

Is arstechnica.com legit? TrustSniffer's high-trust assessment: 91/100

arstechnica.com

Verdict

91

OUT OF 100

HIGH TRUST

arstechnica.com appears legitimate.

Our checks found nothing pointing to fraud. Ordinary care still applies when you pay or sign in.

Not Scam

Safe for Login

Low Risk

Assessed 2026-08-13 by automated analysis. Classification confidence 55%.

What this site appears to be

Privacy and cookie consent page for an established technology news publisher describing purposes, vendor lists, and consent controls for advertising and analytics.

Evidence status and limitations

- Evidence completeness: UNKNOWN
- The real-world operator identity was not independently verified.
 - Module-level completeness metadata is unavailable for this legacy report.

At a glance

The checks that decide most of this verdict.

Malware engines	None flagged it VirusTotal	CLEAR
Google Safe Browsing	Not listed Google	CLEAR
Abuse reports on the host	1% confidence AbuseIPDB, 1 report; shared hosting inflates reports	CLEAR
Domain age	28 years old Registered history	CLEAR
Web archive	Never archived No public history of this site	WATCH
Certificate	Encrypted connection Issued by Amazon RSA 2048 M04	NOTED

The page as captured

No screenshot is retained for this report.

Key findings

- Automated classification: Not Scam.
- Domain age: more than 10 years (registration continuity).
- VirusTotal and Google Safe Browsing had no flags for this domain; its hosting IP carries AbuseIPDB reports below the confidence level TrustSniffer treats as a flag.
- The operator behind the site could not be independently connected to a real-world brand or person.

Full analysis

Overview

Ars Technica is an established technology news and analysis publisher presenting reporting, reviews, and commentary for technologists, with a business model based on advertising, reader subscriptions or membership, and consent-based personalization.

Scam/Impersonation Risk

No contradictory phishing, impersonation, or malicious-site indicators were observed. The available reputation evidence is clean, and the site's established publishing identity and strong global audience footprint are consistent with a legitimate informational service. One abuse report is associated with an Amazon hosting IP, but the attribution is to shared data-center infrastructure rather than specifically to the website; it therefore provides limited evidence against the site itself.

EVIDENCE

- The reviewed privacy page identifies the service as “Ars Technica - Serving the Technologist since 1998” and contains no detected phishing, impersonation, or deceptive-content indicators.
- The domain was registered on 1998-12-30 and is approximately 27.64 years old through registration continuity; the registrar is CSC Corporate Domains, Inc.
- The site has a Tranco rank of 1802 and is within the top 1,000,000 domains.

Regulatory Verification Notes

Available evidence is consistent with an established, apparently legitimate publisher, although the real-world operator identity is not independently verified. The reviewed privacy and cookie page provides substantive disclosure of data-processing purposes, consent and legitimate-interest mechanisms, vendor participation, advertising personalization, analytics, and reader-subscription monetization. No financial-services licensing claim or registration number is presented in the reviewed material; given the publisher business model, this is a verification and disclosure note rather than evidence of a scam. The available broker-reputation context contains no matching result.

EVIDENCE

- The privacy page provides consent controls for essential, functional, advertising, analytics, and personalization purposes and describes vendor-level choices.
- The privacy page states that consent preferences are stored in a “fides_consent” cookie for a maximum of 12 months.
- The site is served from AS16509, Amazon.com, Inc. (AMAZON-02), US.
- TLS uses a DV certificate issued by Amazon RSA 2048 M04, valid through 2027-01-08.

What to Verify Next

Before credential or payment interactions, independently confirm the publisher’s operating entity, subscription terms, refund or cancellation provisions, and payment-protection arrangements through official records or an independently sourced contact route. Standard browsing and content consumption present a materially lower decision exposure than account or paid-service activity.

EVIDENCE

- The reviewed page contains no login form, sensitive form, hidden form, or external password-submission form.
- Browser testing recorded zero wallet-connection, wallet-sensitive, or wallet-drainer activity.
- The page capture completed successfully with an HTTP 200 response.

Summary Verdict

The overall posture is high trust and low risk, with evidence strongly consistent with an established legitimate website and no observed scam or impersonation contradictions. The principal qualification is that the site’s real-world operator has not been independently verified, so legitimacy should be described as apparent rather than proven.

Infrastructure Integrity

The website is protected by AWS CDN/WAF infrastructure, with observed addresses belonging to CDN edge servers and no origin candidate identified. This architecture is a positive protective measure that reduces direct origin exposure, but it is treated as mitigation rather than proof of legitimacy.

EVIDENCE

- Infrastructure resolution identified two AWS edge IPs: 3.149.141.148 and 3.151.85.226.
- Both observed edge addresses belong to AS16509; no likely origin IP was identified.

Closing Assessment

The site is suitable for ordinary informational use, while credentials and payments should follow the independent identity, terms, and payment-protection checks appropriate to any subscription or account-based interaction.

Written analysis generated 2026-08-13 by the TrustSniffer Analysis Engine from the evidence in this report.

What the analysis found

No rule findings contributed to this verdict.

Signals weighed against the site

- AbuseIPDB: 1 report on hosting IP 3.151.85.226 (Amazon Technologies Inc., Data Center/Web Hosting/Transit), 1% confidence. The reports are attributed to shared infrastructure, not specifically to this website.

Identity verification

Status	UNVERIFIED
Identity score	30/100
Identity verification confidence	50%

- No on-site identity signals detected

Identity verification measures whether the site can be independently connected to a real-world brand or person. It is separate from the classification confidence.

What TrustSniffer observed

First-party facts recorded during the assessment of arstechnica.com.

- The request stayed on arstechnica.com. It was not redirected to another domain. CLEAR
- Registration is published under CSC Corporate Domains, Inc.. CLEAR
- DNS for this domain is served by awsdns-32.org, across 4 name servers. NOTED
- The registration is paid up to 2027-12-30. CLEAR
- It is hosted on AMAZON-02, from a server in US. NOTED

Domain intelligence

Registrar	CSC Corporate Domains, Inc.
Hosting	AMAZON-02 - Amazon.com, Inc., US
Country	US
Server IP	3.151.85.226
Name servers	NS-1285.AWSDNS-32.ORG, NS-2008.AWSDNS-59.CO.UK, NS-493.AWSDNS-61.COM, NS-783.AWSDNS-33.NET
SSL issuer	Amazon RSA 2048 M04
SSL expiry	2027-01-08
Domain age	27.64 years (continuous registration)
Domain expiry	2027-12-30
Archive first seen	Not available
Archive snapshots	0

Reputation

VirusTotal: 0 flagged | AbuseIPDB: 1% confidence, 1 report | Google
Safe Browsing: 0 matches

About this assessment

A trust score summarises the evidence TrustSniffer could collect about arstechnica.com at assessment time. It is a starting point for your own judgement, not a guarantee: a high score means the signals were consistent with a legitimately operated site, a low or critical score means several risk patterns were present.

TrustSniffer assesses a website from the evidence it can collect at a point in time: domain registration and age, hosting and certificate, the content the site served, and third-party reputation feeds. A score is a summary of that evidence, not a guarantee and not a legal finding. There is no human rating and no user review in it. A site can change after it is assessed.

This report online: <https://trustsniffer.com/report/arstechnica.com> · assessed 2026-08-13