

8 essential privacy extensions for Firefox

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They say privacy doesn't exist on the Web -- but that doesn't mean you can't try to safeguard your personal information. Our computers are loaded with details about our personal and business lives, and it's definitely not acceptable to reveal them haphazardly. With hackers becoming ever more sophisticated, you have to take precautions.

One threat to privacy on the Web is the use of cookies and other technologies to track your browsing, clicking, searching, social networking and buying habits as you move from site to site. These tracking technologies build up an online profile of you that can be used not only to send you ads designed to appeal to you (useful to some, intrusive to others) but could also be used for identity theft if the information fell into the wrong hands.

Another threat is the vast number of files that accumulate on your hard drive -- your browsing history, log-in cookies, cached pages and more -- that could be accessed either by someone who gets physical control over your machine or remotely by hackers who have installed malware on your system. This information can include banking details, credit card numbers, Web site passwords and records of your visits to potentially embarrassing sites.

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[3] http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9187059/8_essential_privacy_extensions_for_Firefox