

How did Facebook cover-up the awkward Whatsapp Leak in Google Search?

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Hi all,

I am glad to know many are following this story and my thanks to all for them. It is my responsibility to let you know what's going on for transparency and how did Facebook cover up the awkward WhatsApp leak?

The Cover-up

As you know the Whatsapp Leak in Google search is fixed but silently. Whatsapp did not admit there was a leak in Google search and as per reputed news sources they had blamed on its users for making the links public.

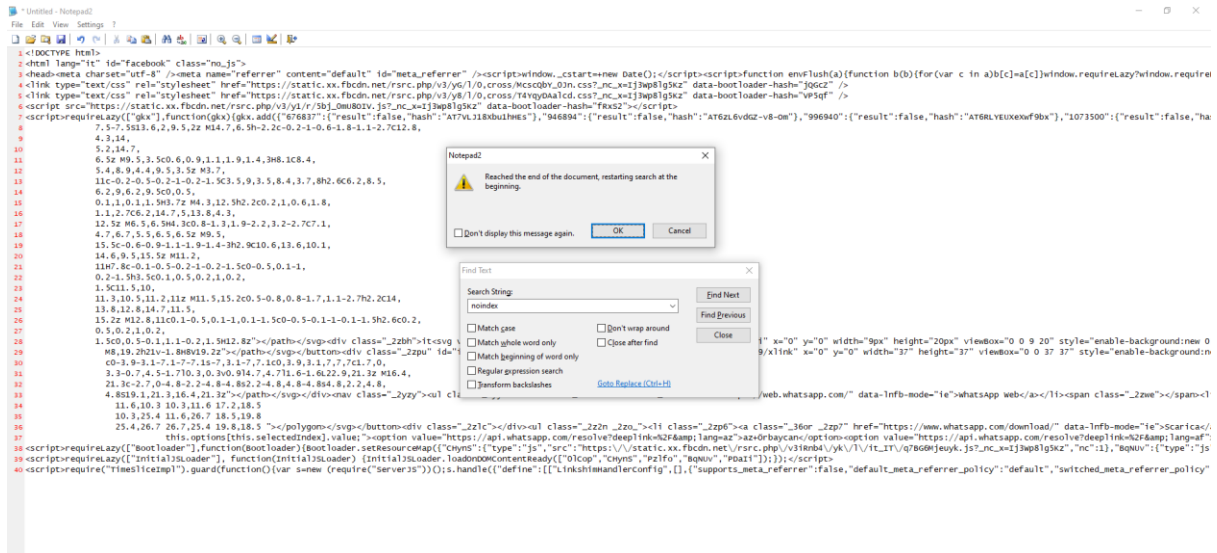
Well, some of those users had told me they never shared their WhatsApp number on the internet nor made their link public. So I believe Whatsapp is trying to cover up.

Also, I have observed a few biased media sites were trying to make this issue as something not to worry about. Biased media are often sold to the highest buyers and favor them. Biased media do not support privacy.

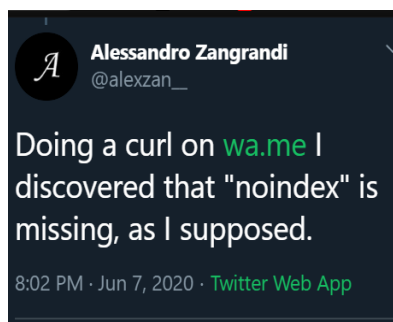
The Problem

Pages in the wa.me and api.whatsapp.com domain were indexed by Google because there was nothing in the source code to prevent this. Therefore, the plaintext Whatsapp mobile numbers ended up appearing in the search.

wa.me pages did not have the “noindex” tag in the page's HTML code, which blocks indexing by search engines.



Some developers had also confirmed with me that the noindex tag is missing



The technical fix

Whatsapp fixed the issue by asking Google for the removal of all links containing mobile numbers as much as 400000 links containing non-encrypted phone numbers for wa.me and api.whatsapp.com combined. WhatsApp decided to include the noindex tag in the last few hours before the issue was resolved.

It is also independently verified by Brazilian media Tecnoblog <https://tecnoblog.net/344441/whatsapp-expoe-numeros-de-celular-no-google-pede-remocao/>

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de 180 pa&#xed;ses utilizam o WhatsApp para conversar com amigos e familiares, onde e quando quiserem. O Wh  
oferece capacidades de mensagem e chamada simples, seguras e fi&#xcl;veis em telem&#xf3;veis em qualquer pa  
property="description" content="WhatsApp Messenger: mais de 2 mil milh&#xf5;es de pessoas em mais de 180 pa  
WhatsApp para conversar com amigos e familiares, onde e quando quiserem. O WhatsApp &#xe9; gratuito e ofere  
e chamada simples, seguras e fi&#xcl;veis em telem&#xf3;veis em qualquer parte do mundo." /><meta name="app  
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href="https://static.xx.fbcdn.net/rsrc.php/v3/yV/l/0,cross/NI8b1Hs6slu.css?_nc_x=Ij3Wp8lg5Kz" data-bootload  
crossorigin="anonymous" />  
4 <link type="text/css" rel="stylesheet" href="https://static.xx.fbcdn.net/rsrc.php/v3/yG/l/0,cross/Dhj2DnI30  
data-bootloader-hash="jQGcZ" crossorigin="anonymous" />  
5 <link type="text/css" rel="stylesheet" href="https://static.xx.fbcdn.net/rsrc.php/v3/yC/l/0,cross/icyPYXqrR  
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6 <link type="text/css" rel="stylesheet" href="https://static.xx.fbcdn.net/rsrc.php/v3/yq/l/0,cross/E91FNann4  
data-bootloader-hash="tAwS3" crossorigin="anonymous" />
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The reactions

I had checked many reputed news websites to see how people react to this.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-8407821/WhatsApp-resolves-issue-causing-users-phone-numbers-Google-search-results.html>







tiffortat007, Nowhere, United States, 21 hours ago

What next? Our private calls leaked on internet and then Whatsapp fixes the issue when everything has spilled?

New Comment Reply     Rated  10 

degr57, Dresden, United States, 15 hours ago

Ended up deleting all connections to WhatsApp from our websites and tightening security

New Comment Reply     Rated  3 

london is my city, England Is My City, United Kingdom, 8 hours ago

You cannot make this up can you... its a "glitch" need to be sued

New Comment Reply     Rated  2 

Interesting poll


<https://www.thesun.co.uk/tech/11812568/whatsapp-click-to-chat-phone-number-google-appearing-delete-how/>


And the majority says NO

QUICK POLL Do you trust WhatsApp to keep your info private?



And the twitter

 **SRN** @SmrutiRNayak · Jun 10
#Savemyidentity
Sorry but I don't my personal details being accessed by every individual. It's my identity and it's my choice. A simple search giving out my details is not justified.
[@otvnews](#) [@Google](#) [@Facebook](#) [@athuljayaram](#) [@WhatsApp](#)

 **Nandan mahato** @nandanmahato64 · Jun 10
thanks to this type of honest person who secure our data with there hard work, knowledge and researchthanku sir [#athuljayaram](#)
[#bug](#)
[#whatsapp](#)



Stephen Bradley @stephenbbb · Jun 8

Replying to @Techworm_in
Time to switch to Telegram..



Amit Bhawani @amitbhawani · Jun 7

Replying to @tejas_shekar @WhatsApp and @phoneradarblog
Shared what's publicly available, this is probably kept public by WhatsApp for some reasons that they can clear.

Deleting this post will lead to them never knowing the problem if it is.

Someone has to speak up!



Jackie hinduja @jackie_hinduja · Jun 7

Replying to @amitbhawani @WhatsApp and @phoneradarblog
That's one way how people add you to spammy groups without even you knowing anyone in there.



Sayan Acharjee @SayanAcharjee18 · Jun 7

Replying to @amitbhawani @WhatsApp and @phoneradarblog
This is ridiculous ..
That's the reason we get so many of scam calls 😡



Siddharth Shreekumar @SiddharthShree4 · Jun 7

Replying to @SiddharthShree4 @amitbhawani and 2 others
In this i got personal whatsapp no.



Aniket Waghmare @Aniketw1551 · Jun 7

Replying to @amitbhawani @WhatsApp and @phoneradarblog

🤔🤔 our no are available for sale . That's why many peoples including me got message from unknown number on whatsapp like you have won lottery, cash etc . This should be fixed ASAP.

 <https://wa.me> > ...

Message +91 [REDACTED] on
WhatsApp

Message +91 [REDACTED] on WhatsApp.
Message. Looks like you don't have WhatsApp
installed! Download. WhatsApp. Features ·
Security ...

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