



Browsing in 'porn mode' may not be as private as you think

By Stuart Corner, ITWire
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The anonymous browsing feature of Google Chrome and Internet Explorer 8 has been dubbed 'porn mode' but those who might think it gives them freedom to indulge undetected should be wary.

After I complained the other day about [Google's reluctance](#) to concede that the 'Incognito' function its new Chrome browser just might be used by those wishing to visit porn sites - and about the industry's general reluctance to discuss porn as a major factor in the Internet - it was nice to see a press release, from WebSpy, that did not beat about the bush.

Under the headline, "Porn Mode in New Browsers Worries Employer," it explained that "Many pundits in the industry are affectionately naming the [anonymous browsing] feature [of Chrome and the latest version of Explorer] 'porn mode' as it gives users the ability to view adult sites without leaving evidence."

The purpose of WebSpy's press release was explain that porn mode does not equate to private mode for those who fancy some online titillation at their employer's expense. According to WebSpy COO, Lagis Zavros, employers are concerned that that the new 'porn mode' in browsers will lead to an increase in 'recreational browsing' by employees.

"There should be no concern for employers," he says. "These new features are purely aimed at the home market. Most organisations will have web, proxy servers or firewalls all capable of capturing and logging traffic as it flows through the company. Individual users will not be able to bypass this and employers will still be able to monitor sites visited and general browsing activity."

He adds that "A number of vendors have tools that place surveillance agents on individuals PC's and it is often very easy for technology savvy employees to bypass these. WebSpy has focused on providing monitoring and reporting by leveraging data from secure servers or from an ISP and hence has no concerns regarding the introduction of privacy features with IE 8 or Google Chrome." You have been warned.

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