Update on Google's Web Tracking Initiative

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What We Can Talk About In 15 Minutes

- Problem Statement

- Status

- Continuing the Conversation(s)

Problem Statement(s)

- Browsers need to prevent tracking users across the web.

- Applications and services need to work through browser to support SSO/federated login.

- Federated login and tracking tools use the same primitives and are virtually indistinguishable from the browser's perspective.

This set of problem descriptions is still under discussion – we don't have consensus on it yet.

Status

- Explainers have been updated
  - https://github.com/WICG/WebID/blob/main/README.md
  - https://github.com/WICG/WebID/blob/main/cookies.md
- Issues have been prioritized
  - https://github.com/IDBrowserUseCases/docs/issues
- Several orgs are grappling with perspectives on the problem
  - IETF / OAuth2.0 WG
  - OIDF Browser Interaction special interest group
  - W3C WebID, PrivacyCG
  - InCommon Technical Advisory Committee, REFEDS

The Upcoming Changes Are Not Just About Cookies

Cookies are just the first point being addressed.

- *Within the next 2-3 years, link decoration (e.g., query strings in the URL) will be the next target*
  - *Which means we have time to think about this aspect of things and consider alternatives*

This comes back to an important point: no one wants to touch the same code twice

Immediate Impacts

Several OIDC/OAuth2 features will break (e.g., front-channel logout, session management, iFrame-based session extension, SPA background token renewal)

SAML Single Log Out will break

IdP persistence (e.g., IdP discovery services, SeamlessAccess) will break (or at least be seriously wounded)

Timeline (at least as far as third-party cookies go)

Safari: third party cookies are **already** blocked by **default**

Firefox: third party cookies are **already** blocked **by a blocklist**, and

Chrome: on iOS **already** blocked **by default** and intends to offer **alternatives** to make them **obsolete** in the near term in other platforms.

Next Steps

- **TENTATIVE**: W3C WICG WebID Workshop, 25-26 May 2021
  - Co-hosted with the OIDF
- Topics may include:
  - Review of the problem(s)
  - Call out to scenario work
  - Consideration of the different browsers' approaches
  - Walking through active examples (reference implementations)
- Future workshop topics:
  - Social IdPs (Facebook, Twitter, MS/LinkedIn)
  - Focusing on RPs
  - SAML specific (enterprise use cases, academic use cases)
  - GitHub issue review in WebID
  - What spec work will need to be designed and who should be on point within the different SDOs?