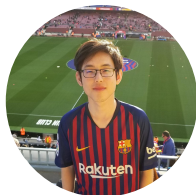


Jawa:

Web Archival in the Era of JavaScript



Ayush Goel
University of Michigan

Jingyuan Zhu
University of Michigan

Ravi Netravali
Princeton University

Harsha V. Madhyastha
University of Michigan

How to **reduce the storage overhead** of web archives and **improve the quality** of archived pages?



A Couple of Days After the Conference..

☰

Q

SEARCH

GO

The New York Times

PLAY THE CROSSWORD

Account ▾

Michigan Researchers Design a More Efficient Web Archive Crawler

PhD student Ayush Goel, along with his advisor Harsha V. Madhyastha designed a new crawler that significantly lowers the storage overhead while ensuring high page fidelity

CSE COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

EECS | Computer Science and Engineering | Electrical and Computer Engineering

SEARCH Q

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News

All News

Research News

In the Media

News by Faculty

Award Announcements

Student News

Home > News > All News

All News

2022 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014

NEWS FEED



CSE Researchers Design a More Efficient Web Archiv

PhD student Ayush Goel, along with his advisor Harsha V. Madhyastha designed a new crawler that significantly lowers the storage overhead while ensuring high page fidelity

Hacker News new | threads | past | comments | ask | show | jobs | submit

▲ Michigan Researchers Design a More Efficient Web Archive Crawler (goelayu.github.io)

133 points by gbrown_ 4 hours ago | hide | past | favorite | 69 comments

add comment

A Couple of Days After the Conference..

Ayush Goel

Publications

News

Misc



Ayush Goel

PhD Candidate University of Michigan

About me

Ayush Goel is a PhD candidate in the computer science department at the University of Michigan. He is affiliated with the [systems](#) lab where he is advised by [Harsha V. Madhyastha](#) and co-advised by [Ravi Netravali](#). His research involves applying programming language techniques to optimize modern day web pages on various fronts like performance and storage.

Recent News (all)

July 2022 Our work [Jawa](#) got featured in [www.nytimes.com](#), [hackernews](#), [UMICH CSE](#)

March 2022 Our work [Jawa](#) got accepted at [OSDI'22](#).

Michigan Researchers Design a More Efficient Web Archive Crawler

PhD student Ayush Goel, along with his advisor Harsha V. Madhyastha designed a new crawler that significantly lowers the storage overhead while ensuring high page fidelity

Give this article

By Kenneth Chang

July 26, 2022

UMICH CSE COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Home > News > All News

News

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Research News

In the Media

News by Faculty

Award Announcements

Student News

All News

2022 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 2011

NEWS FEED

CSE Researchers Design a More Efficient Web Archive Crawler

PhD student Ayush Goel, along with his advisor Harsha V. Madhyastha designed a new crawler that significantly lowers the storage overhead while ensuring high page fidelity

Hacker News new | threads | past | comments | ask | show | jobs | submit

Michigan Researchers Design a More Efficient Web Archive Crawler (gnellay.github.io)

133 points by gnellay, 4 hours ago | hide | past | favorite | 68 comments

add comment

10 Years From Now (2032)....

Ayush Goel

Publications

News

Misc



Ayush Goel

Professor in the Computer
Science Division

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Email

Twitter

About me

Ayush Goel is a (full) Professor at [REDACTED]. His work on networking systems has won award papers at premier systems conferences like NSDI, SIGCOMM, OSDI and SOSP.

.....

Recent News (all)

July 2032 I got awarded the 2032 ACM Turing Award for my pioneering work in the area of systems and PL.

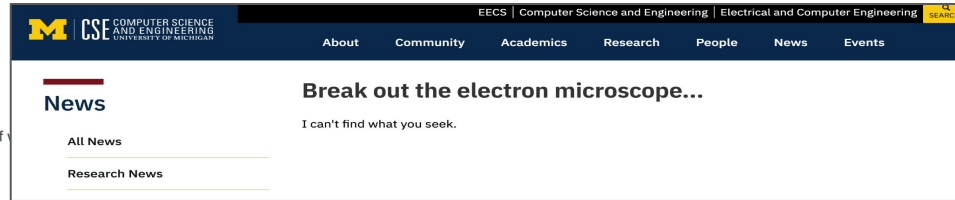
.....

.....

.....

July 2022 Our work [Java](#) got featured in [www.nytimes.com](#), [hackernews](#), [UMICH CSE](#)

March 2022 Our work [Java](#) got accepted at [OSDI'22](#).



This site can't be reached

Check if there is a typo in [news.ycombinator.com](#).

DNS_PROBE_FINISHED_NXDOMAIN

[Reload](#)

High Prevalence of Link Rot on the Web



The screenshot shows the Wikipedia page for the category "Articles with permanently dead external links". The page header includes the Wikipedia logo and navigation links. The main content area explains that this category tracks articles with the `{{dead link}}` template where the `fix-attempted` parameter is set to "yes". It notes that these are cases where someone has tried to fix a dead link with an archive link, but no archive could be found. The page lists 200 pages in this category, out of approximately 173,530 total. A list of articles is displayed, including "1st Regiment 'Granatieri di Sardegna'", "1st Support Group (Australia)", "1st Sussex Engineers", "1st Your World Awards", "1st Zhaoshang Cup", "1xBet", "2 Days & 1 Night", "2 Legit 2 Quit", "2 Worlds 2 Voices Tour", "2-Mercaptopuridine", "2-18 St Werburgh Street, Chester", "2,4-Dithiapentane", "2,4,6-Trichlorobenzoyl chloride", "2,5-Dimethylfuran", "2,147,483,647", "2. Liga (Austria)", "2+1 road", "2+2 road", "2A28 Grom", "2ARM", and "2C-B".



The Paper of Record Meets an Ephemeral Web: An Examination of Linkrot and Content Drift within The New York Times

Citation

Zittrain, Jonathan, John Bowers, and Clare Stanton. 2021. "The Paper of Record Meets an Ephemeral Web: An Examination of Linkrot and Content Drift within The New York Times." Library Innovation Lab, Harvard Law School.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Scholarly Context Adrift: Three out of Four URI References Lead to Changed Content

Shawn M. Jones^{1*}, Herbert Van de Sompel¹, Harihar Shankar¹, Martin Klein¹, Richard Tobin^{2†}, Claire Grover^{2‡}

¹ Digital Library Research and Prototyping Team, Research Library, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico, United States of America, ² Language Technology Group, The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom

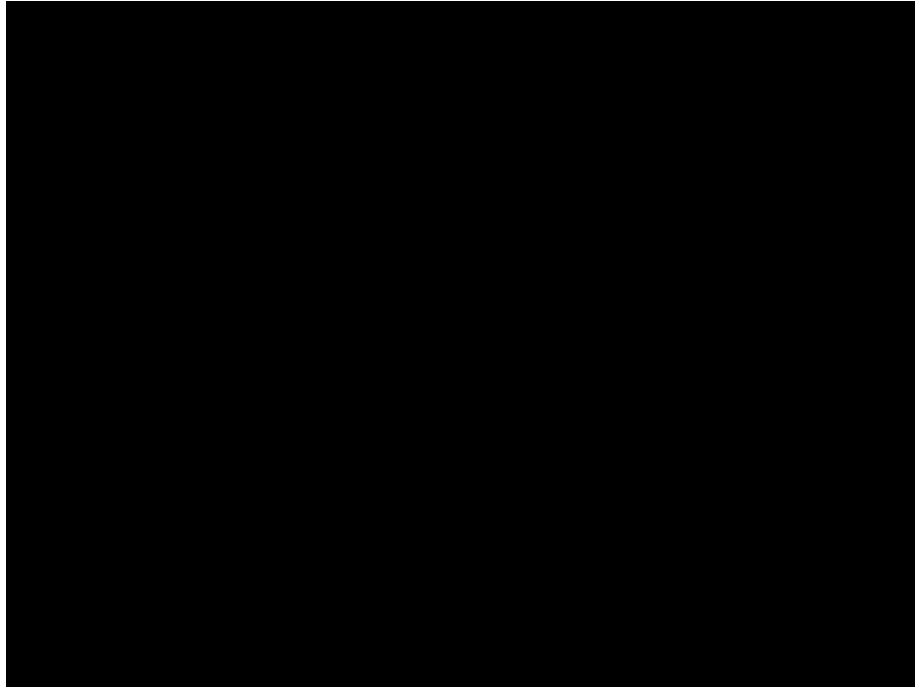
Web Archives to the Rescue



LIBRARY
LIBRARY
OF CONGRESS



Web Archives to the Rescue

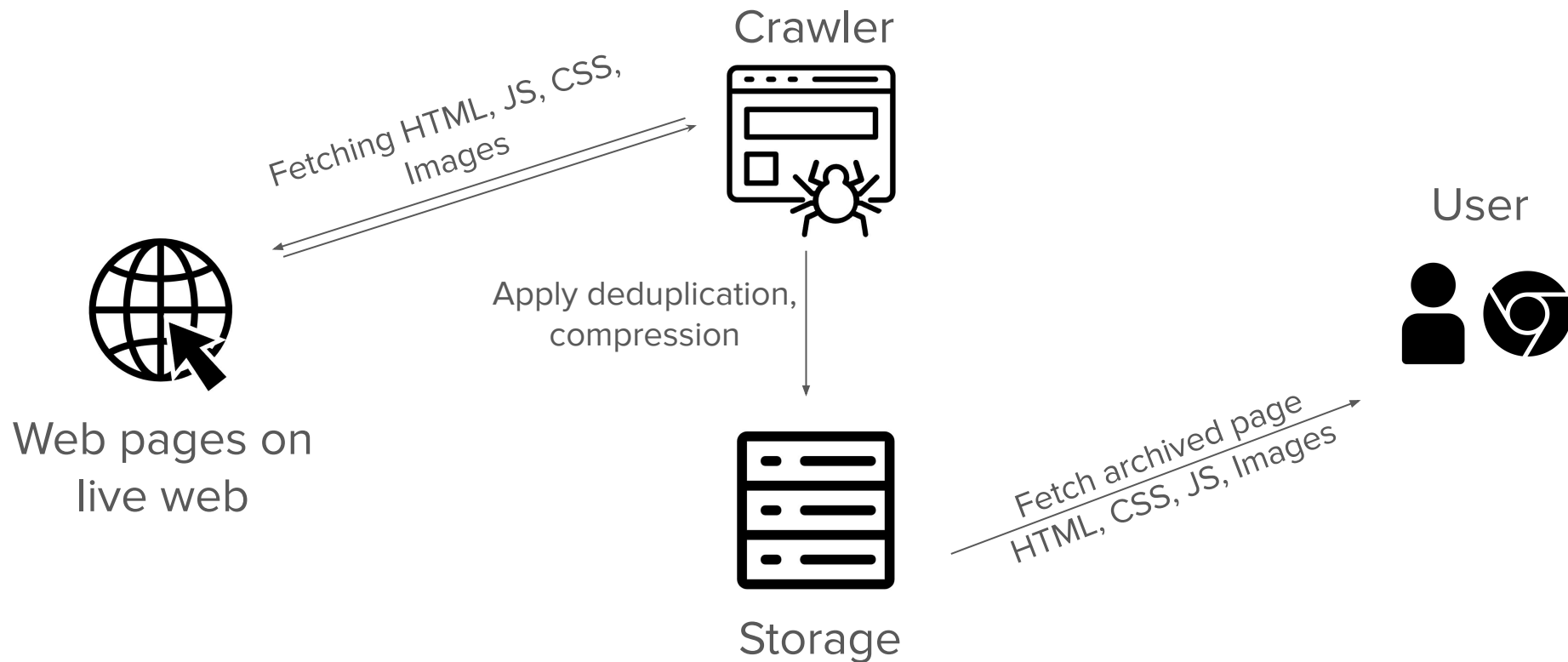


LIBRARY
LIBRARY
OF CONGRESS



~700 Billion pages, ~100 Petabytes

How Modern Web Archives Operate?



Problems with Web Archives: **No Snapshots for Many Pages**

INTERNET ARCHIVE **WayBackMachine** Explore more than 702 billion web pages saved over time

[DONATE](#)

Results: 50 100 500

Hrm.

Wayback Machine has not archived that URL.

Click here to search for all archived pages under <http://icc-cricket.yahoo.net/newsdetails.php>

Problems with Web Archives: **Poor Page Fidelity**



The Boston Globe

TRENDING: BOSTON MARATHON BOMBER | DR. FAUCI | 'BLACK IS KING' | JOE BIDEN | BOSTON SCHOOLS

EDITORIAL
End the federal
death penalty
NOW
From the
Archives: To end the
anguish, drop the
death penalty

OPINION

CORONAVIRUS

Fauci

Coronavirus

Election

ON STATNEWS.COM

How the world made
so much progress on a
Covid-19 vaccine so
fast

The first U.S. Covid-19
case was found in her
district. A
congresswoman
reflects on the last six
months

CORONAVIRUS

The latest COVID-19
numbers from
Massachusetts

Town-by-town COVID-
19 data in
Massachusetts

11 coronavirus
vaccines to keep an
eye on

Graphic: US shows
little signs of being
able to control
coronavirus spread

MOST READ ON BOSTONGLOBE.COM

1. Methuen's police chief is one of the highest paid
in the country – and he says he deserves more
2. It was all a lie

3. As airlines lose billions, they're cleaning and
sanitizing as if their lives depend upon it. But is
it enough?

Outline

- ★ **Challenges faced by web archives**

- ★ Understanding the root cause

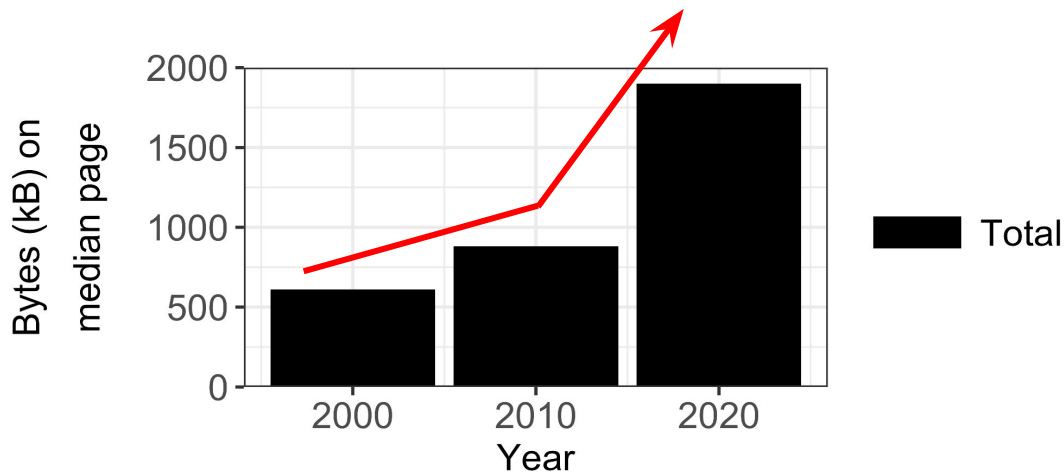
- ★ Our insights and design of a new crawler

- ★ Evaluation

Outline

- ★ Challenges faced by web archives
- ★ **Understanding the root cause**
- ★ Our insights and design of a new crawler
- ★ Evaluation

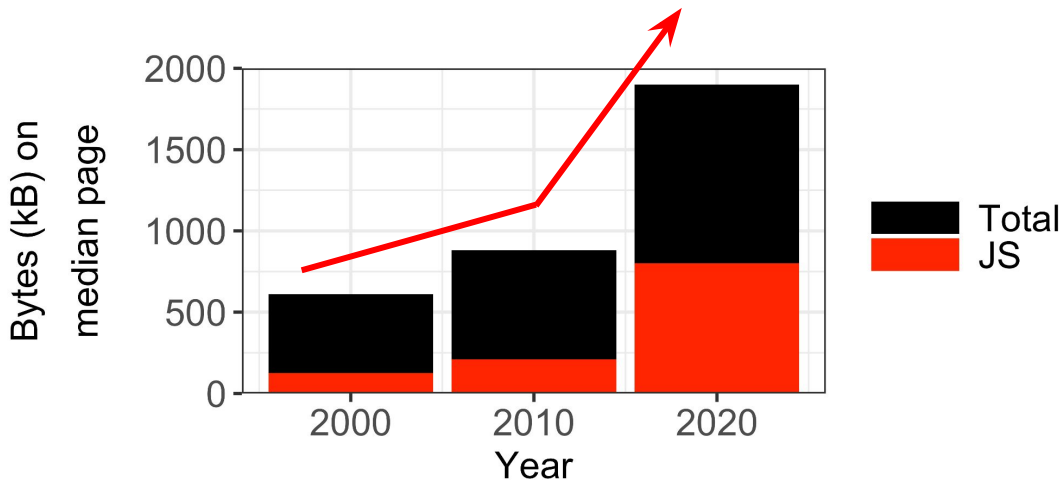
Root Cause: **Increasing JavaScript** on Web Pages



Corpus: Landing pages of 300 Alexa sites

Root Cause: **Increasing JavaScript** on Web Pages

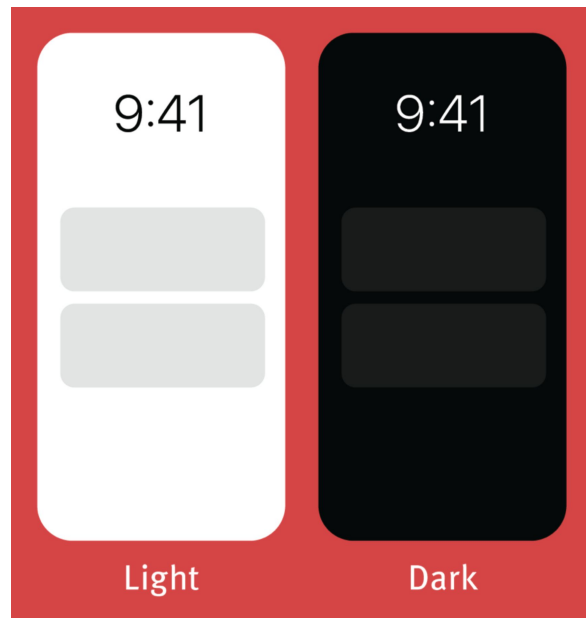
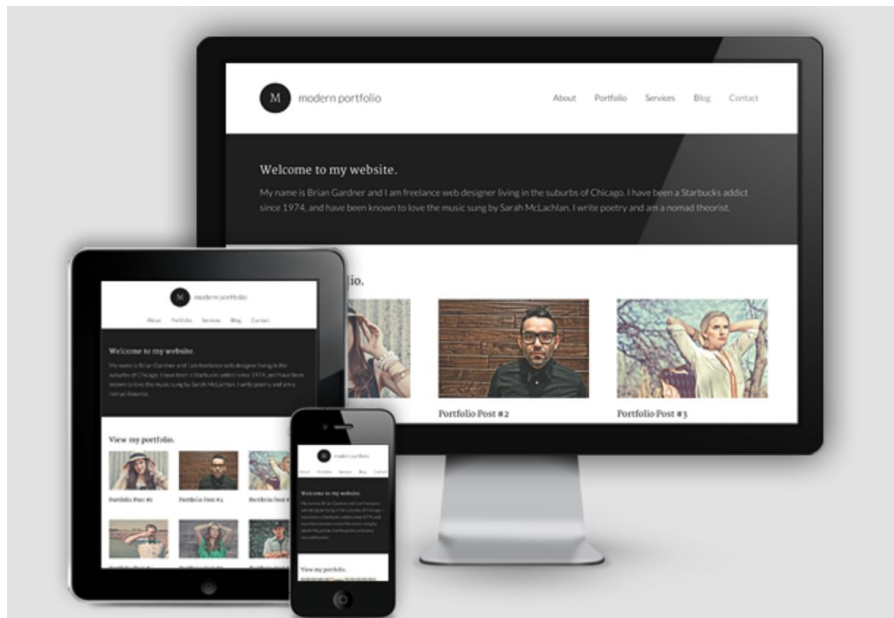
Per page snapshot **expensive** → **Fewer snapshots**



Corpus: Landing pages of 300 Alexa sites

Root Cause: **JavaScript Induced Non-Determinism**

Resources fetched different from **crawled** → **Poor page fidelity**



Outline

- ★ Challenges faced by web archives
- ★ Understanding the root cause
- ★ **Our insights and design of a new crawler**
- ★ Evaluation

Key Insight: Archived Page Differs from Live Page

A. No back-end origin server

Account login and
subscription



SEARCH

GO

The New York Times

PLAY THE CROSSWORD

Account

Search query to

www.nytimes.com

**JavaScript that interacts with server will not work →
Removing it will not impact fidelity**

storage overhead while ensuring high page fidelity



Give this article



22

Add comments to
the article

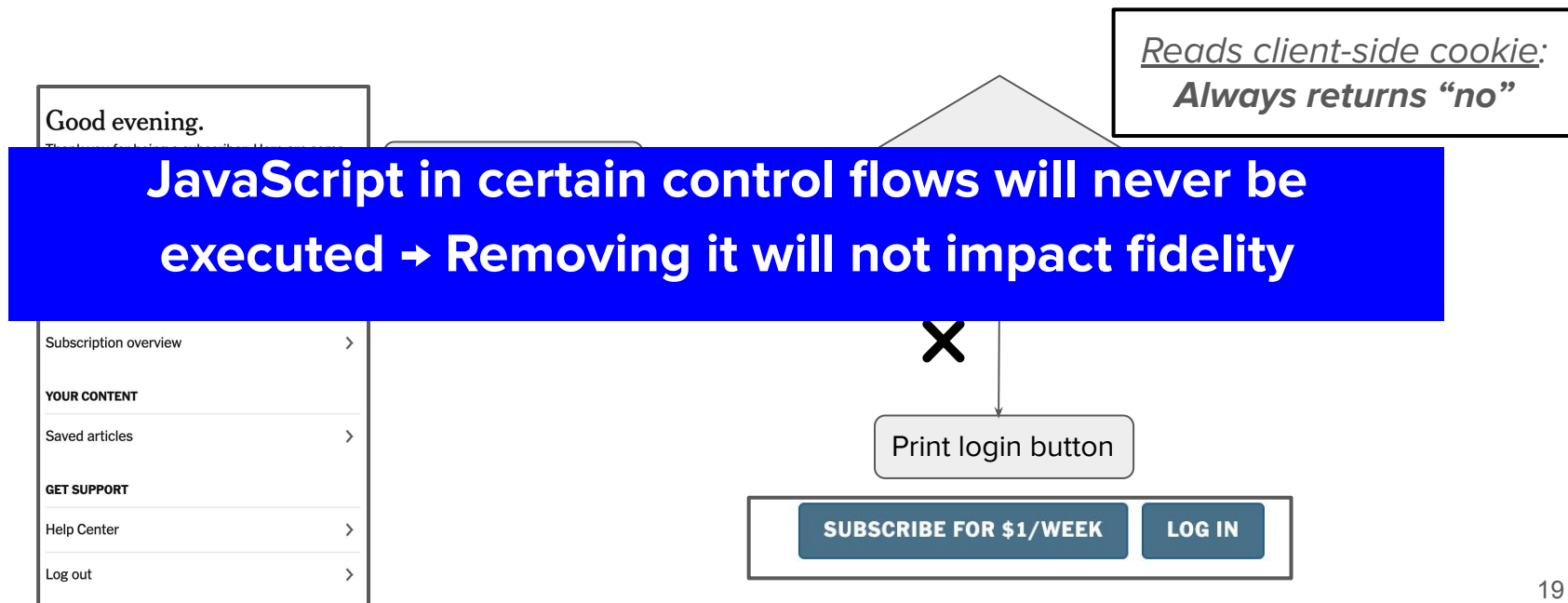


By Kenneth Chang

July 20, 2022

Key Insight: Archived Page Differs from Live Page

B. Certain sources of non-determinism are absent



Jawa: A New Web Archive Crawler

Improve page fidelity



Reduce storage cost



→ Eliminate impact of non-determinism

→ Identify and remove non-functional code

→ Identify and remove unreachable code

Jawa: A New Web Archive Crawler

Improve page fidelity



Reduce storage cost



→ Eliminate impact of non-determinism

→ Identify and remove non-functional code

→ Identify and remove unreachable code

Make JavaScript Execution **Completely** Deterministic

Original page

JavaScript Tetris

Goal: fill as many rows as possible!

Control Keys

To move left press 4 or ←
To move right press 6 or →
To rotate press 5 or 8 or ↑
To drop faster press space or ↓

Mouse Control

To move left click to the left of the piece
To move right click to the right of the piece
To rotate click on/above the piece
To drop faster click below the piece

Featured at JavaScripter.net
Copyright © 1999 Alexei Kourbatov

Level: 1 ▾ Lines: 0



Deterministic page (broken)

JavaScript Tetris

Goal: fill as many rows as possible!

Control Keys

To move left press 4 or ←
To move right press 6 or →
To rotate press 5 or 8 or ↑
To drop faster press space or ↓

Mouse Control

To move left click to the left of the piece
To move right click to the right of the piece
To rotate click on/above the piece
To drop faster click below the piece

Featured at JavaScripter.net
Copyright © 1999 Alexei Kourbatov

Level: 1 ▾ Lines: 0



Understand How Non-determinism Impacts Resources Fetched

Date, Math.random,
Performance (DRP)



Client characteristics



Analyze impact
on control flow on
3000 pages

No impact on control flow

→ retain the non-determinism

**Influences control flow
impacting resource fetches**

→ Eliminate non-determinism

Jawa: A New Web Archive Crawler

Improve page fidelity



Reduce storage cost



→ Eliminate impact of non-determinism

→ Identify and remove non-functional code

→ Identify and remove unreachable code

Insufficient to Save Only JS Executed While Crawling



The screenshot shows the top portion of a New York Times article page. At the top, there is a dark blue header with a yellow 'M' logo. Below this, the page has a white background. On the left, there is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and a 'go' button. In the center, the 'The New York Times' logo is displayed. On the right, there is a 'PLAY THE CROSSWORD' button and an 'Account' link with a dropdown arrow. The main content area features the article title 'Michigan Researchers Design a More Efficient Web Archive Crawler' in a large, bold, black serif font. Below the title, a short paragraph reads: 'PhD student Ayush Goel, along with his advisor Harsha V. Madhyastha designed a new crawler that significantly lowers the storage overhead while ensuring high page fidelity'. Underneath the paragraph, there are four circular icons: a gift icon for 'Give this article', a share icon, a bookmark icon, and a comment icon with the number '22'. Below these icons is a small circular profile picture of Kenneth Chang, followed by the text 'By Kenneth Chang'. Underneath the author's name is the date 'July 20, 2022'. At the bottom of the visible section, there is a white box with a thin border containing the text: 'Sign up for Science Times Get stories that capture the wonders of nature, the cosmos and the human body. [Get it sent to your inbox.](#)'

SEARCH go

The New York Times

PLAY THE CROSSWORD Account

Michigan Researchers Design a More Efficient Web Archive Crawler

PhD student Ayush Goel, along with his advisor Harsha V. Madhyastha designed a new crawler that significantly lowers the storage overhead while ensuring high page fidelity

 Give this article    22

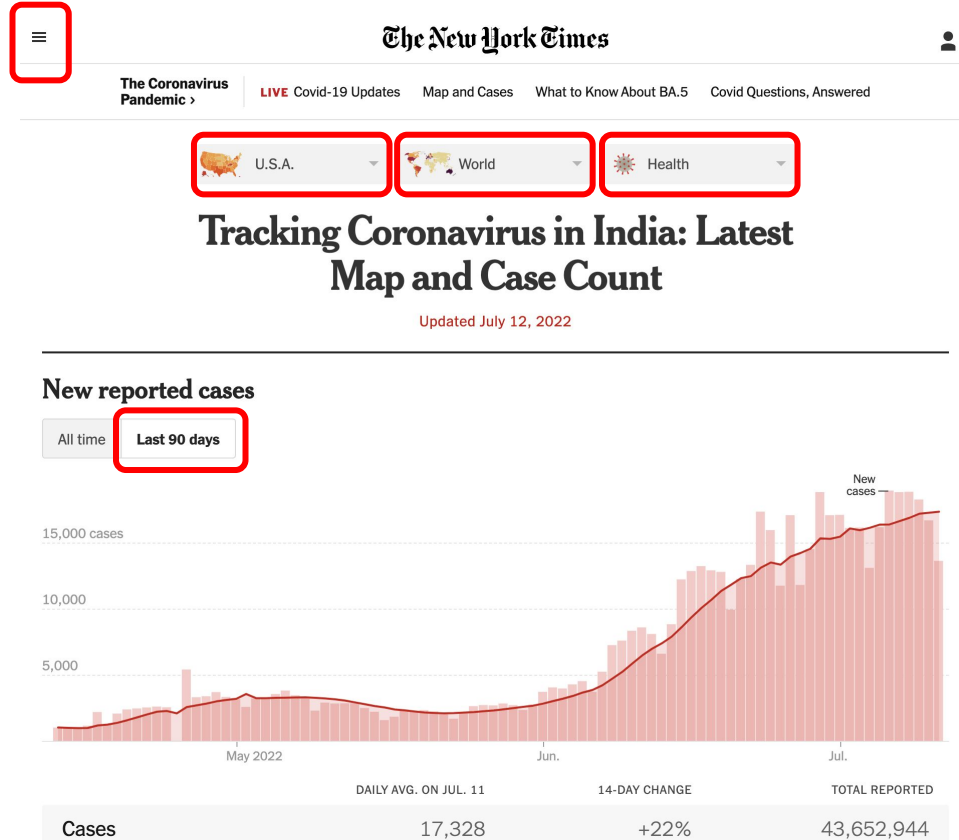
 By Kenneth Chang

July 20, 2022

Sign up for Science Times Get stories that capture the wonders of nature, the cosmos and the human body. [Get it sent to your inbox.](#)

Challenge: Code Executed Depends on How User Interacts

Challenge: Code Executed Depends on Order



Challenge: Code Executed Depends on **Order**

- **Read-write dependencies** between different events on page
 - ◆ **JavaScript/DOM state**
- **Can not predict** order of events

Challenge: Code Executed Depends on **Input**

The screenshot shows the New York Times search page. A search bar at the top contains the text "Search The New York Times". Below the search bar, there are filters for "Date Range", "Section", and "Type". A red box highlights the search bar, and a red box highlights the "SHOW MORE" button at the bottom right. A red box highlights the text "1000s of result trump" in the search results. A red box highlights the text "Exploring all possible orderings/inputs impractical" in the center of the page. Arrows point from the search bar to the "1000s of result trump" text and from the "SHOW MORE" button to the "Exploring all possible orderings/inputs impractical" text.

One

DE

Date Range

Feb. 4

and a Mystery

The Rev. Canon Paul Wancura led a quiet, privileged life. But after his shocking death, a sexual abuse allegation followed.

By Amanda M. Fairbanks

PRINT EDITION Zip-Tied and Left for Dead: An Episcopal Priest's Mysterious End | February 6, 2022, Page WE1

PRINT EDITION July 1, 2022, Page A22

Have search feedback? Let us know what you think.

SHOW MORE

1000s of result trump

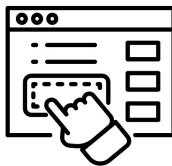
Exploring all possible orderings/inputs impractical

Analysis Framework: Understand State Dependencies

Inject instrumentation code

```
function foo(a,b){  
    var p = Proxy(win,handler)  
    p.c = _(a)+_(b);  
    return _ret(true);  
}  
  
foo(1,2);
```

Trigger each interaction



Monitor state accesses



Corpus: 3000 pages from 300 Alexa sites

Findings From the Analysis

- Order **mostly** influences coverage for **analytics events**

Both categories of events irrelevant for archived pages

- Input **mostly** influences coverage for **text-based events**

Implication:

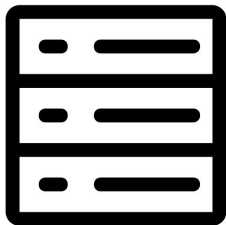
Estimate code coverage with **single execution of events with default inputs**

Outline

- ★ Challenges faced by web archives
- ★ Understanding the root cause
- ★ Our insights and design of a new crawler
- ★ **Evaluation**

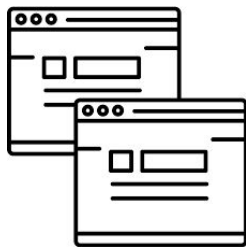
Evaluation

Storage



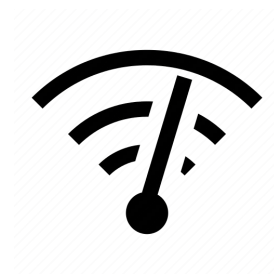
- Storage for web resources
- Storage for crawling/serving indices

Fidelity



- Failed Resource fetches
- Visual comparison
- Functional interactions

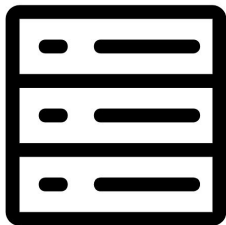
Throughput



- Crawling throughput
- Overhead of each technique

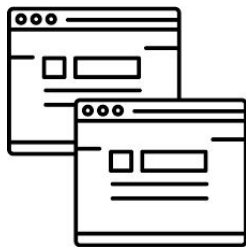
Evaluation

Storage



- **Storage for web resources**
- Storage for crawling/serving indices

Fidelity



- **Failed Resource fetches**
- Visual comparison
- Functional interactions

Throughput

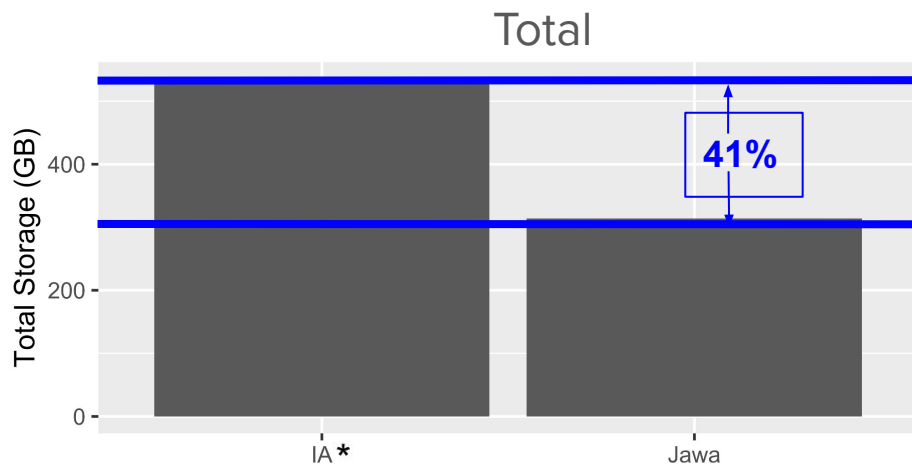
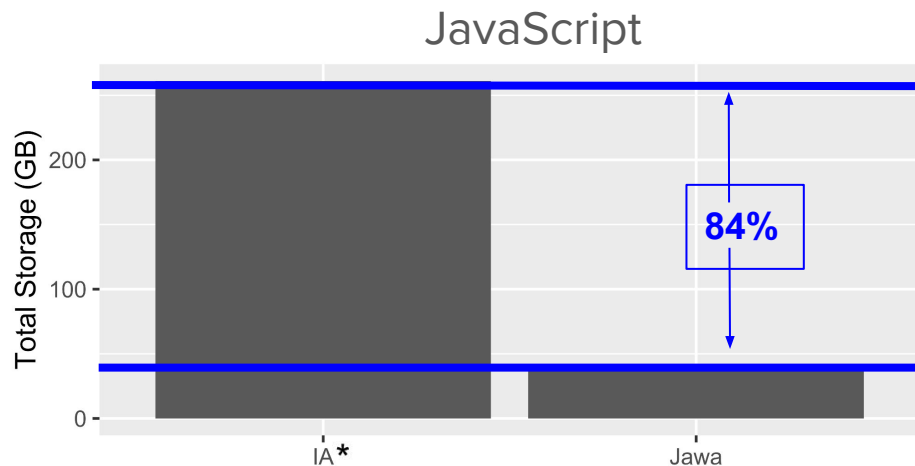


- Crawling throughput
- Overhead of each technique

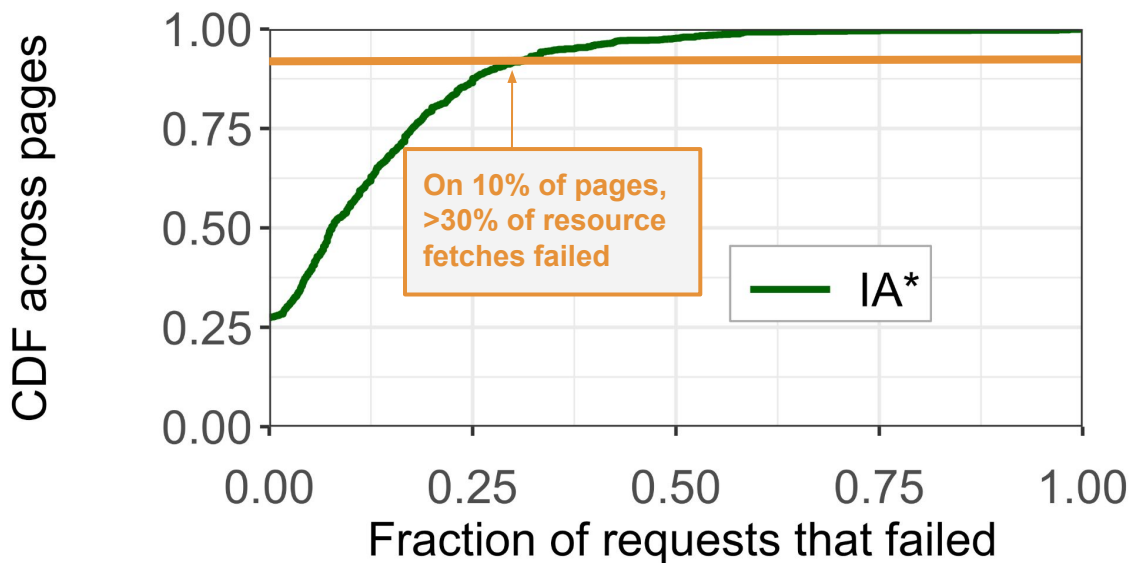
Storage: Jawa Reduces Storage Overhead by 41%

Corpus:

1 million snapshots of pages on 300 sites archived by Internet Archive

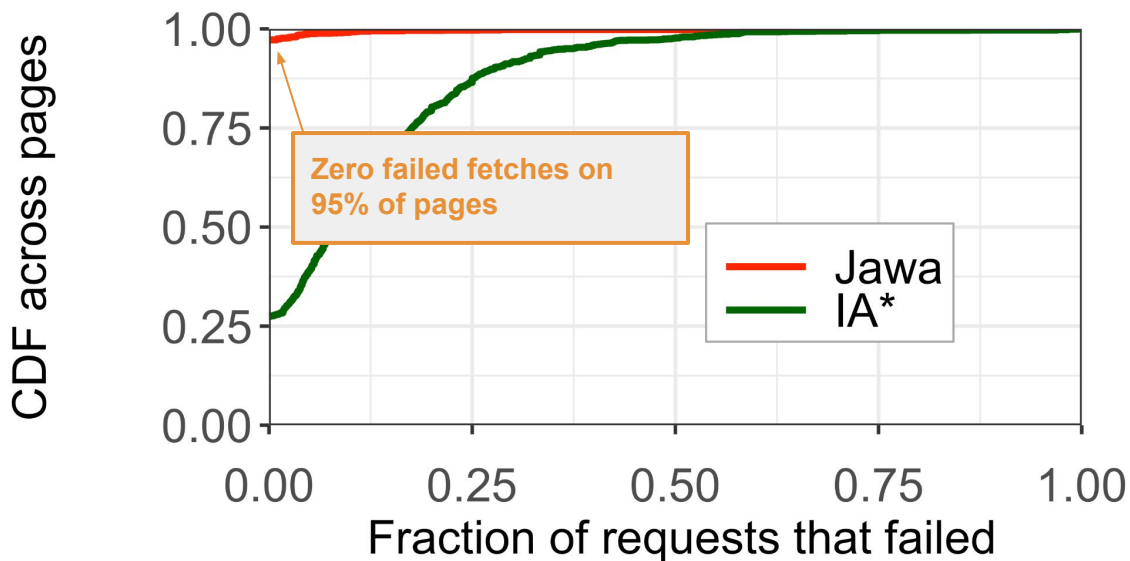


Fidelity: Jawa Eliminates Almost All Failed Resource Fetches



Corpus: 3000 web pages from 300 sites

Fidelity: Jawa Eliminates Almost All Failed Resource Fetches



Corpus: 3000 web pages from 300 sites

Conclusion

1. JavaScript on web pages negatively impacts web archival
2. Fundamental differences b/w live and archived pages can be exploited to overcome such negative impacts



<https://github.com/goelayu/Jawa>



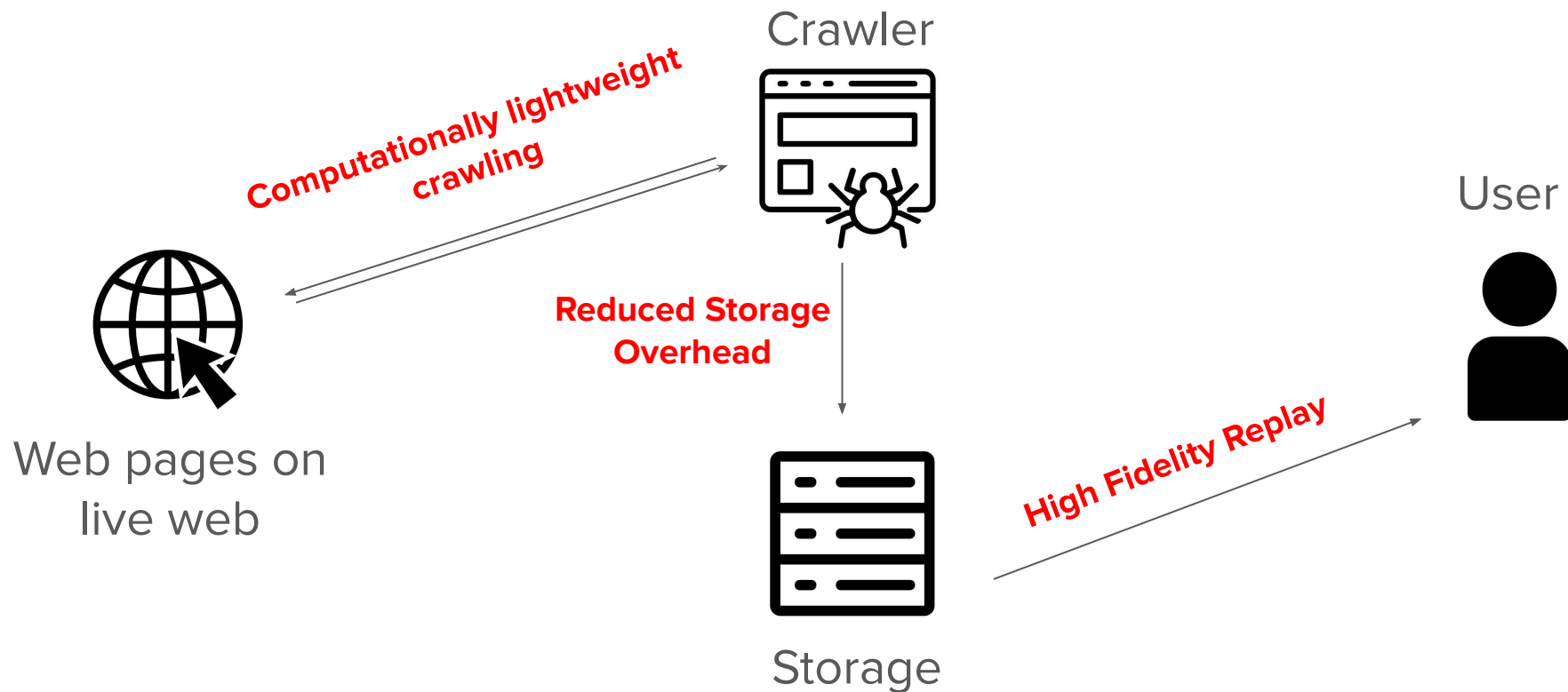
goelayu@umich.edu



Evaluation.

Backup

Jawa: A New Web Archival Crawler



Improve Page Fidelity: Strawman #1

Screen capture

✕ No client interactions

Home Page
World
Business
Politics
U.S.
Sports
Health
N.Y.
Opinion
Tech
Science
Arts
Books
Style
Food
Travel

GO The New York Times PLAY THE CROSSWORD Account

U.S. Education California Today Race/Related Wildfire Tracker

Researchers Solve the Problem of Ephemeral Web

Push Goel, along with his advisor Harsha V. Madhyastha designed a new web archive that significantly lowers the storage overhead while ensuring high page fidelity

Give this article Share Bookmark 22

By Kenneth Chang

July 20, 2022

Jawa: A New Web Archival Crawler

High Fidelity

Archived page

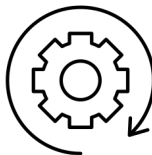


Original page

Low Cost

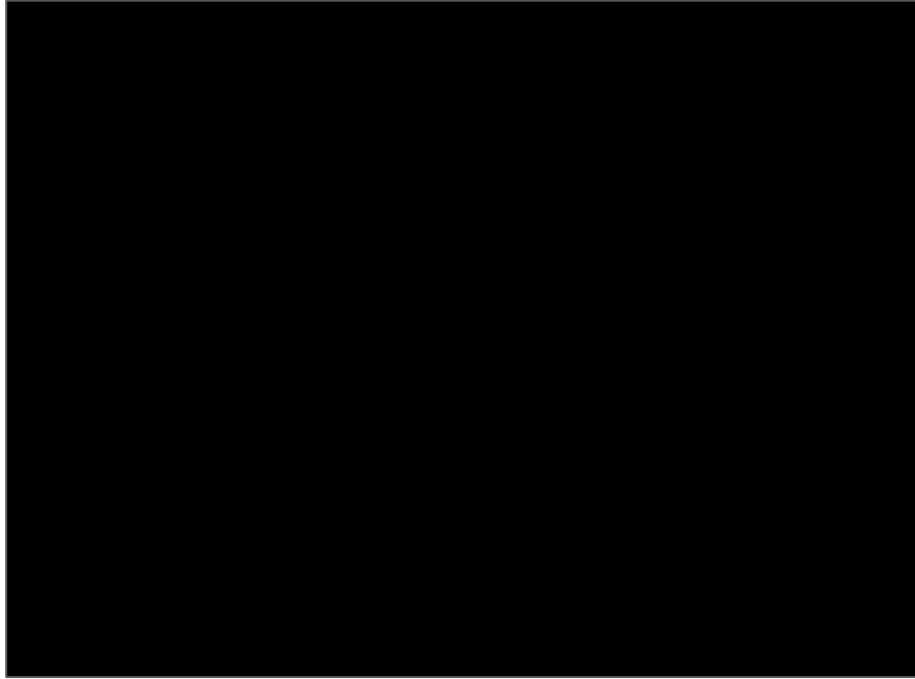


Reduced storage



Computationally
lightweight

Web Archives to the Rescue



LIBRARY
LIBRARY
OF CONGRESS



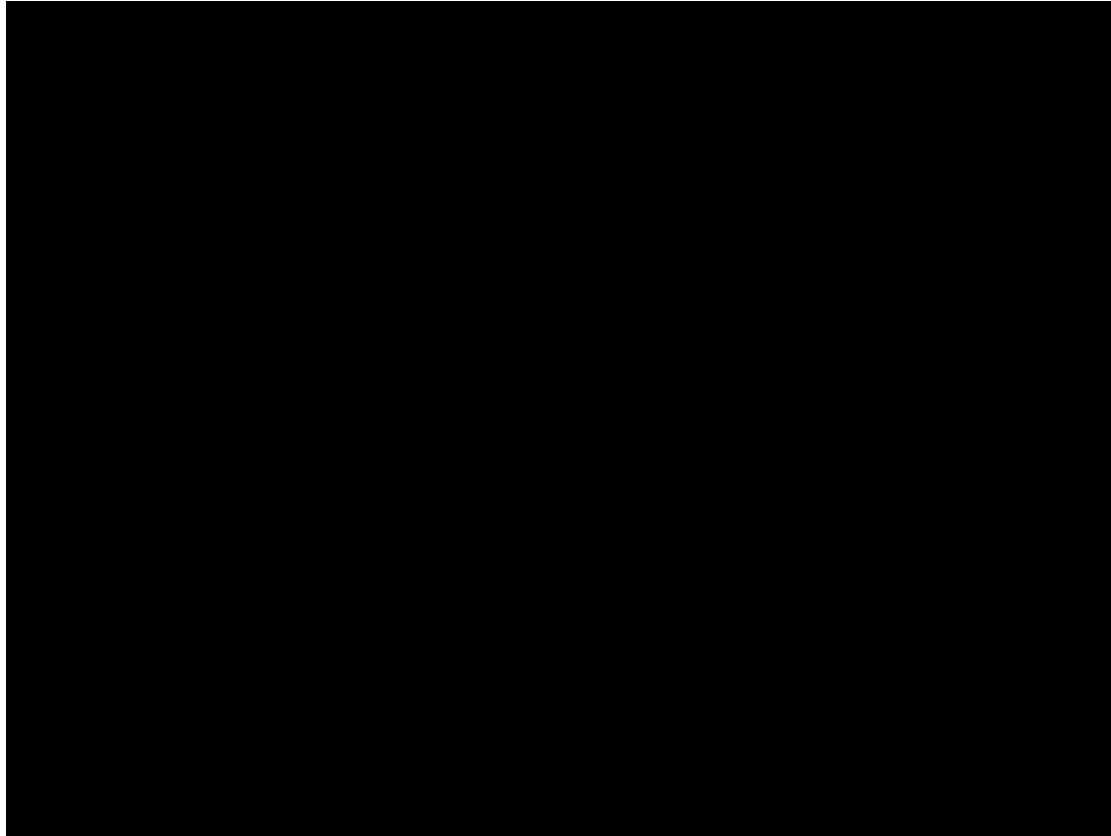
~700 Billion pages, ~100 Petabytes

Web Archives to the Rescue

To tackle this problem of ephemeral web, various web archives have been established



Web Archives to the Rescue

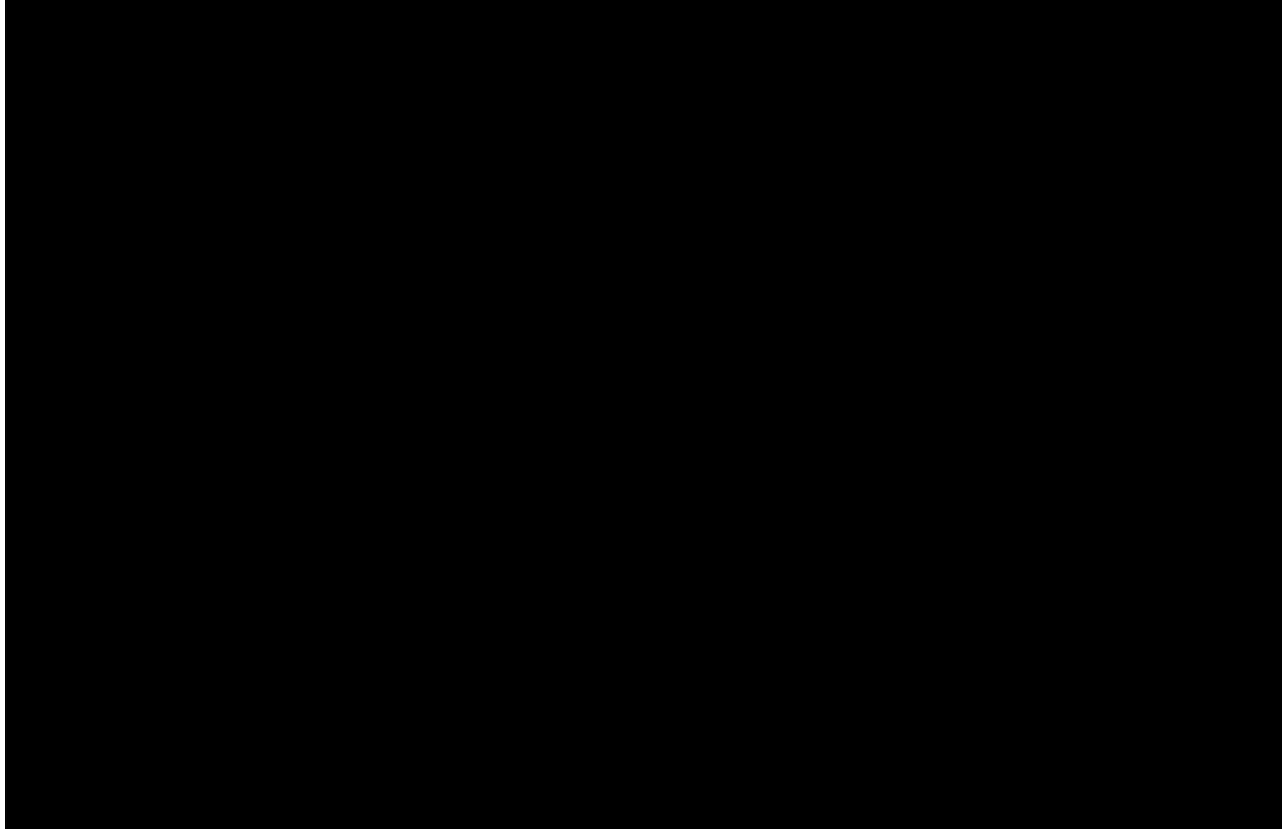


LIBRARY
LIBRARY
OF CONGRESS




ARQUIVO.PT

Web Archives to the Rescue

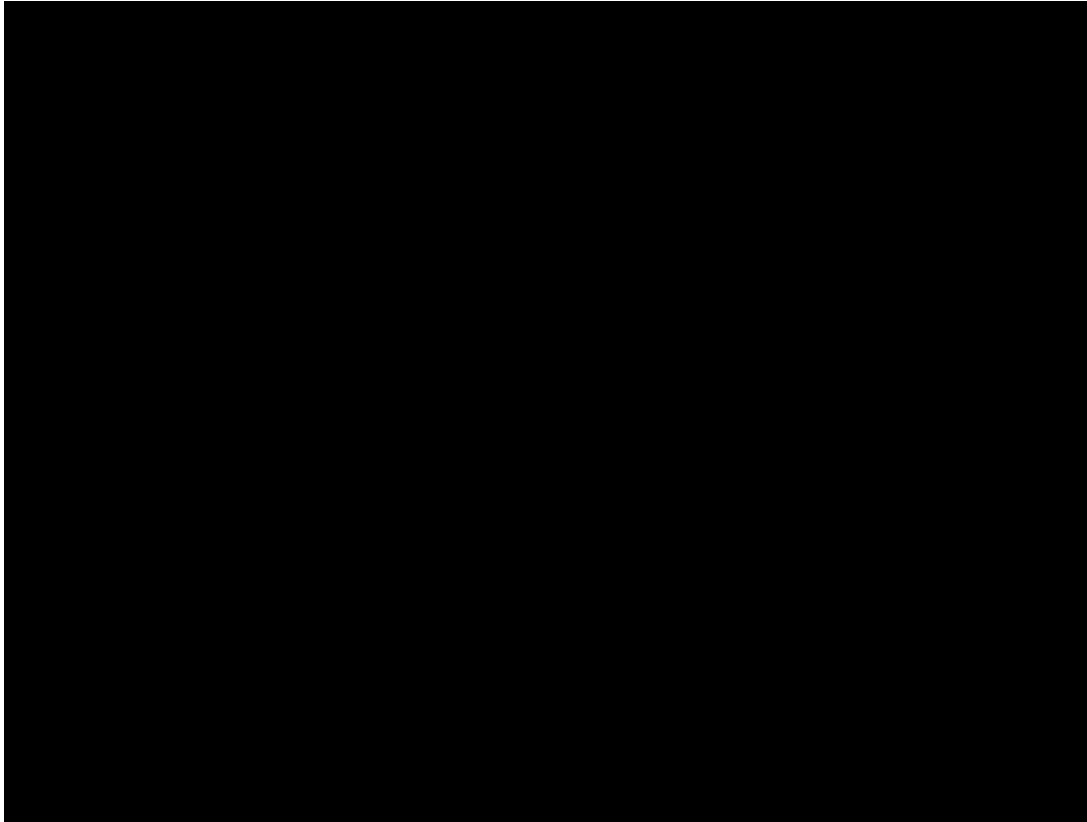


LIBRARY
LIBRARY
OF CONGRESS



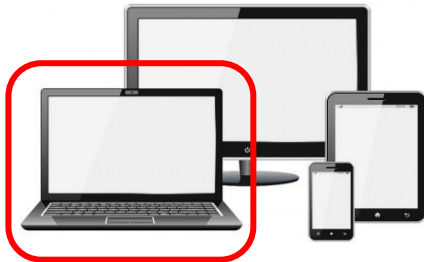

ARQUIVO.PT

Web Archives to the Rescue

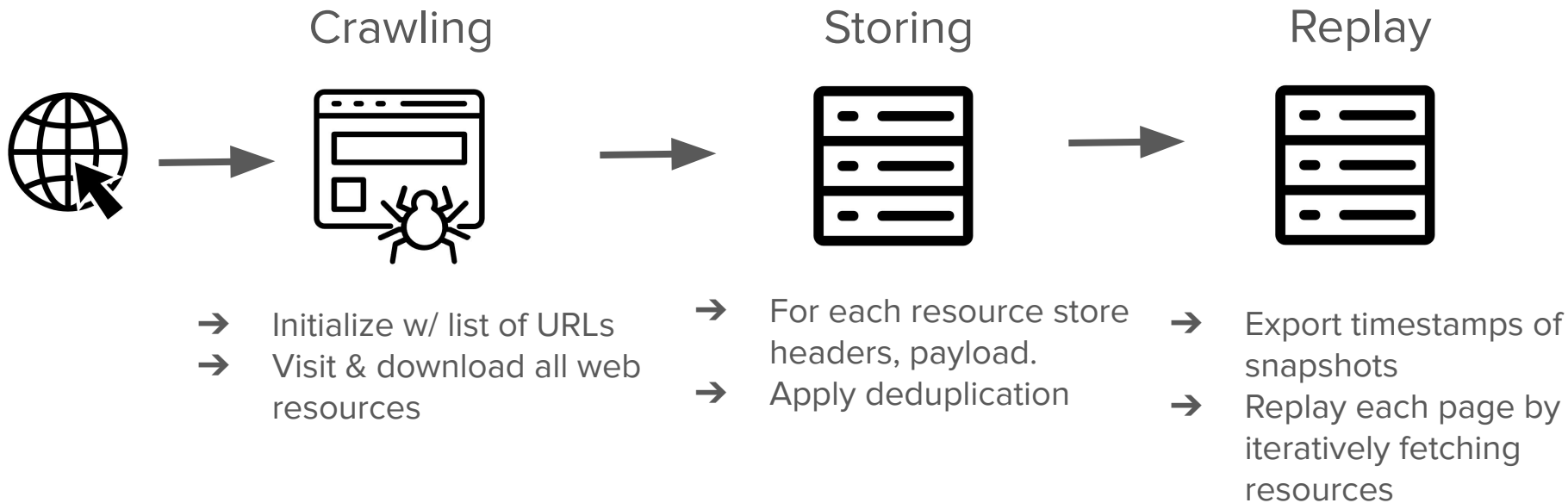


Approach to Fix Fidelity

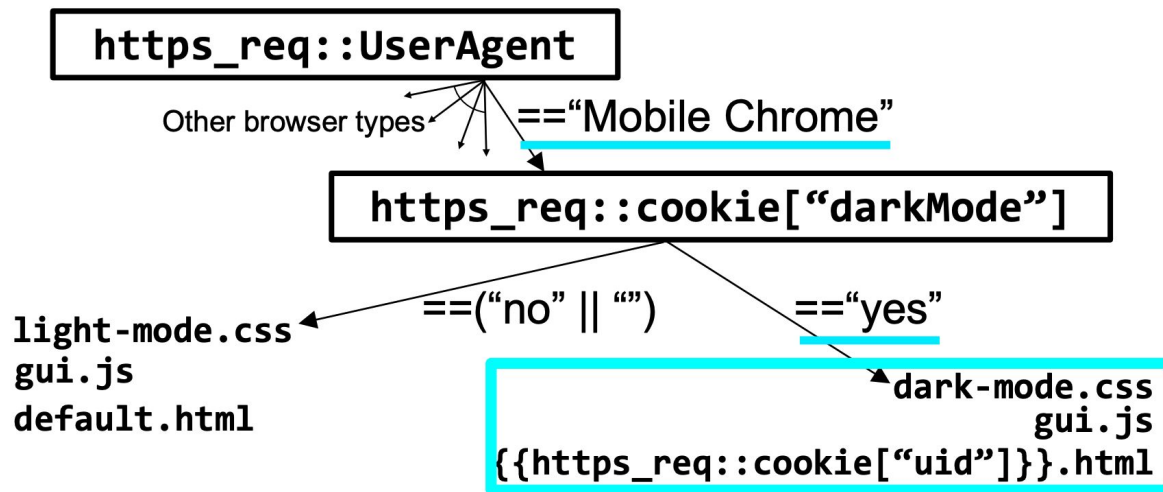
- Do not make DRP APIs deterministic
- **Leverage server-side matching** techniques to account for such URL differences
- Enforce same client characteristics for loads as the ones used for crawling



How Modern Web Archives Operate



Non-determinism Resulting in Poor Fidelity



Strawman: Preserve Code Executed **During Page Load**

The screenshot shows the New York Times website interface. On the left, a sidebar menu is highlighted with a red rounded rectangle. The menu includes categories like Home Page, World, Business (selected), Politics, U.S., Sports, Health, N.Y., Opinion, Tech, Science, Arts, Books, Style, Food, and Travel. A sub-menu for Business is open, listing options such as DealBook, Economy, Energy, Markets, Media, Small Business, Your Money, and Automotive. The main content area displays the article title "Michigan Researchers Design a More Efficient Web Archive Crawler" by Kenneth Chang, dated July 20, 2022. The article text mentions PhD student Ayush Goel and his advisor Harsha V. Madhyastha. Below the title, there are social sharing icons and a comment count of 22.

Home Page
World
Business
Politics
U.S.
Sports
Health
N.Y.
Opinion
Tech
Science
Arts
Books
Style
Food
Travel

BUSINESS
DealBook
Economy
Energy
Markets
Media
Small Business
Your Money
Automotive

GO

The New York Times

Michigan Researchers Design a More Efficient Web Archive Crawler

PhD student Ayush Goel, along with his advisor Harsha V. Madhyastha designed a new crawler that significantly lowers the storage overhead while ensuring high page fidelity

Give this article

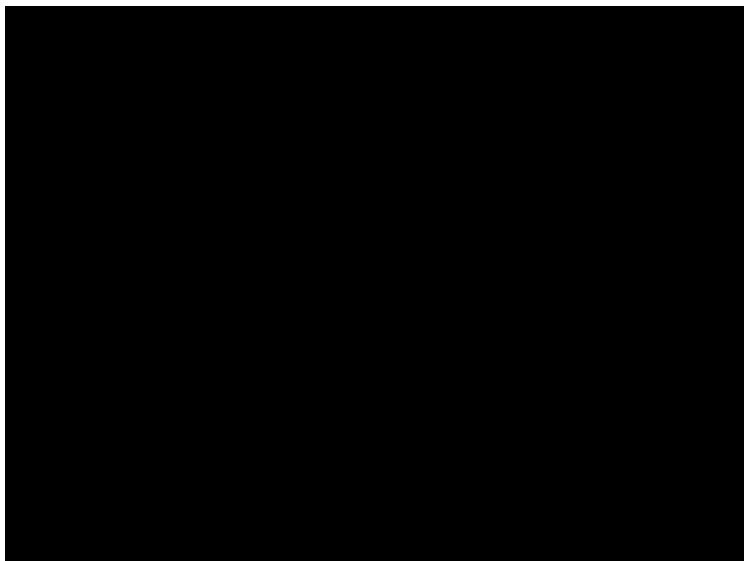
By **Kenneth Chang**

July 20, 2022

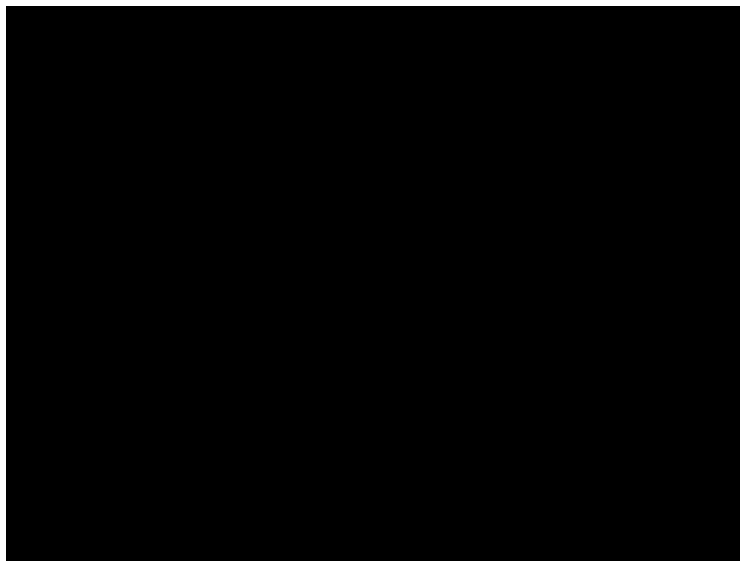
22

Make JavaScript Execution **Completely** Deterministic

Original page

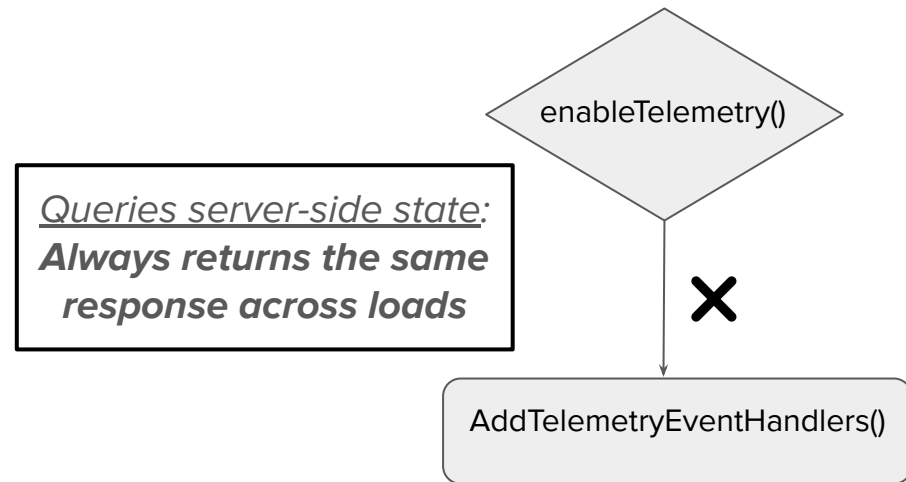
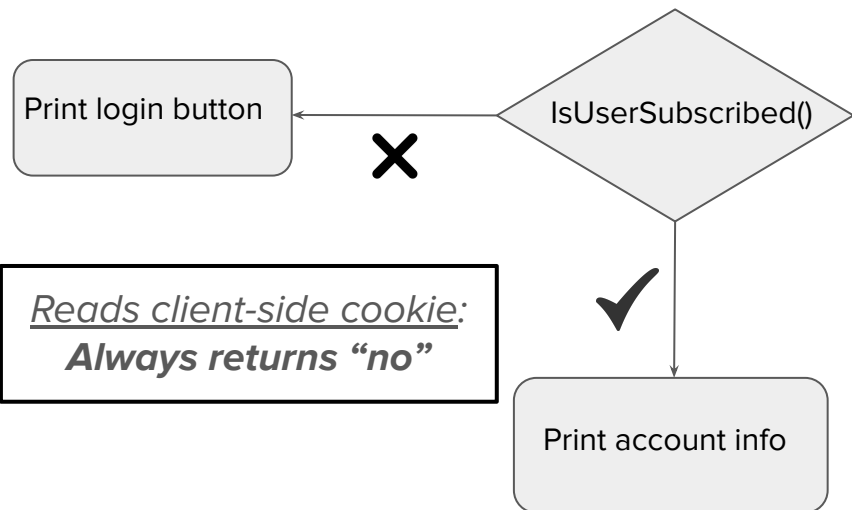


Deterministic page (broken)



Key Insight #1: Archived Page \neq Live Page

B. Certain sources of non-determinism are absent



M

\neq