

Subject: "Strengthening the Internet Against Pervasive Monitoring" workshop
From: "Mike O'Neill" <michael.oneill@baycloud.com>
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To: group-strint-submission@w3.org

I would like to take part in the "Strengthening the Internet Against Pervasive Monitoring" workshop.

IPv6 is now starting to take off and this has implications for tracking and mass surveillance of individuals. The main technique for tracking and identifying people now is long duration storage, usually a HTTP cookie, containing a unique identifier. The current depletion of the IPv4 address space means that DHCP and NAT IP address sharing is the common mode, making the IP address inadequate surveillance by NSA/GCHQ or by companies for OBA and retargeting. It is possible to use the transitory IP address to link otherwise separately scoped long duration identifiers, but both are needed. Long duration identifiers such as cookies or HTML5 local storage can be deleted by individuals from their devices, albeit with some difficulty at the moment, but this ability is in danger of becoming irrelevant.

IPv6 has such a large address space that this (transitory IP addresses often shared) will no longer be the case. If IEEE MAC based IPv6 addresses become the default then this effectively introduces a permanent undeletable identifier to track people with.

There are privacy extension to IPv6 that allow for autonomous auto configuration of IP addresses and legislators and responsible companies should ensure that this mode is the default on all devices, with a relatively short address retention time.

I would like to discuss this and learn from other delegates how this could be emphasised.

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