ONLINE PRIVACY
&
SURVEILLANCE CAPITALISM

- Websites exchange data (=surveillance) with your computer in the background all the time.
- Advertisers (= capitalists) obtain (= buy) your data to send you appropriate advertisements when you next visit the websites.

COOKIES

Setting a cookie (1)

Cookies are set using the `Set-Cookie` HTTP header, sent in an HTTP response from the web server. This header instructs the web browser to store the cookie and send it back in future requests to the server (the browser will ignore this header if it does not support cookies or has disabled cookies).
As an example, the browser sends its first request for the homepage of the `www.example.org` website:

```
GET /index.html HTTP/1.1
Host: www.example.org
...
```

The server responds with two `Set-Cookie` headers:

```
HTTP/1.0 200 OK
Content-type: text/html
Set-Cookie: theme=light
Set-Cookie: sessionToken=abc123; Expires=Wed, 09 Jun 2021 10:18:14 GMT
...
```

The server's HTTP response contains the contents of the website's homepage. But it also instructs the browser to set two cookies. The first, "theme", is considered to be a *session cookie* since it does not have an `Expires` or `Max-Age` attribute. Session cookies are intended to be deleted by the browser when the browser closes. The second, "sessionToken", is considered to be a *persistent cookie* since it contains an `Expires` attribute, which instructs the browser to delete the cookie at a specific date and time.

Setting a cookie (2)

Next, the browser sends another request to visit the `spec.html` page on the website. This request contains a `Cookie` HTTP header, which contains the two cookies that the server instructed the browser to set:

```
GET /spec.html HTTP/1.1
Host: www.example.org
Cookie: theme=light; sessionToken=abc123
…
```

This way, the server knows that this request is related to the previous one. The server would answer by sending the requested page, possibly including more Set-Cookie headers in the response in order to add new cookies, modify existing cookies, or delete cookies.

For a full technical explanation see:

HTTP cookie
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTTP_cookie

Behind the One-Way Mirror

A Deep Dive Into the Technology of Corporate Surveillance

By

Bennett Cyphers and Gennie Gebhart

How personal data is gathered, brokered, and used to serve targeted advertisements.

Data tracked (& sold)

- Email address
- Computer IP address
- Mobile phone number
- Location
- Credit card and store card numbers
- Car number plate
- Face recognition data
- etc

Internet of things

- Refrigerators
- Washing machines
- Heating systems
- Fitness trackers
- Motor vehicles
- etc

Some precautions

- Block cookies
- Avoid public wifi
- Use “https”
- Avoid Google Chrome

  Google collects data on more than 80% of measured web traffic, which is far more than Facebook or anybody else
- Consider Mozilla Firefox as a browser
- Consider DuckDuckGo as a search engine

  see: https://duckduckgo.com

Finally

Read

Behind the One-Way Mirror

https://www.eff.org/wp/behind-the-one-way-mirror

HTTP cookie

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTTP_cookie