On (hopefully) taming Webkit and getting better privacy in GNOME Web with Privoxy.

Really, it would be nicer if Apple would just double the amount of filter rules allowed in Content Blockers, but it seems they really can?t do much about users who take Privacy matters into their own hands, even on Mac OS, as Privoxy apparently works on Mac OS too!

Privoxy has been around for 20 years or so and previously went under the name Internet Junkbuster. In fact, it was one of my ad blocking Hosts files that was used as the basis for the early Junkbuster list.

I got fed up with ads and Windows adware in the late 90s and felt like I could take on the problem of blocking it, and for a while I was correct. However, HOSTS files are no answer for today?s problems on the Web, and Windows will try to revert any changes you make to it with ?Defender? anyway if you use Windows.

And if you successfully make it ignore that and allow the modifications, Windows Telemetry spyware is IMPOSSIBLE to block with the HOSTS file because it will ignore you if you ad their telemetry sites to it!

You really should not use Windows?
Back to Privoxy?. It will not interfere with your VPN software, or at least it shouldn’t (it doesn’t with my setup, using NordVPN), because it is a local proxy. It should enhance the privacy your VPN gives you. In fact, it used to be part of the Tor Browser Bundle.

- Mozilla loading full page ads for their VPN (they just resell Mulvad VPN). [5]

  This behavior is beyond annoying and not at all welcome on the part of the user. Not only does Mozilla do this over and over again (I had it happen more than once), but they load it in your private windows too.

  This time, there’s two more checkboxes to find (good luck). Hint: ?recommend extensions as you browse? and ?recommend features as you browse?. But this shouldn’t be necessary and using Mozilla software is becoming the literal?. Look, next year Webster’s English Dictionary is going to have to put the Firefox logo as the definition of ?annoying?.

  Brave, a competing web browser, has a regular ?private? window which just means no history logging on your device, but also Private Windows with Tor. It also works atop your VPN if you want to access Tor hidden services.

- Ring doorbells no longer support Firefox for live view. Recommend Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge. [6]

  Mozilla could probably hack their way around this one with a UA quirk, but will just let company after company keep destroying what’s left of their browser business while they send ?Web Compat? emails that go right into the trash to outfits like Facebook, Microsoft Skype, and now Amazon.

- Windows Store causes errors in Firefox, makes Accessibility unusable. [7]

  They shilled Microsoft’s new DRM store, and all they got were more bugs to fix, Edge using nasty tricks to steal their users from them, and this lousy T-shirt.

- Apple’s Self Service Repair Program Must Live Up To Its Promises[8]

  This is a major shift for the company, which has fought for years against movements to expand people’s right to repair their Apple products. Right-to-repair advocates have not only pushed the company to move on this issue, but also to get regulators and lawmakers to acknowledge the need to protect the right to repair in law. Apple’s announcement is only one
illustration of how far the advocacy on the right to repair has come; in just the past two years, advocates have won at the ballot box in Massachusetts, received a supportive directive from the Biden Administration, changed policy at Microsoft, and made some gains at the Library of Congress to expand repair permissions.

The Self Service Repair Program could be another feather in that cap. But now that Apple has announced the program, we urge them to roll it out in ways that truly expand their customers? access and choice.

It?s important that Apple?s program, or any program, does not come with strings attached that make it unworkably difficult or too expensive for a normal person to use. In the past, Apple has done both?as YouTuber and professional repairer Louis Rossman pointed out.

Software Moz/FF GNOME

Source URL: http://www.tuxmachines.org/node/158126

Links: