

All.Net Analyst Report and Newsletter

Welcome to our Analyst Report and Newsletter

Asking too much

I have had enough of applications asking my permission for more than they need. LinkedIn is a prime example of the deceptive ask, and they have been trying it for year. Now they are complaining that others are pulling their data via their APIs and interfaces. I have a few choice words for them:

Least privilege

The principal of least privilege. Only give the permissions absolutely required for the actual desired task. The thing is, they probably actually do that. They ask for the permissions they need to do the things they want to do. But that's not the thing they are asking to do in their claims, and not the thing I want them to be able to do. Perhaps its granularity of control that is lacking in the other interface APIs, but I don't think so. I don't really mean to pick on LinkedIn. They deserve it of course, especially because they are complaining about others doing to them what they are doing to others and long have been. But this applies to all of the providers sucking in information they don't need to do the thing they are offering in order to do something else that they are not revealing and for their financial advantage. There is a word...

Fraud - theft by deception

They say, in effect, we would like to have access to your contact list so we can email for you or invite those you know to connect to you. Great! Have at it – read only – for this one time. But the actual permission they ask includes **managing my contacts and access to my profile** and read access to my contacts. And of course, they get it or I don't get their service. If they want to buy my contact list in exchange for services or fees, they are welcome to offer. But “manage” is a different matter and way way out of bounds.

Permission or deception

Here's my perspective. My response should include two options for each thing they ask for; permission or deception.

- If I choose permission, they can have at it.
- Otherwise, **the default is deception.**

That's right, if they demand something not needed from my perspective in order to get the job done, the response should be that they get lies – realistic and automatically generated by the service provider, or at my option, I can provide my own. All of the phone numbers for my contacts will be for a fee per call number that pays me \$100 every time they call it – it will play a recording telling them not to try to get information they don't need to do the thing they told me they were doing – and thanks for the \$100 – please please call again!

Conclusions

I am tired of being lied to by companies trying to trick me and everyone else into permission they don't need for the claimed purpose. Tell us the truth or be subject to lies in return. And I think that service providers should provide this as the default service. **A lie for a lie!**