

HIPAA compliance alert: Avoid breaches from online trackers on health websites

Wednesday, 20 August

09:00-10:00 PDT

12:00-13:00 EDT

18:00-19:00 CEST







Meet The Panelists



Jason Frame
Chief Information Officer (CIO)
Southern Nevada Health District





Jim Buda Senior Manager Insight Insurance





Ivan Tsarynny CEO / Co-Founder Feroot Security





Today's Agenda



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Welcome & Introductions

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How Healthcare Websites Leak Data

a. What actually happens under the hood?

02

Snapshot: PHI & Health-Related Incidents in 2025 and 2024

05

Live Review Of Website With Real Issues

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Lessons from the Trenches: Practical Playbook

- a. CISO's perspective Practical Experience
- b. The Assessor's perspective Before, During and After





What is the Percentage of Websites that use Online Tracking Technologies (OTT) such as advertising, analytics and social media tracking pixels?

- 0-20%
- 21-50%
- 51-90%
- 91-100%





95%

of healthcare websites use Online Tracking Technologies (OTT) such as advertising, analytics, customer service, social media tracking pixels.



Feroot's Healthcare Report

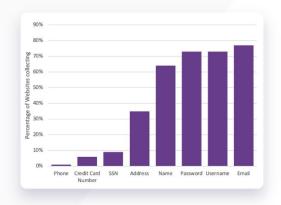


Click Here for the full 2024 report



Patient Information Collection on Unauthenticated Public Webpages

This section is focused on the most collected data assets and the percentage of websites that are gathering them. We're examining how the extensive collection of various data types is to help gauge potential risks and likelihood of risks. The graph below shows how extensive is the collection of user data entered by patients. The table below shows the associated likelihoods of data being collected. Taken together the risk of impermissible disclosures is real.



Description	Percentage of Websites collecting it	Percentage of tota data collected
Email	77%	30%
Username	73%	11%
Password	73%	11%
Name	64%	23%
Phone	57%	14%
Address	35%	8%
SSN	9%	2%
Credit Card Number	6%	1%

All attendees today will be pre-registered to receive the 2025 Annual Healthcare Report upon release.



Welcome & Introductions





Jason Frame CIO Southern Nevada Health District







- CIO, Southern Nevada Health District advancing
 IT strategy, innovation, and public health outcomes.
- Challenge limited visibility into online tracking technologies and organizational risk exposure.
- Solution partnered with Feroot in a proof of concept, delivering full visibility and enhanced security posture.



01 Welcome & Introductions





Jim Buda CISSP, CPA IT Risk and Compliance Insight Insurance



- Senior Manager, Insight Assurance delivering strategic audit leadership across highly regulated industries.
- Expertise 12+ years of experience leading engagements across SOX, SOC, HIPAA/HITRUST, and privacy frameworks.
- Focus part of Insight Assurance's 3-step review model, ensuring consistency, quality, and actionable guidance.



Ivan Tsarynny

CEO / Co-Founder Feroot Security

feroot

01

Welcome & Introductions



Featured on:





Feroot AI found code in DeepSeek's web login page that directly connected it to China Mobile, a company designated as a Chinese military company.



CNBC News



CSPAN @cspan · 1h

.@ivan_tsarynny, CEO of Feroot cybersecurity, testifies @USCC_GOV on the cyber risks of TikTok. He says ByteDance, the parent company of TikTok, uses technology that collects large amounts of U.S. users' data--even from people who have never used TikTok.



Researchers link DeepSeek's blockbuster chatbot to Chinese telecom banned from doing business in US

Hi. I'm DeepSeek

Hi. I'm DeepSeek

How can I help you today?

The smartphone app DeepSeek page is seen on a smartphone screen in Beijing, Jan. 28, 2025. (AP Photo/Andy Wong, File)

The Associated Press

Relevant publications:

- Feroot on New York Times
- Feroot on Forbes
- Feroot on Fortune
- Feroot on ABC Good
 Morning America

- Feroot at US Congress
- Feroot on Wall Street Journal
- Feroot on Associated Press
- Feroot on CNBC
- Feroot on ABC News
- Feroot on Bloomberg





Snapshot: PHI & OTT related Incidents in 2025 and 2024



2025 Highlights

Organization	Amount	TLDR
Aspen Dental Management	<u>\$18.5m</u>	Tracking tools: Meta Pixel, Google Analytics
BJC HealthCare	<u>Up to \$9.25m</u>	Tracking tools: Meta Pixel, Google Analytics
Eisenhower Medical Center	\$875,000	Meta Pixel shared health data during website searches and interactions.
Group Health Plan (HealthPartners)	<u>\$6m</u>	Pixel violations on websites disclosing PHI.
Loyola University Medical Center	<u>\$2.67m</u>	Pixel tracking on websites shared PHI.
Mount Nittany Health	<u>\$1.8m</u>	Privacy violations via pixels.
University of Rochester Medical Center	<u>\$2.85m</u>	Meta Pixel on website and MyChart portal.
WakeMed Health & Hospitals	<u>\$2.45m</u>	Meta Pixel on MyChart and websites.
Flo Health (vs. Meta)	<u>Damages</u> <u>pending</u>	Meta collected women's health data via app integration.
Blue Shield of California	Class action filed	Certain member data shared with Google's advertising product.

2024 Highlights

Organization	Amount	TLDR
DaVita Inc.	\$3.8m (Corrected info and link)	Pixels on patient portals shared dialysis patients' data.
GoodRx	<u>\$25m</u>	OTT disclosure of sensitive health data without consent.
Cerebral (Telehealth)	<u>\$7m</u>	FTC's "first-of-its-kind" ban on using health data for ads
Mount Nittany Health	<u>\$1.8m</u>	Meta Pixel tracked patients' visits without authorization.
Palm Beach Health Network	Lawsuit pending	Meta Pixel collected searches made by patients, appointment details and more
Monument (Alcohol Treatment)	<u>\$2.5m</u>	Addiction treatment data shared with tracking pixels.
Kaiser Permanente	Pending lawsuits	13.4M patients' search terms and other data exposed to Tracking pixels
VillageMD	Lawsuit filed	Online tracking tools collected patient data without proper consent.
Henry Ford Health	<u>\$12.2m</u>	Meta Pixel tracked MyChart portal users from 2020-2023.
University of Rochester Medical Center	<u>\$2.85m</u>	Use of tracking technology on its website and MyChart patient portal.



What are the Rules?



Webpages subject to HIPAA rules

User-authenticated web pages: Ensure that online tracking technologies are used in compliance with the HIPAA Privacy Rule and are secured in accordance with the HIPAA Security Rule.

Unauthenticated webpages: that permit individuals to schedule appointments, use a symptom-checker tool, or log in to patient portal web pages must use online tracking technologies in compliance with the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

Establish a Business Associate Agreement (BAA)*

for each online tracking technology (business associates) that create, receive, maintain, or transmit PHI.

Business Associate Agreement: outlines the business associate's responsibilities for protecting PHI and complying with HIPAA's Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules.

Collect individuals' authorization

for any disclosure of PHI to the vendor without BAA in place.

HHS Guidance – Use of Online
Tracking Technologies by HIPAA
Covered Entities





How Healthcare Websites Leak Data



Short answer:

Marketing

Longer answer:











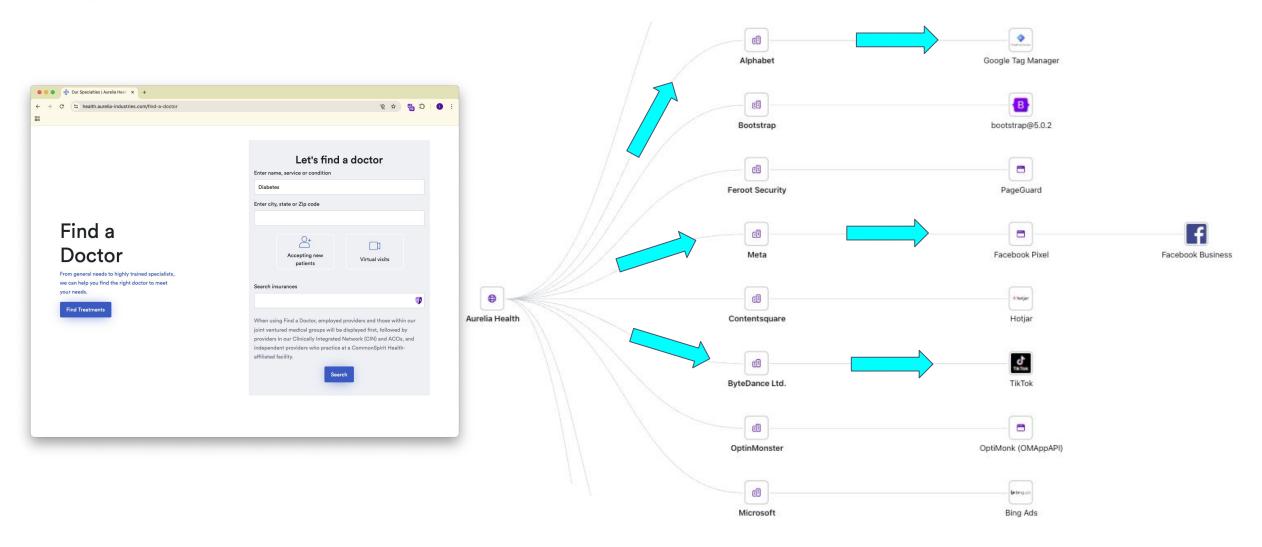
The Long Answer:

95% of Healthcare websites use various marketing tracking technologies such as tracking pixels, analytics scripts and tags embedded in their websites which often inadvertently collect and transfer PHI, PII and other sensitive information data to third-party vendors.



How Healthcare Websites Leak Data









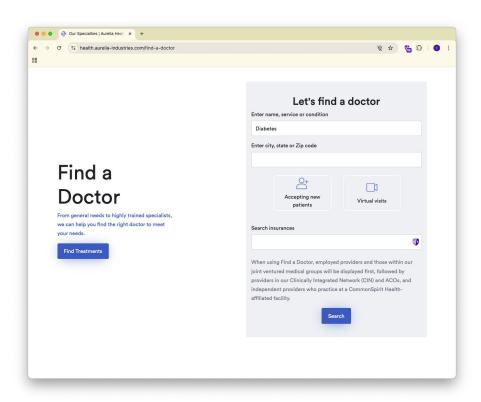
Can you show it in the real world?





How Healthcare Websites Leak Data



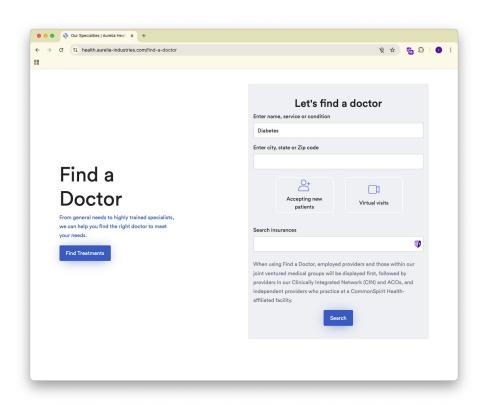






How Healthcare Websites Leak Data





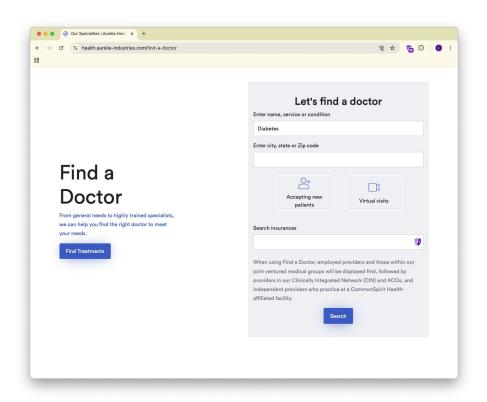
What percentage of websites with user login/registration pages have OTTs actively reading what user are entering?

- 31-50%
- 16-30%
- 6-15%
- O-5%



How Healthcare Websites Leak Data





39%

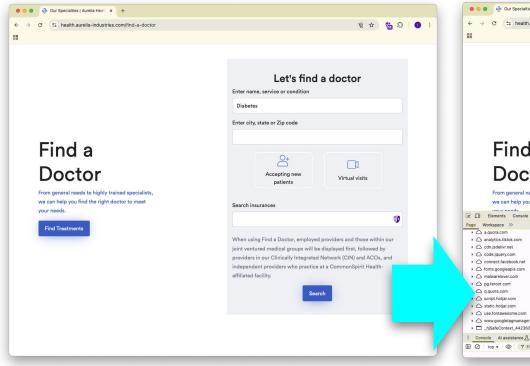
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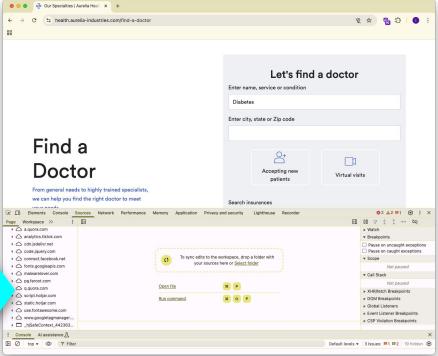


How Healthcare Websites Leak Data



What Actually Happens Under the Hood?



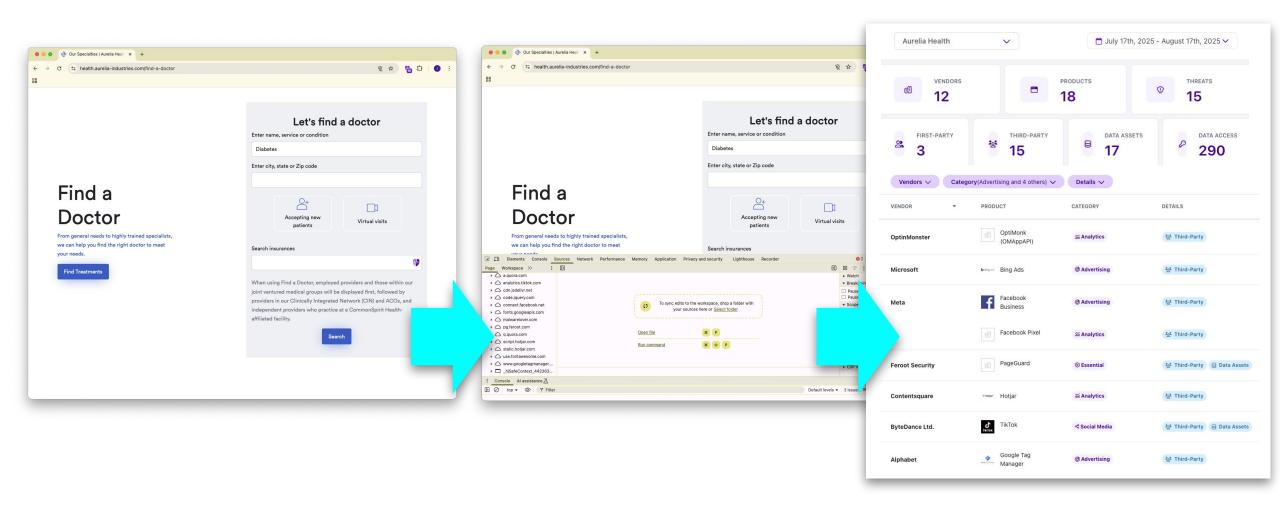




How Healthcare Websites Leak Data



What Actually Happens Under the Hood?

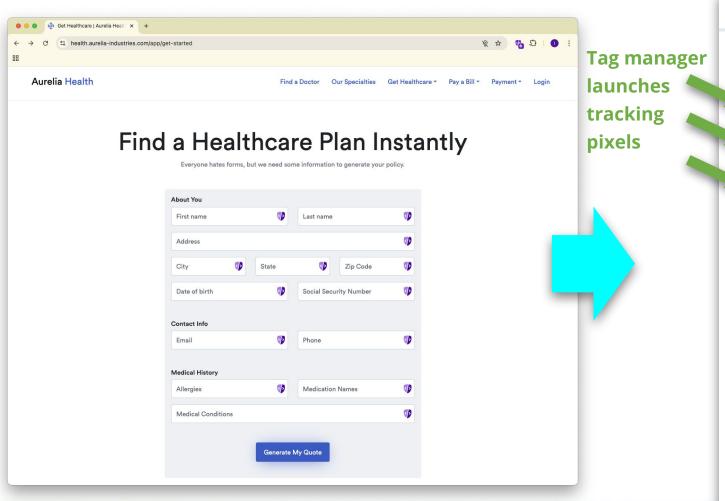


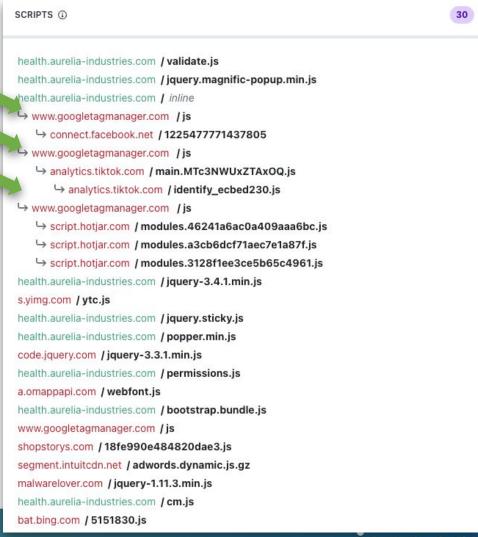


Live Review of Website with Issues



How do Tracking Technologies get "in"?



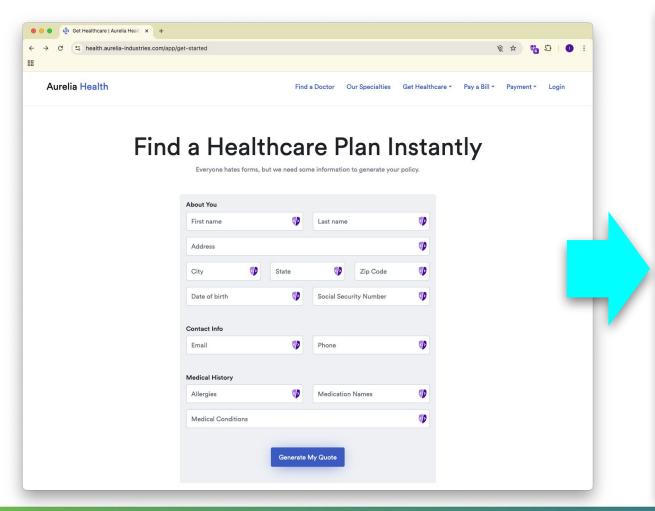


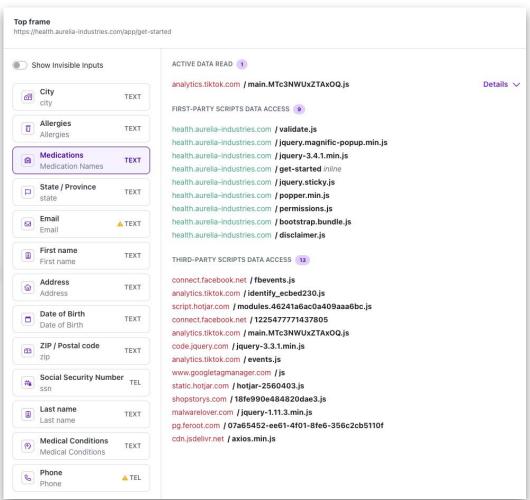


Live Review of Website with Issues



Once Tracking Technologies are "in", what can they do?



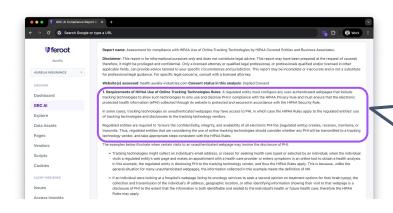




Live Review of Website with Issues



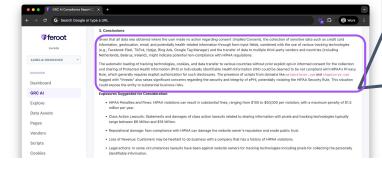
Once Tracking Technologies are "in", what can they do?



1. Requirements of HIPAA Use of Online Tracking Technologies Rules: A regulated entity must configure any user-authenticated webpages that include tracking technologies to allow such technologies to only use and disclose PHI in compliance with the HIPAA Privacy Rule and must ensure that the electronic protected health information (ePHI) collected through its website is protected and secured in accordance with the HIPAA Security Rule.

in some cases, tracking technologies on unauthenticated webpages may have access to PHI, in which case the HIPAA Rules apply to the regulated entities' use of tracking technologies and disclosures to the tracking technology vendors.

Regulated entities are required to "ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of all electronic PHI the [regulated entity] creates, receives, maintains, or transmits. Thus, regulated entities that are considering the use of online tracking technologies should consider whether any PHI will be transmitted to a tracking technology vendor, and take appropriate steps consistent with the HIPAA Rules.



Given that all data was obtained where the user made no action regarding consent (Implied Consent), the collection of sensitive data such as credit card information, geolocation, email, and potentially health-related information through form input fields, combined with the use of various tracking technologies (e.g., Facebook Pixel, TikTok, Hotjar, Bing Ads, Google Tag Manager) and the transfer of data to multiple third-party vendors and countries (including Netherlands, Belarus, Ireland), might indicate potential non-compliance with HIPAA regulations.

The automatic loading of tracking technologies, cookies, and data transfer to various countries without prior explicit opt-in informed consent for the collection and sharing of Protected Health Information (PHI) or Individually Identifiable Health Information (IIHI) could be deemed to be not compliant with HIPAA's Privacy Rule, which generally requires explicit authorization for such disclosures. The presence of scripts from domains like malwarelover.com and shopstorys.com flagged with "threats" also raises significant concerns regarding the security and integrity of ePHI, potentially violating the HIPAA Security Rule. This situation could expose the entity to substantial business risks.





You can't manage what you don't measure





How many OTTs (trackers) are present on average on a healthcare provider's website?

- O-2
- 3-5
- 6-8
- 9-10





OTTs (trackers) are present on average on a healthcare provider's website



Lessons from the Trenches: Playbook



1. **Identify** all webpages subject to HIPAA (and other applicable privacy laws).

2. **Discover** all online tracking technologies OTT's on each webpage subject to HIPAA.

3. Enter into a Business Associate Agreement (BAA) for each tracking technology, product, or vendor thatcreates, receives, maintains, or transmits PHI, or obtain individuals' consent when required.

4. Prevent:

- a) Loading of unauthorized vendors, products, and tracking technologies on webpages subject to HIPAA.
- b) Unauthorized access to PHI and other sensitive information.







Click Here for a Free Assessment of OTT Usage on Your Websites







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