Abuse HTTP Strict Transport Security + Content Security Policy

### HSTS (RFC 6797)

Server: Hey, I just met you, and this is crazy, but please only call me over HTTPS for the next 604800 seconds.

Browser: OK

Strict-Transport-Security:

max-age=3000;

How long to remember to only connect to this host via HTTPS

includeSubdomains;

Whether subdomains should also only be connected to over HTTPS (optional).

### Supercookie #2: HSTS cache state

- 1. sneaky.com wants to fingerprint users.
- 2. example.com is known to support HSTS.
- 3. sneaky.com/index.html embeds <img src=
  'http://example.com'>.

### What happens then?

Case 1: Browser has never visited example.com

-> makes a network round-trip, gets 301/302 to <a href="https://example.com">https://example.com</a>

Case 2: Browser visited example.com before.

-> HSTS causes an "internal" redirect (307) to <u>https://example.com/</u> ~immediately If we can measure the HTTP to HTTPS redirect latency, we can distinguish Case 1 from Case 2!

Q: How do we measure that? A: Abuse one more browser security feature.

### **Content Security Policy (W3C spec)**

**Server:** For your safety, please only allow resources of type <X> from origins <A> & <B> while on this page.

Browser: I GOT U FAM

Content-Security-Policy:

Allow images to load from HTTPS origins only

img-src: https://\*;

script-src: 'self' \*.
scripts.com cdn.example.com

Allow scripts to load from the page's origin, \*.scripts.com, and cdn. example.com only.

## The Missing Ingredient: Set CSP to 'img-src http://\*'

HTTPS image requests are blocked and fire an error event to JS listeners.

### Why is this useful?

- 1. JS only lets us listen for img onerror and onload events. Turns out CSP violation triggers onerror consistently and early in the fetch pipeline.
- 2. If browser ever completes a request for <a href="https://example.com">https://example.com</a>, it will get the HSTS pin and future results are polluted. CSP prevents this from happening!

### After setting CSP:

Case 1: Browser has never visited example.com

-> makes network request, gets 301/302 to <a href="https://example.com">https://example.com</a>, img onerror fires.

Case 2: Browser visited example.com before.

-> HSTS rewrites src to <a href="https://example.com/">https://example.com/</a>
~immediately, img onerror fires.

## How long does the HTTP to HTTPS redirect take?

Case 1: Browser has never visited example.com

-> Order of 100ms depending on network latency and site response time.

Case 2: Browser visited example.com before.

-> Order of 1ms, independent of the site and network conditions.

## Putting it all together

## Remember the CSS visited-selector bug?

Slide from Michael Coates, 2011 ->

#### **CSS History Sniffing**

- Determine user's browsing habits with CSS
- Visited link different than non-visited link
- CSS and element inspection determines visited pages
- Issued fixed March 2010



Visited Link

Unvisited Link

```
if (getComputedStyle(link, "").color ==
   "rgb(0, 0, 128)")
{
   // link.href has not been visited
} else {
   // link.href has been visited
   }
}
```

http://dbaron.org/mozilla/visited-privacy



### That was soooooo 2010

#### New plan:

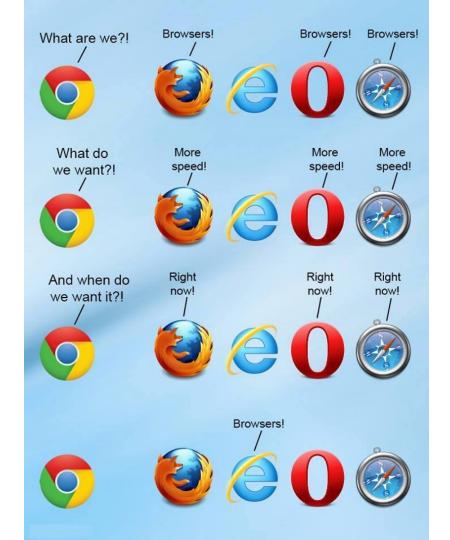
- 1. Scrape Alexa Top 1M for hosts that send HSTS and aren't preloaded.
- Load all the HSTS hosts asynchronously on one page.
- 3. Measure the onerror timing & separate hosts into visited and unvisited.

## Turns out...

Redirect timing is hard to measure accurately for 300+ async image loads at once.

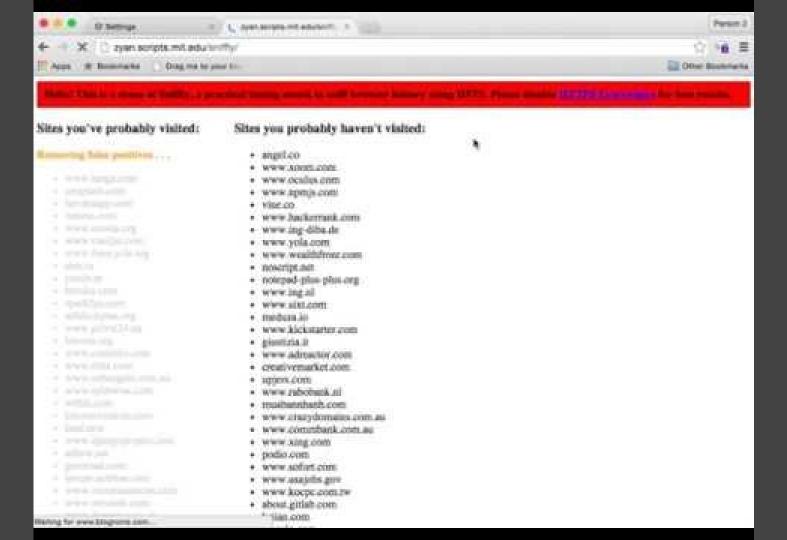
Improved by calibrating timing drift using a request to a preloaded HSTS host every other request.

Chrome still had many false positives; confirmed timings for positive results using synchronous loads.



# demo:

http://zyan.scripts.mit.edu/sniffly



# scraper + tracker code: <a href="https://github.com/diracdeltas/sniffly">https://github.com/diracdeltas/sniffly</a>

## Your mileage may vary

- Results depend on latest
   HSTS preload list.
- HTTPS Everywhere & other extensions cause false positives.
- Doesn't work as-is in Tor Browser thanks to 100 ms timing buckets.



## Your mileage may vary

• Only leaks origin, not full path . . . or does it?

Actually, looks feasible to adapt this attack to leak the 301 redirect cache instead of the HSTS cache. :)

## TO BE CONTINUED...

#### The End

Call me maybe:

yan@mit.edu / @bcrypt

Special thanks to Scott Helme, Jan Schaumann, Chris Palmer, and Chris Rohlf for feedback and demo testing.



Many <3's to White Ops for sponsoring my trip to ToorCon!

