

How to keep your Internet searches private

If you are at all disturbed by recent revelations about the scandalous US Internet spying programme PRISM you may want to know how you can keep your Internet searches private. Fortunately there are Internet search engines that you can trust.

First of all there is the oddly named **DuckDuckGo** <https://duckduckgo.com> The company name originates from the children's game duck, duck, goose.

DuckDuckGo is an Internet search engine that uses information from many sources, such as Wikipedia and from partnerships with other search engines like Yandex, Yahoo!, Bing and WolframAlpha to obtain its results. The search engine policy says that it protects privacy, and does not record user information. However the company is based in Paoli, Pennsylvania, USA, so there is still the worrying thought that in time the US National Security Agency, NSA, may force the company to fall in line.

Consequently where possible to use **StartPage**, <https://startpage.com>, as your search provider, as they are based in Europe.

StartPage and its sister search engine **Ixquick**, were launched to staunchly defend their users' privacy and civil liberties. The services have never provided user data to the U.S. government or to any other government. The two search engines were merged into one in March 2016.

Oscobo, <https://www.oscobo.co.uk>, a UK based private search engine has been launched recently, which they claim will NOT store or mess around with your personal data.

So where does the name Oscobo come from? On <https://www.oscobo.co.uk/about.php> they state:

Like all the best companies, we've taken some creative license with the name. "Scobo" in Latin means "to look into", "to probe" or "to discover". The letter "O" in Swedish, means "not" or "non". So, Oscobo, to us, means "not to probe, not to track".

Find out more on a Computer Friendly course:

- **Google and Searching on the Internet**
- **Security for PCs** to find out and how to stay safe on the internet

For more information visit <http://www.computerfriendlystalbans.org.uk/gmfyc-details.html>.