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## Google Lite: DuckDuckGo Signs Secret Deal with Bill Gates to Track Users Online - News Punch

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**DuckDuckGo has been caught colluding with Bill Gates to tracks users online while misleadingly promoting itself as an advocate of privacy and free speech.**



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According to a security researcher, DuckDuckGo (DDG) secretly whitelists Microsoft's trackers as part of a deal with the Big Tech giant.



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DDG has made a name for itself as a privacy-first pro-free speech company. However, earlier this year its CEO Gabriel Weinberg [announced](#) that the search engine will begin purging all independent media outlets from the platform and will replace them with “trusted” mainstream media outlets instead.

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This unsettled many users who had trusted DDG to behave more ethically than the likes of Google.

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[Webpronews.com](#) reports: Unlike Google, Bing, or Brave, DDG gets its search results from other engines, with the bulk of them coming from Bing. The company has long claimed to strip out any trackers from the search results it provides, although clicking an ad from Microsoft in the search results is an [exception](#) to that policy. DDG has never made a secret of the fact that clicking on those ads sends a user's IP address to Microsoft. Unfortunately, DDG hasn't fully disclosed the terms of its deal, or just how much information it shares with Microsoft.

Security researcher Zach Edwards first made the discovery and tweeted about it:

Ironically, DDG doesn't even block Microsoft's data trackers on Workplace.com, a Facebook-owned domain that it brags about blocking Facebook's trackers on.

Needless to say, DDG CEO Gabriel Weinberg is doing his best to put out the fire:

Of course, Weinberg might not have to put out so big a fire if his company had disclosed this issue first, rather than waiting until it was uncovered by a security researcher.

In the meantime, Shivan Kaul Sahib, Privacy Engineer for Brave, highlighted the inherent conflict of interest for a company that relies on the good graces of another company making money off of ad trackers.

Speaking of Brave, the company is one of the only ones on the market that provides a truly independent alternative to Google and Bing. The company bought Tailcat, allowing it to build its own search engine that relies on a completely independent web index. This keeps Brave from being beholden to Microsoft, Google, or any other company.

With a privacy-focused browser and a truly independent search engine, Brave is quickly establishing itself as a much better privacy solution than DDG.

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