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Thread: [Can websites detect if you open their html from localhost?](#)

The One Who Knocks - April 21, 2020, 3:12 pm

Apologies if this is in the wrong section, I tried to search for this but couldn't actually get a straight answer

Say you have a website where you track visitors and how long they use your site, and you have a tally/summation for the number of unique visitors, how many times they open the page, and how long each person has spent on your site.

If somebody saves a page on the site as .html and opens it from their harddrive, does the website detect this?

I would assume it does not since you can open the file without an internet connection, but if you click links in the downloaded file, it opens the pages from the actual site, on the internet.

Sorry if this is a stupid question. I have no knowledge of websites or networking.

Thanks!

Nachfolger - April 21, 2020, 3:32 pm

Yes and no. The main way websites generate analytics is with JavaScript. If you download the script with the HTML or script reference, it will potentially still fire the different events. However, you can circumvent this by disabling your network as mentioned.

When you download the source code, I'm fairly certain your browser will not make another network request for the HTML file, I think it just uses the current rendered page. Even then, a server (unless the browser leaves an indication that it's downloading the source) will not know that you're downloading the file.

PS, web development section would've been better.

Disease - April 21, 2020, 5:34 pm

(Apr 21, 2020 03:12 PM)The One Who Knocks Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Apologies if this is in the wrong section, I tried to search for this but couldn't actually get a straight answer

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What Nach said. But just to expand a bit more-

No, the website isn't going to "detect" it per se. If the scripts are written in a way to not respond to differing referers (really unlikely) then functionality may be broken or different. But, unlikely that there's any detection happening. Their servers will log your referer as localhost, so I suppose if they're looking there they will see that you've done so.

Pronouncer - April 23, 2020, 10:57 pm

if u saved all the files locally, and removed all external references to their JS, Images, ETC and if their code was done properly then no,

Otherwise yes