

Anonymity and Security

while using the Web

Intro

Name: Shawn Maxim

About: shawnmaxim.net

Specialty: Information Security, mobile devices

Experience:

Apple Inc on the iOS team, 4+ years

Federal Reserve Bank: SF - NIRT internship

BS in Computer Science CSUS Dec 2014

What does that mean?

- We all use our browsers to look and interact with things online
- This information is not private
 - Where you visited
 - What you looked at while you were there
 - Where you are and what software you use

Who is affected

Anyone who uses the
internet

Why be concerned?

- Visiting the top 50 websites will install over 3,000 tracking files on your computer
- Over 80% of websites use one or more tracking tools
- Online Advertising is a \$50 billion business
- From the perspective of hundreds of ad & data collection companies, You Are The Product, waiting to be sold to advertisers

Is that all?

- Data collected through your browsing can determine whether you can obtain a job, credit or insurance
- Your information can be stored, analyzed, indexed and sold as a commodity to data brokers who in turn might sell it to advertisers, employers, health insurers or credit rating agencies
- Online data is merged with offline data and sold
- Websites vary prices and deals based on users' information

Where can I go?

- Want to create less data online?
- Want to be viewed more neutrally online?

Tools

- Use a browser that prevents you from being tracked
 - Anonymous browsing is good, but not enough
- Try Epic Browser
 - www.epicbrowser.com

How can I do even more?

- Start using Tor whenever you browse
 - www.torproject.org
- Use TAILS when on public computers
 - tails.boum.org

Other tidbits

- Your data belongs to you, make sure you are sharing as appropriate and not getting taken advantage of
- There is more internet than you may realize
- Anonymous sites abound, and are only available to view by anonymous browsers (Tor, I'm looking at you)

What about security?

- Anonymous browsing is secure browsing
- Don't compromise yourself by sharing too much data with too many people and companies
- Standard security rules still apply:
 - Don't download untrusted executables
 - Scan things before opening them

Tool walkthrough and Questions