sanskari proxy

(संस्कारी proxy)

sanskari: traditionally cultured and good natured

whoami

Nemo (Abhay Rana)

- captnemo.in
- Twitter: @captn3m0
- Email: me@captnemo.in

The Problem

Many Indian government websites are geo-blocked to be inaccessible outside India.

DEEP
WEB

The Problem

Many Indian government websites are geo-blocked to be inaccessible outside India.

DEEP
WEB

Impacts: Researchers, Critics, Citizens, Expats, Archivists, Travellers, Search Engines, Crawlers, and more.

The Problem

Many Indian government websites are geo-blocked to be inaccessible outside India.

DEEP
WEB

Impacts: Researchers, Critics, Citizens, Expats, Archivists, Travellers, Search Engines, Crawlers, and more.

Q: Is this censorship?

The Idea

Run a custom proxy for government websites that gets indexed and crawled by search engines, archivists, and is accessible to researchers and users outside India.

1. Make selfregistration.cowin.gov.in accessible at selfregistration.cowin.gov.in.sanskariproxy.in
2. (Optionally) Overwrite the `robots.txt` file to ensure everything gets archived/cached.

The (Legal) Challenge

Running an open proxy makes me legally liable for all requests under the IT Act (Intermediary Rules).

Ref:

- https://www.medianama.com/2021/02/223-summary-internet-intermediary-liability-2021/

The (Technical) Challenge

I made a list of all Government of India websites (~12k Domains), from multiple sources:

- Censys API
- Certificate Transparency Logs (crt.sh)
- GOIDirectory.nic.in

List: `git.io/JrjcV`

The Compromise

Run a simple authenticated proxy *only accessible to trusted researchers and users.*

Pro:

- Limited legal liability.
- Trusted users only
- Better than shady VPNs

Cons:

- Still not accessible to search engines

Launch

Nemo 🚀🚀
@captn3m0

Are you a security researcher outside India? Do you hate getting geoblocked to Indian government websites?

Well, I made a proxy for security researchers outside India to access Indian government websites without resorting to shady VPNs.

github.com
GitHub - captn3m0/sanskari-proxy: A proxy for security rese...
A proxy for security researchers outside India to access Indian government websites without resorting to shady VPNs. - ...

3:56 PM · Sep 5, 2020 · Twitter Web App

twitter.com/captn3m0/status/1302191390508552192

The Side-Effects

Future Research

1. Find the *extent of GeoBlocking.*
2. Get (some) geoblocked websites indexed/archived legally.