

Google to track users across all its sites

Company's decision not to let people opt out raises privacy concerns

BY CECILIA KANG

Google will soon know far more about who you are and what you do on the Web.

The Web giant announced Tuesday that it plans to follow the activities of users across nearly all of its ubiquitous sites, including YouTube, Gmail and its leading search engine.

Google has already been collecting some of this information. But for the first time, it is combining data across its Web sites to stitch together a fuller portrait of users.

Consumers won't be able to opt out of the changes, which take effect March 1. And experts say the policy shift will invite greater scrutiny from federal regulators of the company's privacy and competitive practices.

The move will help Google better tailor its ads to people's tastes. If someone watches an NBA clip online and lives in Washington, the firm could advertise Washington Wizards tickets in that person's Gmail account.

Consumers could also benefit, the company said. When someone is searching for the word "jaguar," Google would have a better idea of whether the person was interested in the animal or the car. Or the firm might suggest e-mailing contacts in New York when it learns you are planning a trip there.

But consumer advocates say the new policy might upset people who never expected their information would be shared across so many different Web sites.

A user signing up for Gmail, for instance, might never have imagined that the content of his or her messages could affect the experience on seemingly unrelat-

GOOGLE CONTINUED ON A16



BILL O'LEARY/THE WASHINGTON POST

In his address, President Obama said, "We can restore an economy where everyone gets a fair shot, everyone does their fair share and everyone plays by the same set of rules."

Obama: Nation must address inequality

PRESIDENT CALLS ON THE RICH TO HELP

State of the Union focuses on the economy

BY SCOTT WILSON AND DAVID NAKAMURA

President Obama delivered a forceful defense of his record Tuesday and challenged Congress to help him close the growing disparity between the rich and everyone else, arguing that "we have to reclaim" America's traditional economic values.

In an election-year State of the Union message that is likely to serve as the template for the months of campaigning ahead, Obama outlined a series of small, specific prescriptions to reinforce the tentative economic recovery, including proposals to eliminate tax incentives for companies to move jobs overseas, to make college more affordable and to expand help for creditworthy homeowners looking to refinance mortgages at historically low interest rates.

None of the proposals constitutes a single bold stroke to revive the economy, but the heart of Obama's message — one he has underscored in appearances around the country in recent months — was that America's wealthiest citizens must do more to help pull the country from its dire fiscal condition.

The approach was typified by his call for those who make more than \$1 million a year to pay a marginal tax rate of at least 30 percent and to forgo a host of deductions he said they do not need.

In detailing what he called a "blueprint for an economy built to last," Obama struck the populist chords that his Republican presidential rivals have criticized as "class warfare." But he has seen his approval ratings rise on the strength of that message, particularly among the independent vot-

OBAMA CONTINUED ON A8

More coverage inside

● **Analysis:** We give you the breakdown on the key issues Obama touched on in his speech. **A10**

● **It's the economy (again):** This issue will make the presidential election a real nail-biter. **A9**

● **Political junkies we are not:** On Sarasota's Main Street, no one was planning to watch the address. **A10**

● **The other Gingrich campaign:** A super PAC is charting new territory in presidential contests. **A4**

THE POLITICS

For a campaign preview, the gift of timing

BY PETER WALLSTEN

The economy continues to struggle and Americans are largely pessimistic, but dueling events Tuesday showed why in politics it's good to be the incumbent.

In Washington, President Obama harnessed one of the grand symbols of his office — a prime-time State of the Union speech — to present himself to voters as a champion for middle-class families struggling to get by and declare that "we've come too far to turn back now."

In Florida, the escalating battle for the right to challenge Obama threatened to further bloody the leading contenders — with Mitt Romney on the defensive over his tax rate as revealed by the Tuesday release of his 2010 returns and Newt Gingrich trying to fend off questions about his consulting work for mortgage giant Freddie Mac.

The day brought a reminder

POLITICS CONTINUED ON A9

In Libya, a growing restlessness

Protesters question path of new government

BY ALICE FORDHAM
IN BENGHAZI, LIBYA

As Libya's interim government struggles to bring security, stability and democracy to the country, a burgeoning protest movement is rocking the fragile nation, venting grudges and challenging the legitimacy of the ruling authorities.

The movement is at its strongest in the eastern city of Benghazi, the cradle of the uprising that saw NATO-backed forces help end Moammar Gaddafi's 42-year rule.

Rebel fighters began battling government forces here in February last year. They controlled most of the city within a few days, and a transitional governing

council began operating before the end of that month as the city became the base for the revolution.

But almost a year later, support for the council, which has shifted its operations to Tripoli, is rapidly evaporating. People complain of shaky security, delays in reopening schools and courts, and flaws in the interim constitution and proposed electoral legislation, as well as the continued presence of Gaddafi-era officials on the council.

For more than a month, hundreds of angry demonstrators have gathered nightly in Tree Square in the city center to chant, dance, sing and discuss their

LIBYA CONTINUED ON A14



PHOTOS VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MERIE WALLACE/FOX SEARCHLIGHT FILMS; DALE ROBINETTE/Disney; FRANCOIS DUHAMEL/WARNER BROS.; ALEX BAILEY/WEINSTEIN CO.

Hurray for (old) Hollywood

The Oscar nominations carried an air of nostalgia. Receiving acting nods were, clockwise from top left, George Clooney, Viola Davis, Max von Sydow and Meryl Streep. **STORY, C1**

IMF fears European crisis poses risk of major recession

BY HOWARD SCHNEIDER

The global economy is slowing sharply and is at far greater risk of recession than was thought just months ago, with Europe's debt crisis creating "fertile ground" for a rapid collapse, the International Monetary Fund warned Tuesday.

In a sobering trio of reports on growth, public debt and financial stability, the agency described global trade and investment as waning and depicted the world as perhaps one shock away from a serious downturn. The epicenter of the economic turmoil remains the euro zone, where political leaders have not committed the money needed to prop up weakened governments and banks, thereby threatening to create a cycle of "self-perpetuating pessimism" that could undermine the recovery, the IMF said.

Whether the trigger is a government default in Greece, a bank failure or some other traumatic event, "the world could be plunged into another recession," said Olivier Blanchard, the IMF's economic counselor. "The world recovery, which was weak in the first place, is in danger of stalling."

The agency's latest forecasts suggest that the process may be underway. Projected worldwide economic growth for 2012 was trimmed to 3.25 percent from the 4 percent rate projected in September. China and India, which have become major engines of global growth, are predicted to cool to around 8.2 percent and 7 percent, respectively. The IMF projects that the euro zone will fall into recession and contract by about 0.5 percent this year.

IMF CONTINUED ON A16

IN THE NEWS



JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

Record results Apple's quarterly profit soared 118 percent on holiday sales of the iPhone.

The tech company sold 37 million of the smartphones during the period. **A15**

No brig time A Marine sergeant who led a squad that killed 24 unarmed Iraqis will spend no time in confinement. **A2**

THE ECONOMY Japan recorded its first trade deficit in more than three decades, startling for a country whose best-known companies, such as Toyota and Sony, rely on overseas sales. **A15**
C. Fred Bergsten is stepping down as head of the Peterson Institute for International Economics. **A16**

THE WORLD Violence escalated in Iraq as gunmen killed a police captain and his family and car bombs targeted day laborers, government workers

and students. **A14**
Egypt's ruling general announced the partial lifting of an emergency law on the eve of the first anniversary of the start of the country's revolt. **A13**
Salman Rushdie was prevented from speaking via video link to a literature festival audience in India after the organizer received a death threat. **A12**

THE REGION The no-camping law at McPherson Square will be enforced "very soon" on the protesters occupying the area, the

National Park Service said. **A19**

Unemployment levels in December continued to fall in the District and Maryland but remained steady in Virginia. **A16**
A Virginia lawmaker proposed selling marijuana in state-owned liquor stores. **B1**

THE NATION A senior CIA analyst resigned amid reports that she was pressured to quit after her husband was charged with leaking classified information to the media. **A3**
In secretly made tape recordings, President John F. Kennedy is heard saying Nov. 25 was shaping up to be a

"tough day." It turned out to be the date of his funeral. **A3**

Mourners stood for hours in a long line on the Penn State campus to file past the closed casket of fired coach Joe Paterno. **D3**

DEATHS John F. Baker Jr. was awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War for rescuing ambushed soldiers and leading a daring counterassault. **B7**

SPORTS The Wizards fired Coach Flip Saunders after a 2-15 start, replacing him with assistant Randy Wittman. **D1**

INSIDE



FOOD **Sushi: A lost art?** How a confluence of trends is making the real thing harder to find. **E1**

THE REGION **Buses over rail** The Montgomery council switches to a cheaper plan for I-270 transit. **B1**

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OPINION PAGES.....A20
KIDSPOT.....C10
LOTTERIES.....B3
OBITUARIES.....B6
TELEVISION.....C5

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