Privacy of Geolocation Implementations

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W3C Workshop on Privacy of Advance Web APIs
Implementations

- iOS 4
- Firefox 3.6
- Chrome 6
- Opera 10.6
Critical Framework

- **Accessibility**: Can the end-user access options and information pertaining to privacy?
- **Control**: Does the system afford control over privacy settings? How much?
- **Confidentiality**: Does the system afford anonymity or alternative means of protecting their privacy?
iOS 4

• All apps must get the user’s express permission (DAP take note!)
iOS 4

- No indication as to how location is being derived
- Modal prompts: user cannot explore page.
- Risk “click fatigue”
- No link to privacy policy
iOS 4

- Privacy Policy 3 Levels deep
- ~50 pages (!)
- No links, search, send
- iHardToReadLegalGrey™
iOS 4

Resets all location warnings
iOS 4
Location services indicator!
iOS 4

• **Accessibility:** Not very. Modal dialog. Hard to find privacy controls and policy. Indicator is helpful!

• **Control:** kinda. Requires full reset. No control over provider (ability to lie).

• **Confidentiality:** Kinda. Location services can be disabled + Airplane mode.
Firefox

- Non-modal
- Allow, Deny, remember.
- Access to privacy policies.
Firefox - Location Provider

• Not very accessible: “about:config”
Firefox

• **Accessibility**: Hard to find. Lacks way of managing sites. No indicator.

• **Control**: Yes, but advanced options are hidden. Hard to change.

• **Confidentiality**: Hard. Ability to disable and change provider.
Opera

- Non-modal
- Allow, deny, remember.
- No access to privacy policies!
After accept, lacks way to view privacy policy.
Opera - Location Provider

- Not very accessible: “opera:config”
- Provides decent control
- Lacks info about choices
Opera

- **Accessibility**: Yes. One click. But lacks good way of managing sites.
- **Control**: Yes, but advanced options are hidden.
- **Confidentiality**: Yes, ability to disable and change provider.
Chrome

- Non-modal
- Allow (forever), deny.
- Access to privacy policies.
Chrome

- Indicator
- One click access
- Good control over sites
- Embedded components
Chrome

- **Accessibility**: Yes. One click. But lacks good way of managing sites.
- **Control**: Yes. But no control over provider.
- **Confidentiality**: Yes. But no ability to change provider?
Do we need...

- Further standardization of UI?
- To leave it to the market?