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Residential Proxies

Oxylabs Residential Proxy Pool Handbook

Guide to Procurement Processes and Policies

Introduction to Residential Proxy sourcing

This whitepaper came as a result of company-wide transparency policies aimed at shedding light on Oxylabs Residential Proxy infrastructure, namely the procurement process.

> " Oxylabs, as a strong advocate of ethical business practices, operates strictly within the capacities of an established legitimate proxy pool. Strict standards of ethics and transparency are at the core of all our business operations, and we make sure that they are clearly reflected on the requirements for our suppliers. It is my strong belief that this path which we are consciously choosing every day is one of the key reasons behind Oxylabs success.
>
> Julius Černiauskas CEO at Oxylabs

Table of contents

Importance of ethical Residential Proxy sourcing

Out of all the proxy types, residential proxies stand out as the most sensitive to the mistreatment and violations of ethics. We procure our proxies from various sources, ensuring the highest standards of ethics, transparency, and compliance.

Oxylabs respects the rights of each participant in our Residential Proxy network, a commitment reflected in our internal procurement policies. This dedication is reflected in our ethical procurement practices, which ensure that all Residential Proxies we source come from these trusted channels:

Physical user devices*

Fully informed and consenting individuals voluntarily join residential proxy networks in exchange for financial compensation or other rewards. By participating, they agree to allow a portion of their device's internet traffic and hardware resources to support various business cases.

Internet Service Providers (ISP)

It is considered to be a less ethically-sensitive alternative to residential proxy acquisition because ISP residential proxies do not require the end-user participation. These proxies are created when the internet traffic is routed through the ISP network.

*Oxylabs manages the Residential Proxy sourcing process and applies the highest ethical standards and transparency throughout the process, ensuring that only fully informed and consenting individuals participate in our Residential Proxy networks.

Oxylabs' standards for Residential Proxy acquisition

Oxylabs has established a grading system for all non-ISP residential proxy acquisition practices prevalent in the industry. These categories are defined by user-centric values which include user consent, user awareness, information clarity, and user reward.

Tier		Description	Result
Tier A+	✓ Financial reward ✓ Clear information ✓ User awareness ✓ User consent	A platform/app rewards in the monetary value end-users in exchange for participation in the residential proxy network	End-users are fully aware, consenting and financially compensated for participation
Tier A	✗ Financial reward ✓ Clear information ✓ User awareness ✓ User consent	A platform/app clearly informs and asks permission to include the end user in the residential proxy network	End-users are fully aware and consent using their device as an exit node
Tier B	✗ Financial reward ✗ Clear information ✗ User awareness ✓ User consent	A platform/app has hidden functions and misleading or confusing consent forms, which turn the end-user into an exit node	End-user's consent is acquired in a manner, which prevents true awareness of the participation in the residential proxy pool
Tier C	✗ Financial reward ✗ Clear information ✗ User awareness ✗ User consent	A malware automatically connects end-users to the residential proxy network	End-users are not consenting and not at all aware of their participation

The Tier A+ and Tier A models rely on cooperation with end-users. Residential proxy acquisition procedures that belong in these categories guarantee that people have granted explicit consent to share their device resources through dedicated applications.

The gray area of acquisition practices begins when companies or developers hide the true intent of such apps or browser extensions by omitting consent forms or concealing the integrated SDKs altogether.

A majority of Oxylabs' proxy network is composed of Tier A+ model proxies. Our remaining portion is sourced through the Tier A model and ISP providers.

A closer look at user-centric categories

Consent

Oxylabs' fair practice model requires acquiring explicit consent from each Residential Proxy network participant.

Oxylabs makes sure that people who choose to employ their unused internet traffic and participate in a proxy network are presented with clear information regarding the participation in the Terms and Conditions section. Intentions to share internet traffic with third parties must also be explicitly and repeatedly stated.

It's important to mention that using a device as a proxy before consent is granted is considered as a violation of Oxylabs' internal policies.

Clear information

Ethical industry practices are impossible to attain without having clearly stated intent. Oxylabs ensures that users always understand that their device will be connected to a Residential Proxy network.

Oxylabs clearly explains how a device will be affected after joining the network. This includes specifying what resources of the device will be utilized and shared with third parties.

User awareness

A genuinely ethical proxy service practice continuously builds user awareness regarding the role their devices play in the proxy network. Oxylabs believes that Residential Proxy network participants should be made aware of how their resources will be utilized, who will have access, and what goal they will serve.

Oxylabs employs an educational approach by informing their end-users through all available channels. For instance, we create social media or blog posts to spread awareness that will lead to better informed proxy network participants.

User financial reward

The tier A+ model operates on the fundamental principles of fairness. For the proxy acquisition operations in Oxylabs, fairness is achieved when every party involved in the data management cycle is financially rewarded.

We have a monetary reward system installed to benefit the end-users that desire to employ their unused internet traffic.

Oxylabs Residential Proxy acquisition procedure

All non-ISP Residential Proxies are acquired according to the same pattern:

Both residential and datacenter proxies provide high anonymity. However, their main differences determine which is more suitable for email protection. Residential Proxies are provided by Internet Service Providers (ISPs), so they are legitimate IP addresses. This is the reason why these proxies are almost unblockable and perfectly fit for other tasks like web scraping, ad verification, review monitoring, and many more. However, compared to Datacenter Proxies in terms of email protection, they are more a secondary choice.
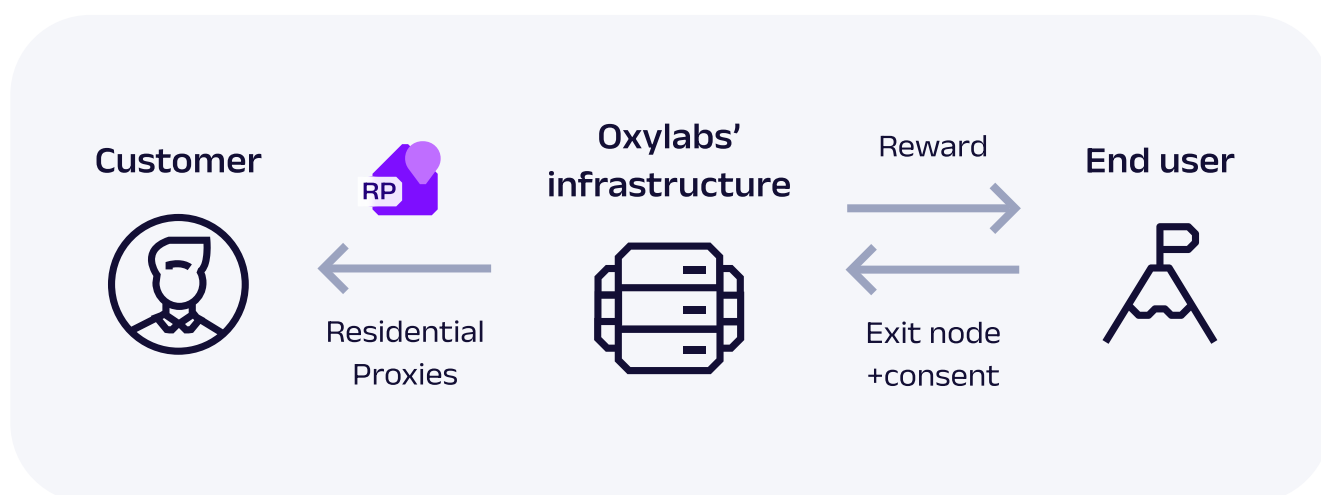
Oxylabs' Residential Proxy management policies

1. User privacy

Oxylabs prioritizes end-user privacy in all proxy operations. The company receives only those data points which are essential for proxy functionality.

2. User care

Oxylabs guarantees that the performance of all actively used devices will remain unaffected.

3. Data modification

When Oxylabs clients send a request, destination servers receive requests exactly as they are sent to us. We do not modify any data as it goes through our machines.

4. Ethical standards

Oxylabs has established strict ethical standards for Residential Proxy acquisition. Our internal procurement process includes strict procedural requirements to ensure end-user awareness, informed consent, and ethical compliance throughout.

Conclusion

Oxylabs' core values are at the foundation of each major business decision. They encompass everything from the way we source our Residential Proxies to the way Oxylabs treats its trusted business partners.

Our company will continue to bring value to both businesses and end-users while at the same time striving to become the most ethical version of itself. Oxylabs pledges to safeguard its policies regarding fairness, transparency and ethics through continuous self-education and implementation of the best industry practices.

The greatest Oxylabs' vision is to see the entire industry evolve towards trust-based sustainable practices for all parties involved, where complete end-user awareness, fairly received consent, and user reward would be a business rule, not an exception.

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Want to Know More?

If you would like to know more about any of the topics mentioned in this white paper or learn about our products, please get in touch! Our team is ready to answer any of your questions and offer you the best solution for your business needs.

✉ **Get in touch with Oxylabs**