ISC Small Technology Project:
Tor Browser for Android: Mobile "Security Slider" and Community Usability

Milestone 1 - Completion of the Alpha release of Security Slider configuration component.

September

- We Reviewed Tor Browser "Tor Button" code including Security Slider. Documentation of our findings can be found at the ticket #9387.¹
- During Tor Meeting in Seattle² (end of September) we discussed how to port and improve the user experience of the Security Slider into the mobile experience. Based on hand drawings that came out from these sessions, we created our first wireframes at our open hacking days.³

¹ [https://trac.torproject.org/projects/tor/ticket/9387](https://trac.torproject.org/projects/tor/ticket/9387)
² [https://trac.torproject.org/projects/tor/wiki/org/meetings/2016SummerMeeting](https://trac.torproject.org/projects/tor/wiki/org/meetings/2016SummerMeeting)
³ [https://twitter.com/torproject/status/771465958116433920](https://twitter.com/torproject/status/771465958116433920)
October

Most of October we spent onboarding new members to the team and also working on defining the final user experience.⁴

Our UX team documented the process in our wiki,⁵ including a screenshot of the wireframes with the final experience:

As part of the UX analysis, we changed the name and the number of options for the levels in the Security Slider. Levels are now summarized from 4 to 3, which is more consistent with how people generally think of scales (in contrast to S,M,L or Low, Median, High, as in the original copy). We also worked on level descriptions, as illustrated below. This effort involved all stakeholders, including UX team members, engineers, and contributors from Tor Community team. The Tor Community team leads our efforts with user support, localization, and outreach materials and is in direct contact with our users.

⁴ https://trac.torproject.org/projects/tor/ticket/20291
Safer and Safest level descriptions.

Privacy Settings
- Don’t record browsing history or website data
- Disable browser plugins (e.g. Flash)
- Restrict 3rd party cookies and other tracking data
- Distinguish me from other Tor Browser users

Security Settings
- Standard
- Safer
- Safest

Disables website features that are often dangerous, causing some sites to lose functionality.

At this safer setting:
- Javascript is disabled on non-HTTPS sites.
- Some fonts and math symbols are disabled.

At the Safest level setting:
- Javascript is disabled by default on all sites.
- Some fonts, icons, math symbols and images are disabled.
- Audio and video (HTML5 media) are tap-to-play.

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November

We start developing the user experience. We put together the front-end code for the user interface and plan to start connecting it with the backend.

A video preview of user experience with the mobile Security Slider is available at https://formble.nl/fo89tlsBifvaZxoT/slider-preview-video-2.mp4.

The screen capture, below, also illustrates several aspects of the interaction.

At this time, we expect to release our alpha version by a revised date of December 23, following on with a stable release that can be used for user testing by January 27.

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6 https://trac.torproject.org/projects/tor/ticket/20815

Screenshot of mobile Security Slider interface, from development environment.
December

Completed the implementation (front-end connected with a functional back-end) of the security slider and prepared the alpha release release:

https://github.com/amoghbl1/orfox-addons/blob/c2dad4231077c82e80829610a68f8dac37471652/tor-browser-settings@torproject.org-1.0.0.xpi?raw=true

All development activity can be followed here:
https://git.synz.io/synzvato/tor-browser-settings/activity

And the pull request has been merged to the guardian project master repo:
https://github.com/guardianproject/orfox-addons/pull/1

The release is named Orfox 1.3 alpha 1 and will be available also in the link below, as soon as Guardian Project team updates the page:
https://github.com/guardianproject/orfox/releases

We also selected India and Brazil as the countries where we will perform user testing. We will also do testings with a group in based in the United States. We are looking to partner with immigrants and human rights activists to test our UI.

In January as we finish polishing the implementation, fix any bugs found on Q&A. We will also prepare all documentation and guide for the user testing sessions which we are scheduling to happen in February.