CS 5306
INFO 5306: Crowdsourcing and Human Computation
The Dark Side
Lecture 24
11/28/17
Haym Hirsh
More than a Million Pro-Repeal Net Neutrality Comments were Likely Faked

I used natural language processing techniques to analyze net neutrality comments submitted to the FCC from April-October 2017, and the results were disturbing.

“In the matter of restoring Internet freedom, I’d like to recommend the commission to undo The Obama/Wheeler power grab to control Internet access. Americans, as opposed to Washington bureaucrats, deserve to enjoy the services they desire. The Obama/Wheeler power grab to control Internet access is a distortion of the open Internet. It ended a hands-off policy that worked exceptionally successfully for many years with bipartisan support.”

“Chairman Pai: With respect to Title 2 and net neutrality. I want to encourage the FCC to rescind Barack Obama’s scheme to take over Internet access. Individual citizens, as opposed to Washington bureaucrats, should be able to select whichever services they desire. Barack Obama’s scheme to take over Internet access is a corruption of net neutrality. It ended a free-market approach that performed remarkably smoothly for many years with bipartisan consensus.”

“FCC: My comments re: net neutrality regulations. I want to suggest the commission to overturn Obama’s plan to take over the Internet. People like me, as opposed to so-called experts, should be free to buy whatever products they choose. Obama’s plan to take over the Internet is a corruption of net neutrality. It broke a pro-consumer system that performed fabulously successfully for two decades with Republican and Democrat support.”

“Mr Pai: I’m very worried about restoring Internet freedom. I’d like to ask the FCC to overturn The Obama/Wheeler policy to regulate the Internet. Citizens, rather than the FCC, deserve to use whichever services we prefer. The Obama/Wheeler policy to regulate the Internet is a perversion of the open Internet. It disrupted a market-based approach that functioned very, very smoothly for decades with Republican and Democrat consensus.”
"It turns out that there are 1.3 million of these. Each sentence in the faked comments looks like it was generated by a computer program. A mail merge swapped in a synonym for each term to generate unique-sounding comments. It was like mad-libs, except for astroturf."

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  Astroturfing is the use of fake grassroots efforts that primarily focus on influencing public opinion and typically are funded by corporations and governmental entities to form opinions. On the Internet, astroturfers use software to mask their identity. Sometimes one individual operates through many personas to give the impression of widespread support for their client's agenda.
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  - A reputation system's vulnerability to a Sybil attack depends on how cheaply identities can be generated, the degree to which the reputation system accepts inputs from entities that do not have a chain of trust linking them to a trusted entity, and whether the reputation system treats all entities identically.
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“[Update on 11–25–2017: I’ve posted an initial dataset and my EDA notebook containing part of the analysis. Please share with the rest of us what else you find — *gets on soapbox* — a free internet will always be filled with competing narratives, but well-researched, reproducible data analyses can establish a ground truth and help cut through all of that. Look forward to seeing your analyses & there will be more data to come!]”
Complaints of eBay rip-offs lead authorities to South Florida

February 23, 2010 | By Jay Weaver, The Miami Herald

Jonathan Harkness, a liquor-store regulator from Washington state, came to know "Jorge Carlos" in late 2006, when Carlos posted a Surefire flashlight for sale on eBay using a Miami street address.

Harkness bid $90, and after an exchange of e-mails on AOL, sent Carlos a money order. But the address turned out to be a private P.O. box, the high-tech flashlight never arrived, and Harkness realized he had been ripped off.

So in early 2007, he wrote his congressman, laying out his dealings with the mysterious eBay seller from South Florida and the possibility of a bigger scam. Rep. Adam Smith urged the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to investigate.

Thus began a three-year probe to unmask "Jorge Carlos," and to figure out how many other victims he might have fleeced around the country.

The payoff: Earlier this month, Nilton Rossoni, 50, a Brazilian businessman with multiple aliases who had lived in Sunny Isles Beach and Fort Lauderdale, was sentenced to 5 ½ years in federal prison for running one of the biggest eBay scams in history.

``If [postal inspectors] had written it off, then it all would have fizzled," Harkness told The Miami Herald.

Rossoni was convicted in October of hauling in $717,000 from more than 5,500 eBay buyers, by creating at least 260 different auction accounts, and using dozens of e-mail addresses with Yahoo, Google and AOL, as well as nearly 60 private postal boxes.
Shilling Recommender Systems for Fun and Profit

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ABSTRACT

Recommender systems have emerged in the past several years as an effective way to help people cope with the problem of information overload. One application in which they have become particularly common is in e-commerce, where recommendation of items can often help a customer find what she is interested in and, therefore can help drive sales. Unscrupulous producers in the never-ending quest for market penetration may find it profitable to shill recommender systems by lying to the systems in order to have their products recommended more often than those of their competitors. This paper explores four open questions that may affect the effectiveness of such shilling attacks: whether recommender algorithm is being used, whether the application is producing recommendations or predictions, how detectable the attacks are by the operator of the system, and what the properties are of the items being attacked. The questions are explored experimentally on a large data set of movie ratings. Taken together, the results of the paper suggest that new ways must be used to evaluate and detect shilling attacks on recommender systems.

recommendations to a user regarding which items she may find interesting. One instance of a recommender system is MovieLens (http://www.movieLens.org). GroupLens, our research group, operates this recommender system, which makes personalized recommendations suggesting movies that a user might like based on movies that she has seen and has expressed an opinion about.

While recommender systems are clearly beneficial to users, they can also be a valuable asset to retail companies in helping their customers find things that they might want to buy and, in effect, increasing not only sales, but perhaps also cross-sales and customer retention. This is particularly true in the realm of e-commerce. For example, Amazon.com has made many recommender systems available to their customers. These range from manually operated recommenders where users can recommend items to other users by writing reviews or creating lists, to automated systems where the site generates a list of recommended items based on what the user has looked at recently or has purchased in the past.

Producers of items (manufacturers, authors, etc.) would like their products to sell well in the marketplace. With recommender
Finding Deceptive Opinion Spam by Any Stretch of the Imagination

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Abstract

Consumers increasingly rate, review and research products online (Jansen, 2010; Litvin et al., 2008). Consequently, websites containing consumer reviews are becoming targets of opinion spam. While recent work has focused primarily on manually identifiable instances of opinion spam, in this work we study deceptive opinion spam—fictitious opinions that have been deliberately written to sound authentic. Integrating work from psychology, linguistics, and computer science, we present preliminary findings for identifying and mitigating deceptive opinion spam.

While other kinds of spam have received considerable computational attention, regrettably there has been little work to date (see Section 2) on opinion spam detection. Furthermore, most previous work in the area has focused on the detection of DISRUPTIVE OPINION SPAM—uncontroversial instances of spam that are easily identified by a human reader, e.g., advertisements, questions, and other irrelevant or non-
Rossoni was convicted in October of hauling in $717,000 from more than 5,500 eBay buyers, by creating at least 260 different auction accounts, and using dozens of e-mail addresses with Yahoo, Google and AOL, as well as nearly 60 private postal boxes.

From 2003-08, the father auctioned thousands of products, from horse saddles to rotisserie grills, without delivering anything to the winning bidders. He maintained a legitimate reputation by fabricating positive feedback.

He also insisted that his buyers use cashiers checks or money orders, not PayPal. The anti-fraud protection services at eBay are designed to help people who only use PayPal online to purchase their merchandise.

Rossoni lived in Sunny Isles Beach and Fort Lauderdale, was sentenced to 5 1/2 years in federal prison for running one of the biggest eBay scams in history.

``If [postal inspectors] had written it off, then it all would have fizzled,'' Harkness told The Miami Herald.
IN THE SUPREME COURT
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DAWN L. HASSELL and HASSELL LAW GROUP, P.C.,
Plaintiffs and Respondents,

v.

AVA BIRD,
Defendant;

YELP, INC.,
Appellant.

After a Decision by the Court of Appeal
First Appellate District, Division Four, Case No. A143233
Appeal from the Superior Court of the State of California,
County of San Francisco, Case No. CGC-13-55025,
The Honorable Donald J. Sullivan and the Honorable Ernest H.
Goldsmith, presiding

REVISED AMICUS CURIAE BRIEF OF EUGENE VOLOKH
IN SUPPORT OF APPELLANT

SCOTT & CYAN BANISTER FIRST AMENDMENT CLINIC
UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW
Eugene Volokh (Bar No. 194464)
405 Hilgard Ave., Los Angeles, California 90095
(310) 206-3926

* Amicus would like to thank Alexandra Gianelli, Kristin Hal-
sing, and Ashford Kneitel, UCLA School of Law students who
worked on this brief.
Say the company therefore files a libel lawsuit in the plaintiff's name against a *fake* defendant, seeking an injunction, and accompanies the complaint with a stipulation supposedly signed by this defendant (but in reality produced by the company itself). The trial judge sees that the parties agree on the injunction, and therefore signs the injunction without much further scrutiny. And the reputation management company then sends this order to Google or Yelp, asking for deindexing or removal of the material that the order has ostensibly found to be defamatory.

That appears to have been attempted in at least 25 cases across the country. (See Appendix A for a full list.) The cases appear to be connected; they are all ostensibly filed *pro se*, but they share certain unusual legal boilerplate. Most of the 25 cases in-
II. Stipulated Injunctions Involving Fake Notarizations

One means of verifying that a defendant actually exists is to get the defendant’s signature notarized. But who will verify the verifiers? What if the notarization is itself forged?

Consider *Chinnock v. Ivanski*, a case in which the complaint identified the defendant as “an individual who resides in Tur-
III. Injunctions Against a Defendant Who Likely Is Not the Real Author: The Government Document Cases

Say that a judgment involves a real defendant, who stipulates to the injunction. How can we know that this stipulating defendant is the real author of the allegedly defamatory material? Often we cannot know for sure, especially unless the real author somehow learns of the injunction and comes forward.

But sometimes the judgment involves a supposed finding—in an order that was likely submitted by the plaintiff’s lawyer for the court’s signature—that the defendant is the author of something that turns out to be a government document, such as a judicial or administrative order. The defendant could not have written the document, and the document is in any event absolutely privileged against defamation liability. And the plaintiff is thus seeking to hide a government document from public view, based on what appears to be an inaccurate statement.
V. Default Judgments Obtained Without Genuine Attempts at Locating Defendants

The examples given so far involved alleged stipulated judgments; these judgments are convenient in part because they can be obtained quickly. In two cases, a permanent injunction was entered four days after a complaint was filed together with a stipulation.77

Yet plaintiffs can also get default judgments, whether against identified defendants or pseudonymous ones. These judgments can often be legitimate, and indeed can often be the best that an honest plaintiff can get.

But they can also be obtained without any real attempt to serve or even identify the true defendant. The point of these default judgments, after all, is just to get an order that can be sent to Google, Yelp, or some other organization. It is much more convenient if the real author of the material is never identified, and never has an opportunity to contest the case. In a traditional libel case, the plaintiff wants to find the defendant, so that the defendant can be forced to pay damages. In a libel takedown case, the plaintiff who is seeking an order that would be sent to a third party would rather that the real author stay far away.
O. Henry
The Four Million
and other stories
Mammon and the Archer

OLD ANTHONY ROCKWALL, who had made millions of dollars by making and selling Rockwall’s soap, stood at a window of his large Fifth Avenue house. He was looking out at his neighbor, G. Van Schuyler Suffol Jones. This neighbor was a proud member of a proud old New York family. He came out of his door and got into a cab. He looked once quickly, as usual, at Anthony Rockwall’s house. The look showed that Suffolk-Jones was a very important man, while a rich soapmaker was nothing.

“I will have this house painted red, white, and blue next summer,” said the Soap King to himself. “And we’ll see how he likes that.”

And then Anthony Rockwall turned around and shouted, “Mike!” in a loud voice. He never used a bell to call a servant.
But within that minute, a wagon had stopped in front of the cab. The cabby tried to pass on the left, but a cab was there. He tried to pass on the right, but another cab was there. He could not go back. He was caught where he was and could not move in any direction.

These sudden stops of movement will happen in the city. Instead of moving along the street in their usual orderly way, all the wagons and cabs will suddenly be mixed together and stopped.

“Why don’t you drive further?” said Miss Lantry. “We’ll be late.”

Richard stood up in the cab and looked around. He saw a stream of cabs and wagons and everything else on wheels rolling toward the corner where Broadway, Sixth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street meet. They came from all directions. And more and more were rolling toward them. More and more were caught there. Drivers and cabbies shouted. Everyone on wheels in New York City seemed to be hurrying to this place.
1961 Great Rose Bowl Hoax

- Washington vs Minnesota
- Half-time show “card stunt”
1961 Great Rose Bowl Hoax

- Washington vs Minnesota
- Half-time show “card stunt”
- Image 12: Husky -> Beaver
1961 Great Rose Bowl Hoax

- Washington vs Minnesota
- Half-time show “card stunt”
- Image 12: Husky -> Beaver
- Image 13: Washington appeared in reverse
1961 Great Rose Bowl Hoax

• Washington vs Minnesota
• Half-time show “card stunt”
• Image 12: Husky -> Beaver
• Image 13: Washington appeared in reverse
• Image 14:
2004 Harvard-Yale Game
“DOES A BOY GET A CHANCE TO WHITEWASH A FENCE EVERY DAY?”
"Why it's you Ben! I warn't noticing."

"Say—I'm going in a swimming, I am. Don't you wish you could? But of course you'd druther surf—wouldn't you? Course you would!"

Tom contemplated the boy a bit, and said:

"What do you call work?"

"Why ain't that work?"

Tom resumed his whitewashing, and answered carelessly:

"Well, maybe it is, and maybe it aint. All I know is, it suits Tom Sawyer."

"Oh come, now, you don't mean to let on that you like it?"

The brush continued to move.

"Like it? Well I don't see why I oughtn't to like it. Does a boy get a chance to whitewash a fence every day?"

That put the thing in a new light. Ben stopped nibbling his apple. Tom swept his brush daintily back and forth—stepped back to note the effect—added a touch here and there—criticised the effect again—Ben watching every move and getting more and more interested, more and more absorbed. Presently he said:

"Say, Tom, let me whitewash a little."

Tom considered, was about to consent; but he altered his mind:

"No—no—I reckon it wouldn't hardly do, Ben. You see, Aunt Polly's awful particular about this fence—right here on the street, you know—but if it was the back fence I wouldn't mind and she wouldn't. Yes, she's awful particular about this fence; it's got to be done very careful; I reckon there ain't one boy in a thousand, maybe two thousand, that can do it the way it's got to be done."
Dark Side of Crowdsourcing and Human Computation

• Worker experience
• Undermining crowds
• Using crowds for nefarious purposes
• Crowd failures

How would you protect against these?
Worker Experience

• Refer to last lecture
Stable job for everyone. Everywhere.
Why us?

Stability
Kolotibablo is working from 2007 and we are not planning to go anywhere

Accuracy
Track your entries and payments with our accurate statistics system

Liquidity
Instantly withdraw earned money to different payment systems or send to another account

start working
Edis Cedeño

This is my story
I love Kolotibablo, I have been active since 2016 and it has been a great support since I am unemployed and it allows me to have income from my home, it is very flexible when I work, ...

See full story

Quynh Nga

Hello everybody.
I typed pretty well. And fortunately, kolotibablo offers a job that can make money from typing. Since knowing kolotibablo I have earned some decent money. My goal is to earn money from...

See full story

Krunal

I am working on kolotibablo since 2014. Kolotibablo has provided an opportunity to earn and be self dependent during my college days. I do not have much work to do and in my bad time kolotibablo has a...

See full story

Read more stories at Kolostories.com ➤
Hello everybody. I typed pretty well. And fortunately, kolotibablo offers a job that can make money from typing. Since knowing kolotibablo I have earned some decent money.
Virtual Sweatshops Defeat Bot-or-Not Tests

Jobs in the hi-tech sector can be hard to find, but employers in one corner of the industry are creating hundreds of full-time positions, offering workers on-the-job training and the freedom to work from home. The catch? Employees will likely toil for cybercrooks, and their weekly paychecks may barely cover the cost of a McDonald’s Happy Meal.

The abundance of these low-skilled, low-paying jobs is coming from firms that specialize in the shadowy market of mass-solving CAPTCHAs, those blurry and squiggly words that some websites force you to retype. One big player in this industry is KolotiBablo.com, a service that appeals to spammers and exploits low cost labor in China, India, Pakistan, and Vietnam.
Antigate charges clients 70 cents to $1 for each batch of 1,000 CAPTCHAs solved, with the price influenced heavily by volume. KolotiBablo says employees can expect to earn between $0.35 to $1 for every thousand CAPTCHAs they solve.
Ogre to Slay? Outsource It to Chinese

By DAVID BARBOZA   DEC. 9, 2005

FUZHO, China - One of China's newest factories operates here in the basement of an old warehouse. Posters of World of Warcraft and Magic Land hang above a corps of young people glued to their computer screens, pounding away at their keyboards in the latest hustle for money.
Renrou Sousuo Yingqing: “Human Flesh Search Engines” Seek Vigilante Justice in China

This week’s New York Times Magazine has a fascinating article about the Chinese phenomenon of renrou sousuo yinqing: crowdsourced “Human Flesh Search Engines” that seek out individuals who have committed some offending act, use information available online to identify them, and then try to publicly shame them.

The article’s hook is the story of a woman who stomped a cat to death with a high-heeled shoe and anonymously uploaded a video to the Internet. When it spread to the forums on Mop.com, the Human Flesh Search Engine kicked into gear as people were outraged by the video, and within days, a combination of detective work, crowdsourcing, and media attention allowed them to track down and identify the woman and exact their wrath on her:

...Locals reported that nothing in their city resembled the backdrop in the video. But netizens kept sifting through the clues, confident they could track down one person in a nation of more than a billion. They were right.

The traditional media picked up the story, and people all across China saw the kitten killer’s photo on television and in newspapers. “I know this woman,” wrote I’m Not Dazai Angel four days after the search began.
Bank robber hires decoys on Craigslist, fools cops

A crook who's apparently seen The Thomas Crowne Affair too many times was able to get away with an armored truck robbery in Washington by soliciting decoys on Craigslist with the promise of a road maintenance job.

In an elaborate robbery scheme that's one part The Thomas Crowne Affair and one part Pineapple Express, a crook robbed an armored truck outside a Bank of America branch in Monroe, Wash., by hiring decoys through Craigslist to deter authorities.

It gets better: He then escaped in a creek headed for the Skykomish River in an inner tube, and the cops are still looking for him. "A great amount of money" was taken, Monroe police said, but did not provide a dollar value.

It appears to have unfolded this way, according to a Seattle-based NBC affiliate: around 11:00 a.m. PDT on Tuesday, the robber, wearing a yellow vest, safety goggles, a blue shirt, and a respirator mask went over to a guard who was overseeing the unloading of cash to the bank from the truck. He sprayed the guard with pepper spray, grabbed his bag of money, and fled the scene.

But here's the hilarious twist. The robber had previously put out a Craigslist ad for road maintenance work...
China’s Paid Trolls: Meet the 50-Cent Party

The Chinese government hires people to distort or deflect conversations on the web. Ai Weiwei persuades an “online commentator” to tell all.

BY AI WEIWEI

In February 2011, Ai Weiwei tweeted that he would like to conduct an interview with an “online commentator”. Commentators are hired by the Chinese Communist Party of China to post comments favourable towards the government, a practice called “50-Cent commenting”. In 2013, a former commentator revealed that he had been paid 50 Chinese Yuan for every post. Ai Weiwei’s tweet sparked a debate about the influence of such posts on public opinion.

Chinese authorities have been known to use paid commentators to influence online discussions. These paid commentators, also known as “trolls”, are hired to post comments and influence the online discourse. The presence of these commentators has been criticized for skewing the public debate and promoting party-line views.

The media watchdog group Middle East Eye reported in 2014 that China was employing 1,000 online commentators to influence online discussions. These commentators are often given specific instructions on what to post and how to react to comments. The practice has been widely criticized for its undermining of genuine public debate and for promoting government propaganda.

The practice of paid commenting is not limited to China. Similar schemes have been reported in other countries as well. For example, in India, there have been allegations of government雇用 commentatores promoting government policies and幑souting opponents. The use of paid commentators has raised concerns about the integrity of online discourse and the role of media in promoting independent and critical analysis.

In recent years, there have been growing concerns about the influence of paid commentators on online discussions. The practice has been criticized for its potential to skew public opinion and for promoting government propaganda. As the internet continues to grow in importance as a platform for public discourse, the issue of paid commenting is likely to remain a topic of ongoing debate and concern.

References:

Middle East Eye (2014). How China's government is attempting to control online discussions. Available at: https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/china-facebook-trolls

The Guardian (2014). India's paid commentators: who needs them? Available at: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/02/indias-paid-commentators
Leaked Propaganda Directives and Banned “Future”

The following leaked notice is an internal directive sent to internet commentators over the past week, translated by CDT.

In order to circumscribe the influence of Taiwanese democracy, in order to progress further in the work of guiding public opinion, and in accordance with the requirements established by higher authorities to “be strategic, be skilled,” we hope that internet commentators conscientiously study the mindset of netizens, grasp international developments, and better perform the work of being an internet commentator. For this purpose, this notice is promulgated as set forth below:

(1) To the extent possible make America the target of criticism. Play down the existence of Taiwan.

(2) Do not directly confront [the idea of] democracy; rather, frame the argument in terms of “what kind of system can truly implement democracy.”

(3) To the extent possible, choose various examples in Western countries of violence and unreasonable circumstances to explain how democracy is not well-suited to capitalism.

(4) Use America’s and other countries’ interference in international affairs to explain how Western democracy is actually an invasion of other countries and [how the West] is forcibly pushing [on other countries] Western values.

(5) Use the bloody and tear-stained history of a [once] weak people [i.e., China] to stir up anti-Comunist sentiment and economic anxiety.
Sauidis Crowdsourcing Internet Censorship

from the let-them-do-the-work dept

A couple months ago we covered the Chinese government's effort to create a crowdsourced version of their Internet censorship operation. Now, BusinessWeek is reporting on a variation of this trend in Saudi Arabia. As you probably know, Saudi Arabia maintains an extensive Internet censorship effort, but, in contrast to the Chinese model which involves tens of thousands of workers, the Saudis only employ 25 people. Instead, roughly 1,200 requests are sent in by Saudi citizens, about half of which are subsequently blocked by the authorities. Further, the article says that "only" forty percent of citizens say they are concerned about the censorship. However, one wonders why the censorship requests are even necessary - in cyberspace, it is exceedingly easy to avoid content one doesn't want to see. If these users find certain websites offensive, personal blocking mechanisms could...
Thai website to protect the king

The government in Thailand has set up a special website urging people to inform on anyone criticising the monarchy.

It has also established an internet security centre to co-ordinate the blocking of websites deemed offensive to the monarchy.

On its first day of operation the centre banned nearly 5,000 websites.

The Ministry of Information had already blocked many thousands of sites, but that work is now being accelerated by the new centre.

Loyalty to the king

For all the many other challenges confronting the new Thai king, the biggest is probably the\\n\nThailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej is highly revered
Iranian protesters appearing in widely disseminated online photos from the ongoing post-election demonstrations in Iran, are now being targeted on a website of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

The website is called Gerdab (which means 'vortex') and belongs to The Information Center of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps for Public Relations and Propaganda.
Using Crowdsourcing To Identify Vancouver Rioters

Fudge Factor 3000 writes

"The Canucks' loss in the last game of the Stanley Cup Finals resulted in complete mayhem in downtown Vancouver. Everything from upturned cars set alight to looting was commonplace. Unfortunately, most of the perpetrators were able to maintain their anonymity by disappearing into the crowds. Fortunately, bystanders took several pictures and videos of the carnage. Now, websites (including both Facebook and Tumblr) have set up pages to use crowdsourcing to identify the hooligans."

50 of 397 comments loaded

Submission: Using crowdsourcing to identify Vancouver rioters
1. Transparency
- Making Data More Accessible
- Making Government Operations More Open
- Records Management

2. Participation
- New Strategies and Techniques
- New Tools and Technologies
- Federal Advisory Committees
- Rulemaking

3. Collaboration
- Between Federal Agencies
- Between Federal, State, and Local Governments
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Do-It-Yourself Government

4. Capacity Building
- Hiring & Recruitment
- Performance Appraisal
- Training and Development
- Communication Strategies

Browse Popular Ideas

Recent (4207) Popular (4207)

- **Legal & Policy Challenges**

**Remove Marijuana from Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act**

I agree
1184 votes
I disagree

Dear Mr. President, Please direct the DEA to remove marijuana from Schedule I and correctly classify it under the definitions that the Controlled ... more

- **Legal & Policy Challenges**

**Legalize Marijuana And Solve Many Tax Issues / Prison Issues**

I agree
1001 votes
I disagree

To legalize marijuana would mean an end to the billions of wasted dollars fighting this "war on drugs". A war, that anyone who grew up in America ... more

- **Legal & Policy Challenges**

**End Imperial Presidency**

I agree
894 votes
I disagree

Leave the White House less imperial than you found it. Appoint an independent prosecutor to prosecute Bush, Cheney, and their top officials ... more
U.K. Science Minister Torpedoes 'Boaty McBoatface' As Ship Name
Rise and fall of the Googled swastika

July 12, 2008 | DAVID SARNO

The swastika, the symbol of Nazism, still provokes strong feelings of fear and anger. So it was something of a shock when late this week the swastika suddenly hit the top of Google's Hot Trends page, which tracks the 100 terms that U.S. Google users are searching for most furiously. It hovered there for several hours, then disappeared from the list.

It became the Web mystery du jour: How did the swastika get there, why did it become so popular and who, or what, caused its demise? The search for the answer sent Google watchers on a chase that led through China, Tel Aviv, London and finally back to the secretive company's Silicon Valley headquarters, from which Google issued a rare apology.
Belkin paying 65 cents for good reviews on NewEgg and Amazon?

by John Biggs on January 17, 2009
Tags: Belkin, skills, wtf

I just contacted Belkin to confirm but this doesn’t look good. A site called The Daily Background found evidence that Belkin Bizdev guy, Michael Bayard, is paying folks 65 cents to write good things about Belkin routers. Why? I’m not sure. I sure didn’t mind Belkin routers in the first place and 65 cents isn’t a lot of money for a paragraph. Maybe a flat
Subvert and Profit runs social media campaigns across a variety of social media sites, via our 25,000 users who earn money by viewing, voting, fanning, rating, or posting assigned tasks. Since 2007, our user actions have effectively promoted our advertisers' web content to popularity at significant cost savings. In 2010, Subvert and Profit merged with Crowdsourc Corp. to extend the power of crowdfunding to a variety of social and business applications.

### Markets for votes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Platform</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digg</td>
<td>We'll help get you on the front page of Digg, where your content can receive 10,000 to 100,000 visitors. Votes starting at $1.00 each.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>StumbleUpon</td>
<td>StumbleUpon has a broad base of 4.1 million users. Its traffic flow is more linear than that of other social media sites. Votes starting at $1.00 each.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YouTube</td>
<td>YouTube is the biggest video site on the Web. Votes starting at $0.75 each.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iLike</td>
<td>Over 30 million people use iLike to share their musical tastes. Votes starting at $0.75 each.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsvine</td>
<td>Newsvine is a social news community. It's updated instantly and read frequently. Votes starting at $0.75 each.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yahoo! Video</td>
<td>Yahoo! Video is a pop-culture mashup. It features music videos and news, sports, autos, comedy, TV clips, and movie previews. Votes starting at $0.75 each.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Bully Finds a Pulpit on the Web

By DAVID SEGAL
Published: November 28, 2010

SHOPPING online in late July, Clarabelle Rodriguez typed the name of her favorite eyeglass brand into Google’s search bar. In moments, she found the perfect frames — made by a French company called Lafont — on a Web site that looked snazzy and stood at the top of the search results. Not the tippy-top, where the paid ads are found, but under those, on Google’s version of the gold-medal podium, where the most relevant and popular site is displayed.
Can Wikipedia Handle Stephen Colbert's Truthiness? 
Online encyclopedia sees spike of inaccurate entries after 'Colbert Report' piece.

By James Montgomery (@positivnegativ)

In his continuing quest for truthiness, Stephen Colbert may very well have incurred the wrath of the world's largest online sorta-encyclopedia.

Then again, maybe he didn't.

Confused? Well, so is pretty much everyone involved in this rather sordid case of Internet vandalism/social experimentation, but in the spirit of, well, more truthiness, we'll try to explain.

"The Colbert Report" is the tongue-in-cheek Comedy Central news show that features the titular humorist spouting off on a variety of political topics in a highly stylized, Bill O'Reilly-esque manner. On Monday's episode, Colbert praised Wikipedia, the online resource that can be read and edited by anyone with access to a computer, for promoting what he termed "Wikiality" — a sort of pseudo-reality that exists when you make something up and enough people agree with you.

"I'm no fan of reality, and I'm no fan of encyclopedias," Colbert opined. "I've said it before: Who is [Encyclopaedia] Britannica to tell me George Washington had slaves? If I want to say George Washington didn't have slaves, that's my right. And now, thanks to Wikipedia, it's also a fact."

While he was speaking, Colbert was also typing away on a laptop computer, apparently editing the Wikipedia entry on George Washington to read, "In conclusion, George Washington did not own slaves."

He also apparently edited the Wiki entry on his own program, replacing a
African elephant

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This is an old revision of this page, as edited by Neutrality (talk | contribs) at 03:42, 1 August 2006. It may differ significantly from the current revision.

(diff) ← Previous revision | Latest revision (diff) | Newer revision → (diff)

THE AMOUNT OF AFRICAN ELEPHANTS HAS TRIPLED!!! *Loxodonta* is a genus in *Elephantidae*, the family of elephants. Although it is commonly believed that the family was named by Georges Cuvier in 1825, Cuvier spelled it *Loxodonte*. An anonymous author romanized the spelling to *Loxodonta* and the ICZN recognizes this as the proper authority.[1]

The number of african elephants has tripled in the last 4 months! The number of African elephants has tripled recently, according to Stephen Colbert.

The number of African Elephants has nearly tripled, according to Stephen Colbert.

Fossils from *Loxodonta* have only been found in Africa, where they developed in the middle Pliocene.

The population of African elephants has tripled in the last few months.

Species

- *Loxodonta adaurora*, extinct, developed into the modern African elephant.
- African Bush Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*).[1]
- African Forest Elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*).[1]

The number of African elephants has tripled in the last six months.

The population of African elephants has tripled in the past 6 months.

No, really, its true!

No, really, its true!

The Loxodonta, or African Elephant’s population has tripled in the last few months.
African elephant

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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Loxodonta is a genus in Elephantidae, the family of elephants. Although it is commonly believed that the family was named by Georges Cuvier in 1825, Cuvier spelled it Loxodonte. An anonymous author romanized the spelling to Loxodonta and the ICZN recognizes this as the proper authority.[1]

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- Loxodonta adaurora, extinct, developed into to the modern African elephant.
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- African Forest Elephant (Loxodonta cyclotis).[1]

The population of African elephants has tripped in the past few months.

References

African Bush Elephant

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This is an old revision of this page, as edited by Neutrality (talk | contribs) at 03:48, 1 August 2006. It may differ significantly from the current revision.

(diff) ← Previous revision | Latest revision (diff) | Newer revision → (diff)

The African Bush Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) is the better-known and larger of the two species of African elephants. Both it and the African Forest Elephant were previously classified as a single species, known simply as the African Elephant. It is also known as the Bush Elephant or Savanna Elephant. The elephant's population has tripled in the last 6 months.

The number of African elephants has tripled in the last six months.

### Contents

1. Description
2. Diet
3. Social behaviour
4. Predators
5. Species differences
6. References
7. External links

### Conservation status

Vulnerable[2]

### Scientific classification

- **Kingdom:** Animalia
- **Phylum:** Chordata
- **Class:** Mammalia
Babar the Elephant

Publications of Babar have tripled over the last few years.
Babar the Elephant has tripled in popularity in the past six months. This may be due to the fact that Stephen Colbert is funny.

Dumbo

Sadly, Dumbo died after tripling in size and exploding
At first Dumbo was not well received, however six months after it's release, sales tripled.
In the past decade the elephant population has more than tripled. It's unknown how many of these elephants can fly.
What is presumed is the maturity of Dumbo to a sexually active age, leading to the tripling of the elephant population to this day.
Dumbo originally was supposed to be an animated documentary on the steady increase in the elephant population, which is now reported to have tripled since the release of the film in 1941.
Dumbo's native family, the African class of elephants, has as of late began to procreate at an alarming rate, hopefully permanently removing them from the endangered species list.

Idaho

This makes Idaho the sixth fastest-growing state after Nevada, Arizona, Florida, Oregon, and Utah. From 2004 to 2005, Idaho was the third fastest grower, surpassed only by the population of African Elephant. no udaho
Edits on the Idaho section of the Wikipedia:Wikiality and Other Tripling Elephants page have recently undergone a threefold increase.
Click, Spin, Profit! 100% FREE
Increase your traffic by recycling existing articles!

Using SpinProfit you will quickly be able to take your article content and create dozens or hundreds of unique versions - all of which are perfectly readable and well written. No more generated auto-junk, no more scrambled articles that won't be accepted at any article directory worth submitting to. Our system is perfect for PLR articles and free reports.

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How does it help me?

Search engines regard each version of this article as a unique article, when submitted to article directories it's important to have unique articles so that

Recycle your content into new fresh content using the SpinProfit article spinning engine.

Turbo-charge your fresh articles with the power of a web-based article spinning service like SpinProfit.
Kickstarter Bans Product For Not Existing
Someone Is Trying to Crowdfund a Greek Bailout Because Why Not

Greek Bailout Fund

Crowdfunding a bailout fund for Greece
When crowdsourcing goes wrong: Reddit, Boston and missing student Sunil Tripathi

Reddit's initial hunt to find the Boston bombers devolved rapidly into a sort of "racist Where's Wally"
Wherefore Art Thou R3579X? Anonymized Social Networks, Hidden Patterns, and Structural Steganography

Lars Backstrom  
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ABSTRACT

In a social network, nodes correspond to people or other social entities, and edges correspond to social links between them. In an effort to preserve privacy, the practice of anonymization replaces names with meaningless unique identifiers. We describe a family of attacks such that even from a single anonymized copy of a social network, it is possible for an adversary to learn whether edges exist or not between specific targeted pairs of nodes.

Categories and Subject Descriptors

F.2.2 [Analysis of Algorithms and Problem Complexity]: Non-numerical Algorithms and Problems

General Terms

Theory, Measurement

Keywords

social networks, anonymization, privacy in data mining

1 INTRODUCTION

be considering the “purest” form of social network data, in which there are simply nodes corresponding to individuals and edges indicating social interaction, without any further annotation such as time-stamps or textual data.

In designing studies of such systems, one needs to set up the data to protect the privacy of individual users while preserving the global network properties. This is typically done through anonymization, a simple procedure in which each individual’s “name” — e.g., e-mail address, phone number, or actual name — is replaced by a random user ID, but the connections between the (now anonymized) people — encoding who spoke together on the phone, who corresponded with whom, or who instant-messaged whom — are revealed. The motivation behind anonymizing is roughly as follows: while the social network labeled with actual names is sensitive and cannot be released, there may be considerable value in allowing researchers to study its structure. For such studies, including those cited above, researchers are not specifically interested in “who” corresponds to each node, but in the properties of the graph, such as its connectivity, node-to-node distances, frequencies of small subgraphs, or the extent to which it can be clustered. Anonymization is thus intended to exactly preserve the pure unannotated structure of the graph while suppressing the “who” information.

Can this work? The hope is that being handed an anonymized picture of a social network — just a graph with a random identifier attached to each node — is much akin to being given the
Robust De-anonymization of Large Sparse Datasets

Arvind Narayanan and Vitaly Shmatikov
The University of Texas at Austin

Abstract

We present a new class of statistical de-anonymization attacks against high-dimensional micro-data, such as individual preferences, recommendations, transaction records and so on. Our techniques are robust to perturbation in the data and tolerate some mistakes in the adversary’s background knowledge.

We apply our de-anonymization methodology to the Netflix Prize dataset, which contains anonymous movie ratings of 500,000 subscribers of Netflix, the world’s largest online movie rental service. We demonstrate that an adversary who knows only a little bit about an individual subscriber can easily identify this subscriber’s record in the dataset. Using the Internet Movie Database as the source of background knowledge, we successfully identified the Netflix records of known users, uncovering their apparent political preferences and other potentially sensitive information.

and sparsity. Each record contains many attributes (i.e., columns in a database schema), which can be viewed as dimensions. Sparsity means that for the average record, there are no “similar” records in the multi-dimensional space defined by the attributes. This sparsity is empirically well-established [7, 4, 19] and related to the “fat tail” phenomenon: individual transaction and preference records tend to include statistically rare attributes.

Our contributions. Our first contribution is a formal model for privacy breaches in anonymized micro-data (section 3). We present two definitions, one based on the probability of successful de-anonymization, the other on the amount of information recovered about the target. Unlike previous work [25], we do not assume a priori that the adversary’s knowledge is limited to a fixed set of “quasi-identifier” attributes. Our model thus encompasses a much broader class of de-anonymization attacks than simple cross-database correlation.

Our second contribution is a very general class of
Trapster® alerts you to police speed traps and other roadway hazards.

Download Trapster For Free!

- Apple (iPhone, iPod touch)
- BlackBerry (Bold, Curve, Pearl)
- Android (Droid, Nexus)
- Other Smartphones
- GPS (Garmin, TomTom)

Usage Statistics

- Total Users: 12,580,714
- New Users Today: 12,265
- Total Downloads: 4,555,405

In The News

- "Think of it as a community based high-tech early warning system" Continue
- "Essentially a cell-phone social"

How Does It Work?

Users submit speed traps, enforcement cameras, and road hazards, that then alert all Trapster users in the area. A high-tech version of flashing your headlights to alert others.
They play games for 10 hours - and earn £2.80 in a 'virtual sweatshop'

Bogdan Ghilda is paid £70 a month to do what most bosses would fire him for. From the moment he arrives at work he plays computer games on the internet.

With only a few short breaks Ghilda, 20, goes on playing furiously for 10 hours in the backroom of a run-down apartment block in Caracal, Romania. The moment he leaves his desk a member of an evening shift takes over the computer and continues the same game with equal determination.

Between them, the company's 11 employees keep a dozen or so computers running 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Although Ghilda works in Romania, the computers and the internet connection he uses are paid for by a company in northern California. Gamersloot.net is one of a growing number of firms taking advantage of a boom in online computer games by opening 'virtual sweatshops', using the low pay in poor countries to provide services for wealthy western players.
Bogdan Ghirda is paid £70 a month to do what most bosses would fire him for. From the moment he arrives at work he plays computer games on the internet.

With only a few short breaks Ghirda, 20, goes on playing furiously for 10 hours in the backroom of a run-down apartment block in Caracal, Romania. The moment he leaves his desk a member of an evening shift takes over the computer and continues the same game with equal determination.

Between them, the company's 11 employees keep a dozen or so computers running 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
Worker Experience

CORY DOCTOROW

OVERTCLOCKED

STORIES OF THE FUTURE PRESENT
Worker Experience

Anda’s game
Killing newbies who were trying to cheat the system seemed like a good way to make a buck. But in this simulated reality, who is scamming whom?

Anda didn’t really start to play the game until she got herself a girl-shaped avatar. She was 12, and up until then, she’d played a boy-elf, because her parents had sternly warned her that if you played a girl you were an instant perv-magnet. None of the girls at Ada Lovelace Comprehensive would have been caught dead playing a girl character. In fact, the only girls she’d ever seen in-game were being played by boys. You could tell, cos they were shaped like a boy’s idea of what a girl looked like: hooge buzwabs and long legs all barely contained in tiny, pointless leather bikini-armour. Bintware, she called it.

But when Anda was 12, she met Liza the Organiza, whose avatar was female, but had sensible tits and sensible armour and a bloody great sword that she was
Google Let JC Penney Spam Search Results For Months

Matt Rosoff  Feb. 13, 2011, 12:10 PM  5,901  15

The New York Times exposed the dirty side of search engine optimization this morning with a long article about how JC Penney spammed Google so it would appear at the top of search results.

Somebody created thousands of fake pages with the keywords that Penney wanted to game, like "black dresses," and a direct link to Penney's site. This messes with Google's PageRank algorithm, which assumes that a site is useful if it's popular. (A Penney spokesperson denied that the company knew what was going on -- it was probably a guerrilla SEO team or agency working on Penney's behalf.)

The amazing part of the story isn't how Penney tricked Google -- this kind of "black hat" SEO has been around almost since Google began.
I am aware that spending a lot of time Googling yourself is kind of narcissistic, OK? But there are situations, I would argue, when it is efficiently – even forgivably – narcissistic. When I published a book last year, I wanted to know what, if anything, people were saying about it. Ego-surfing was the obvious way to do that. Which is how I stumbled across Some Title.

Some Title identified itself as a blog but obviously wasn’t one. Here, reprinted in its entirety, is the paragraph from the site that mentioned me:

Show Disputed Vinland Map Was Made Half Century Before Columbus Trip Audio/Video Columbus: Secrets From The Grave quot;A Tale of Columbus’s quot;An Epic Tale Charles Mann’s quot;1491 quot; (Audio

In orthodox bloggy style, the paragraph linked to another Web page. When I clicked on the link, I was confronted with more gibberish: “Below,” it stated, “you will find some grave...”
The Hand That Controls the Sock Puppet Could Get Slapped

By BRAD STONE and MATT RICHTEL  
Published: July 16, 2007

Correction Appended

SAN FRANCISCO, July 15 — On the Internet nobody knows you’re a dog — or the chief executive of a Fortune 500 company.

Or so thought John Mackey, the chief executive of Whole Foods Market, who used a fictional identity on the Yahoo message boards for nearly eight years to assail competition and promote his supermarket chain’s stock, according to documents

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MOST POPULAR - TECHNOLOGY

1. To Slow Piracy, Internet Providers Ready Penalties
2. App Smart: Boating Apps Help Sailors Get There and Back Again
3. Options ABOUND to Protect the iPad
4. State of the Art: Wireless, Not Wimpy, Speakers
5. Gadgetwise: Tip of the Week: A Low-Tech Recipe for a BC Address Book
“Sock Puppet”

• Wikipedia:
  • A sockpuppet is an online identity used for purposes of deception. The term, a reference to the manipulation of a simple hand puppet made from a sock, originally referred to a false identity assumed by a member of an Internet community who spoke to, or about, themselves while pretending to be another person.
  • The term now includes other misleading uses of online identities, such as those created to praise, defend or support a person or organization, to manipulate public opinion, or to circumvent a suspension or ban from a website. A significant difference between the use of a pseudonym and the creation of a sockpuppet is that the sockpuppet poses as an independent third-party unaffiliated with the puppeteer. Sockpuppets are unwelcome in many online communities and may be blocked.
“Sock Puppet”

• “Meat puppet” – using another person (such as a naïve newbie in some community) to do the job
On [[March 24]] [[1989]], shortly after midnight, the oil tanker [[Exxon Valdez]] struck [[Bligh Reef]] in [[Prince William Sound]], [[Alaska]], spilling more than 11 million gallons (42,000 m$^3$) of crude oil. The spill was the largest in U.S. history, and in the aftermath of the Exxon Valdez incident [[Congress of the United States|U.S. Congress]] passed the [[Oil Pollution Act of 1990]]. Exxon Mobil has not yet paid the $5 billion in spill damages it owes to the 32,000 Alaskan fishermen.

ExxonMobil paid $300 million immediately and voluntarily to more than 11,000 Alaskans and businesses affected by the Valdez spill. In addition, the company paid $2.2 billion on the cleanup of Prince William Sound, staying with the cleanup from 1989 to 1992, when the State of Alaska and the U.S. Coast Guard declared the cleanup complete. ExxonMobil also has paid $1 billion in settlements with the state and federal governments. Virtually all Valdez compensatory damages were paid in full within one year of the accident, and the trial court commended ExxonMobil for coming forward "with its people and its pocketbook and doing what had to be done under difficult circumstances."
List anonymous wikipedia edits from interesting organizations

by Virgil Griffith  v at santafe dot edu

[ media ppl are required read this before asking questions ]

"Wikipedia is like SecondLife for corporations...WikiScanner threatens a concept that's even more Americans that democracy." -Steven Colbert


Specify by the Organization's...

Name: ___________________________ <— Type organization name here

or / and

Location: _________________________ <— Don't abbreviate here

Reveal my potential victims!

OR

User-submitted Organizations

Editor's Picks

Wired's list of salacious edits
Submit a salacious edit

Government
U.S. Senate Sergeant At Arms
U.S. House Of Representatives
Environmental Protection Agency
National Institute of Health
Democratic Party
Republican Party
NATO

Education
CISPA, Illinois, etc. of Technology
In [[August 2003]], [[Penguin Books]] published Franken's "[[Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them]]". [[Fox News]] sued, claiming that Franken infringed its registered trademark rights in the phrase, "Fair and Balanced." Fox was unsuccessful, with a federal judge finding the lawsuit to be "wholly without merit." The lawsuit focused a great deal of media attention upon Franken's book and greatly enhanced its sales. Reflecting later on the lawsuit during an interview on the [[National Public Radio]] program "[[Fresh Air]]" on [[September 3]], [[2003]], Franken said that Fox's case against him was "literally laughed out of court" and that "wholly without merit" is a good characterization of Fox News itself.

In [[August 2003]], [[Penguin Books]] published Franken's "[[Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them]]". [[Fox News]] sued, claiming that Franken infringed its registered trademark rights in the phrase, "Fair and Balanced." Fox was unsuccessful, with a federal judge finding the lawsuit to be "wholly without merit." The lawsuit focused a great deal of media attention upon Franken's book and greatly enhanced its sales. Reflecting later on the lawsuit during an interview on the liberal [[National Public Radio]] program "[[Fresh Air]]" on [[September 3]], [[2003]], Franken said that Fox's case against him was the best thing to happen to his book sales.
Many feel that copyleft licenses are desirable and popular because they "are" viral, and apply to all derivative works, which are thus "infected" by the requirement to re-integrate changes deemed desirable by any party down the line. This requirement is seen as important because it ensures uniform license terms and free access, and makes copyleft projects resistant to unnecessary [[fork (software)|forking]] because all maintainers of the original work, or other versions, may use any modifications released by anyone. Useful changes tend to be merged, and different versions are maintained only to the extent that they are useful. Without the "viral" license, variant terms can apply to the forks and derivative works can be controlled commercially by the parties that extend or translate them, which can be considered as some of the disadvantages of non-copyleft "open source" projects. It is thought that [[Linux]] has not suffered the same [[Unix wars|fragmentation]] as [[Unix]] because it is copylefted.

Opponents of copyleft point out that even using a single line of copy-ported code inside millions of line of non-copylefted code will cause all the code to automatically get copylefted. This is not unlike the behaviour of a computer virus or a biological virus which infects a larger entity though it's own dimensions are small in comparison.
Since the late 1970s, Nestlé has attracted much criticism for its baby milk marketing policies in developing countries. This has centered on its apparent recommendations for breastfeeding mothers to switch to its infant formula milk products, leading to the alleged deaths of about 1.5 million babies each year as a result of formula being mixed with contaminated water. Nestlé allegedly has violated the widely agreed-upon International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes. This has led to a boycott coordinated by the International Nestlé Boycott Committee, informed by monitoring conducted by the International Baby Food Action Network. In 1982, Nestlé implemented the WHO Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes in developing countries. The instructions were reviewed and refined in 1984 in consultation with the WHO, UNICEF and the International Nestlé Boycott Committee.

Nestlé itself still advertises breast milk replacements, and does use pictures of babies in its advertising. According to the report “Breaking the Rules, Stretching the Rules 2004” put out by IBFAN/CDC it is still continuing aggressive and misleading advertising tactics. Nestlé has issued instructions to all its offices to ensure strict compliance with the International Code. However, the boycott still continues in some 20 countries.
In 1984, a chemical factory operated by [[Union Carbide]], an American company, leaked lethal gases into the surrounding environment, which has caused more than 20,000 deaths and 100,000 disabilities. In 1999, Dow purchased Union Carbide, which is now a [[wholly owned subsidiary]]. Dow denies legal liability for the disaster, since it did not own or operate the Bhopal factory. <ref>cite website | url=http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/december/3/newsid_2698000/2698709.stm | title=On This Day: December 3, 1984 | publisher=British Broadcasting Corporation | accessed=June 24, 2008 |</ref><ref>cite website | url=http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bhopal/4023447.stm | title=Response: Union Carbide and Dow Chemical | date=November 25, 2004 | publisher=British Broadcasting Corporation]</ref>

The human rights organization [[Amnesty International]] has held Dow responsible for the persistence of contamination and continued suffering of the victims of Bhopal disaster. <ref>cite website | url=http://web.amnesty.org/library/pdf/ASA200152004ENGLISH/$File/ASA2001504.pdf | title=Clouds of Injustice: Bhopal Disaster, 20 years on | date=2004 | publisher=Amnesty International]]</ref>

Victims of the Bhopal disaster and their supporters have demanded that Dow compel Union Carbide to face trial in India, where it is a fugitive from justice. <ref>http://www.studentsforbhopal.org/Assets/CJM_Jan2005.pdf</ref>

=== Breast implants ===

A major manufacturer of silicone [[breast implants]], Dow Corning was successfully sued in 1977 for damages arising from a woman whose implants ruptured; it was the first such successful suit, and Dow Corning paid $170,000 in a settlement. During the 1980s, [[Ralph Nader]]'s [[Public Citizen]] Health Research Group publicised its belief that the implants were carcinogenic, in December of 1990, an
A false Wikipedia 'biography'

By John Seigenthaler

"John Seigenthaler Sr. was the assistant to Attorney General Robert Kennedy in the early 1960's. For a brief time, he was thought to have been directly involved in the Kennedy assassinations of both John, and his brother, Bobby. Nothing was ever proven."

— Wikipedia

This is a highly personal story about Internet character assassination. It could be your story.

I have no idea whose sick mind conceived the false, malicious "biography" that appeared under my name for 132 days on Wikipedia, the popular, online, free
Wikipedia's longest hoax ever gets busted after more than ten years

Kim Renfro and Gus Lubin

Feb. 4, 2016, 10:31 AM 53,406 1

Wikipedia editor Calamondin12 knew this looked bad.

The article about "Jack Robichaux" had been flagged as an orphan, meaning it had few or no inbound links. What's more, the article featured a racist comment, and the only source provided did not mention anyone by that name. Worst of all, the article had been on Wikipedia for more than ten years.
Grass Mud Horse

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Grass Mud Horse or Cao Ni Ma is a Chinese Internet meme widely used as symbolic defiance of the widespread Internet censorship in China. It is one of the 10 mythical creatures, and since an article about it was created on Baidu Baike in early 2009, it has become a cult phenomenon on the internet in China through chat forums. Videos, cartoons and merchandise of this animal, which apparently resembles the alpaca, have appeared, and it has since received worldwide press attention.

Etymology and species

Cao Ni Ma, literally "Grass Mud Horse", was supposedly a species of alpaca. The name is derived from a profanity
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2004

Solving and creating captchas with free porn

Someone told me about an ingenious way that spammers were cracking "captchas" -- the distorted graphic words that a human being has to key into a box before Yahoo and Hotmail and similar services will give her a free email account. The idea is to require a human being and so prevent spammers from automatically generating millions of free email accounts.

The ingenious crack is to offer a free porn site which requires that you key in the solution to a captcha -- which has been inlined from Yahoo or Hotmail -- before you can gain access. Free porn sites attract lots of users around the clock, and the spammers were able to generate captcha solutions fast enough to create as many throw-away email accounts as they wanted.

Now, chances are that they didn't need to do this, since optical character recognition has been shown to be readily tweakable to decode captchas without human intervention -- that which a computer can generate, a computer can often solve.

My cow-orker Seth Schoen points out that human-generated captchas are much harder to solve: say, picking out a photo of an animal, at a funny angle, in a cage, and challenging attackers to correctly identify it. People can do so readily, machines probably can't.