HOW TO USE URLSCAN

BANGALY KOITA

Cover all the details you need to know while using urlscan.io

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Learn how to use URLSCAN during your investigation

Collect, Analyze, Investigate, and Report

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About the Author

Bangaly Koita is a Cyber Security Analyst with 7 years of experience, he worked in different positions such as Support IT, Security Analyst, and Cyber Threat Intelligence.

He holds many certifications such as CISSP, CompTIA SEC +, CompTIA NETWORK +, CompTIA CYSA +, CCNA CYBER OPS, ITIL, and others.

As a passionate person in Cyber security especially in Cyber Threat Intelligence, he decided to create a blog named osintafrica.net to share his experience and knowledge and provide user awareness and training for the worldwide community.

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LinkedIn: OSINTAFRICA: Overview | LinkedIn

Facebook: OsintAfrica Facebook

Twitter: OSINTAFRICA (@OSINTAFRICA89) / Twitter

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1. Introduction

URLSCAN is used to perform different types of web scans and to analyze different IOCs such as IP address, domains, Hashes, filenames, and others.

URLSCAN is a tool used by different security teams such as Security Analyst, Cyber Threat Intelligence, Threat Hunting, Incident response team, and others.

The tool is divided into 2 versions (community version and paid version).

We will focus on the community version that is available for free.

NB: In our case, we need two menus (Home and Search).

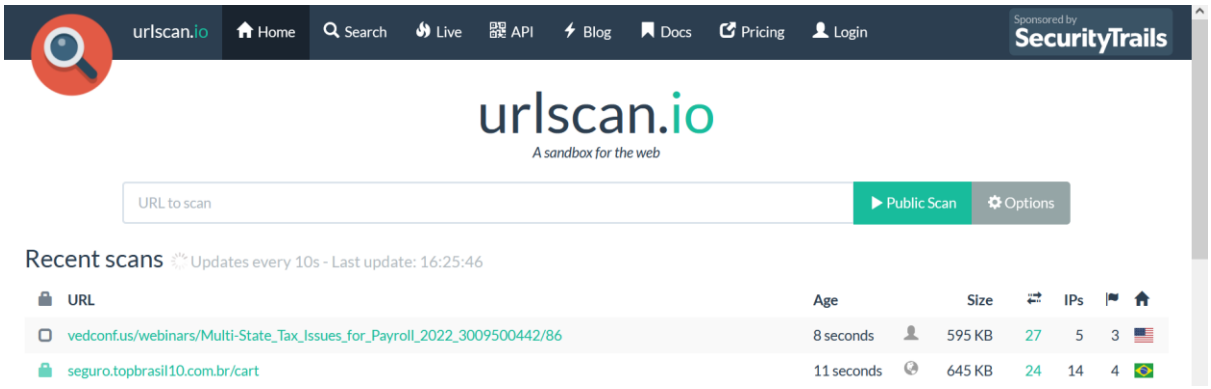

Figure 1 URLSCAN Home dashboard

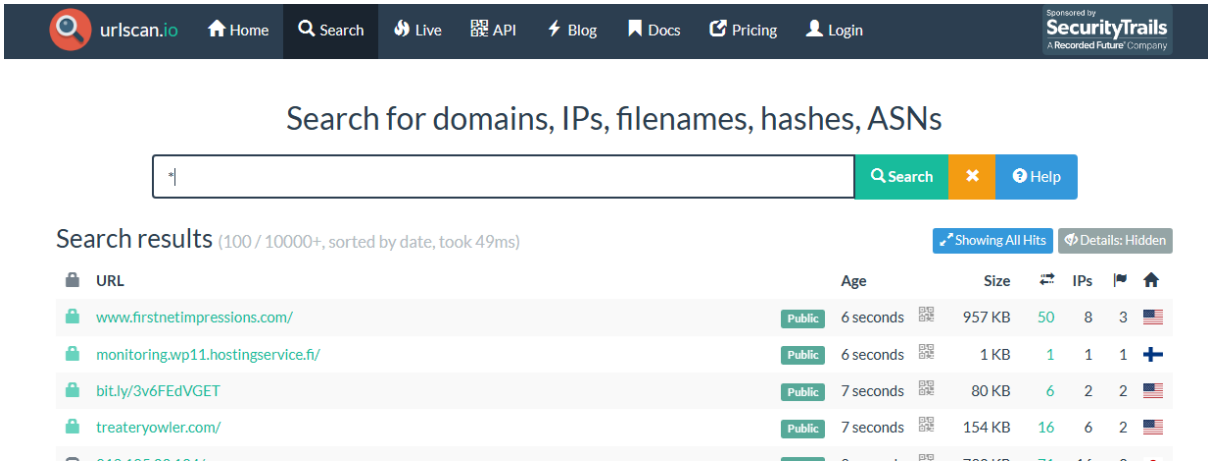

Figure 2 URLSCAN Search dashboard

2. HOME

Once we click on this menu, we can see the scanned queries by the users from different locations.

By default, the tool shows the public scan mode, if you want to leave the default mode and scan anything, the scan will be visible to everyone.

So, we advise you to click on **option** and used the **private mode** if you do not want other people to see the query you entered, this option can also help to avoid alerting the threat actor about your findings.

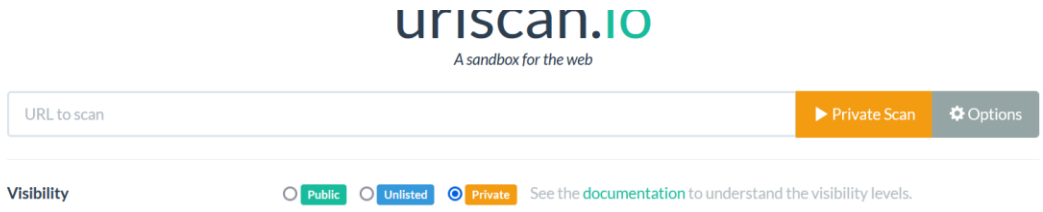

Figure 3 Scans options

URLSCAN can **anonymize** your identity. For instance,

- If you want to hide your location, you can click on “country selection” or auto (be aware that the Country selection for the private mode works only on the Commercial plans)
- You can change the “User Agent”. For example, if the website you want to scan is for a mobile phone – you can choose one of the Android User Agents.

You can also customize your own User Agent.

- The “HTTP referer” can be used to custom the HTTP header before scanning.

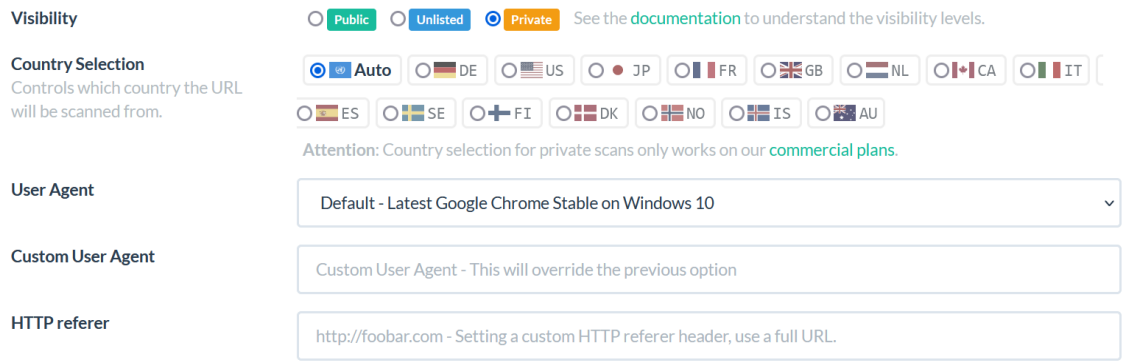

Figure 4 customize your User Agent

Now, let’s scan in a **private mode** a URL in hazard and analyze its behavior.

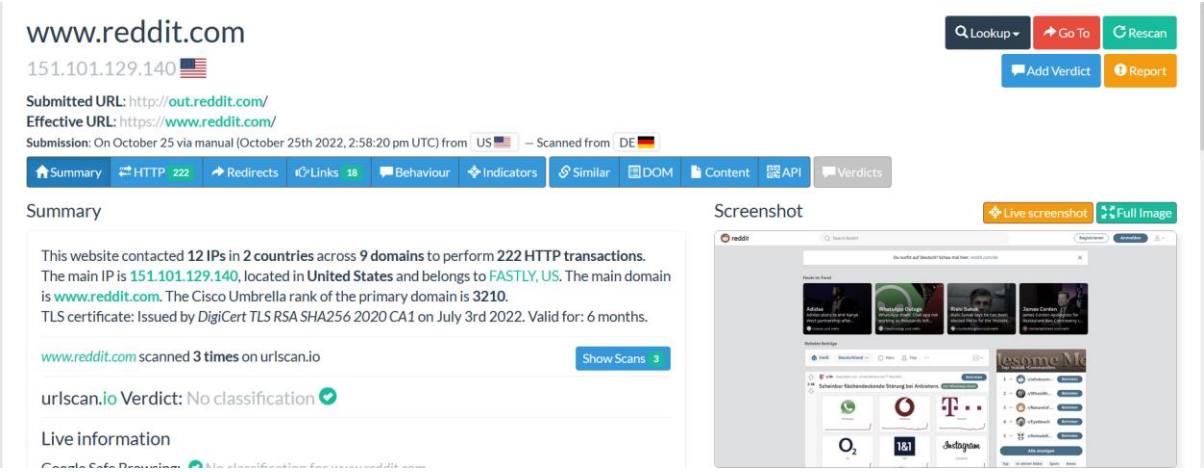

Figure 5 Private scans

After submitting the URL, we can see the IP address 151.101.129.140 from the submitted URL following the submitted URL and the effective information.

From the right side, we have 5 menus.

Figure 6 Other tools available on URLSCAN

The menu **"Lookup"** allows you to find different tools such as Virus Total, crt.sh, and Riskiq …. The tools can help you find more details about the submitted domain (click on each of them to learn more about it).

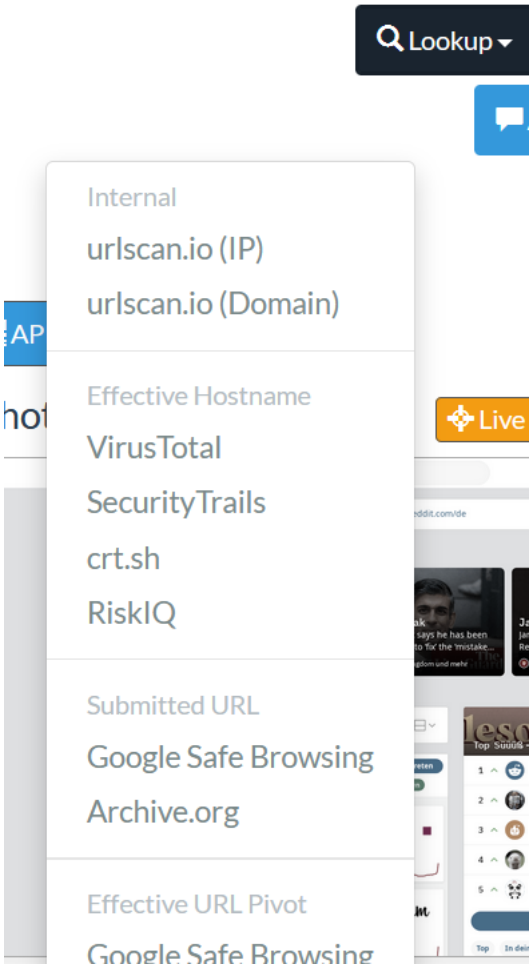

Figure 7 Choosing tools for your analyzing

The option **"Go To**" brings you to the domain submitted webpage (be careful before you click on it in case it is a malicious domain, you might be compromised).

The option **"Rescan"** is used to rescan the submitted URL.

The options **"Add Verdict" and "Report"** are used to add some comments about the submitted domain and contain some details about the scan report.

In the next section, we describe in detail the 11 Menus in **blue color.**

2.1 SUMMARY

Click on the "Summary button" to find more details about the menu.

The menu contains all details about the submitted domain.

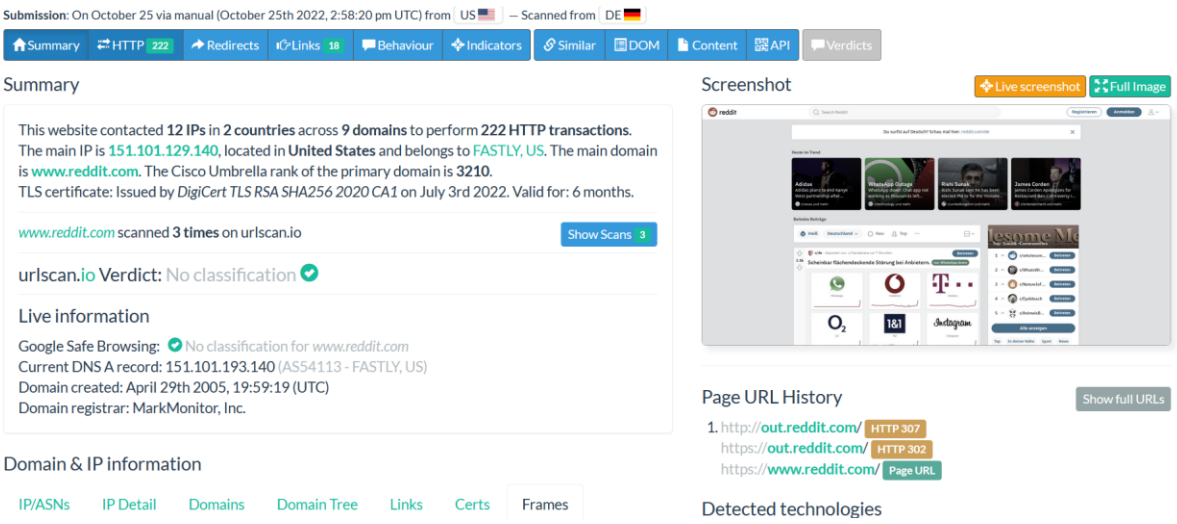

Figure 8 Summary dashboard

Figure 7 (Figure 9 Summary dashboard) shows in particular:

- The number of domains and IPs that were contacted by the submitted domain,
- The main IP address with a location and the domain hosting provider are also available,
- The certificate detail used by the website with his validity period,
- The website was scanned 3 times,

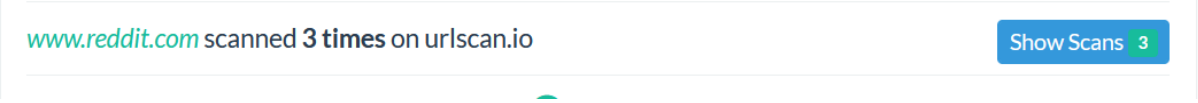

Figure 10 Shows the number of times the website was scanned

- **Show scan**

This submenu shows you the number of times the domain has been already scanned. You can click on each scan to have more details such as how the domain looks at the time it was scanned, the IP address, ASN behind the domain at the time it was scanned.

Figure 11 scanned links or domains

- **Domain classification**

The second part of the Summary menu is the classification of the domain provided by Google Safe Browsing.

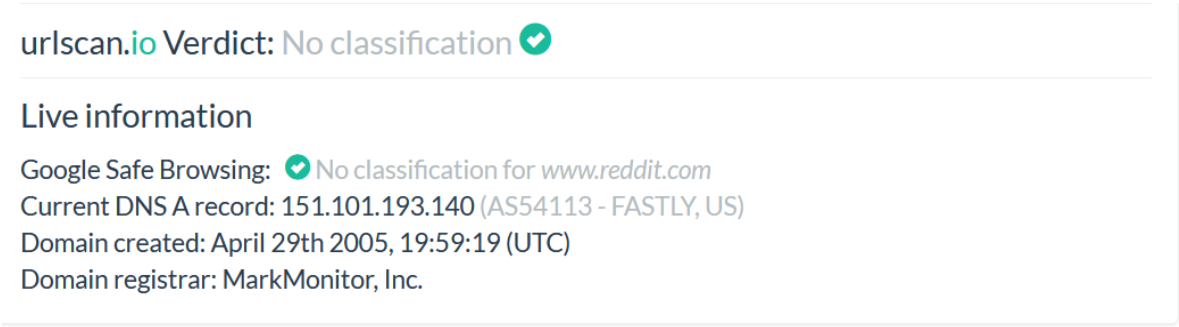

Figure 12 Domain classification

The figure shows that Google Safe Browsing classified the domain as **"No classification"** which means that the domain is cleaned following the rating score available on Google Safe Browsing.

- **Domain and IP information**

7 submenus are available:

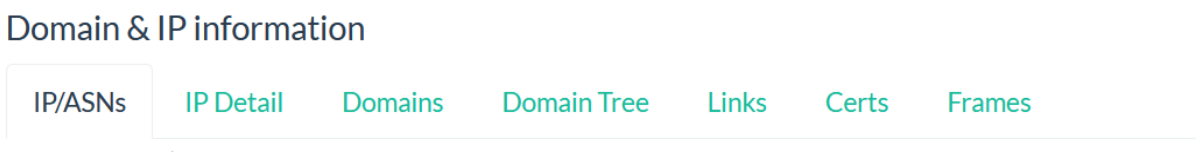

Figure 13 Domain and IP information

The menu IP/ASNs contains the information about all the IP addresses contacted by the domain while being submitted with their ASN (Autonomous System Number).

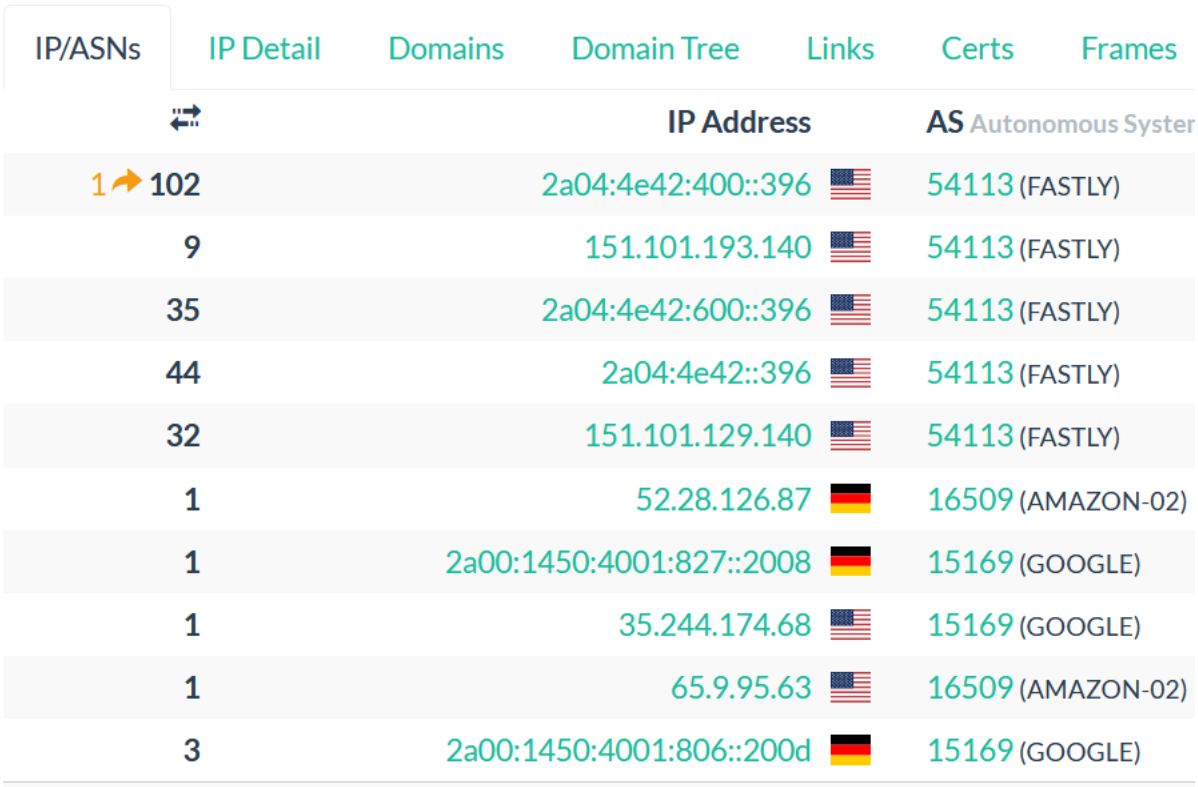

Figure 14 Information on IP contacted

You can click on each IP address and ASN to find more information.

The submenus "**IP Detail**" "**Domains**" and "**Domain Tree**" contain some information about the IPs and the domains contacted by the submitted domain. You can click on each section to see the information available.

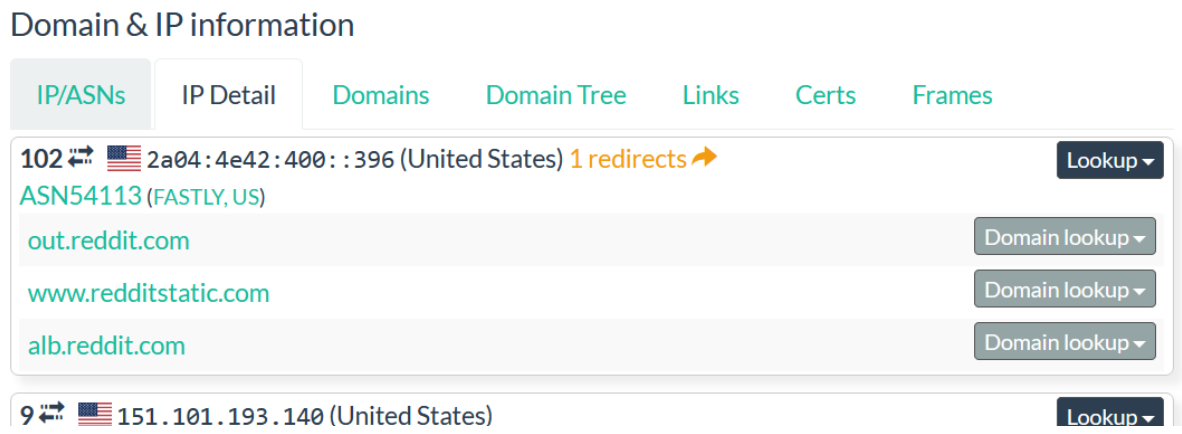

Figure 15 Details related to the IP address

The submenu "**LINK**" contains all the links redirecting to others domains or URLs.

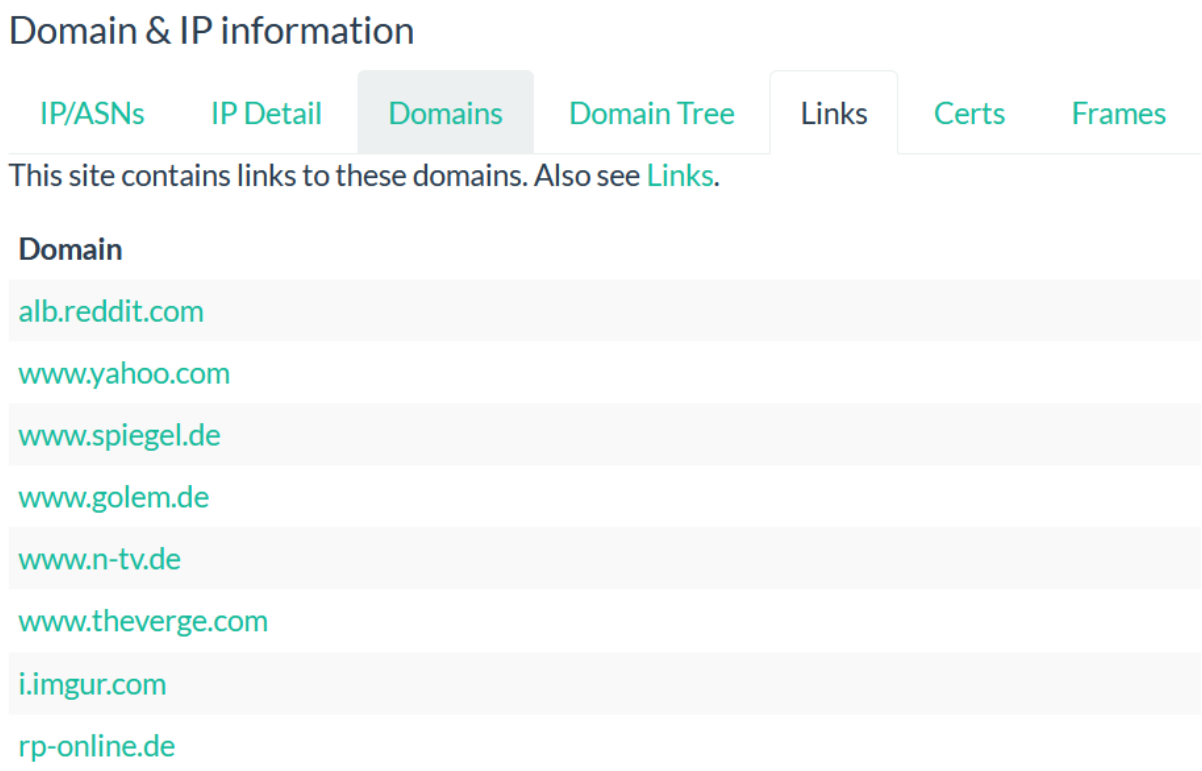

Figure 16 Links on the website

You can click on each link to get more details about it.

The submenu **"Certs"** contains the list of all certificates used by the submitted domain with the validity period.

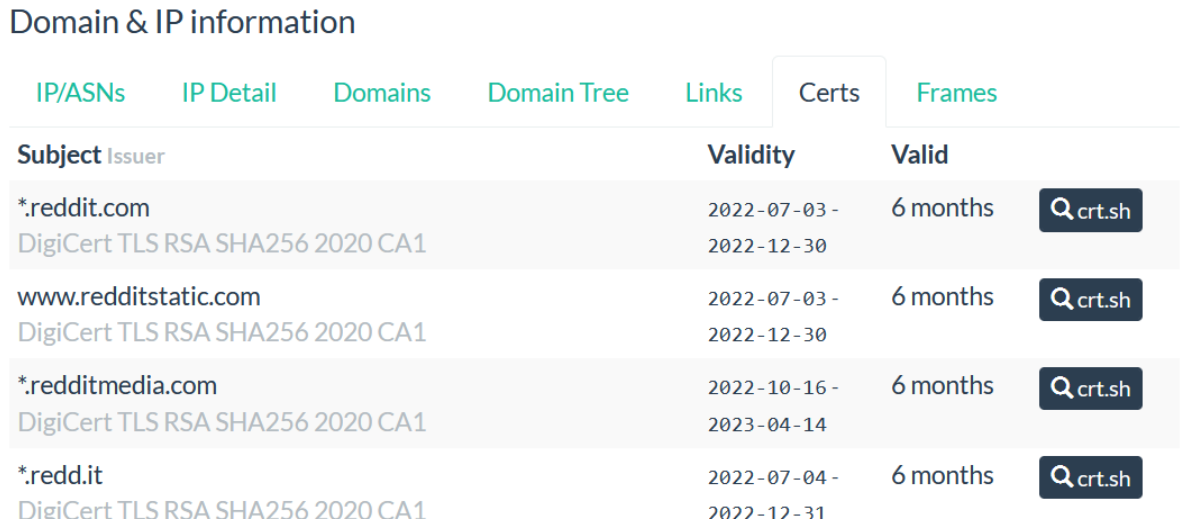

Figure 17 Certificates used by the website

You can click on the **crt.sh** on the right side to get more details about the certificate

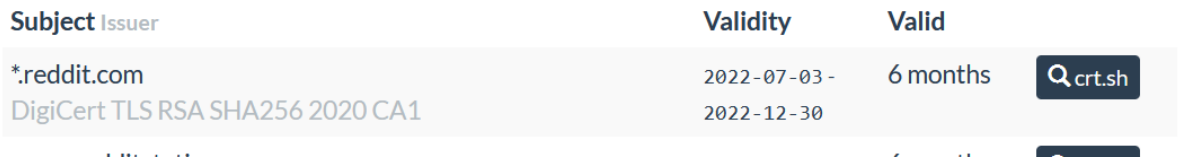

Figure 18 Click on Cert.sh for more details

The submenu **"Frames"** shows you if the website is using any URL Frames.

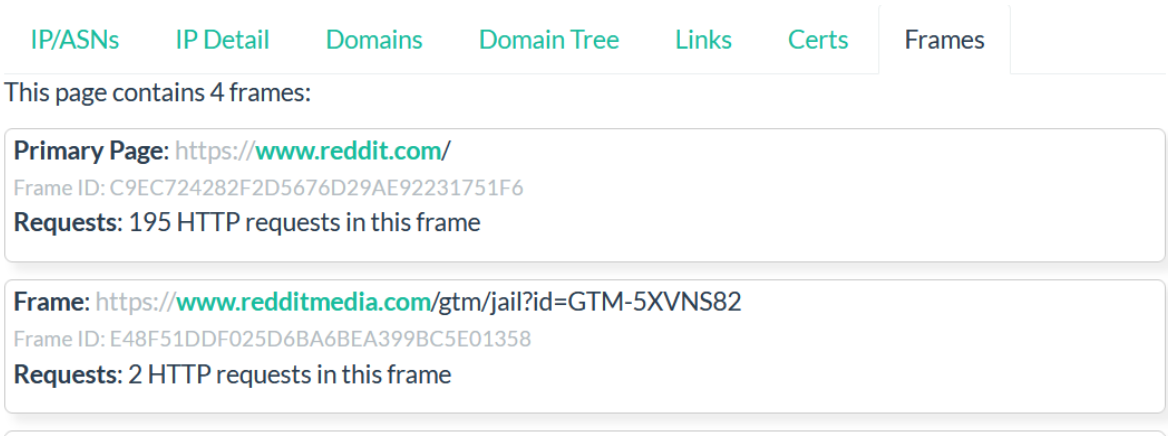

Figure 19 URL Frame used by the website

- **Image**

After describing different submenus from the Summary, from the right side, once the domain has been submitted, the main image from the website will appear in real-time.

We can see how the website behind the domain submitted looks like. This is very important during an investigation, for example when you are analyzing a phishing issue, it is necessary to view the website without connecting directly to it.

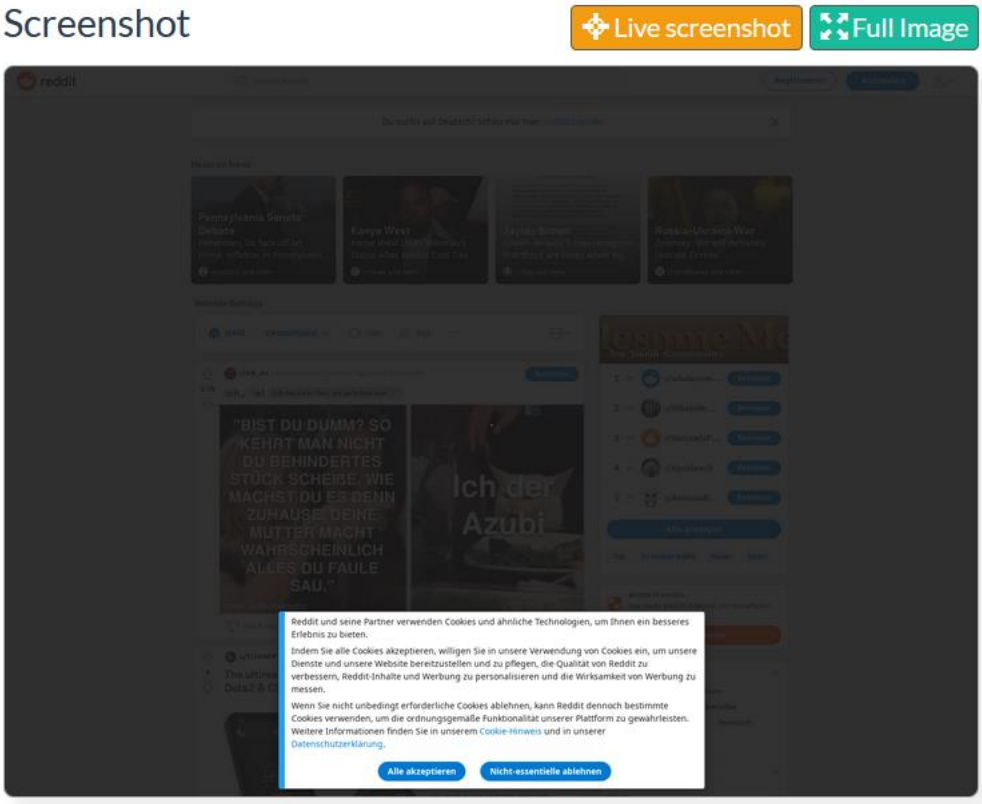

Figure 20 Image of the website scanned

You can click on **"Live screenshots"** and **"Full Image"** to have better visibility of the image.

- **Detected technologies**

Here, we can find some technologies used by the domain. Notice that this is very important for you as an analyst. For example, when the website is compromised, the threat actor might embed malicious code into the website, by checking this, you might find out the malicious code embedded within your website, checking this, can also help you to find some technologies that need to be updated or are not in use anymore.

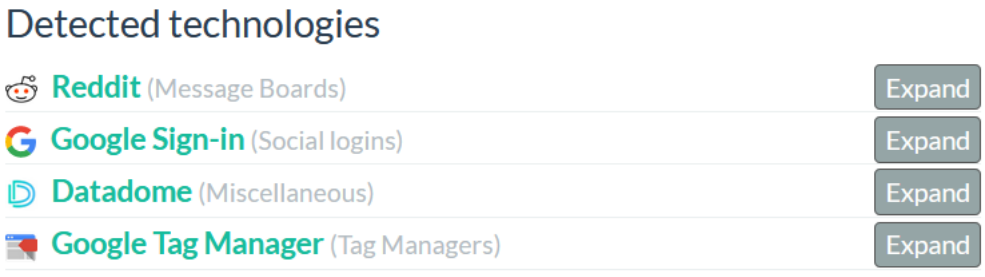

Figure 21 Technologies available on the website

- **Page Statistics**

This section shows you the whole details about the submitted URL such as HTTP request, domains, subdomains, cookies, IP, etc …

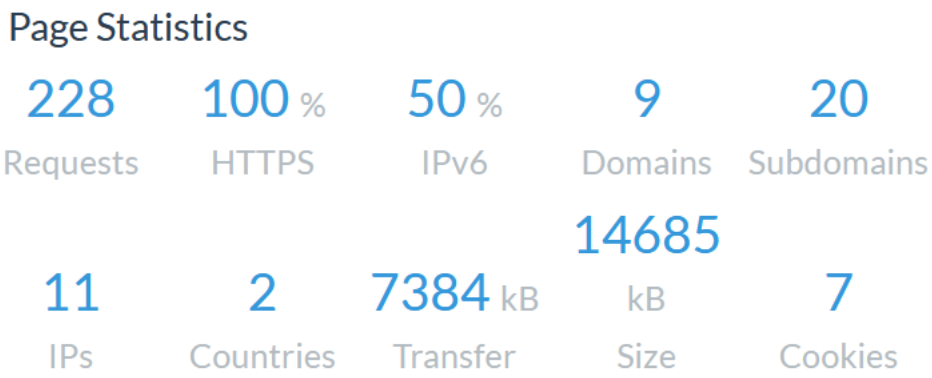

Figure 22 Statistic of the URL scanned

2.2 HTTP

In this menu, we can see all the HTTP transactions after the URL has been submitted.

The HTTP transactions consist of all the resources (HTLM, Script, AJAX, Images …) the website uses.

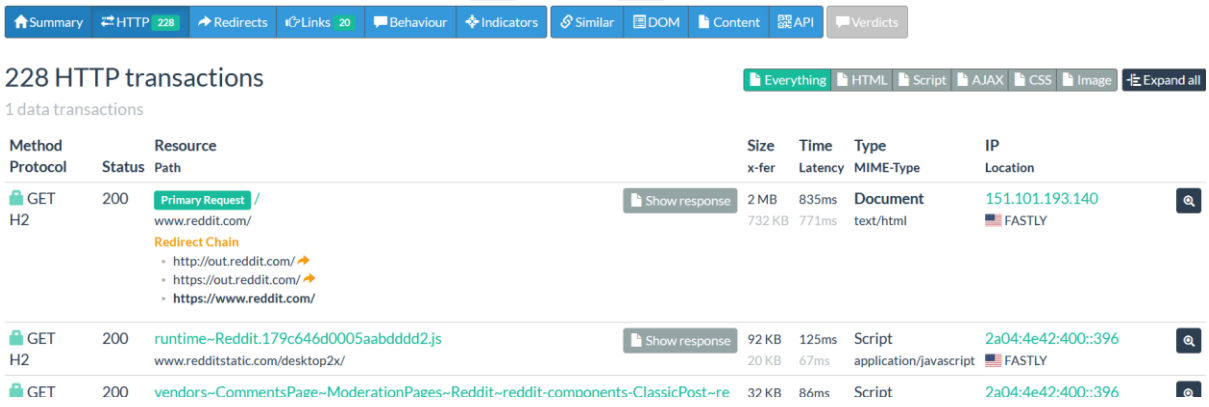

Figure 23 HTTP transactions after the URL submission

This section is very useful for the analyst.

Click on one of the options available

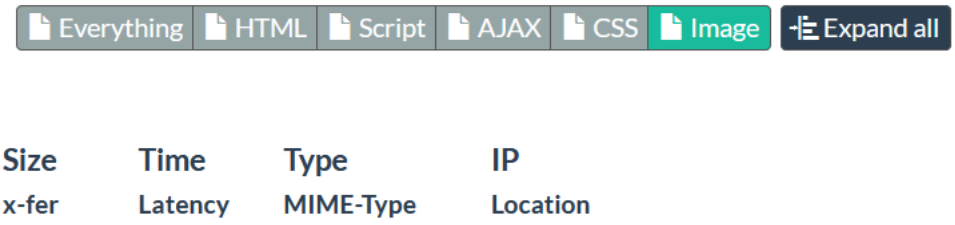

Figure 24 Images available after submitting the URL

In our case, we click on the button **"Image"** to find the image described in the section **Image** and all the files used by the image.

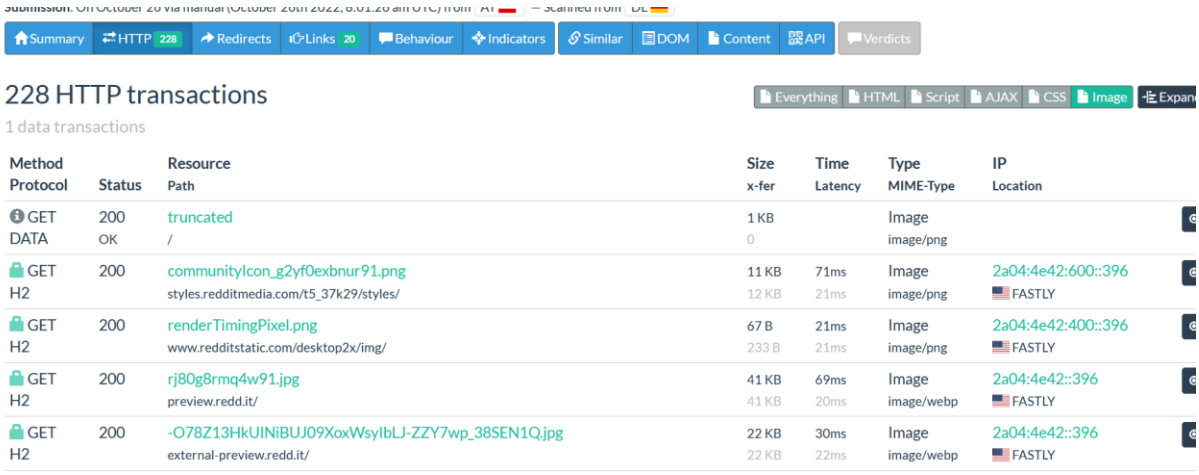

Figure 25 Images available after submitting the URL 2

Click on the "expand" sign to see more details about each file.

Figure 26 Image expanded to see more details

We can observe that:

- **The Full URL** shows the requested image from the **Host**: www.reddit.com.
- We can find others information such as the **server's name used, the TLS protocol version used, the Hash of the image used, the software** used, and others …

Click on the **Show headers** to find the details about the request headers and the response headers from the server side.

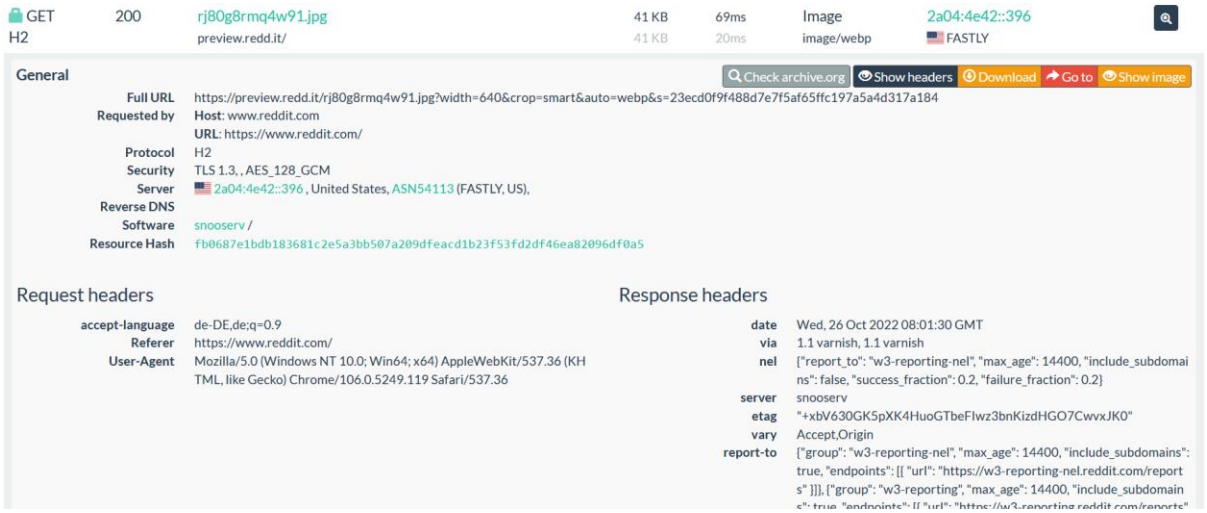

Figure 27 Show the details of the headers

A click on check **archive.org** leads you to the website https://web.archive.org (You can Google search to find more information about it)

Figure 28 Archive.org

Click on each option (HTLM, Script, AJAX, Images) available to learn more about.

2.3 REDIRECT

Here, you find all the redirect links on the website.

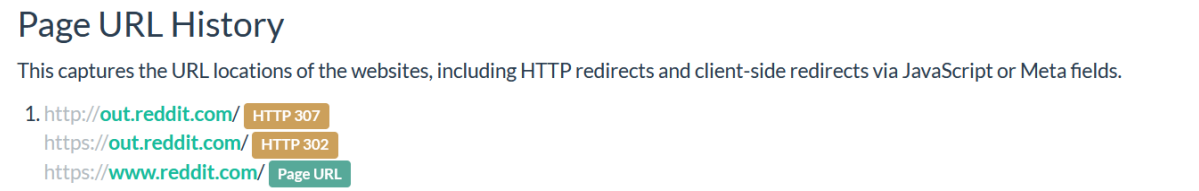

Figure 29 Redirecting links on the website

2.4 LINKS

The page contains all the links available on the website.

Figure 30 Links available on the website

You can click on each of them or scan each of them for more details

2.5 BEHAVIOUR

The menu contains information about the Security Headers, the Cookies, and the JavaScript global variables used by the website.

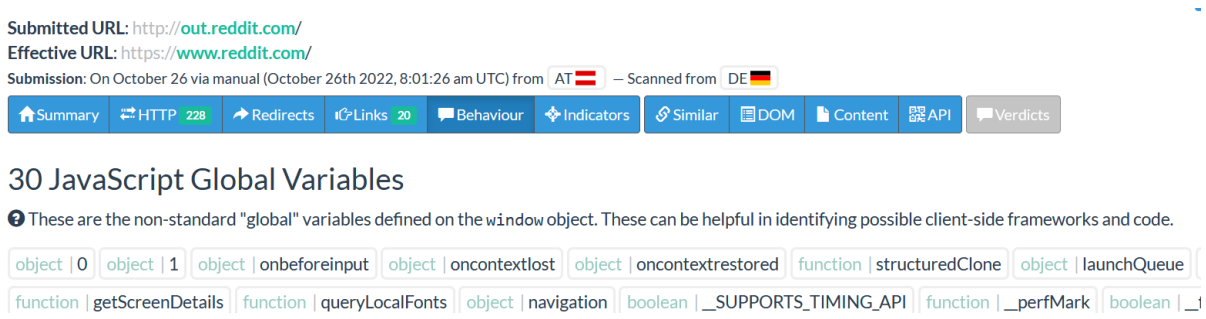

Figure 31 Variable used by the website

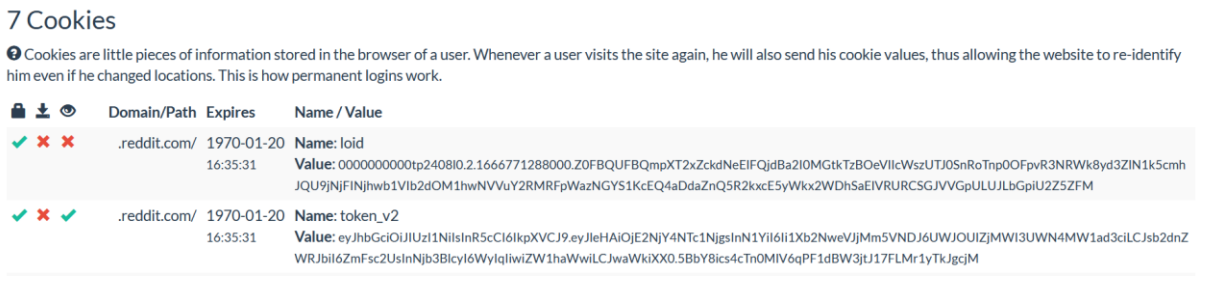

Figure 32 Cookies used by the website

Security Headers

This page lists any security headers set by the main page. If you want to understand what these mean and how to use them, head on over to this page

Header	Value
Strict-Transport-Security	max-age=31536000; includeSubdomains
X-Content-Type-Options	nosniff
X-Frame-Options	SAMEORIGIN
X-Xss-Protection	1; mode=block

Figure 33 Security headers

2.6 INDICATORS

This menu contains all the domains, IP addresses, and hashes used by the websites.

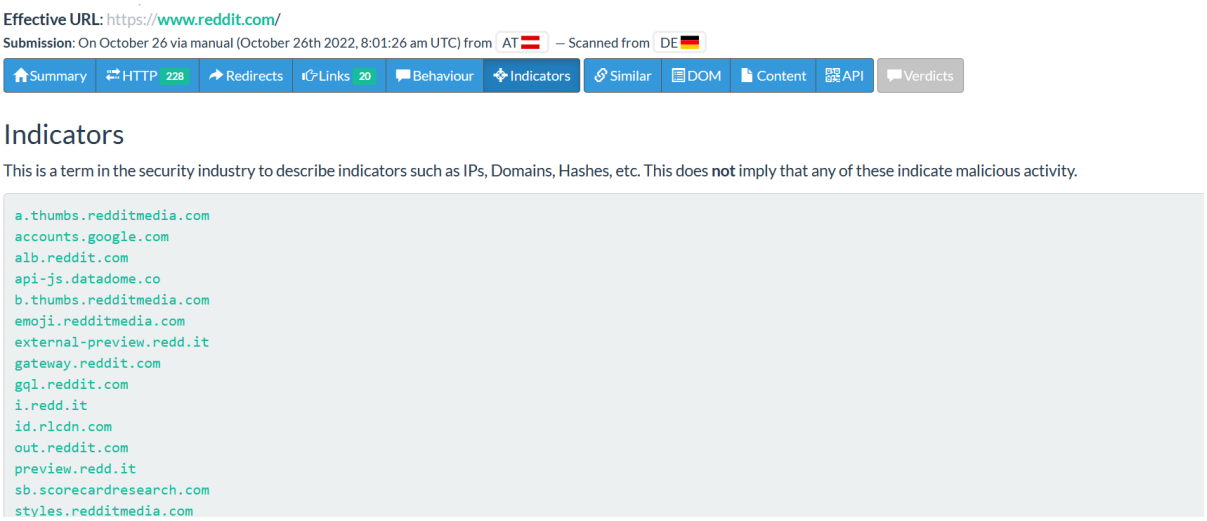

Figure 34 Indicators used by the website

2.7 SIMILAR

This menu shows some information about the URLs, ASN numbers, IP address, and domains scanned on the website.

Figure 35 Websites with some similarities

2.8 DOM

This menu is very useful as it has the whole map of the website such as the scripts used by the website, the HTML code used by the website, and others.

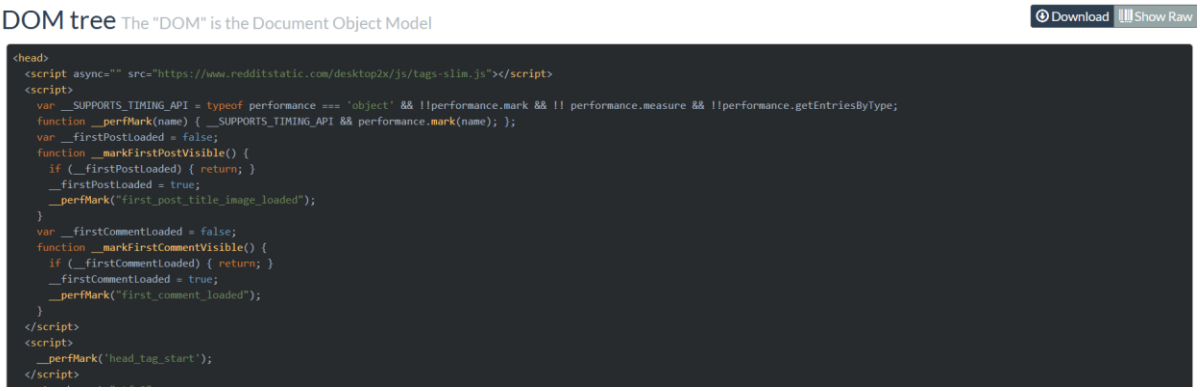

Figure 36 Website map (structure and content of a document on the web)

2.9 CONTENT

the Form (Google search for Form object DOM) used in DOM is available.

Figure 37 Content

2.10 API

The API used by URLSCAN to get the information from the servers

3 SEARCHES

URLSCAN can help to perform different types of searches to find more information about an indicator such as IP address, domain, file, hash, ASN number, and others.

Click on the "**Search**" button.

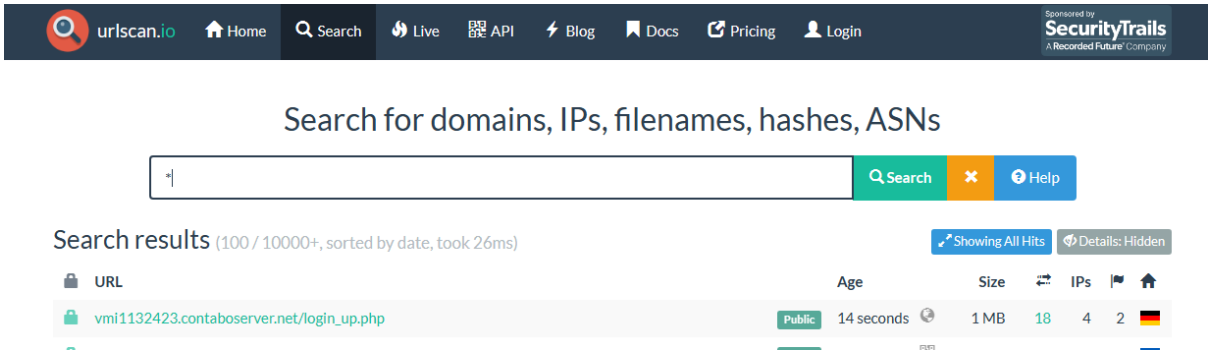

Figure 38 Searches types available

It is very important to first read the documentation. Click on the "**Help**" button to read about how to perform different searches.

Let's give some examples of queries that we can perform in the Search menu.

- **Example 1: Search for the domain**

If you want to find more information about a specific domain such as how the domain looked before and the connection between the domain with others domains or websites, you can use the "domain:" query. For this purpose, let's adopt the website microsoft.com.

Search - urlscan.io

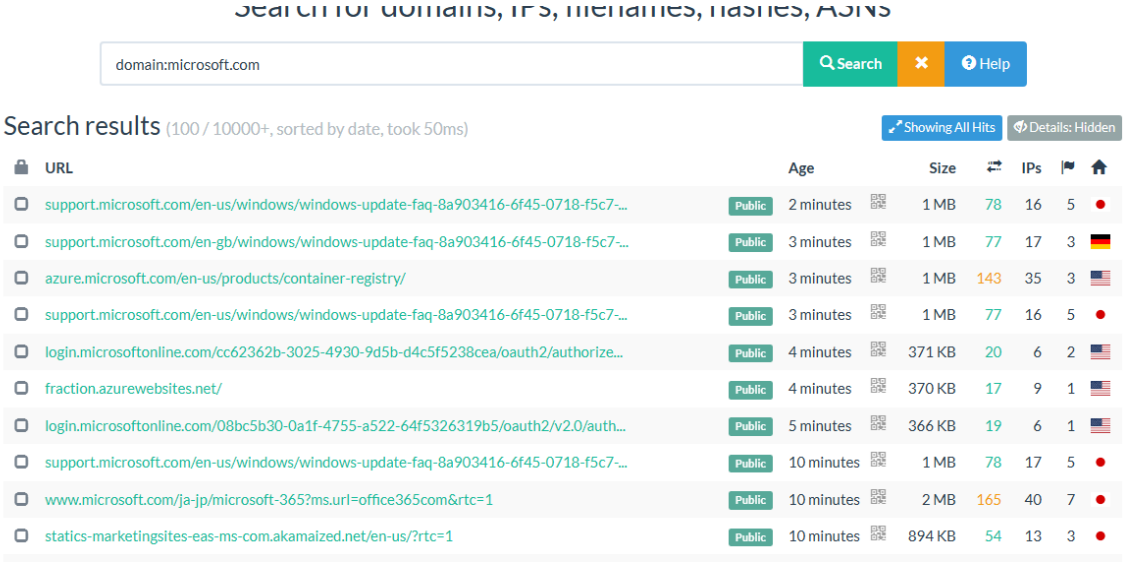

Figure 39 Find a connection with other domains

Figure 38 shows the results of the search, in particular, the domain Microsoft.com with different subdomains related to Microsoft.com and other domains or websites where Microsoft.com was mentioned following along with the time and the location it was scanned.

If you click on each link where Microsoft.com is mentioned, you can see how the domain was at the time scanned. This technique can also help you as an analyst to find out how the

domain looked in the past. Many phishing websites changed the website interface after abusing many people over the internet so this technic can reveal such activity.

As you see, they are some domains or subdomains where Microsoft.com is not mentioned, therefore, we need to find out the relation between Microsoft.com and the domain.

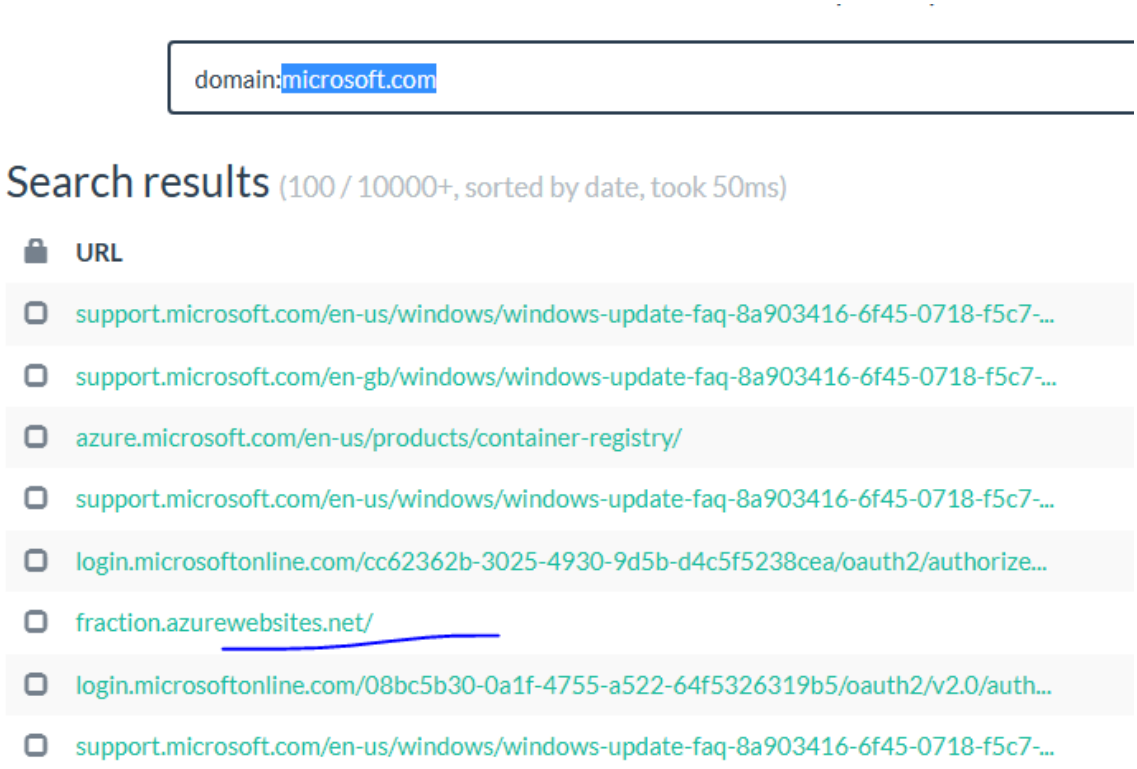

Figure 40 Relationship between domains

Click on fraction.azurewebsites.net, go to HTTP transaction, search for Microsoft.com

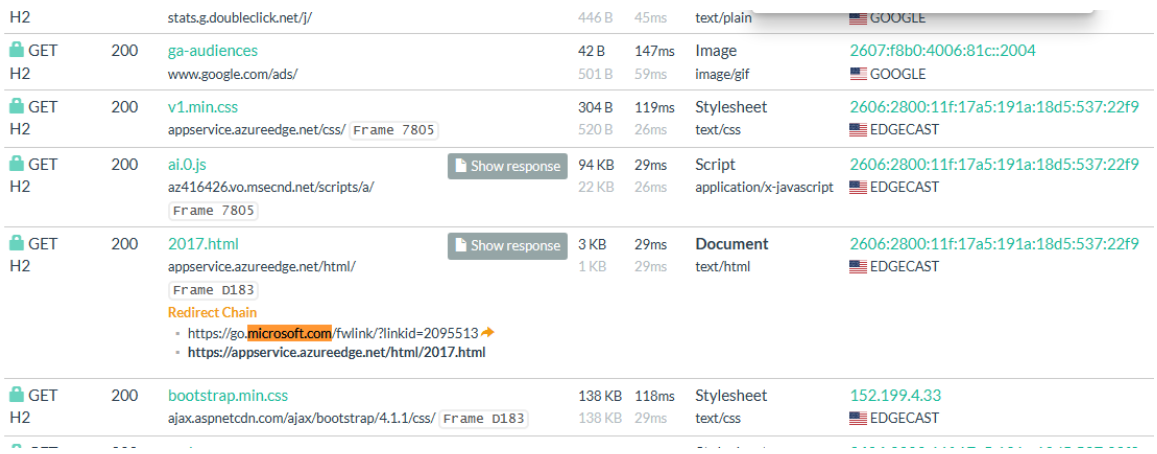

Figure 41 Relationship between domains 2

As you can see, Microsoft.com is used as a redirect chain. This technic is often used by the threat actor to hide their activities and it can be also used to find the correlation between the domains.

- **Example 2: Search for IPs**

Search - urlscan.io

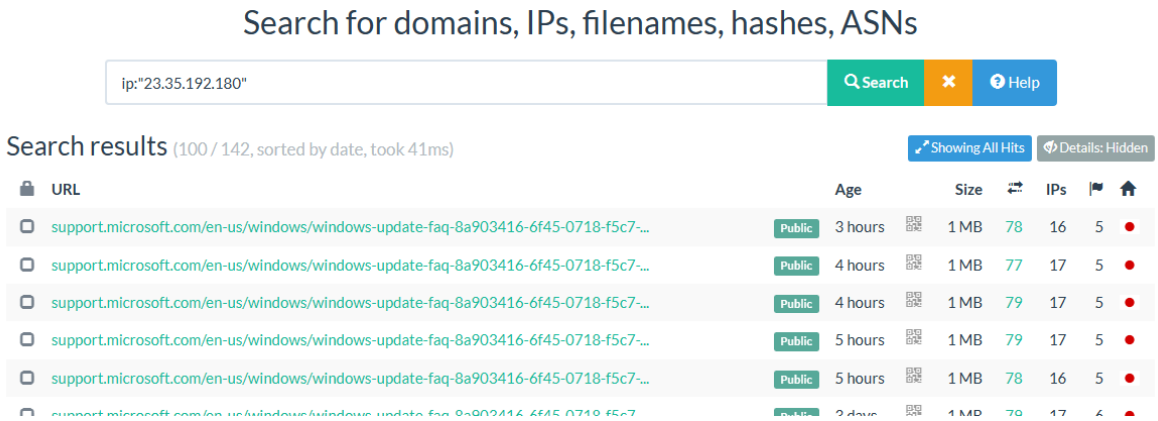

Figure 42 Using different types of searches

As you see in figure 41, we entered the IP address 23.35.192.180 and we got the domains and subdomains behind the IP address. This technique can be used to find phishing-related domains behind an IP address.

- **Example 3: Search for Hashes**

The hash can help you to make a correlation between the domains. Usually, the threat actor can use the same file but changed the domain, so this technic is a good one to find such activity.

For instance:

Click Microsoft.com, go to HTTP transaction, and expand one http transaction request where the hash is available.

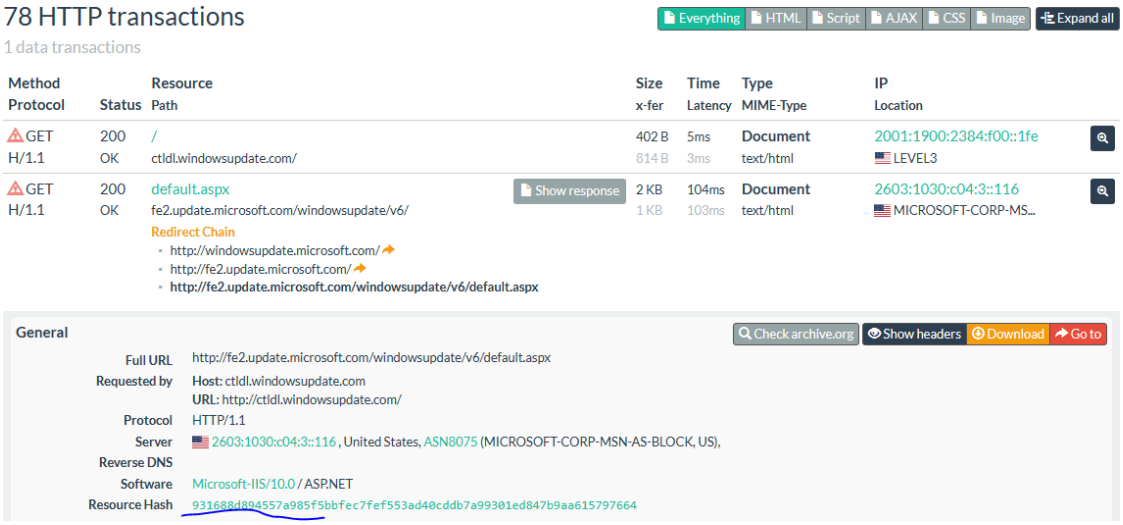

Figure 43 Find the connection with the domain

Over the mouse on the hash and copy the hash, click on the Search menu, and enter the query as you see in figure 42.

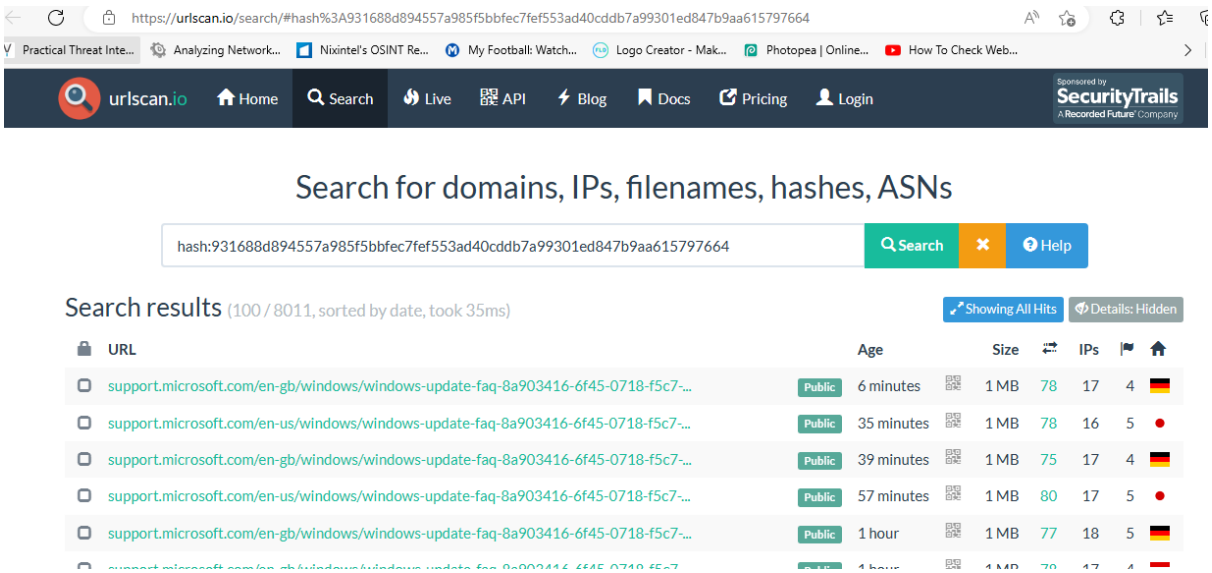

Figure 44 Search for hash in the search field

Now, we can see others websites that have used the same hash.

- **Example 4: Search for Filenames**

The same thing as we described in the previous case, the same filename can be used by the threat actor but with different domains name. We can use the same technique as we did to find the domain or website that used the filename. Be aware that the same file name does

not mean that the file is the same, you need to compare the hash and also the file content to ensure that the files are the same. For instance.

From the HTTP transaction, copy the file you wish to check

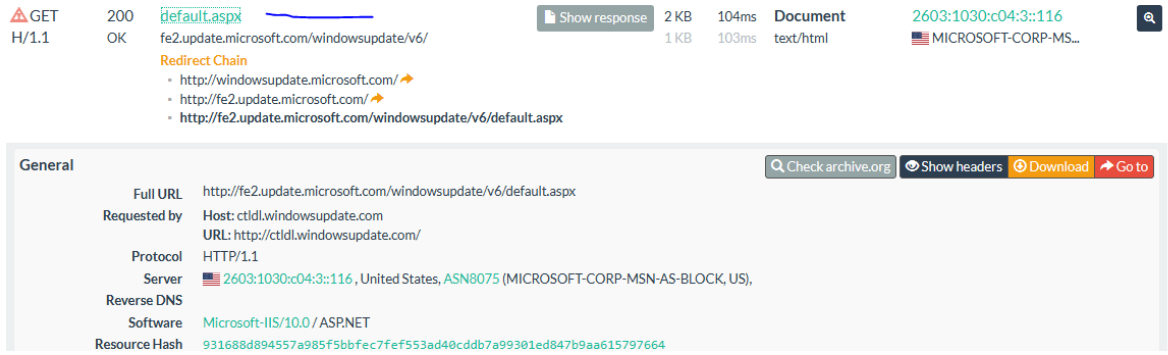

Figure 45 Search for hash details

Go to search, enter the query as you see in the picture below, and all the results from the search will appear.

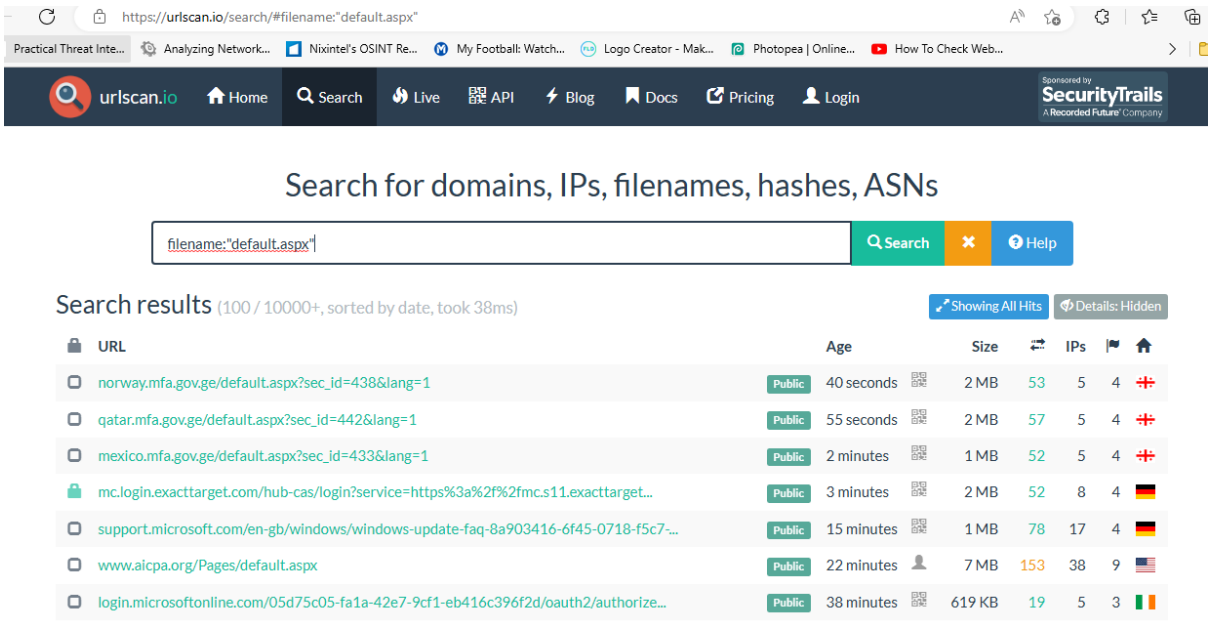

Figure 46 Search for filename details

In order to verify if the file is unique, click on the URL, and go to the HTTP transaction to compare the hash and the file content.

You can perform many types of searches using the search field. As a security guy, you should know what you are looking for before searching. The best way to learn is by practicing on a daily basis.

4 Conclusion

URLSCAN is a very amazing tool that all security guys should use to make easier their job while analyzing different information as we showed in our examples.

The tool can help you save many times as it contains many types of queries that will help you to find more information during your analysis.

If you never used it, it is time for you to start using and if you did not know the features we explained, then I suppose that you already know so enjoy.