

# RePriv: Re-Envisioning In-Browser Privacy

Matt Fredrikson

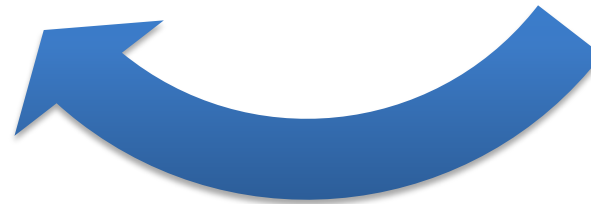
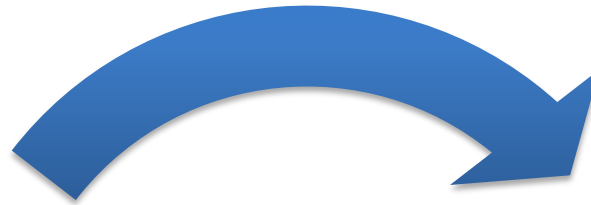
University of Wisconsin

Ben Livshits

Microsoft Research

**Share data to get  
personalized  
results**

**Privacy  
concerns**



# Browser: Personalization & Privacy



Browsing history

Top: Computers: Security  
Top: Arts: Movies  
Top: Sports: Hockey  
Top: Science: Math  
Top: Recreation: Outdoors

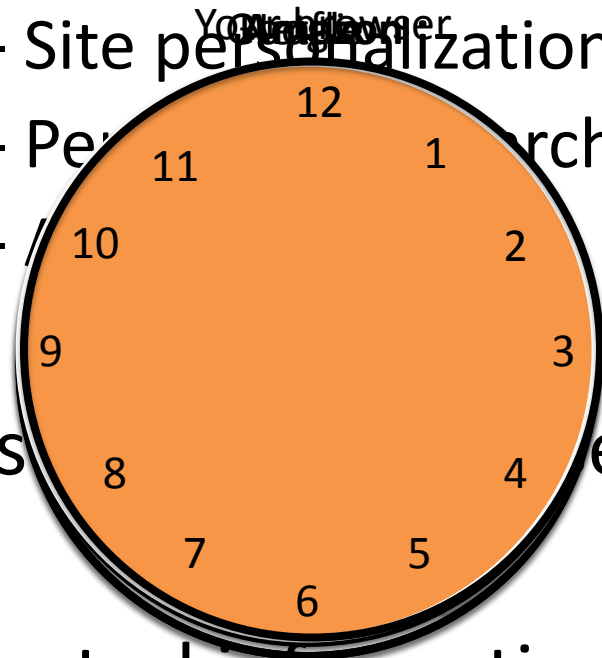


Distill



User interest profile

- Broad applications:
  - Site personalization
  - Personalized search
  - User interest profile



- User interest profile
- Control information release

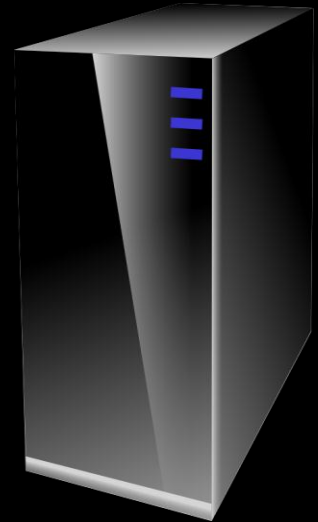
bn.com would like to learn your top interests.  
We will let them know you are interested in:

- Science
- Technology
- Outdoors

Accept

Decline

# RePriv Protocol



GET /index.html HTTP 1.1  
Host: www.example.com  
**Accept: repriv ...**

HTTP/1.1 **300 Multiple Choices**  
index.html  
**index.html?top-n&level=m**

POST /index.html HTTP 1.1  
Host: www.example.com  
Content-Length: x  
**category1=c1&...**

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

*Personalized page content*

Would you like to install an extension called “Bing Personalizer” that will:

- Watch mouse clicks on bing.com
- Modify appearance of bing.com
- Store personal data in browser

Accept

Decline

# Contributions of RePriv

## RePriv

- An in-browser framework for collecting & managing personal data to facilitate personalization.

## Core Behavior Mining

- Efficient in-browser behavior mining & controlled dissemination of personal data.

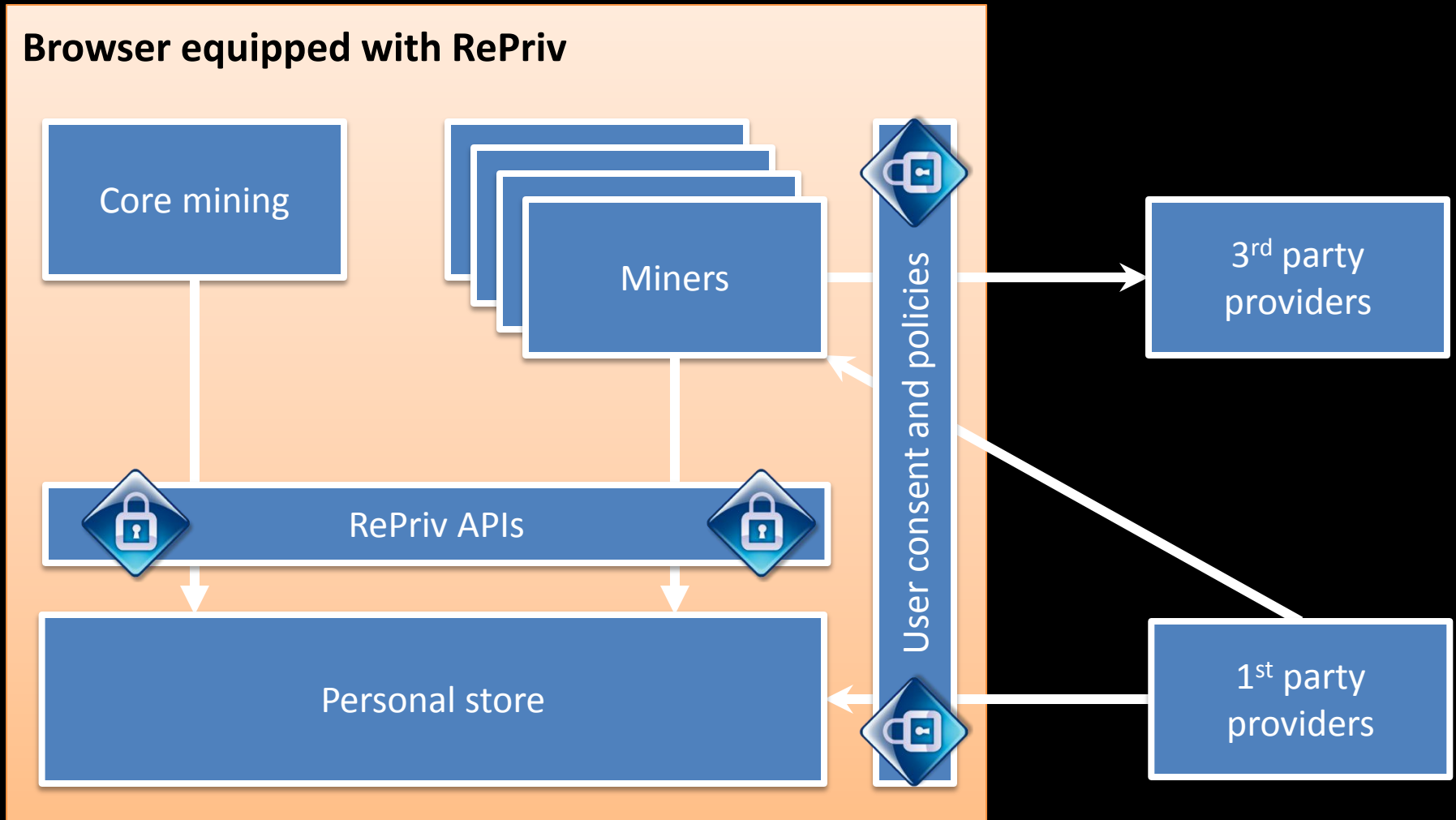
## RePriv miners

- A framework for integrating verified third-party code into the behavior mining & dissemination of RePriv.

## Real-world Evaluation

- Evaluation of above mechanisms on real browsing histories & two in-depth case studies.

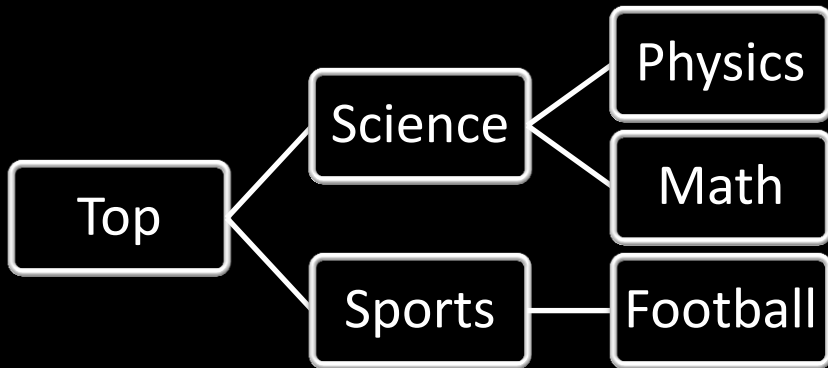
# RePriv Architecture





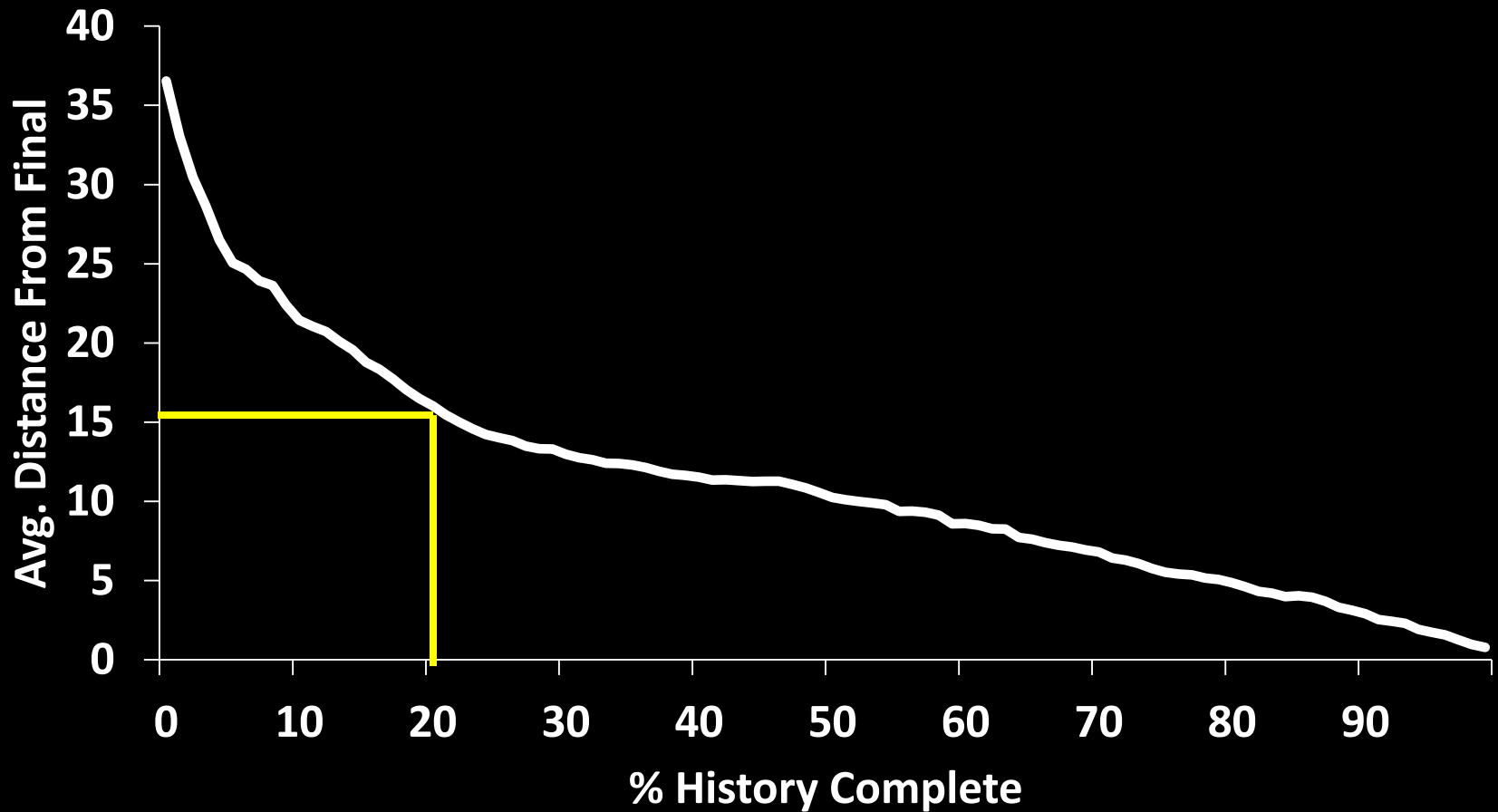
# Core Mining

- Taxonomy from first two levels of ODP taxonomy
  - ~450 categories total
  - 20 top-level categories
  - Overlap exists
- Naïve Bayes
  - All categories equally likely
  - Training: min(3000, # pages) sites per category
  - Attribute words occur in at least 15% of docs for  $\geq 1$  category

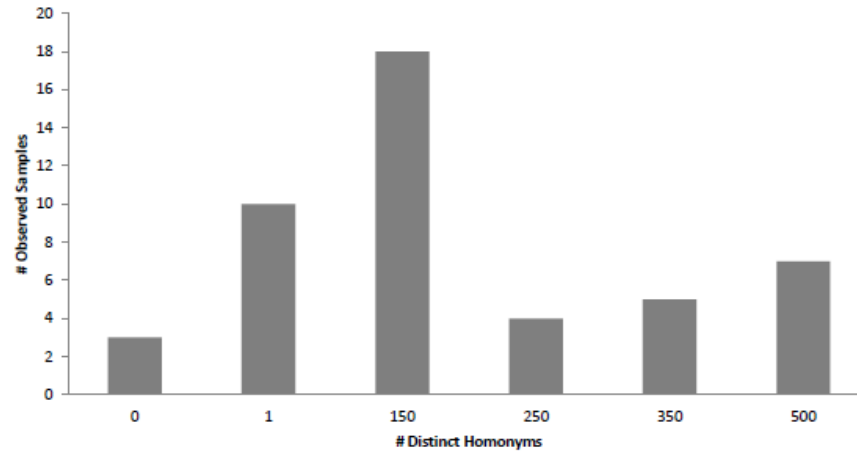


- Classification is fast enough:  $O(c \cdot n)$ 
  - $n$  is # words in document
  - $c$  is # document categories

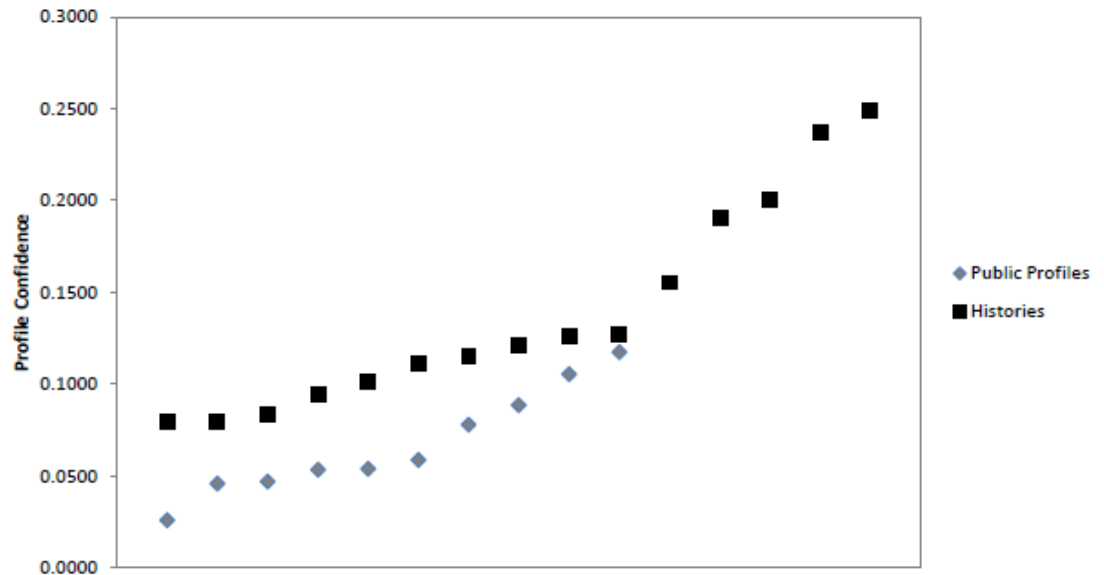
# Global Mining Convergence



# RePriv vs. the White Pages



Source:  
WebMii



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<b>Miner Name</b>	<b>C# LoC</b>	<b>Fine LoC</b>	<b>Verif. Time</b>
TwitterMiner	89	36	6.4
BingMiner	78	35	6.8
NetflixMiner	112	110	7.7
GlueMiner	213	101	9.5

assume ExtensionId "twitterminer"

assume CanCommunicateXHR "twitter.com" Nil

assume CanUpdateStore("twitter.com" "twitterminer")



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# Privacy-Aware News Personalization


Map RePriv interest taxonomy to del.icio.us topics



Query personal store for top interests

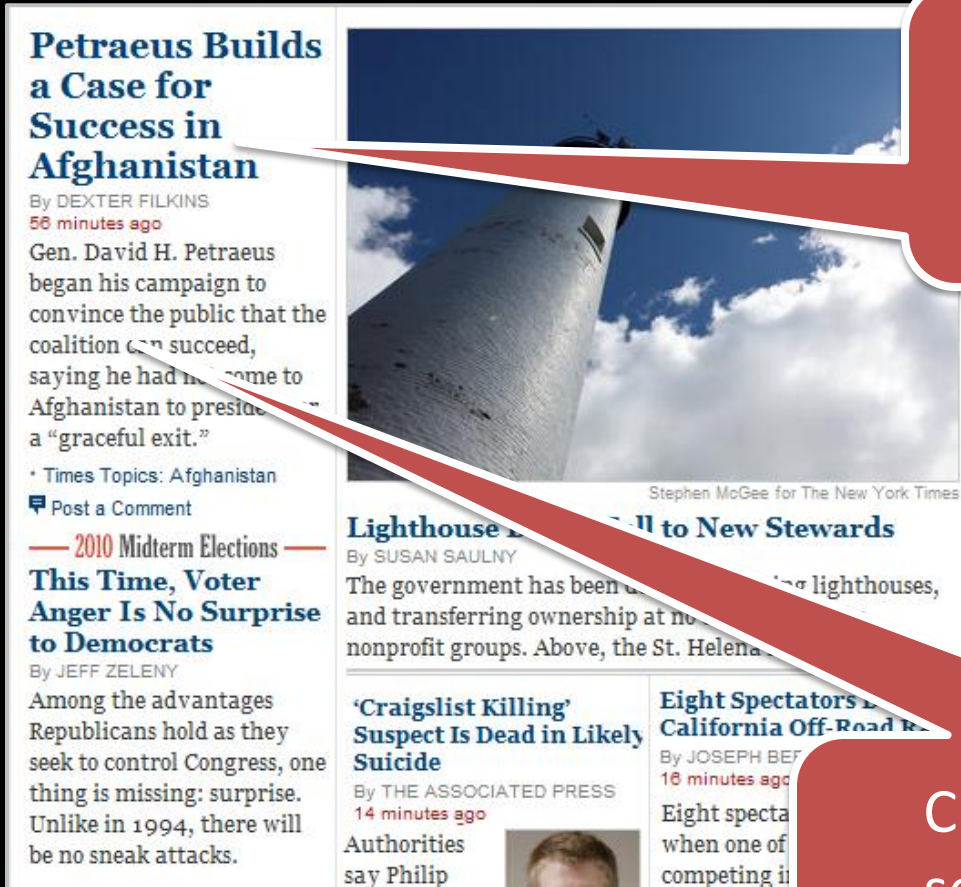


Ask del.icio.us API for “hot” stories in appropriate topic areas from nytimes.com

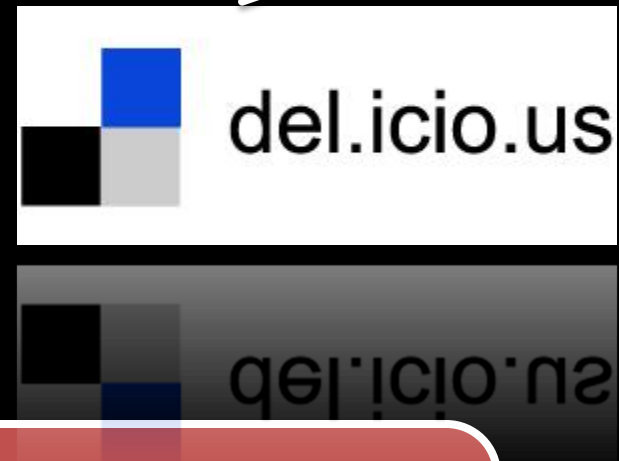


Replace nytimes.com front page with del.icio.us stories

# Privacy Policy



Change "href" attribute of anchor elements on nytimes.com



Change TextContent of selected anchor and div elements on nytimes.com

### User profile:

- Games/Card\_Games
- Games/Conventions
- Games/Video\_Games

### Do Video Games Equal Less Crime?

That's one theory for the continuing fall in crime, despite the recession.

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### Gamers Finally Get Their Wheaties Box ...sort of

Dr Pepper is featuring the Halo 3 player Tom Taylor, who goes by Tsquared, on the labels, which will appear on about 175 million 20-ounce bottles from January to April.

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### Sony To Shut its SF Metreon PlayStation store

Sony is closing down its one-and-only U.S. PlayStation store at the Metreon mall in San Francisco. The recession is clearly to blame, but it's happening at time when Microsoft - which opened and shut its own Microsoft store at the Metreon - is going to open a chain of its own stores.

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### Microsoft Takes on Cable With Xbox Streaming Video

If talks with Disney work out, the game console could stream ESPN content, making it that much easier to watch TV without cable.

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### Some Video Gamers Leery of Obama's Views

Gamers are worried that the president-elect's positions on video games may signal new regulations or restrictions on the industry.

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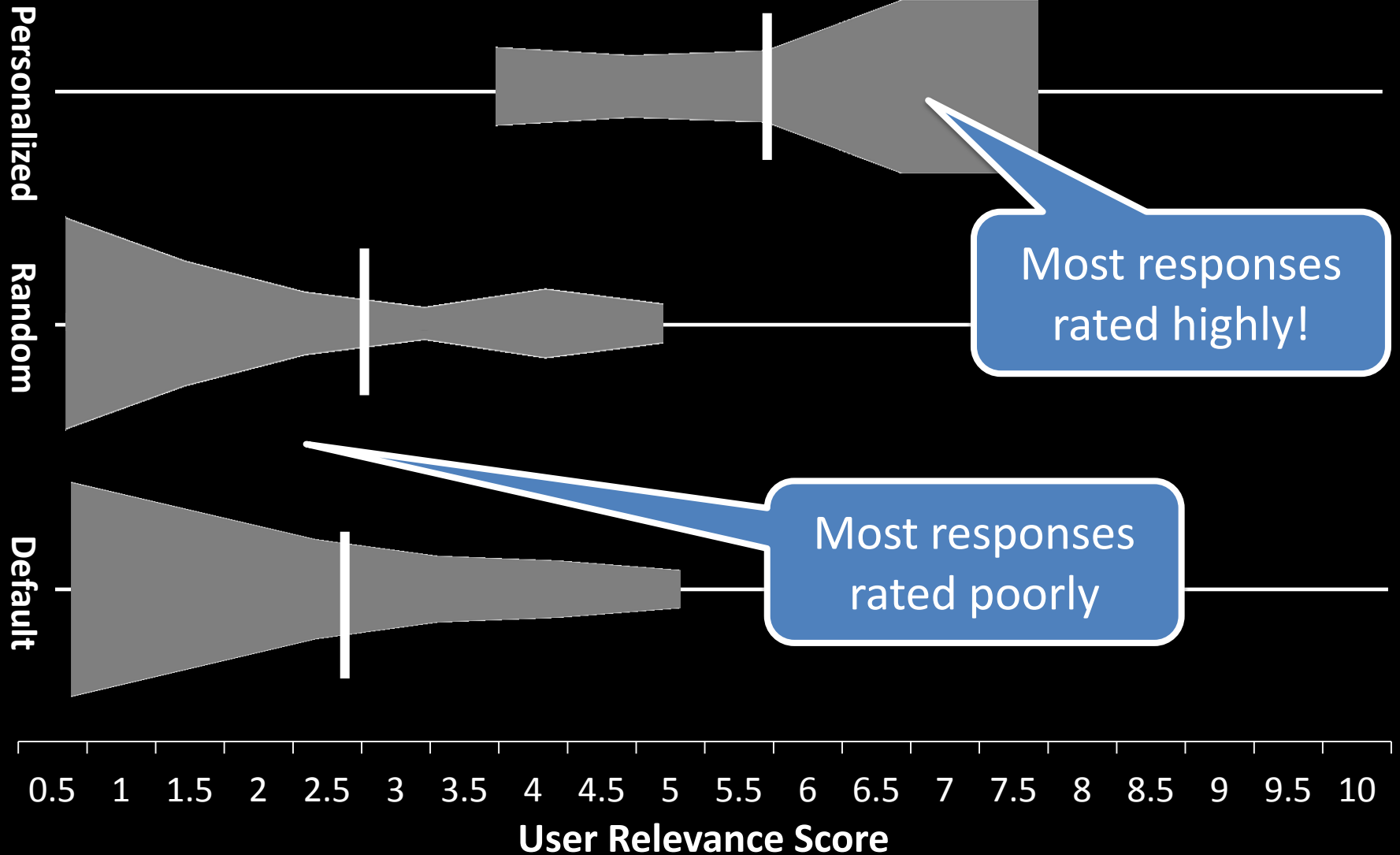
**Relevance:** (required)

Technology  
Technology  
Science/C  
Science/P

- 2,2
- Ov
- Ty



# News Personalization: Effectiveness



Most responses rated highly!

Most responses rated poorly

# RePriv Summary

- Existing solutions require privacy sacrifice
- RePriv is a browser-based solution
  - User retains control of personal information
  - High-quality information mined from browser use
  - General-purpose mining useful & performant
  - Flexibility with rigorous guarantees of privacy
- Personalized content & privacy can coexist

## 1. Introduction

The motivation of this work comes from the observation that in today's web there are two distinct groups, users and service providers such as Amazon, Google, Microsoft, Facebook and the like. Service providers are interested in learning as much about their users as they can so that they can better target their ads or provide personalization. Users might welcome content that is personalized as long as it does not compromise their privacy. In today's web, for service providers, personalization opportunities are limited. Even if sites like Amazon sometimes require authentication, service providers can gather much about the user as can be gathered from a user's browser. A user might only spend a few minutes on a site. A user might only spend a few minutes on a site. A user might only spend a few minutes on a site. A user might only spend a few minutes on a site.

1. Let the browser know which forms the basis of the user's history based on the user's history.
2. Let the browser know which forms the basis of the user's history based on the user's history.