

The Internet Hunt Revisited: Personal Information Accessible via the Web

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Overview

- Motivation
- This is what we did
- Results
- Ramifications
- Conclusion

Motivation

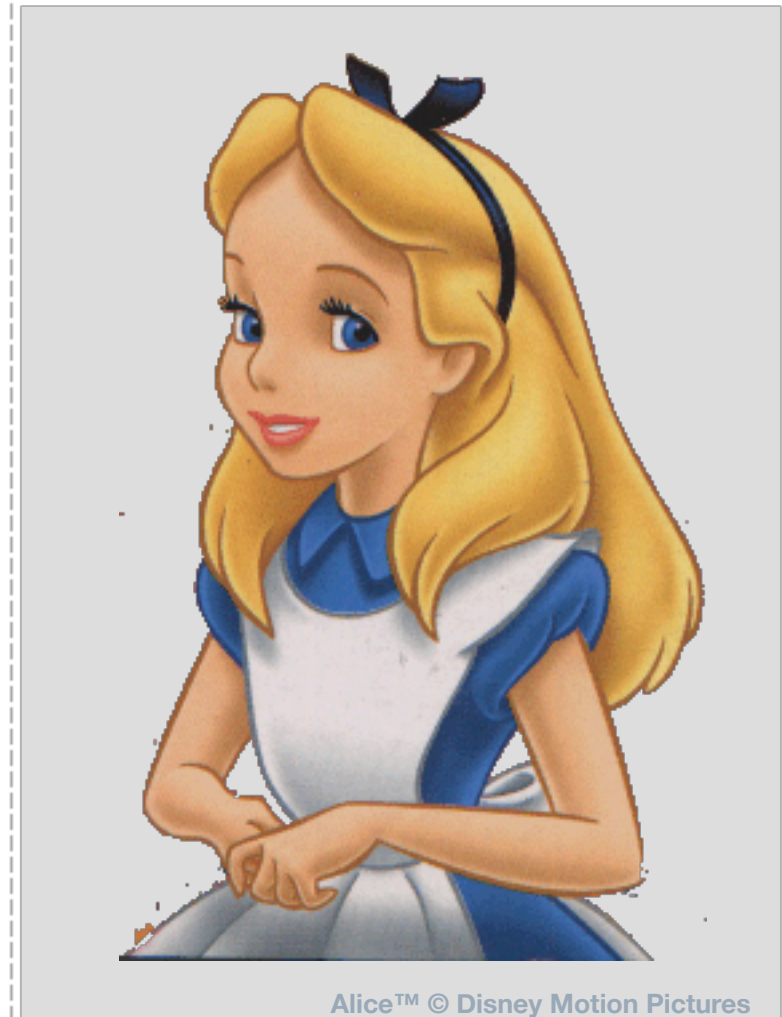
- Rick Gates' Hunt (6/93)
- 11 years later
 - Google™
 - DPPA & information selling[1]
 - Internet Archiving
 - Blogs & more...

Choosing Targets

- Names and gender changed for privacy
- Criteria for Selection
 - Two Targets
 - One each over 40 and under 25 (net generation)
 - One has a blog
 - One on active duty in Iraq

“Alice”

- In Academia
- Website through Work
- Over 40
- Net presence for several years



Alice™ © Disney Motion Pictures

“Bob”

- In the US Military
- Stationed in the Middle east
- Under 25
- Maintains a Blog



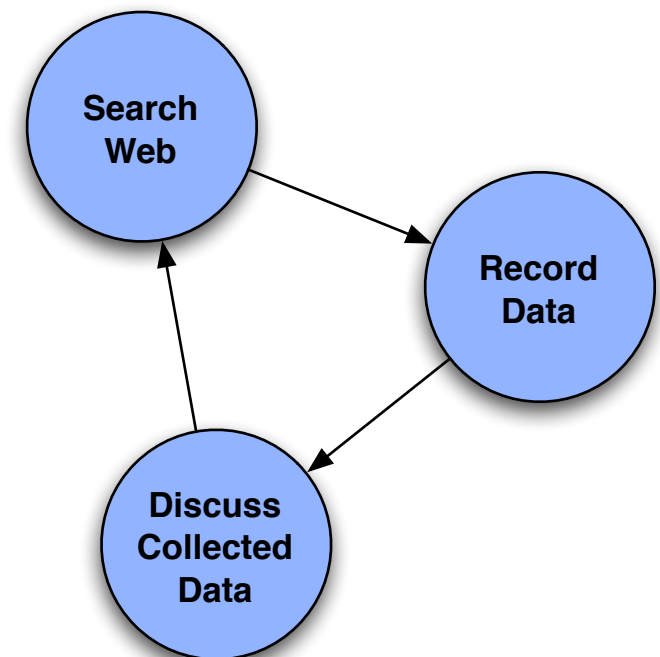
Bob the Builder™ © Hit Entertainment PLC

Tools

- Logging & Data Archiving system
- Webwhacker™[2]
- Onion Router

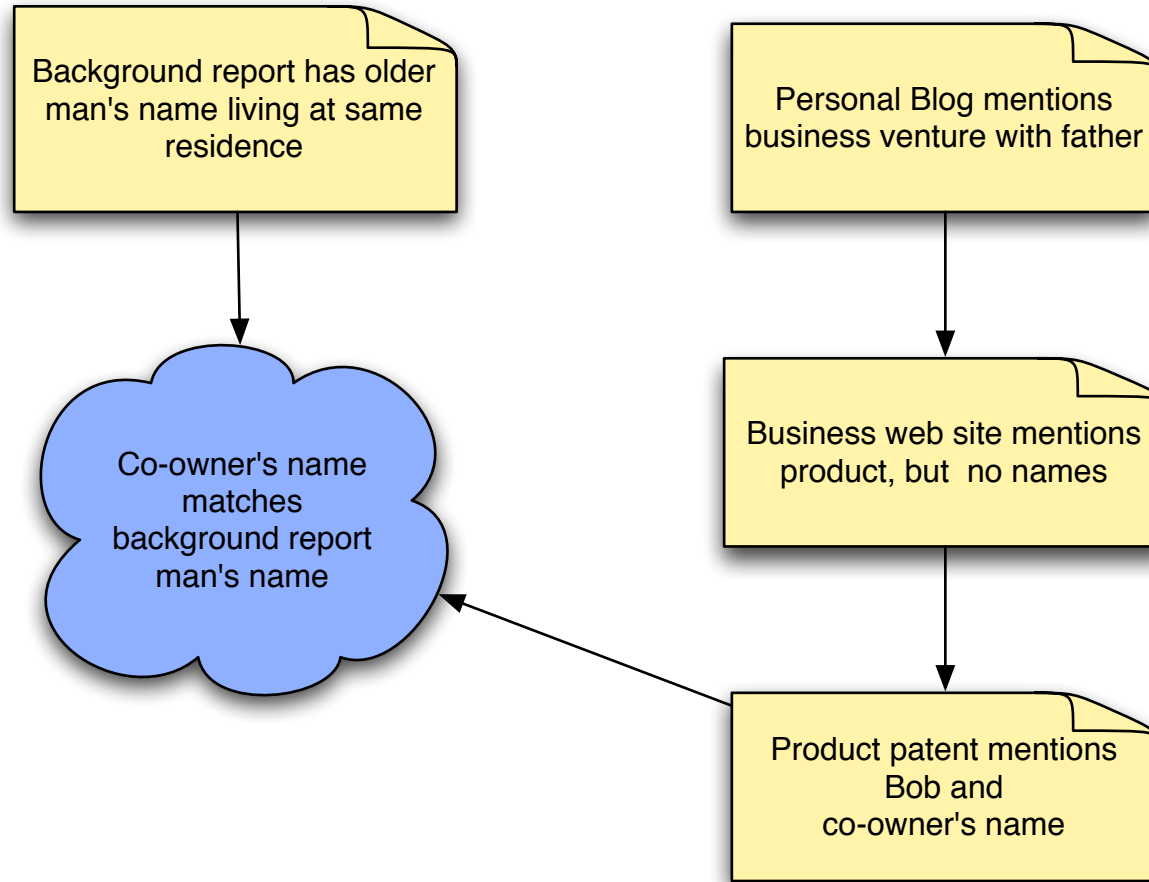
Hunting Procedure

- **Divide and conquer:**
 - Groups for each target
 - One for pay sites
- **Gathering data [figure]**
- **Chaining Information**



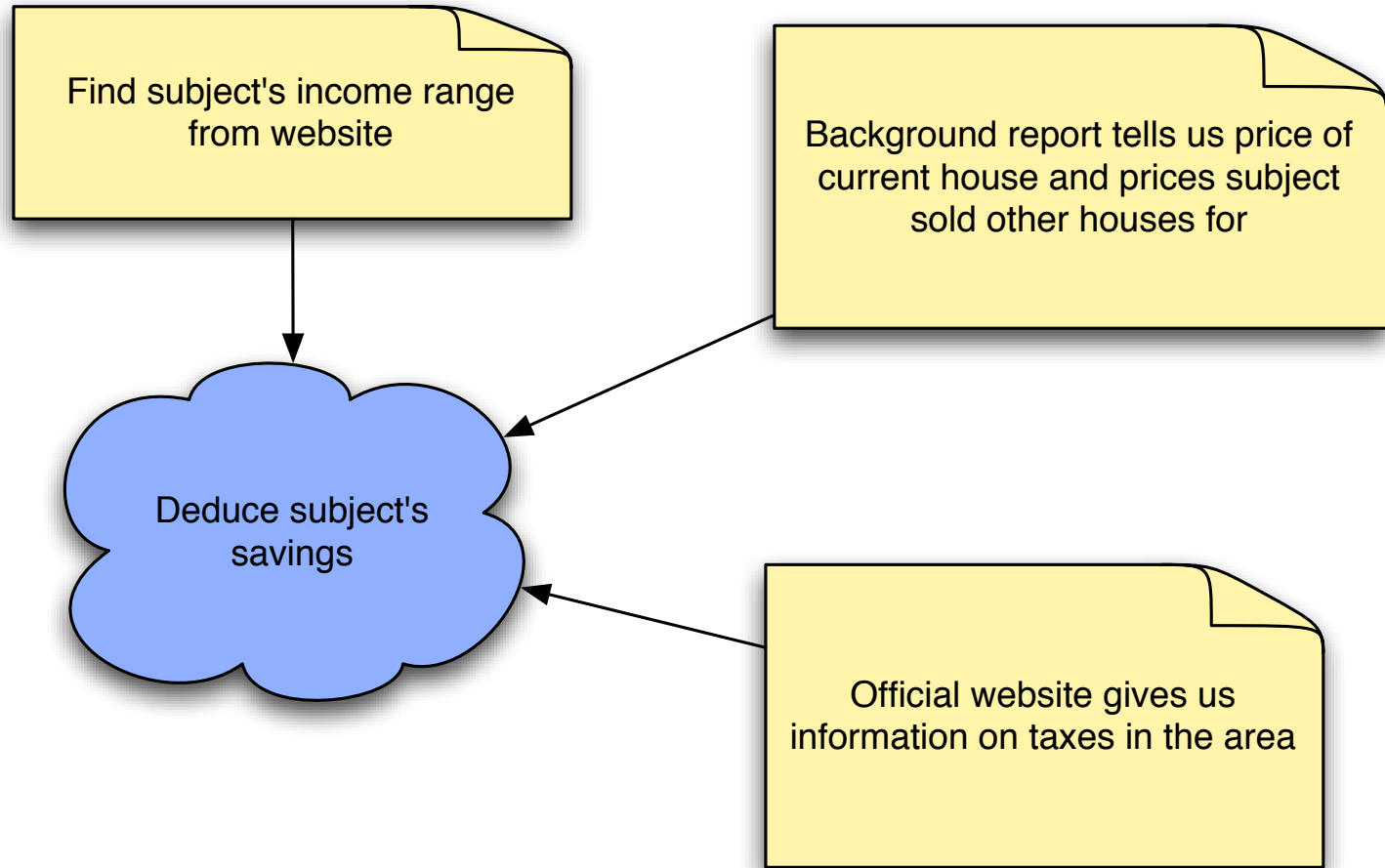


Bob's Father's Name



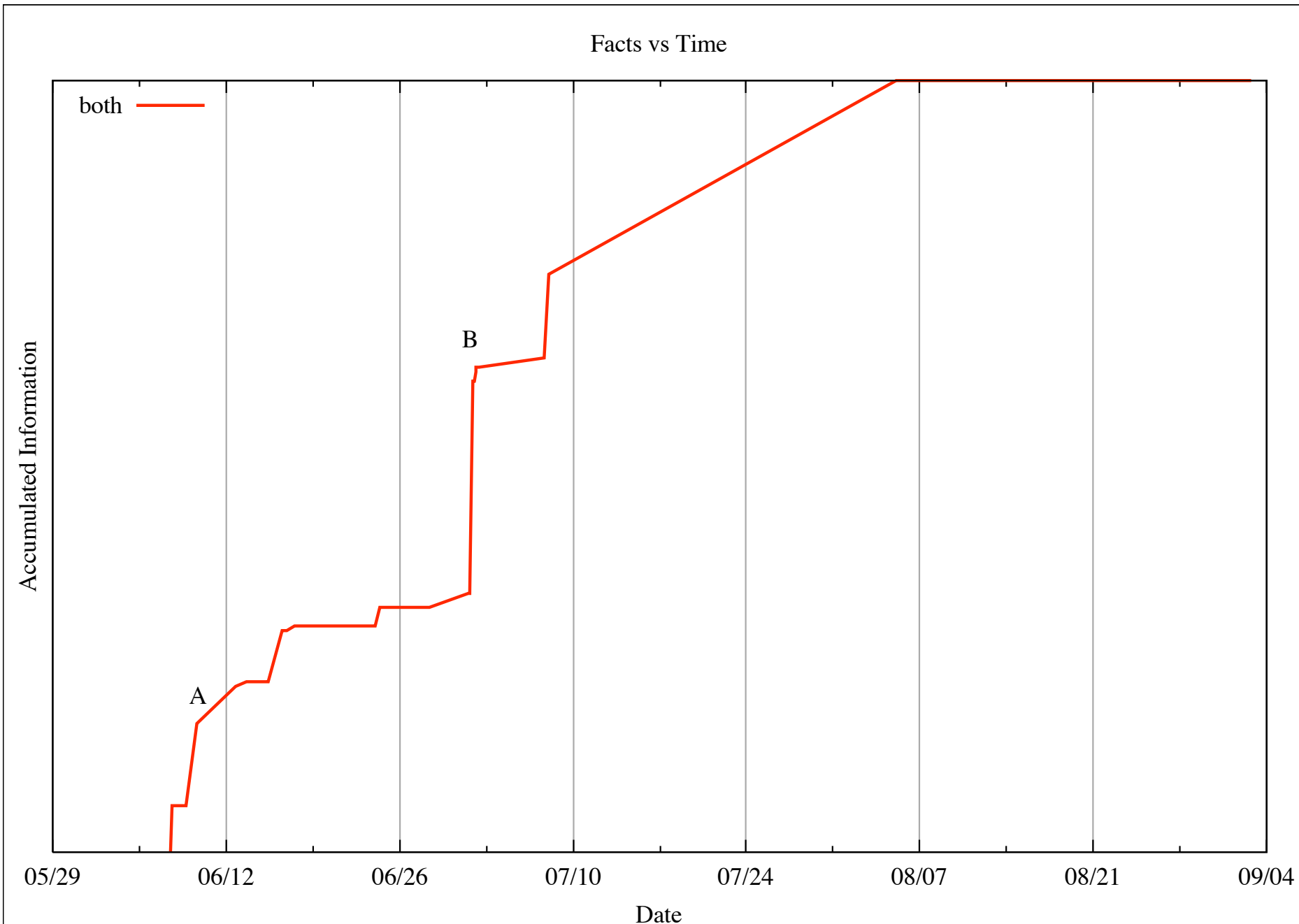


Estimating Alice's Savings



What We Found

Category	Alice	Bob
Education	3	17
Career	6	4
Service	0	28
Location	38	25
Family	62	62
Interests & Social Life	1	58
Political	0	5
Other	10	54
Total Information:	120	253



both

A

B

05/29

06/12

06/26

07/10

07/24

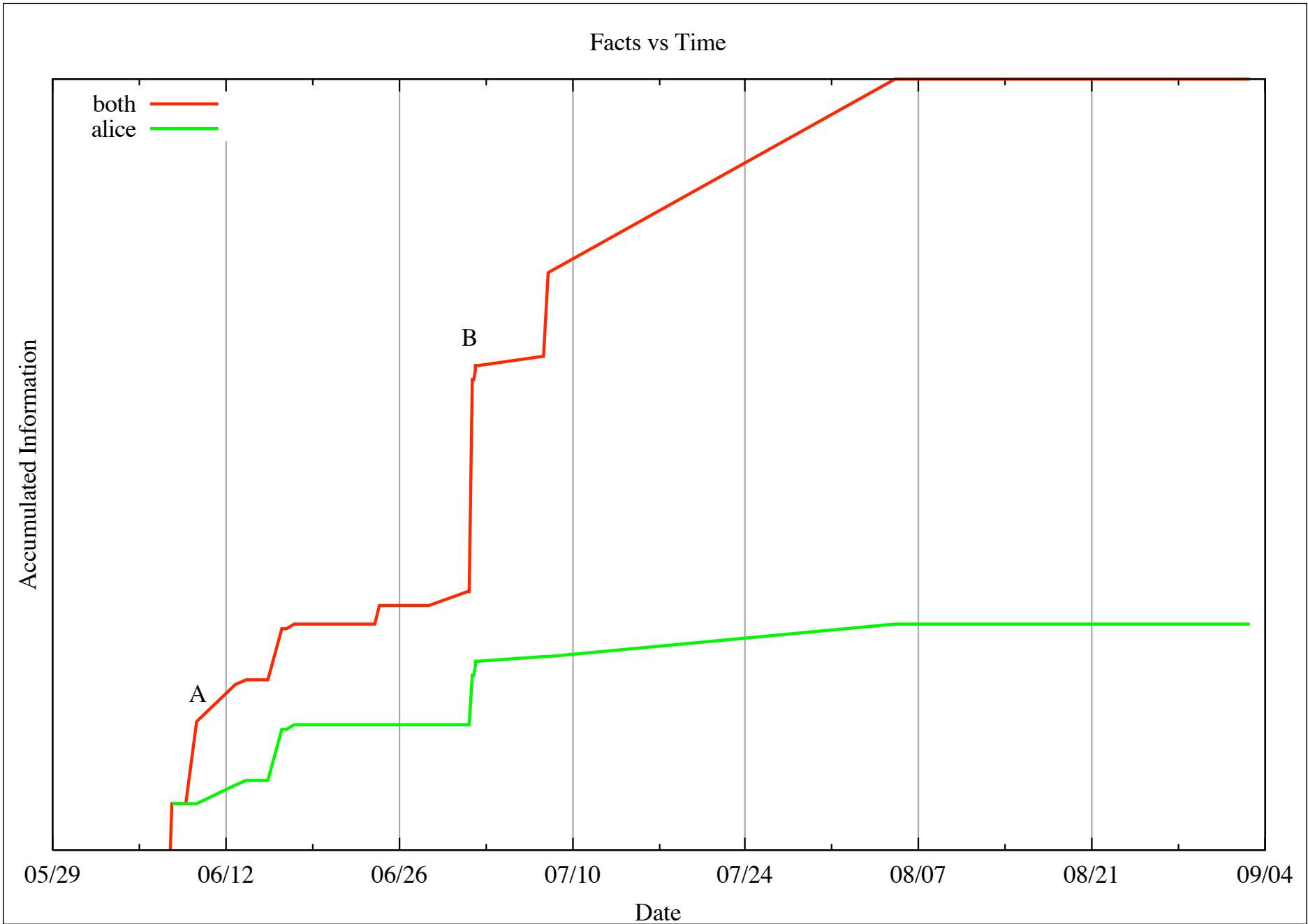
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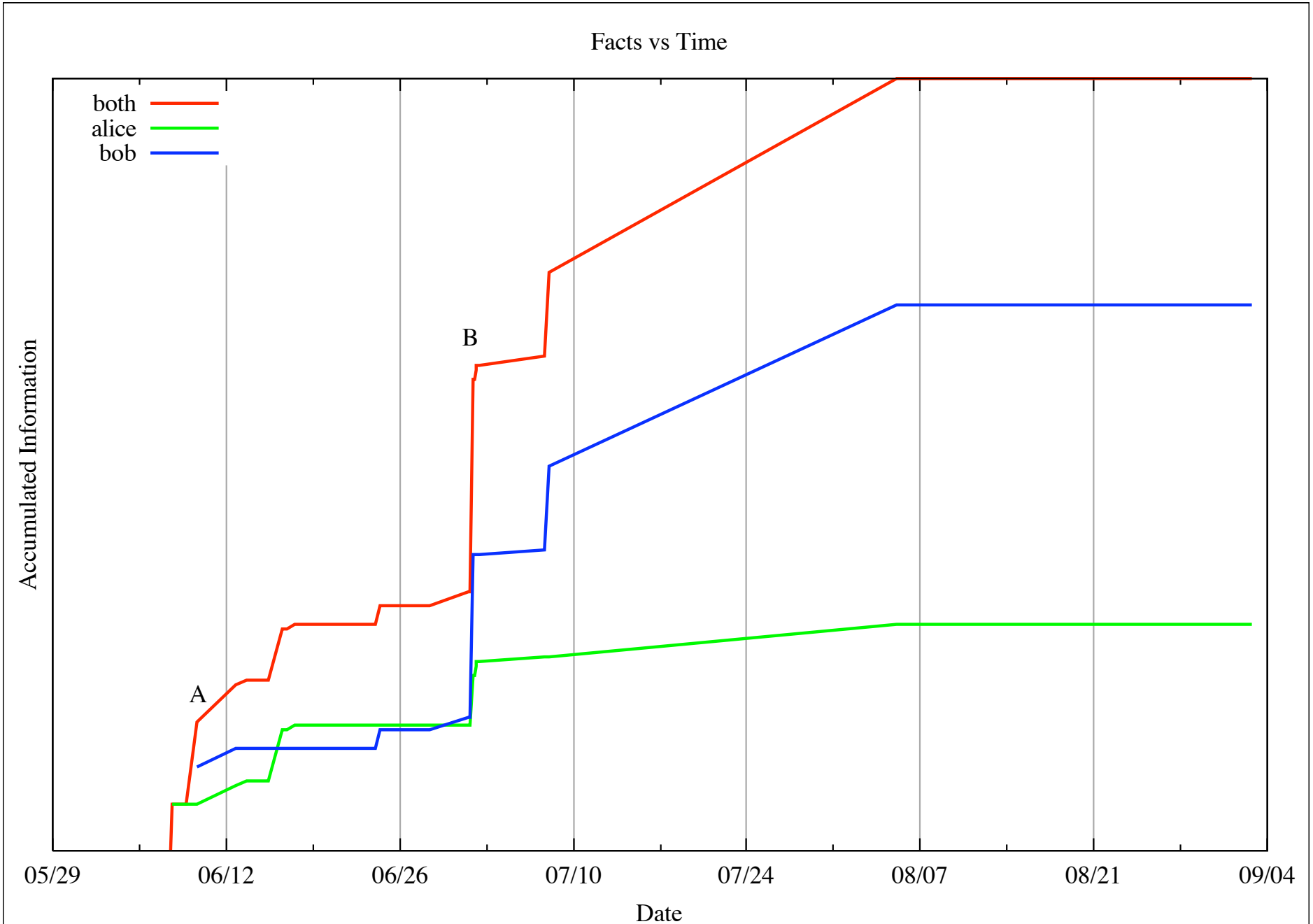
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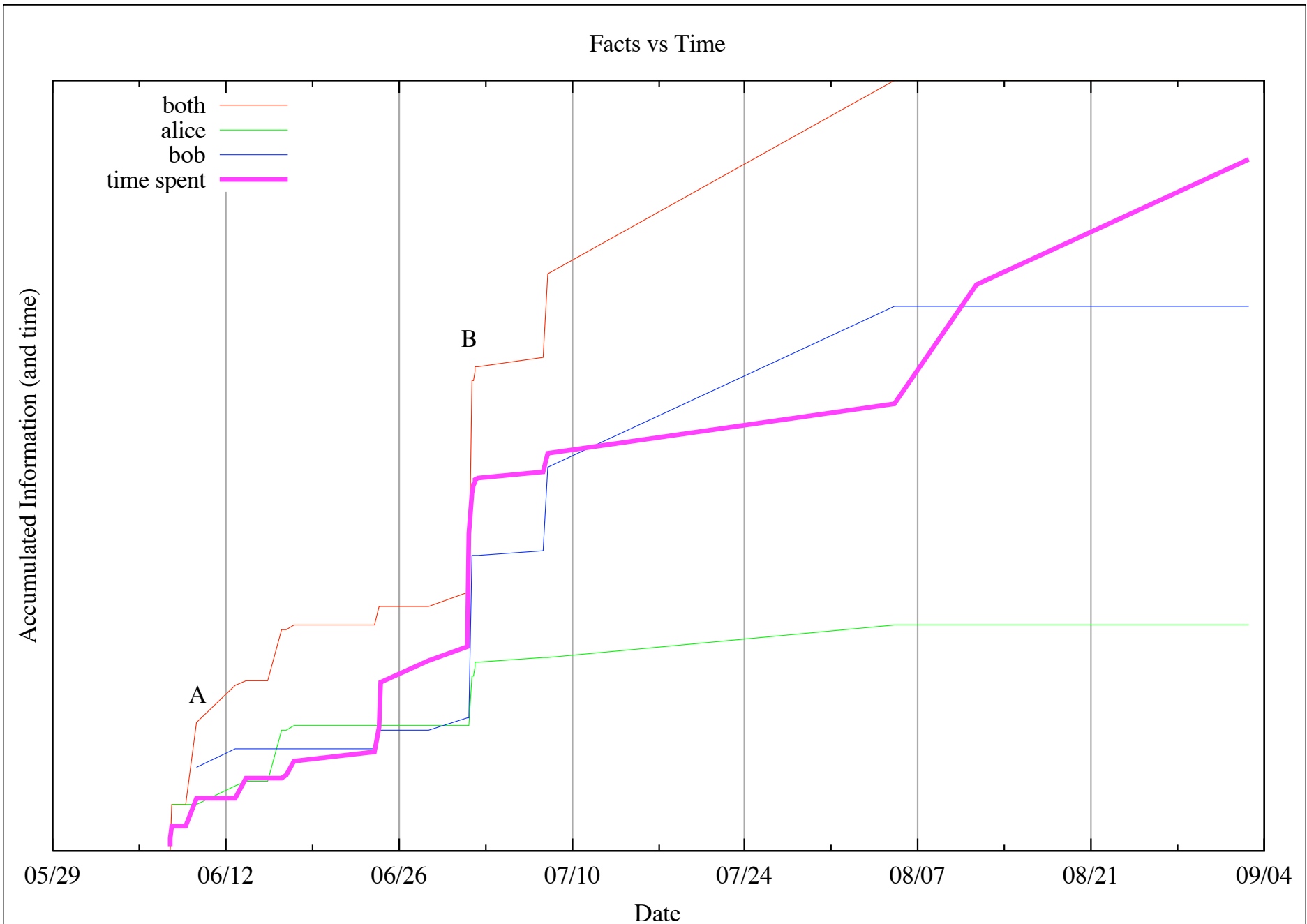
09/04

Date









Where did we find it?

Category	Alice		Bob	
	# src	# fact	# src	# fact
Personal	5	77	3	119
Official	2	2	1	9
Media	0	0	3	13
Contributions	0	0	2	34
Pay Sites	3	75	3	81

Control of Information

Subject	Voluntary	Involuntary
Alice	78	49
Bob	153	107



- Not all information is intentionally made available.

Ramifications

- **Lots of information readily available**
- **Can find out some troops' locations overseas**
- **Easy to find a person's home**
- **How much is available about you?**

If we were bad...



- ☠ We could attempt masquerading as an individual
 - ☠ Obtain birth certificates, credit records, marriage licenses
- ☠ Bribe the person
- ☠ Find troops' locations
- ☠ Coerce information from them (masquerade as another)
- ☠ Google for Credit Card Info[3]

Conclusion

- **Lots of Information available**
- **More content, less reliable**
- **Best sources were Intellius and the subjects themselves**
- **General searching may spawn more information**
- **Identity theft risk**
- **Advanced technology brings about different privacy concerns**

References

(more in the paper)

1. “US Supreme Court takes up driver’s license data privacy.” Heather Hayes, CNN. May 21, 1999.
2. Webwhacker™ by Blue Squirrel.
(<http://www.bluesquirrel.com/webwhacker/>)
3. “Google search reveals credit-card numbers.” Baker, P and Baker B. CRM Daily.
(<http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/nf/26967>)