function setCookie(cname, cvalue, exdays) {
  const d = new Date();
  d.setTime(d.getTime() + (exdays*24*60*60*1000));
  let expires = "expires=" + d.toUTCString();
  document.cookie = cname + "=" + cvalue + ";" + expires + ";path=/";
}

function getCookie(cname) {
  let name = cname + "=";
  let decodedCookie = decodeURIComponent(document.cookie);
  let ca = decodedCookie.split(';
  for(let i = 0; i < ca.length; i++) {
    c = ca[i];
    while (c.charAt(0) == ' ') {
      c = c.substring(1);
    }
    if (c.indexOf(name) == 0) {
      return c.substring(name.length, c.length);
    }
  }
  return "";
}

function checkCookie() {
  let username = getCookie("username");
  if (username != "" && username != null) {
    alert("Welcome again "+ username);
    if (username != "" && username != null) {
      setCookie("username", username, 365);
    }
  }
}

Target AXJA

Analysis of the management of cookies on the websites of political parties in Spain.
function setCookie(cname, cvalue, exdays) {
  const d = new Date();
  d.setTime(d.getTime() + (exdays*24*60*60*1000));
  let expires = "expires=" + d.toUTCString();
  document.cookie = cname + "=" + cvalue + ";" + expires + ";path=/";
}

function getCookie(cname) {
  let name = cname + "=";
  let decodedCookie = decodeURIComponent(document.cookie);
  let ca = decodedCookie.split(';');
  for(let i = 0; i <ca.length; i++) {
    let c = ca[i];
    while (c.charAt(0) == ' ') {
      c = c.substring(1);
    }
    if (c.indexOf(name) == 0) {
      return c.substring(name.length, c.length);
    }
  }
  return "";
}
In recent years, the bad use of cookies has been positioned as a recurrent invasion of user’s privacy. Especially third-party cookies, those that are sent to the user’s terminal equipment from a computer or domain that is not managed by the editor, but by another entity that processes the data obtained through cookies.

Are Spanish political parties respectful with users’ privacy?

Acción por la Justicia Algorítmica (AxJA) was created to challenge the lack of democratic control, transparency and accountability in the use and acquisition of automated decision-making systems and artificial intelligence in Spain. As one of our main goals is to defend users’ privacy we have carried out the analysis AxJA’s target: cookies. Analysis of the treatment of cookies on the websites of political parties in Spain. To evaluate this, AxJA has established 10 indicators according to a methodology specifically designed for the matter. These indicators are divided into 3 sections: the first one observes if cookies are installed in the browser prior to the user’s consent and if third-party cookies are used at any time; the second one analyses if the warning banner is correctly set up; and the last set of indicators evaluate the existence, accessibility and quality of the cookie policy. Up to 1 point is given per indicator, so the parties can achieve a maximum mark of 10.

These are the main findings:
Most of the sites managed by political parties represented in the Parliament use third-party cookies and install cookies without prior consent.

Only 2 out of 27 facilitate rejecting all cookies at once. 19 out of 27 have an accessible cookie policy. 17 out of 27 have an understanding cookie policy.

Although 22 out of 27 websites have a cookies banner activated, we have found banners with information that does not follow the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), such as, "if you continue browsing without changing the settings, we consider that you accept the use of cookies on our site", thus breaching the provisions regarding the treatment of cookies. Even if most of them have a cookie policy, these should be clearer so that users can understand the implications and consequences of the use of cookies.

As mentioned above, the wrong use of cookies is a recurrent invasion to users' privacy. Any entity that uses cookies on its website must inform users and should adapt the treatment of cookies to current regulations on the matter.

How cookies are managed on the websites of political parties in Spain is only a reflection of how cookies are treated on most websites around the world. If we take into account the high number of web pages that we access everyday, this means that we are facing a constant invasion of our privacy. At AxJA we advocate for a world where cookies are not used to collect information about users that could impact their decision-making processes and where their privacy and security are protected in the digital environment.

We will continue taking action against any bad practice to build a society where creating, using and acquiring technological systems is done in a transparent, democratic and respectful way with all people.