

Google Chrome will block the Tab-Under behavior used to display ads, directing users to other websites

Tab-Under behavior is often abused to display ads, directing users to other sites that will be blocked by Chrome next month.

Tab-Under is the behavior when the user scrolls the page or clicks on the page but a copy of the current page opens on another tab and displays the ad or a new web page on the page the user originally read.

This is a demo page created by Google engineers to describe how Tab Under works. https://cr.kungfoo.net/popups/tab_under/

Tab-Under misuse displays ads, directing users to another page

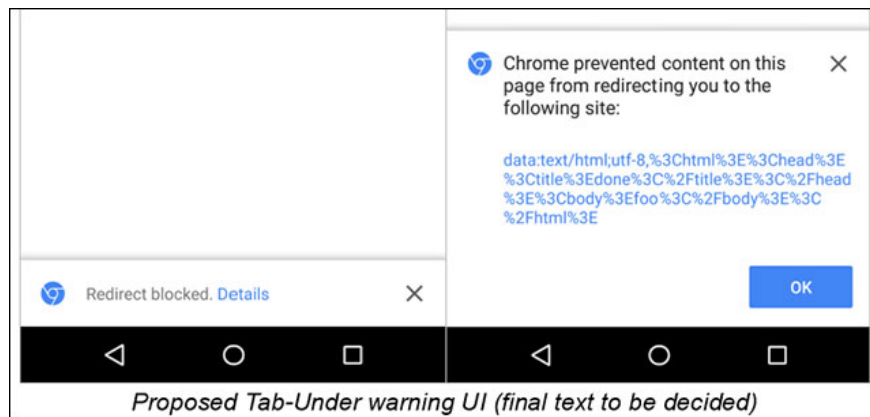
Many website owners and advertisers abuse Tab-Under to display ads and forward users to sites they don't want, just to advertise or get a forwarding fee.

The collected Google data shows that a large number of original pages (now showing ads or other websites) never interact, meaning they are purely for spam users.

Google engineers were frustrated by this and are looking for ways to fix the problem in November.

Chrome will block and alert when it detects Tab-Under

Today, Google publishes documents showing three ways they are considering using to handle this issue. The first two ways use the framework to detect security code and display alerts within the page. The warning will look like the image below.



Chrome warning when switching users to another page

The difference is the first way to warn on the original page, before creating a new tab, and in the second way, Chrome closes the tab immediately and displays a warning on the new page.

The engineers are more interested in the first way because the second way is to allow the creation of a new tab and not to keep the history of opening the old tab, not using the Back button to return.

The third option is to improve the existing pop-up blocker and support Tab-Under.

Chrome Canary will block the first Tab-Under

Documented 'Intent to Implement' means that it will soon be available for developers. According to Charles Harrison engineer, Tab-Under blocking feature will support over 5 Blink platforms: Windows, Mac, Linux, Chrome OS and Android, while Android WebView does not.

When launched, it will be available in Chrome Canary under **chrome: // flags**. There is currently no information about the version of Chrome that will have this feature for initial testing.

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