



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 maintains the highest standards of ethical proxy sourcing. We believe that they are essential to our mission, our success, and the reliability of our infrastructure. We want to encourage positive industry-wide efforts by promoting clear guidelines.

Vytautas Savickas, CEO at Oxylabs

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Sourcing Residential Proxies

Ethically: Trust and Responsibility

Proxy providers must operate within high standards of procurement compliance and transparency. As a market leader, Oxylabs sees it as our responsibility not only to honor user trust but to promote industry-wide ethical practices.

Oxylabs respects the rights of each participant in our Residential Proxy network, a commitment reflected in our internal procurement policies. 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 and Procedures 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.

A majority of Oxylabs' proxy network is composed of Tier A+ proxies from respected providers such as Honeygain and Bixberry. The remaining proxies are Tier A or sourced through ISP providers.

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.

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

Tier A+ proxies form the foundation of Oxylabs' network, with Honeygain and Bixberry serving as the primary bandwidth sources.

Honeygain operates on a direct-to-user model where network participants are fully informed, explicitly consent to sharing their unused internet bandwidth, and receive direct monetary compensation for their participation.

Bixberry is a single-purpose, direct-to-user application built to meet AI's growing infrastructure demand. Fully informed users explicitly opt in to share their device's idle internet bandwidth in exchange for rewards, retaining complete control and the ability to pause or stop sharing at any time.

The remaining portion of our network is sourced through trusted Tier A+ and Tier A application partners and ISP providers, ensuring high network diversity while maintaining strict compliance across all channels.

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 share 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. Using a device as a proxy before consent is granted is considered 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

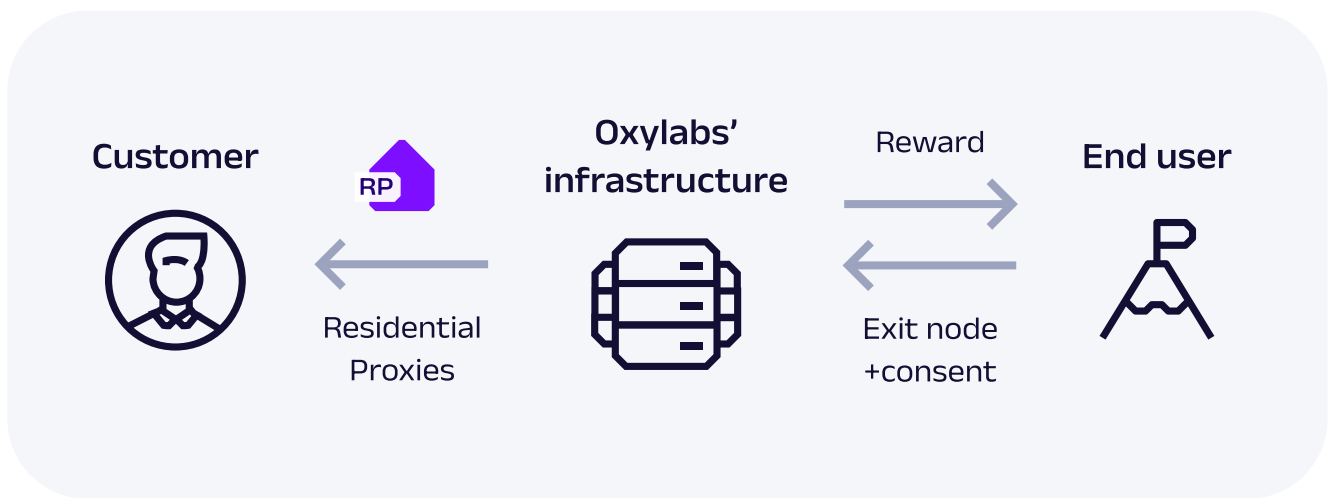
A genuinely ethical proxy service practice continuously builds user awareness regarding the role their devices play in the proxy network. Oxylabs believes that Residential Proxy network participants should be made aware of how their resources will be utilized, who will have access, and what goal they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

Oxylabs employs an educational approach by informing their end-users through all available channels.

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.



IP Transparency tool: an invitation to check it yourself

As we make our proxy sourcing principles transparent, anyone can easily verify that they are the gold standard. Seeking to go the extra mile and provide users with a way to check the practical results of our framework, we introduced the [IP Transparency tool](#).

With IP Transparency, anyone online can instantly check in real time whether their IP address has been used in our proxy pool over the last 30 days. Additionally, users can opt out from our proxy pool through the app, identified by the IP Transparency tool or by deleting the app from their device.

IP Transparency is the first such tool by any provider that allows users to have an insight directly into the residential IP pool, and their potential belonging to it. We expect and encourage the industry to move forward in the direction of trust built through transparency.

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.

5. Know-Your-Customer (KYC)

We have a strict Know Your Customer policy to check customer and use case risks before providing infrastructure. We have implemented automated risk assessments that safeguard usage 24/7/365. Only legitimate and ethical use cases are permitted.

6. Trust Center

To make our security posture easily accessible, Oxylabs has established a Trust Center at <https://trust.oxylabs.io> for all relevant security and compliance information. Our core proxy products (including Residential Proxies) are ISO 27001:2022 certified, backed by SOC 2 compliance frameworks.

7. User control

Oxylabs provides the [IP Transparency](#) tool that allows individuals to check if their connection is part of our residential network and offers clear, self-service instructions to opt out.

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 go the extra mile in transparency. We will safeguard our policies and continue to promote them industry-wide through development of practical approaches, tools, and methods as well as education.

Our goal and wish is to see the entire industry evolve toward the practices outlined here, so that all parties involved in responsible proxy procurement, management, and usage see their value grow.



Want to Know More?

If you would like to know more about any of the topics mentioned in this white paper, 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**