

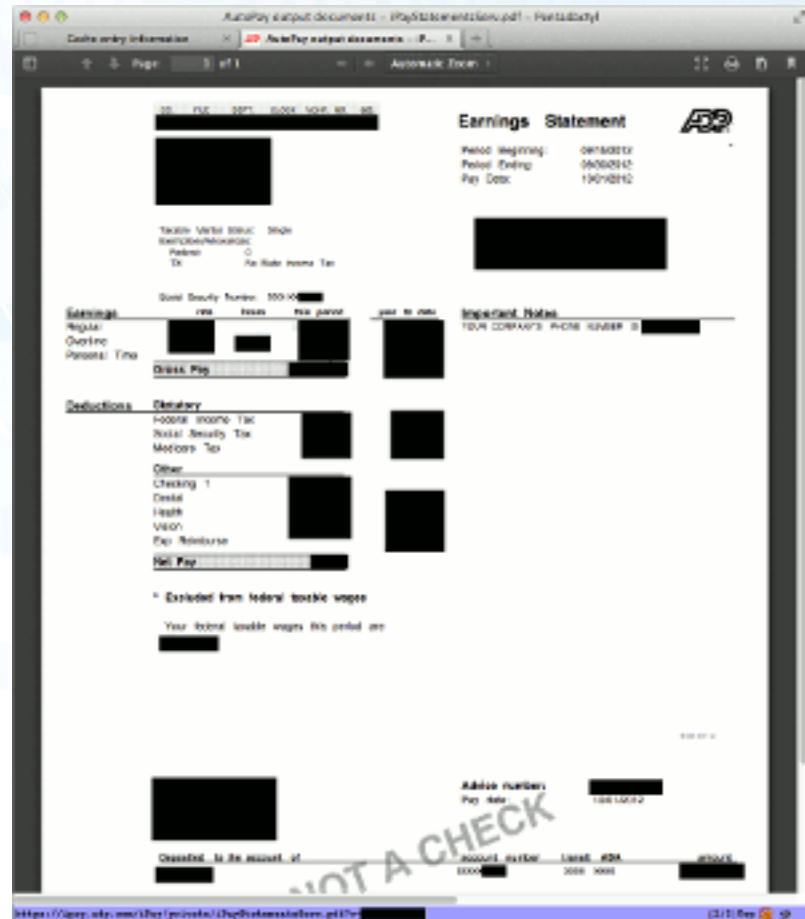


C.R.E.A.M. – Cache Rules Evidently Ambiguous, Misunderstood

Jacob Thompson
Security Analyst
Independent Security Evaluators
jthompson@securityevaluators.com



Payroll Statement from ADP



- Name
- Address
- Last four of SSN
- Last four of bank acct.

Prescription Claims from Argus

- Name
- Medication names and dosages



Credit Report from Equifax

- Name
- Credit score
- Credit report

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the Equifax Personal Solutions Credit Reports, Credit Scores, Protection Against Identity Theft and more - Mozilla Firefox window. The URL is https://www.equifax.com/econviewPopUpDetail.html?prod_cd=URLANB&sub_cd=TRI_SCORE&sec_name=.

The page title is "Equifax 3-Bureau Credit Report and Scores as of March 15, 2013". It includes fields for "Name:" and "Confirmation Number:" both set to [REDACTED].

Two tables are shown:

| Section Title | Section Description |
|------------------|--|
| 1. Credit Score | Summary, Understanding Your Score, How Lenders See You |
| 2. Credit Report | Personal, Credit, Account, Inquiry, Public and Dispute Information |

| Section Title | Section Description |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Credit Score Summary | Summary of how your score rates |
| 2. Understanding Your Score | Summary of factors that are affecting your score |
| 3. Your Loan Risk Rating | The bottom line on how lenders may view your credit risk |

Below these tables is a section titled "Credit Score Summary" with three boxes showing scores for different bureaus:

| Bureau | Score | Description |
|------------|-------|-------------|
| EQUIFAX | 728 | Very Good |
| Experian | 773 | Excellent |
| TransUnion | 728 | Very Good |

Text below the scores explains the range: "The Equifax Credit Score™ ranges from 280-850. Higher scores are viewed more favorably." It also states: "Your 3 credit scores are calculated by Equifax using the information contained in your Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion credit reports."

Further down, it says: "Equifax & TransUnion: Your score is considered very good. Based on this score, you should be able to qualify for credit with competitive interest rates, and a wide variety of credit offers should be available to you." "Experian: Your score is considered excellent. Based on this score, you should be able to qualify for some of the lowest interest rates available and a wide variety of competitive credit offers should be available to you."

A legend at the bottom indicates the color coding for score ranges: Range: 280 - 559 (light blue), 560 - 609 (medium light blue), 610 - 724 (medium blue), 725 - 789 (dark blue), 790 - 850 (darkest blue).



independent security evaluators

Types of Cached Sensitive Data

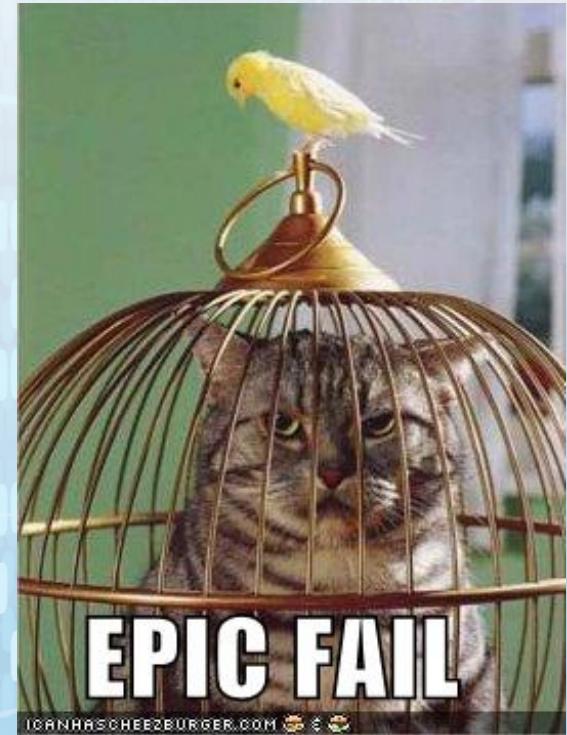
- Name
- Postal Address
- Email Address
- Phone Number
- Date of birth
- Last 4 digits of SSN
- Bank account numbers
- Check images
- Credit card account numbers
- Stock positions and balances
- Insurance policy numbers, amounts
- VINs
- Life insurance beneficiaries
- Medical prescriptions

Reliably Prevent Disk Caching

- Use two HTTP headers (not meta tags):
- Pragma: no-cache
 - IE 8 and earlier with HTTP/1.0 servers
- Cache-Control: no-store
 - All other cases

How to Fail at Preventing Caching

- Cache-Control: no-cache
 - Not standard
 - Works in IE 4-9
 - Broken in IE 10
- Pragma: no-cache
 - Only works in IE
- Cache-Control: private
 - Not for browsers
- Cache-Control in meta tags
 - Not recognized in any browser
- Cache-Control with HTTP/1.0
 - Broken in IE 4-8

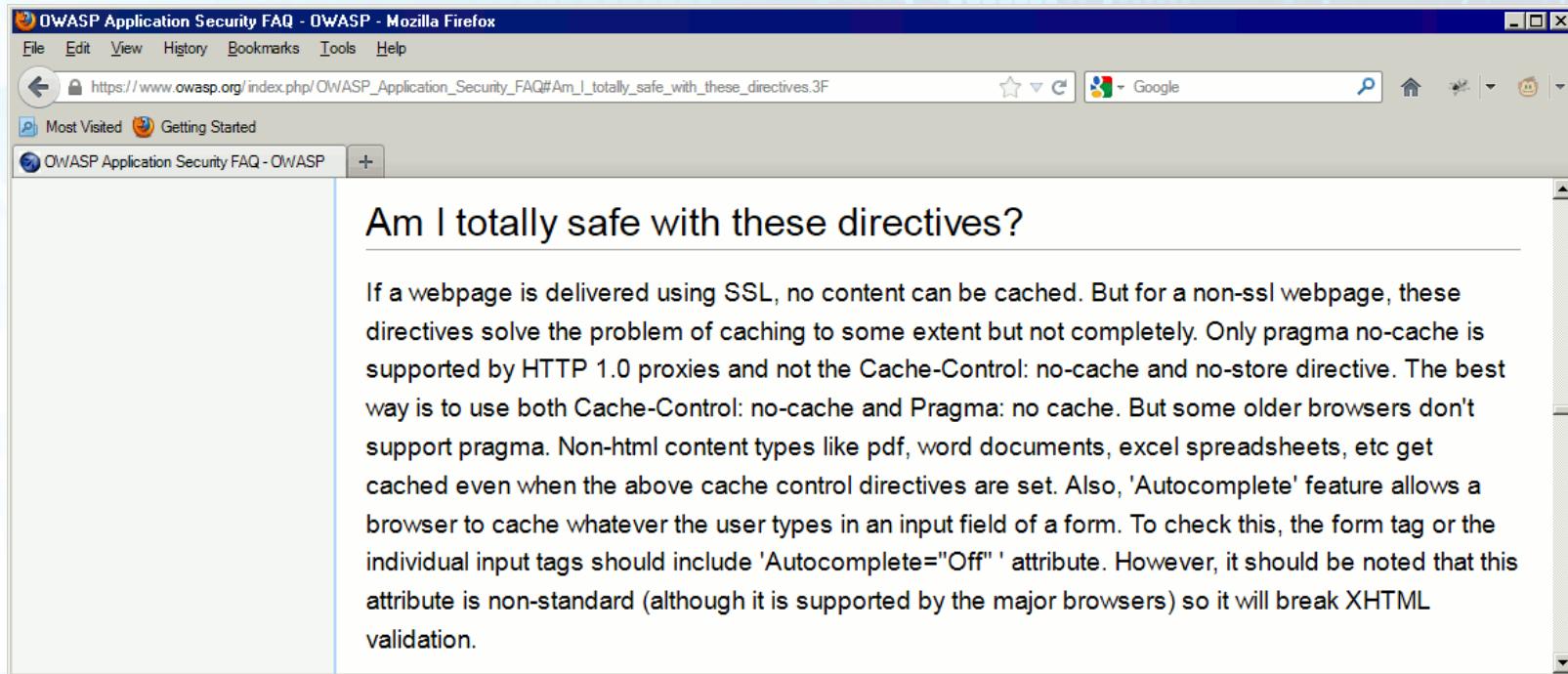


History of Disk Caching Policies

- Never cache HTTPS
 - Netscape 1, 3+
 - Mozilla
 - Firefox 1, 2
 - Safari
- Opt-in
 - Firefox 3, 3.5
- Non-standard opt-out
 - Netscape 2
 - IE 3
- Generous opt-out
 - IE 4-8
 - IE 9
 - IE 10
- Strict standards compliance
 - Chrome
 - Firefox 4+

Misunderstandings of Caching

- Google:
 - “browsers do not cache ssl”
 - “browsers do not cache https”



The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox window with the title bar "OWASP Application Security FAQ - OWASP - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar contains the URL "https://www.owasp.org/index.php/OWASP_Application_Security_FAQ#Am_I_totally_safe_with_these_directives.3F". The main content area displays a section titled "Am I totally safe with these directives?". The text within this section discusses caching behavior for SSL and non-SSL webpages, mentioning HTTP 1.0 proxies, Cache-Control directives, and the 'Autocomplete' feature.

If a webpage is delivered using SSL, no content can be cached. But for a non-ssl webpage, these directives solve the problem of caching to some extent but not completely. Only pragma no-cache is supported by HTTP 1.0 proxies and not the Cache-Control: no-cache and no-store directive. The best way is to use both Cache-Control: no-cache and Pragma: no cache. But some older browsers don't support pragma. Non-html content types like pdf, word documents, excel spreadsheets, etc get cached even when the above cache control directives are set. Also, 'Autocomplete' feature allows a browser to cache whatever the user types in an input field of a form. To check this, the form tag or the individual input tags should include 'Autocomplete="Off"' attribute. However, it should be noted that this attribute is non-standard (although it is supported by the major browsers) so it will break XHTML validation.

Browser Developers

- Favorite quote from Mozilla bug 531801:

I'm on MoCo's security team :)
Among sites that don't use cache-control:no-store,
the correlation between "SSL" and "sensitive" is very
low.

Recommendations

- Update web standards
- Fix web applications
- Fix bad documentation
- Fix browsers (maybe?)
- Try our demo site for yourself:
<https://demo.securityevaluators.com>

Questions?

- Full report:

<http://securityevaluators.com/content/case-studies/caching/>

- Demo:

<https://demo.securityevaluators.com/>

A History Lesson

- 1995
 - Netscape 1 does not disk cache HTTPS content
- 1996
 - Netscape 2 is opt out: caches *unless* Pragma: no-cache header or meta tag is set
 - IE 3 copies Netscape opt-out behavior
 - Netscape 3 reverts, does not cache by default

A History Lesson (cont.)

- 1997
 - RFC 2068 introduces Cache-Control header
 - IE 4 supports Cache-Control when sent by an HTTP/1.1 server
 - Cache-Control: no-cache prevents disk caching in IE
 - Pragma: no-cache remains supported
- 1998
 - Mozilla scraps Netscape code; begins rewrite
 - Pragma: no-cache support lost in rewrite

A History Lesson (cont.)

- 2000
 - Netscape 6 released, does not cache
 - Pragma: no-cache is lost (but no one notices)
 - Apache SSL bug workaround introduced;
breaks Cache-Control support in IE 4-8
- 2003
 - Safari released; never caches

A History Lesson (cont.)

- 2008
 - Firefox 3 is opt-in: caches *only* if Cache-Control: public is set
 - Chrome is opt-out: caches *unless* Cache-Control: no-store is set
 - Chrome does not support Pragma: no-cache
- 2010
 - Apache trunk patched; Cache-Control breakage now restricted to IE 4, 5

A History Lesson (cont.)

- 2011
 - Firefox 4 adopts Chrome's opt-out caching by default
 - IE 9 accepts Cache-Control headers over HTTP/1.0
- 2013
 - IE 10 caches despite Cache-Control: no-cache
 - ISE tests 30 HTTPS sites; 21 fail to set Cache-Control: no-store on sensitive data
 - IE 8 Cache-Control support still broken by Apache software in latest CentOS