

Cross-Browser Proxy Unmasking

Cross-Browser Proxy Unmasking - ma1, hackademix.net.

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Content

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It's really time to sleep in my timezone, but I just couldn't resist when I read latest RSnake's post about [Deanonymizing Tor and Detecting Proxies](#).

The basic concept, not terribly new by the way, is that browser proxy settings cannot be enforced on browser plugins, which happily ignore them in some circumstances, e.g. when establishing a direct TCP socket connection. So if you're using a proxy to hide your internet address (like [Tor](#) users do), embeddable objects like Java applets can betray you, revealing your real identity to advertisers spying on your habits or, worse, to the police of a repressive state.

This caveat has been preached even [on the Tor download page](#) itself, but nothing better than some scary demos to convert the non believers.

RSnake's interesting [proof of concept](#) exploits JavaScript + LiveConnect , and it apparently works on Gecko-based browser with Java™ installed only. I didn't manage to make it work on Opera, even though it does support LiveConnect.

So I decided to defer bedtime a bit and I put together [my own quick deanonymizing proof of concept](#), which relies on the almost ubiquitous Macromedia® Flash® and works in any web browser, like Internet Explorer, supporting the Flash player (no need for JavaScript, either). The `XMLSocket` ActionScript object is used to bypass browser's proxy setting and connect to a tiny server written in Perl, listening on port 9999 and echoing client's IP.

Here's the ActionScript code:

```
[viewcode]src="http://evil.hackademix.net/proxy_bypass/pbp.as" geshi=javascript link=yes scroll=yes[/viewcode]
```

And here's the Perl server:

```
[viewcode]src="http://evil.hackademix.net/proxy_bypass/pbp.pl" geshi=perl link=yes
```

scroll=yes[/viewcode] Today's lesson is: if you want to stay anonymous, you'd better **turn off Java, Flash and any other plugin!**

Update OCT-27

I've just learned that [some months ago](#) a guy called **yawnmoth** demonstrated an [Unmasking Java Applet](#). Just like [my Flash-based one](#), this works also in browsers, like IE, not supporting LiveConnect. The [lesson above](#) obviously applies, even stronger.

Demos

- [Cross-Browser Proxy Unmasking Demo in Flash](#)
- [Cross-Browser Proxy Unmasking Demo in Java](#)
- [Gecko-only Proxy Unmasking Demo in JavaScript+Java \(LiveConnect\)](#)

[image: image]

By ma1

Hacker, atheist, humanist, dad, mozillian, security breaker and builder, creator of NoScript, casting spells at the Tor Browser. He/him.

[View all of ma1's posts.](#)

Recovery notes

Source evidence recovered on 2026-09-14. The earlier source capture (SHA-256 `3b51a5c166bbe5d2fadb1f85160abe9481a77cc5ebddb7cddf404831d7d57b44`) is no longer available. This publication uses a separately preserved capture of the same document recorded on 2026-08-06 (SHA-256 `bfe34622607cf69891170ba1e66b188d75028007a79a4cf809504295d91d77e0`). The retained article text was checked against this replacement capture. All retained technical prose, demo identities and October27update agree. Source additionally expands the two code widgets into full ActionScript XMLSocket and Perl socket-server listings. Existing capture-quality limitations remain recorded separately. The missing earlier capture remains documented in the archive history.

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