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Assignment 3 – Burp Suite

I decided to do my analysis on philly.com. I have Burp Suite installed in a fairly clean windows 10 VM with only the default Windows Edge Browser. I picked philly.com because I thought it would be a fairly diverse website with various types of content and multiple analytics tools collecting information on visitors because that would be important for a “free” public media website. I noticed many java scripts being executed, cookies from various sources were created on my machine.

One interesting thing I noticed that peaked my interest was a script running from a website called pagefair.com, I did some research and it’s a company that is able to detect ad-blocking plugins and provides analytics about people that block scripts and ads as well as options for ad delivery. I have seen many websites forcing me to allow ads to continue visiting them, so it makes sense that these mechanisms now exist.

Another interesting thing I looked into was sending information over to ssw.live.com which I thought is a Microsoft cloud service. Upon doing some research it turns out that the Edge browser to sending Microsoft information about us. I was not able to make much sense of the data that was being sent over. More information can be found here: <http://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2015/08/even-when-told-not-to-windows-10-just-cant-stop-talking-to-microsoft/>

Otherwise after more poking around I did not find much information of interest besides the various content delivery networks and ad-networks exchanging information with me and about me. There are no user accounts or log in pages and I was not able to get the comment platform to load, I suspect because it uses SSL. It looks like not much information was “POST” to philly.com and the only “POST” commands were sent to the Microsoft secret spy server.