Q&A – *Online Privacy*
May 1, 2021 Virtual Technology Conference
Presented by Joe Kissell, Publisher and Author
Take Control Books
[Take Control Books – Expert Advice from Leading Tech Authors](#)

Q - Johnny: Is there a ONE-STEP set up that will simplify privacy settings in any of the mentioned browsers?

A – Joe: No. Brave's default settings are way better than any other major browser's, but there is no magic wand you can wave to make any given browser both as private as possible and at the same time compatible with all the sites you use and convenient for the way you browse the web.

Q – Sharan: How does Firefox compare to Brave? e.g. seamonkey

A. Brave's default privacy settings are better. If you carefully review all of Firefox's settings, make some tweaks, and add in third-party ad blocking, it can be great too. But the reason I recommend Brave (apart from the fact that it uses the Chromium engine) is that it requires much less fiddling to get to that point.

Q - Evelyn: What about Facebook for connecting to organizations

A. It's still bad. By analogy: I know the pond is full of crocodiles, but what if I only swim in this part of it?

Q - David: What Browser do you recommend?

A. Brave is my top choice.

Q - Steve: How does Brave compare to Avast Secure Browser?

A. Avast is also based on Chromium and it has some similarities in terms of privacy protections. But, like Firefox, its default configuration is not as good, and I have issues with some of its design choices. So: not terrible, not my first choice. It also doesn't show up in any of the (professional or informal) roundups of private browsers I've seen, such as:

https://www.wired.com/story/privacy-browsers-duckduckgo-ghostery-brave/

https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2020/03/study-ranks-edges-default-privacy-settings-the-lowest-of-all-major-browsers/

https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/these-are-the-best-web-browsers-for-privacy/ar-BB1e0qvf

Q - Eleanor: What about physically blocking outgoing wireless (Wi-Fi) from a room or building, like a house? How can we make a Farrady cage? We can still get signals over fiber optic or coaxial. Loose cell phone transmission.

A. This is not something you should ever attempt or even think about. Ordinary people are not at a privacy risk from wireless technology, and even if you were, a house-size Faraday cage would not be an appropriate way to protect yourself. This is an example of worrying too much about the wrong things and not enough about the right ones :-).

Comment: John - Even if you think you have nothing to hide, everyone in your contacts should be protected. So protect access to your computer.
Comment: Mike - I use ProtonMail for my email and they offer VPN services that I believe are secure and work well for me.
Comment: Mike - I use Waterfox as my main browser. Based on Mozilla it is very private and DuckDuckGo as my search engine. Again, no tracking.
Comment: Mike - I use MeWe instead of Facebook. It's a Facebook clone but no advertising, and completely private. Check it out.
Comment: Steve - Avast Safe Browser is good
Comment: Ellen - I agree with you TOTALLY!