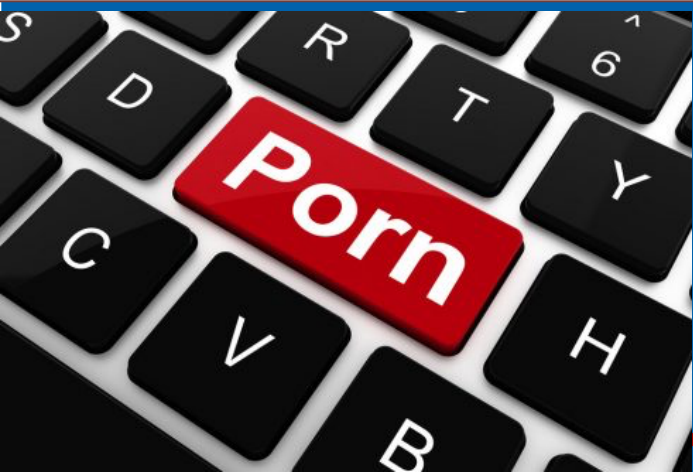


BREAKING: CHELSEA CLINTON IS ARRESTED FOR HAVING SEX WITH 13 YEARS OLD BOY.



Politics and Pollution

History of Information 103

Geoff Nunberg

April 27, 2017





Itinerary, 4/27

Life on the Dark Side

Virtual Pollution: hate speech & pornography

Fake news

Debate

Valediction



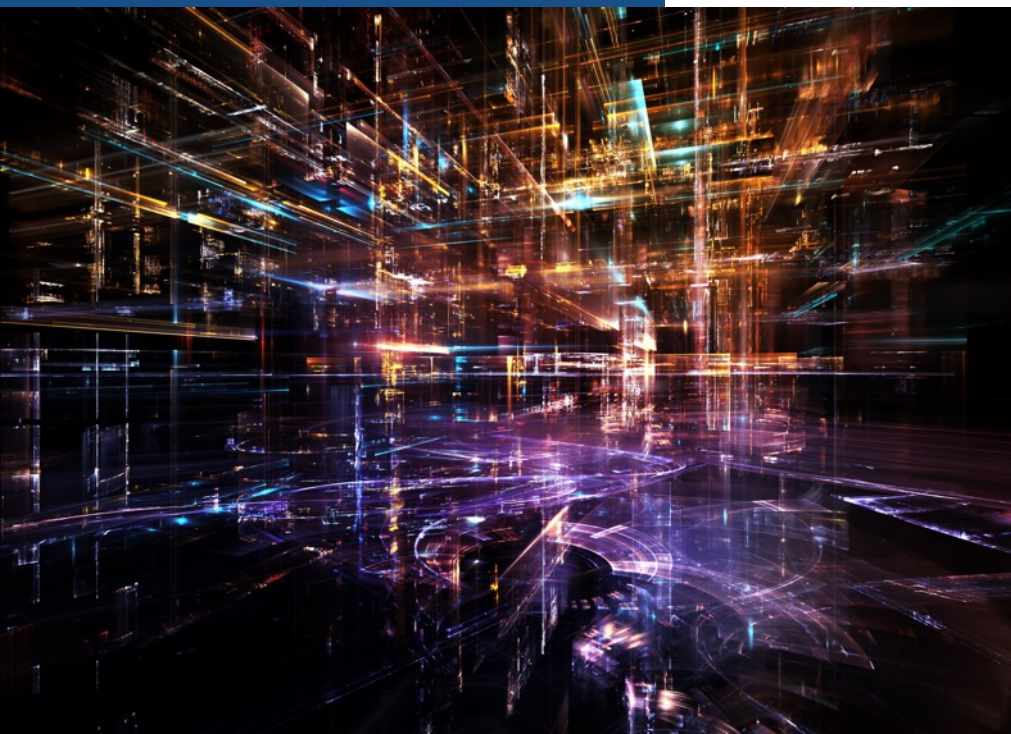
The Promise of Cyberspace



The New Jerusalem, ca. 1992

Cyberspace: A world in which the global traffic of knowledge, secrets, measurements, and alter-human agency takes on form: sights, sounds, presences never seen on the surface of the earth blossoming in a vast electronic night. . . From vast databases that constitute the culture's deposited wealth, every document is available, every recording is playable, and every picture is viewable...

— Michael Benedikt, Introduction to Cyberspace, MIT Press, 1991



From Star Trek to Mean Streets

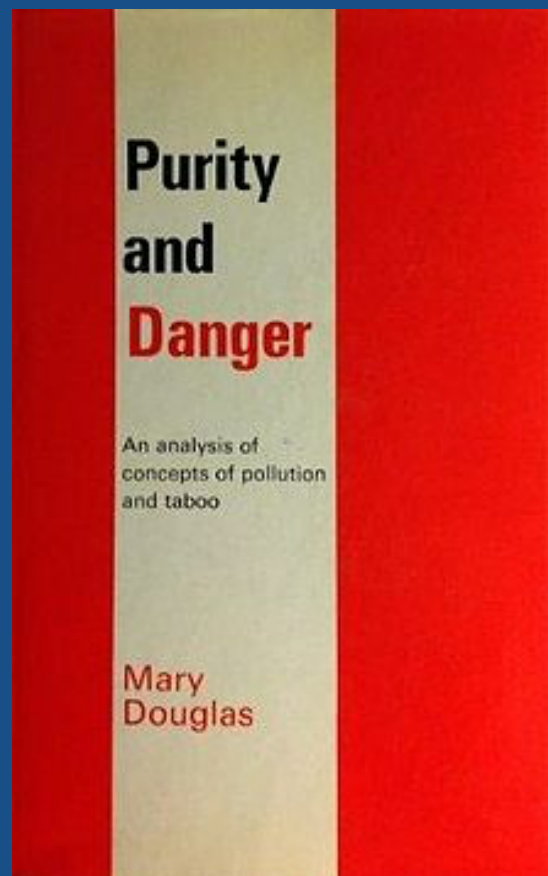


The virtual Bowery

[The Internet is] a place where crime is rampant and every twisted urge can be satisfied. Thousands of virtual streets are lined with casinos, porn shops, and drug dealers. Scam artists and terrorists skulk behind seemingly lawful Web sites... all easily accessible from your living room couch.

"The Underground Web," *Business Week*, 9/2/02

Varieties of "Rotten Information"



Problems of authenticity: **fakes**, hoaxes, forgeries, plagiarism, etc.

Problems of quality: reliability and “authoritativeness”

Problems of “pollution”: **pornography**, violence, **racism & hate speech**, incivility, trolls & sock puppets etc.

Mary Douglas: "Dirt is matter out of place... Dirt is never a unique, isolated event. Where there is dirt there is a system. Dirt is the by-product of a systematic ordering and classification of matter, in so far as ordering involves rejecting inappropriate elements."

How to tell pollution from the merely "unacceptable"?



The Dark Side of the Virtual



Brown and Duguid's six D's

Decentralization

Denationalization

Despatialization

Disintermediation

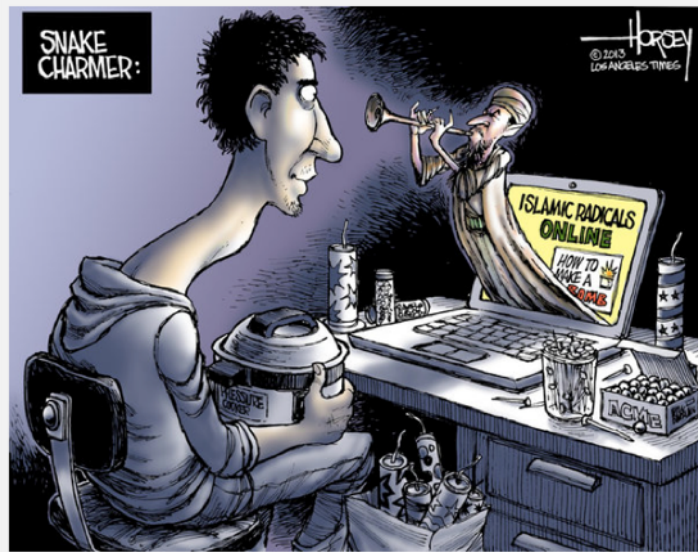
Disaggregation

Dematerialization

What happens when we eliminate material and social constraints and boundaries?

Internet imams may have inspired Boston Marathon bombers

Comments 82
Email Share 32 Tweet 4 Recommend 28 +1 0

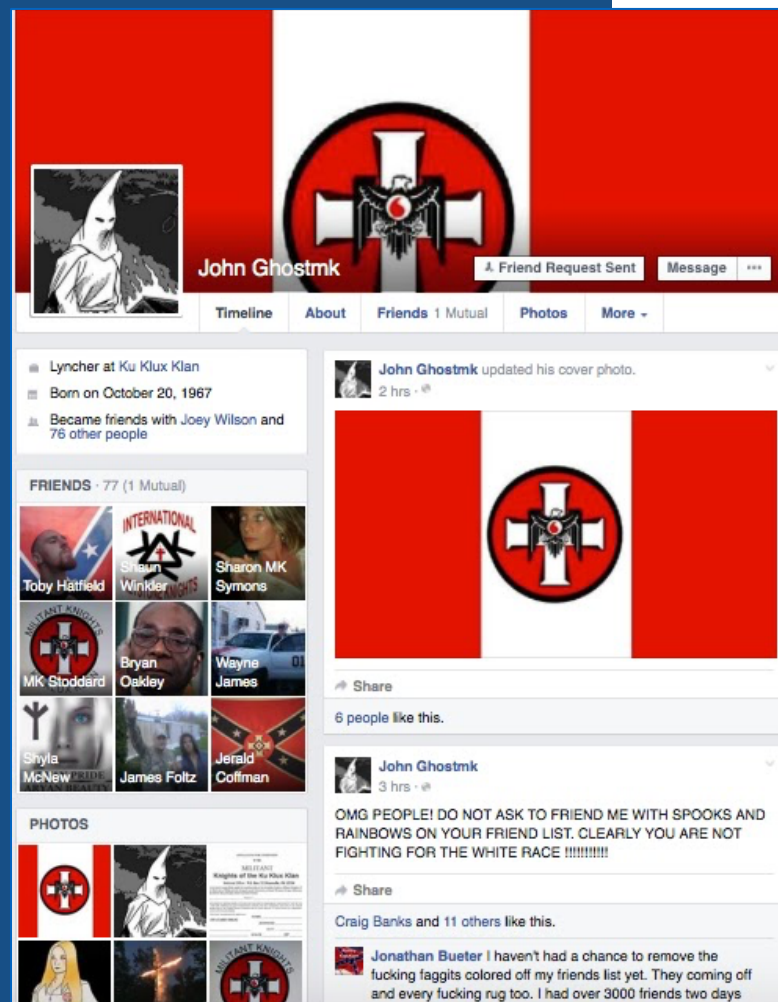


David Horsey / Los Angeles Times (April 25, 2013)

Related photos »

Magnifying Social Deviance

Socially or geographically “marginal” groups & ideologies made more accessible and visible



Schools told to monitor pupils' web use to prevent radicalisation

22 December 2015 | UK



The new measures schools will be required to introduce are aimed at protecting children from harm online



The boundaries of discourse: A racist hoax

THE FRANKLIN PROPHECY

Recorded by Charles Coteworth Pinckney

Delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1787

"I fully agree with General Washington, that we must protect this young nation from an insidious influence and impenetration. The menace, gentlemen, is the Jews.

"In whatever country
have lowered its moral
have segregated them
sneered at and tried to
which that nation is f

. If you do not exclude
Constitution, in less t
in such great number
land and change our form of government...

"I cannot find a single original source that gives the slightest justification for believing that the Prophecy is anything more than a barefaced forgery. Not a word have I discovered in Franklin's letters and papers expressing any such sentiments against the Jews as are ascribed to him by the Nazis — American and German."
Charles Beard, *NY Times*, March 10, 1937.

Pervasiveness of Hate Speech

Google

Web

[Show options...](#)

[The JEWS who Run Clinton and the USA](#) ☆
"I fully agree with General Washington, that we must protect this insidious influence and impenetration. The menace, gentlemen, is the Jew."
[www.biblebelievers.org.au/clilist.htm](#) - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

[JewishPost.com - The Franklin Prophecy: An Anti-Semitic Hoax](#)
I fully agree with General Washington, that we must protect this insidious influence and penetration. That menace, gentlemen, is the Jew."
[www.jewishpost.com/.../the-franklin-prophecy-an-anti-semitic-hoax](#) - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

[US Founding Fathers' Statements Concerning the Jews](#)
... he declared: "I fully agree with General Washington, that we must protect this insidious influence and impenetration. ..."
[www.scribd.com/.../US-Founding-Fathers-Statements-Concerning-the-Jews](#) - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

[The Jews - 100 Facts](#) ☆
Fact #72 (11) — Benjamin Franklin: "I fully agree with General Washington, that we must protect this young nation from an insidious influence and impenetration. ..."
[www.scribd.com/doc/28107776/The-Jews-100-Facts](#) - [Cached](#)

[Show more results from www.scribd.com](#)

[What were 3 factors that led to the holocaust? - Yahoo! Answers](#)
Dec 15, 2009 ... "I fully agree with General Washington, that we must protect this young nation from an insidious influence and impenetration. ..."
[answers.yahoo.com > Arts & Humanities > History](#) - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

[Americans Wake Up: Zionists & Israel ruling America. | Facebook](#)
I fully agree with General Washington, that we must protect this young nation from an insidious influence and penetration. That menace, gentlemen, is the Jew."
[www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=10724195862](#) - [Cached](#)

[The Goldman Probe Is a Smokescreen | Republic Broadcasting](#)
... agree with General Washington, that we must protect this young nation from an insidious influence and impenetration. The menace, gentlemen, is the Jew."
[republicbroadcasting.org/?p=8165](#) - [Cached](#)

[Judenhass Quotes](#) ☆
"I fully agree with General Washington, that we must protect this young nation from an insidious influence and impenetration. The menace, gentlemen, is the Jew."
[www.judenhass.com/quotes.html](#) - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

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The Call for Participation for Wikimania 2011 has been released. [Submit your presentations before](#)

The Franklin Prophecy

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

"The Franklin Prophecy", sometimes called "The Franklin Forgery", is an antisemitic speech falsely attributed to Benjamin Franklin, warning of the supposed dangers of admitting Jews to the United States.

ADL

Anti-Defamation League

ADL HOME

REGIONAL OFFICES

ABOUT

The Franklin "Prophecy"

Modern Anti-Semitic Myth Making

Introduction

The "Prophecy"

The Uses of the "Prophecy"

Documenting a Fraud

This article, which thoroughly documents the history of the tract known as the Franklin "Prophecy", appeared almost forty-five years after the 1954 issue of Facts, a publication of the Anti-Defamation League. The authors wrote "This 20-year-old anti-Semitic hoax is circulating in the United States more than sixty-five years after it was manufactured, the 'Prophecy' has become a staple of anti-Semitic propaganda. It can be found on a number of websites maintained by haters and hate-groups. The article is, therefore,

10

Google's Explanation

Web

Offensive Search Results

www.google.com/explanation

We're disturbed about these results as well. Please read o

If you recently used Google to search for the word "Jew," you may have seen results that were very disturbing. We assure you that the views expressed by the sites in your results are not in any way endorsed by Google.A site's ranking in Google's search results relies heavily on computer algorithms using thousands of factors to calculate a page's relevance to a given query. Sometimes subtleties of language cause anomalies to appear that cannot be predicted. ...

What would you tell Google to do?

The Profusion of Pornography



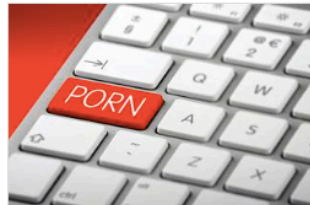
The profusion of pornography

Deseret Digital Media NewsOK publishes content from Deseret Digital Media, which has a network of websites that includes KSL.com, DeseretNews.com and FamilyShare.com.

Parents say porn is scarier than terrorism for their kids

Herb Scribner, Deseret News • Published: May 4, 2015 • Updated: May 4, 2015

3 shares



New research has found that Americans parents fear pornography more than they fear their child seeing terrorism videos or gambling websites. (Peter O'Toole, @istockphoto.com/peterotoole)

Pornography is the biggest concern among parents when it comes to their child's Internet safety.

In fact, parents are more worried about their children seeing pornographic material online than they were about terrorist videos or finding gambling websites, according to new research.

ADVERTISEMENT

pornography was once furtively glimpsed at

Utah GOPer Says Access To Pornography Violates His 'Right To Not View It'

SUBMITTED BY Brian Tashman on Thursday, 4/21/2016 3:05 pm

The sponsor of a recently passed Utah resolution declaring that “pornography is creating a public health crisis” appeared on the Family Research Council’s “Washington Watch” program yesterday to defend the measure, which the governor signed on Tuesday, and allege that the availability of pornography is violating his “First Amendment right to not view it.”

education, 70% of 15-to 17-year-olds accidentally come across



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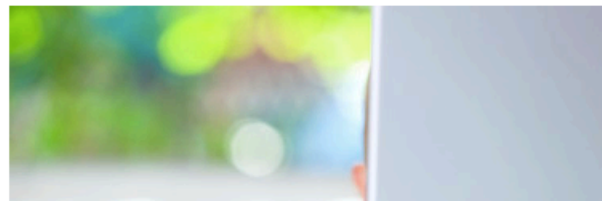
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Magazine HEALTH & SEXUALITY | MARRIAGE

Dangerous Exposure: The Sexualization of Children

ALYSSE ELHAGE | MARCH 24, 2016 | SHARE:  



DOWNLOAD ENTIRE ARTICLE (with images and endnotes)

“It felt like my stomach was rotting from the inside out.”

004

Dimensions(?) of the Problem

The Washington Times

Close Print

Originally published 04:45 a.m., September 29, 2009, updated 07:25 a.m., September 29, 2009

EXCLUSIVE: Porn surfing rampant at U.S. science foundation



Washington Takes Break From Porn Surfing to Bailout Wall Street

by [Ann Coulter](#)
04/28/2010

Democrats have decided that in order to prevent Wall Street from starting meltdowns, wrecking the economy and leaving the American taxpayer in a bind, we need to give more oversight authority to the same government employees who are busy surfing Internet porn as private investors frantically tried to warn Bernie Madoff.

GOP ramps up attacks on SEC over porn surfing

AP Associated Press

Buzz up! 281 votes | Send | Share | Print

By DANIEL WAGNER, AP Business Writer – Fri Apr 23, 12:14 pm ET

WASHINGTON – Republicans are stepping up their criticism of the Securities and Exchange Commission following reports that senior agency staffers spent hours surfing pornographic websites on government-issued computers while they were supposed to be policing the nation's financial system.

"More than 4 million Web sites worldwide show images of children being sexually exploited, said the U.N. investigator on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography... "

"It is estimated that 100,000 sites contain child pornography."

"A total of 4.2 million websites contain pornography."

≤1% of Websites contain porn. Philip B. Stark UCB, 2006 (100-200m sites in all)

— ... But what do the numbers really mean?

Porn in the Library!!

NEW YORK POST

Last Updated: Wed., Apr. 27, 2011, 07:45pm

City libraries say 'checking out' porn protected by First Amendment

By DOUGLAS MONTERO and BOB FREDERICKS

Last Updated: 9:03 AM, April 25, 2011

Posted: 1:54 AM, April 25, 2011

Like 2,583 people like this. Be the first of your friends.

Tweet 203

More Print

Shakespeare's plays, Einstein's theories -- and porn queen Jenna Jameson's steamy online sexcapades.

New Yorkers can take their pick at the city's public libraries, thanks to a policy that gives adults the most uncensored access to extreme, hard-core Internet smut this side of the old Times Square.

The electronic smut falls under the heading of free speech and the protection of the First Amendment, library officials say.

"What they're doing is publicly funding an appetite for the most debased fare available," said **Catholic League** President Bill Donohue. "It's not like a Playboy centerfold anymore -- it's far worse."

Local

Orland Park Library Porn Policy An Issue In Board Election

December 19, 2014 9:53 AM

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Internet porn a First Amendment right at Chicago libraries

libraries

Porn on L.A. Library Public Terminals Gets Serious Debate in City Hall

By Dennis Romero, Wed., Apr. 13 2011 @ 7:03AM

Categories: libraries

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Ah, L.A. City Hall, always tackling the Big Issue. I declawing and an Arizona business boycott that h teeth.

And now the accidental, over-the-shoulder viewing internet porn at public libraries is a matter of serious inquiry among city officials.

Yes, this was actually a major topic of discussion Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee meeting week.

And what was done about it?

Why nothing, of course.

Parental Alert: Municipal public libraries are also places where kids can be exposed to pornography

POSTED ON FEB 2, 2016 IN ALERTS, NEWS, WISCONSIN FAMILY MINUTE



merrick_monroe

Not an L.A. library branch (but could be)

Responses to Rotten Information

Technological fixes

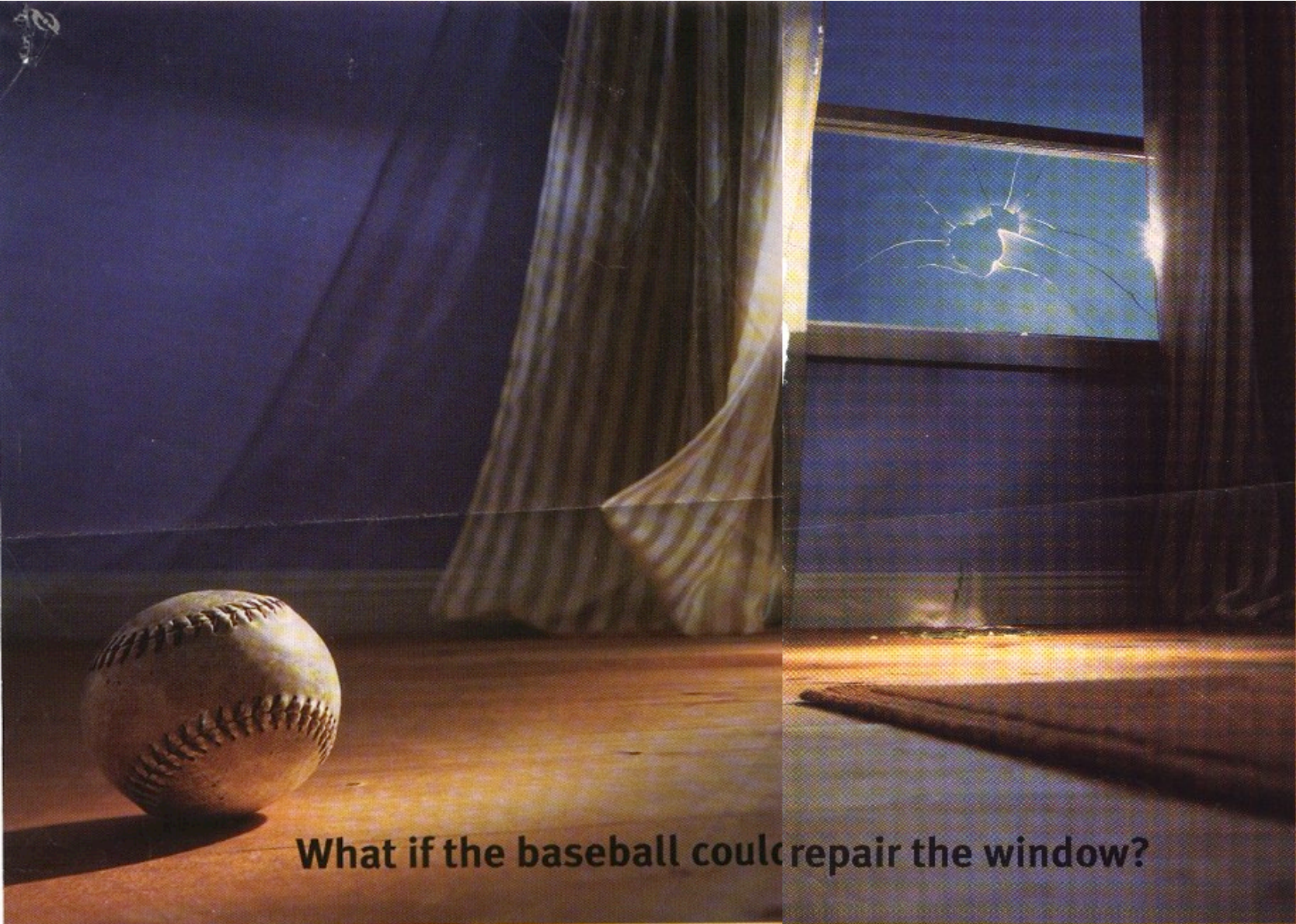
Institutional & organizational adaptations

Social/cultural change

Appeals to market forces

Legislative and legal remedies

Technology to the rescue?



What if the baseball could repair the window?

The Internet caused the problem. It's only fitting it should also provide the solution.

myCIO.com is the world's first infrastructure application service provider. Rough translation, it fights Internet-related security problems via the Internet. ■ It gives your e-business managed protection 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Protecting from threats both inside and out. Anti-virus, security audits, firewalls, VPN, anything you need. ■ Cutting-edge products like McAfee, CyberCop, Gauntlet and PGP are customized to your company's exact needs, then managed remotely. ■ Need another reason to believe? myCIO.com is brought to you by Network Associates, the world's number one supplier of Internet security software. ■ Visit myCIO.com for a free trial. You'll see.

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myCIO.com
Your Chief Internet Officer

Filtering Frenzy

RemoteWebGuard
We'll help you help yourself.

April 25, 2011 13:44 ET

Addicts Seek Help as US Internet Porn Addiction Rates Reach Alarming Heights

RemoteWebGuard Help Addicts by Monitoring Online Behavior



NetOptima
Most Accurate Filter

Products Features Support Company Buy

Download
NetOptima Vs Others
Knowledge Center
Pricing
NetOptima In News

NetOptima is an Internet Pornography Filter Software. NetOptima filters Internet to ensure it is free of offensive pornography.

Internet filtering software is installed on gateway computer that will filter pornography on all computers connected to the server.

Knowledge Center

2nd Nov: NetOptima to be showcased at



Ad for McAfee's GuardDog software

Limits of Text Blocking

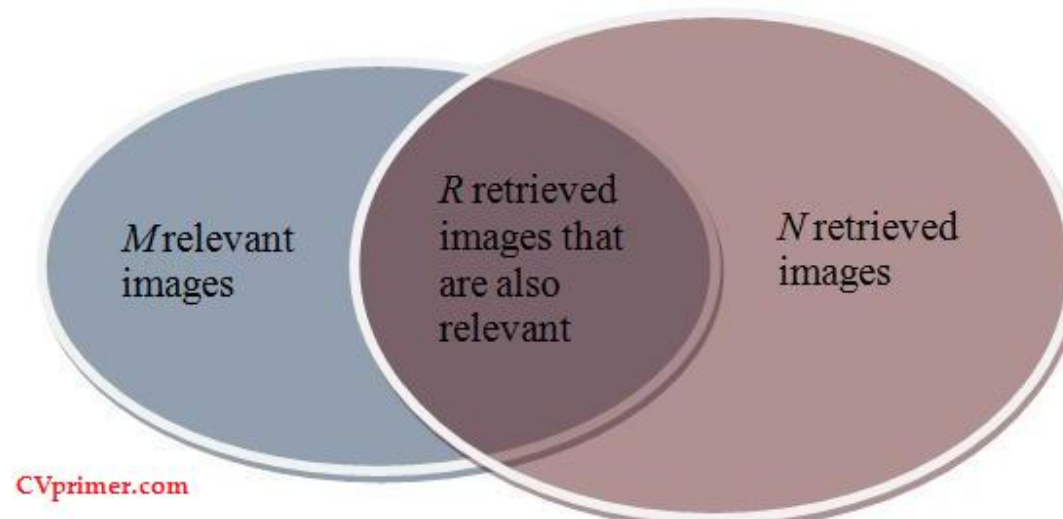
Children's Internet Protection Act (2001) mandates use of filters, but they are limited by:

- Confusion with innocent text

- Need to block IP numbers

- "Loophole" sites: anonymizer sites, Google cache & images

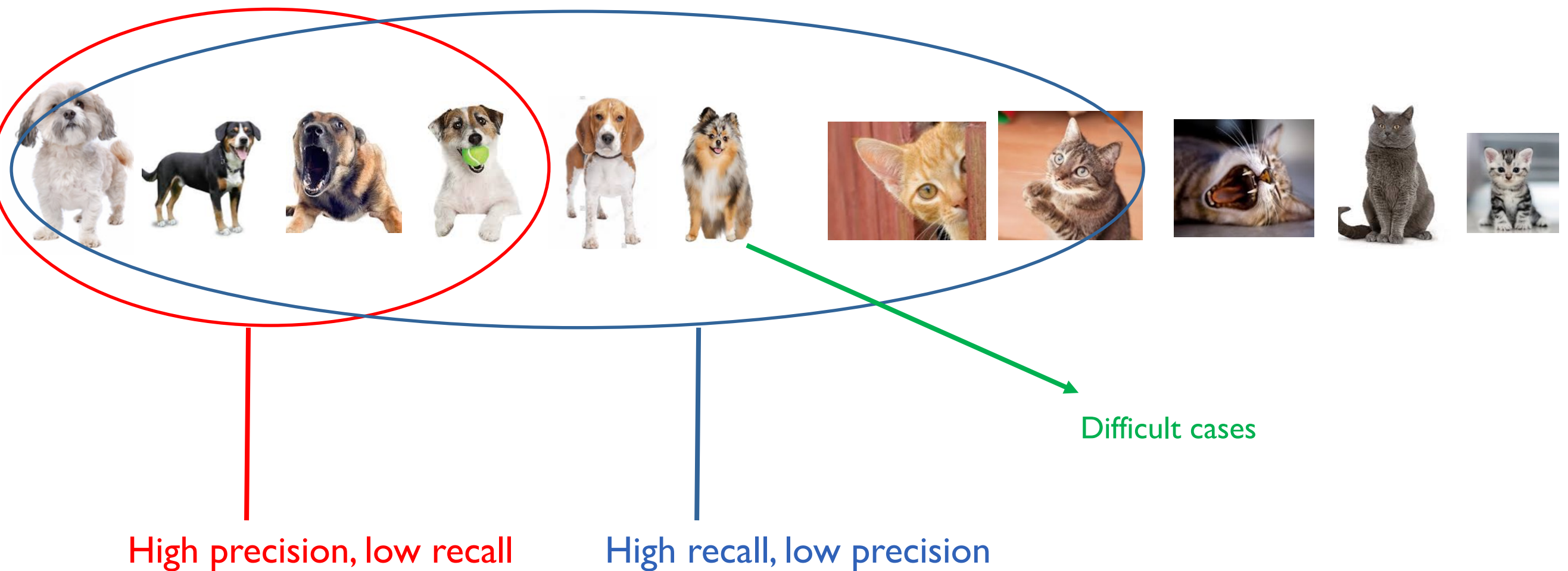
- Inherent trade-offs of precision and recall



$$\text{Precision} = R/N$$

$$\text{Recall} = R/M$$

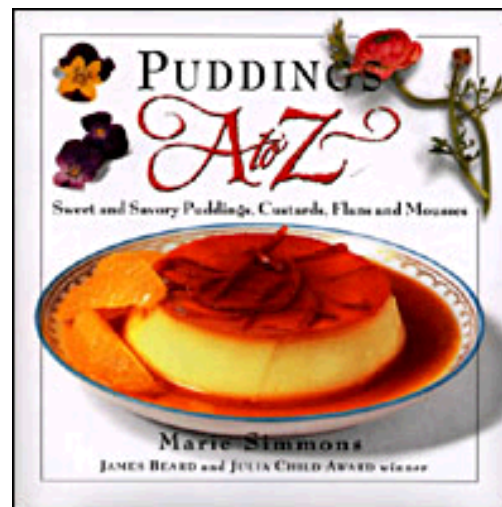
Recall v. Precision



Recall: proportion of all the relevant objects retrieved
Precision: fraction of retrieved objects that are relevant

Limits of Image Classification

Images found "Probably Objectionable" by WIPE (Wavelet Image Pornography Elimination / Detection).





"I know it when I see it." Potter
Stewart 1964

Identifying pornography —a hard (and interesting!) problem

Machine learning tries to identify pornographic images by extrapolating from hand-picked training sets.

Detecting pornographic images by localizing skin ROIs

Sotiris Karavarsamis^a, Nikos Ntarmos^b, Kostantinos Blekas^c, and Ioannis Pitas^a

^aAIIA Group, Department of Informatics, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

^bSchool of Computing Science, University of Glasgow, Scotland

^cDepartment of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Ioannina, Greece

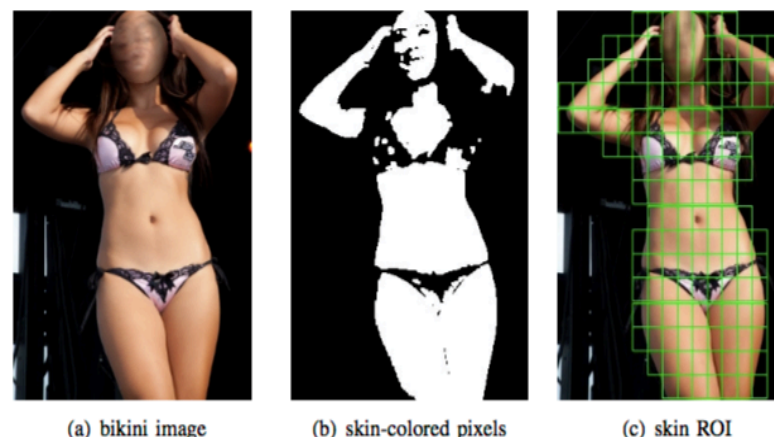


Fig. 1: Skin ROI detection and localization. We are interested in finding skin regions that have high skin-color pixel ratio and are fairly homogeneously textured, that is, they have sufficiently large values of the kurtosis measure. The testbed image above is courtesy of J. E. Ramspott (reproduced with permission).

Social, Economic & Institutional Responses to Internet Pornography

Libraries can regulate use by means of use policies, training and guidance, monitoring of logs, tap-on-the-shoulder policies, etc.

Rights of other patrons can be protected by privacy screens, etc.

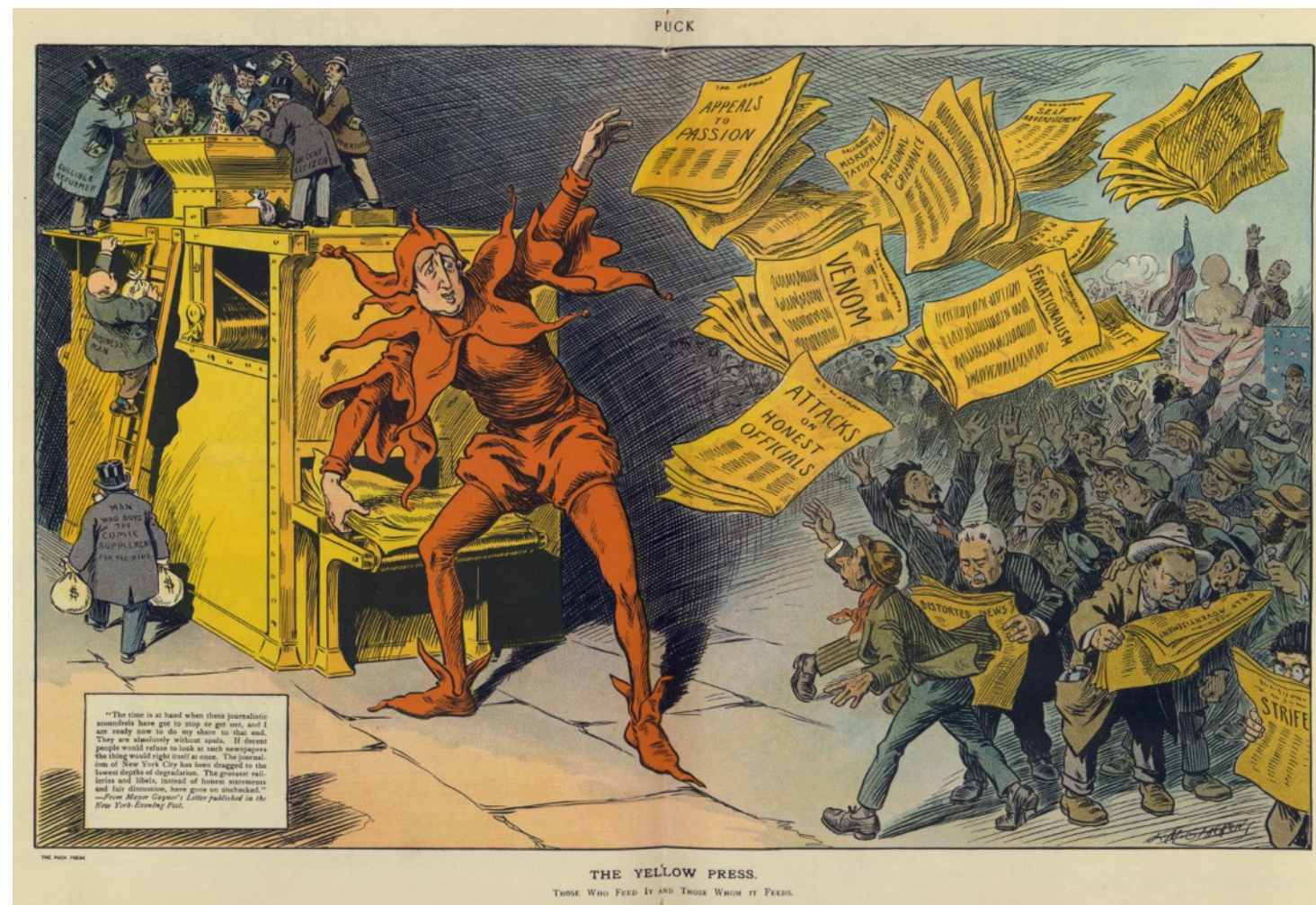
Parents can assume responsibility for monitoring kids' surfing.

Providers can offer "greenspace" browsers for kids.

Even porn can get old...



A flood of “fake news”



Cartoon of William Randolph Hearst 1910

It was ever thus...

PRESS PARLEY ACTS TO BAR FAKE NEWS

World Conference Adopts
American Resolution for
Investigating Board.

TO LOOK INTO SUBSIDIES

Plan for Journalists' Safety in
Disturbed Countries Voted at
Closing Madrid Session.

Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES

Some Newspapers.

From The Forum.

While they are not a cause for alarm, they should receive the attention of every educator and every true and patriotic citizen. It could not be foreseen that a time would come when a partisan press would seek to mislead the people. It could not be foreseen that a time would come when whole columns of "fake" news would be published; that whole columns of sensational "stuff" would be printed and read. It

1896



1894



1941

FAKE NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

Gen. G. B. Williams Scores the English Papers for Their Yellow Stories. Friendly Feelings Exist for Americans.

[BY DIRECT WIRE TO THE TIMES.]
LONDON, May 31.—[Exclusive Dispatch.] "I can indorse every word the New York Herald has said about fake news from Russia," said Gen. G. B. Williams at the Hotel Cecil yesterday. "It is to me incomprehensible why the English papers should print such news, or why their correspondents in

1898

It was ever thus

All markets feed on information... and trust.

BARRON'S ASIA EDITION U.S. EDITION Welcome, geoffrey

HOME MAGAZINE DAILY INVESTING IDEAS ADVISOR CENTER MARKET DATA

READ THIS, SPIKE THAT

Fake Investment News Could Be Here to Stay

The SEC is prosecuting online stock fraud, but Seeking Alpha and other platforms aren't the targets.

By JOHN KIMELMAN
April 11, 2017 7:00 p.m. ET

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Getty Images

A Rave, a Pan, or Just a Fake?

The Haggler

By DAVID SEGAL MAY 21, 2011



InvestmentNews

News & Features Video Data & Resources Research Events

Fake news! SEC warns that some investment research is a sham

Takes enforcement action against

Apr 11, 2017 @ 1:27 pm
By InvestmentNews



Admiral Cochrane
"Napoleon is dead" 1814

LONDON,
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1814.
Never, perhaps, was greater agitation produced in the Metropolis by any foreign news, than was yesterday occasioned by a fraud of the most impudent and nefarious description. An express arrived from Dover,



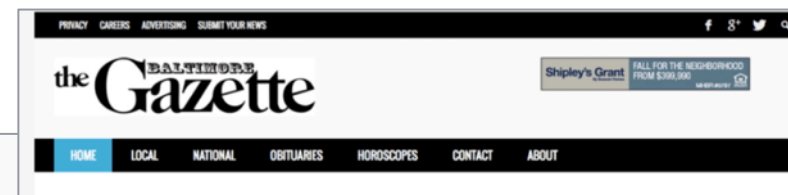
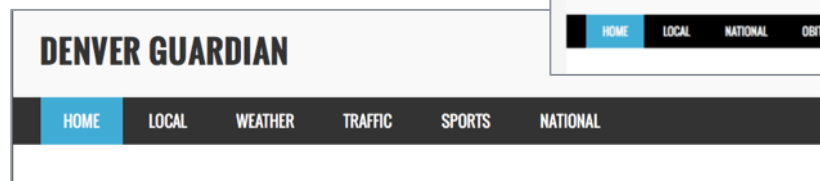
Stun gun disguised as an iphone



Real Guns



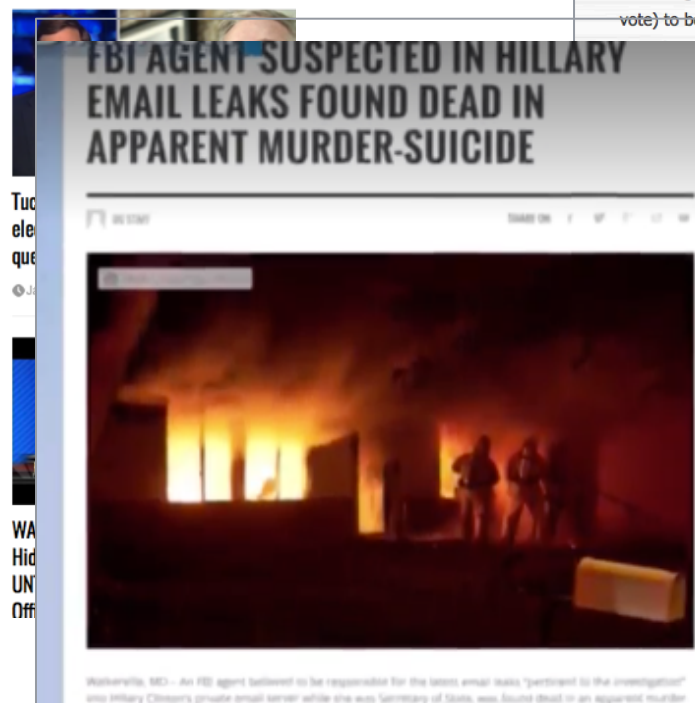
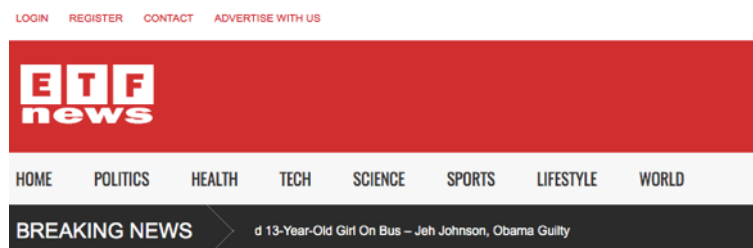
Fake Guns



Faking it

What's different now?

Dematerialization removes material signs of institutional and corporate authority, makes “news” easier to simulate and diffuse widely.





“A man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest.”

Reason to believe

W

WESTERN JOURNALISM

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BEST OF THE WEEKCOACHISRIGHTFEATURED STORIESOPINION

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Florida Democrats Just Voted To Impose Sharia Law On Women

The REAL war on women continues...

By Dr. Kevin "Coach" Collins

Confirmed: Gays Are Lacing Easter Eggs with Homosexual-Inducing Food Colorings

Like 116K

Tweet

G+

90

Posted on April 10, 2017

Posted By: Marion Uncmeier

Categories: Investigative Report

Advertisement

New News

Eric Trump: “My Father’s Tax Return Is Irrelevant Because We’re Going To Cancel Taxes For WEALTHY People Anyway.”

How to plant skepticism in those who are inclined to believe what confirms their views?

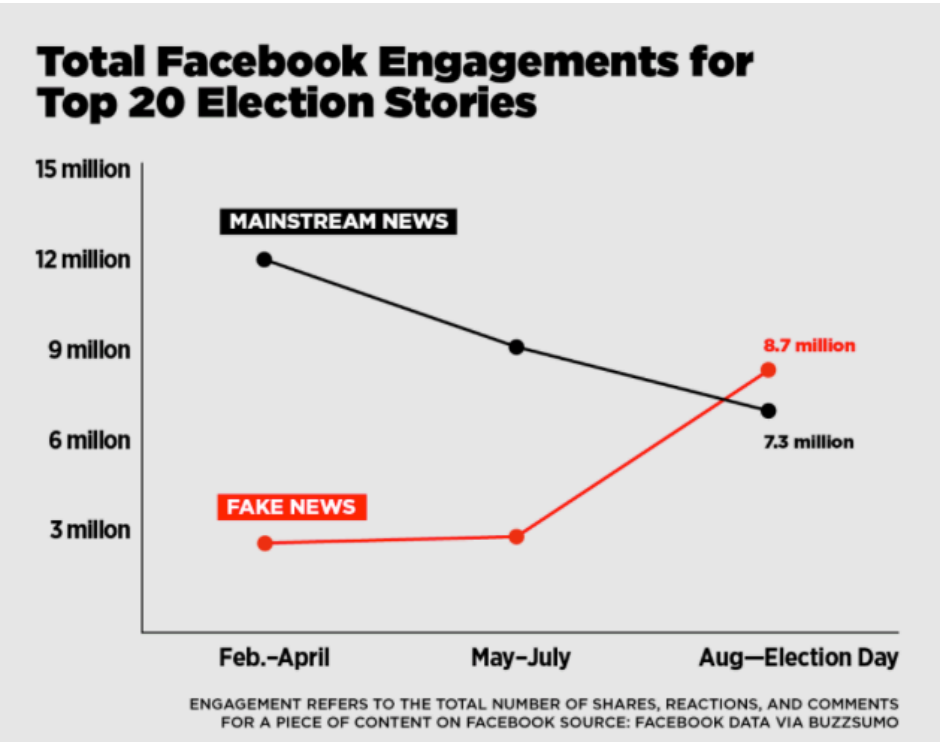
This Analysis Shows How Viral Fake Election News Stories Outperformed Real News On Facebook

WikiLeaks CONFIRMS Hillary Sold Weapons to ISIS... Then Drops Another BOMBHELL!

FALSE

Barbara Bush: "I don't know how women can vote" for Trump

Vs



Mistrusting the media

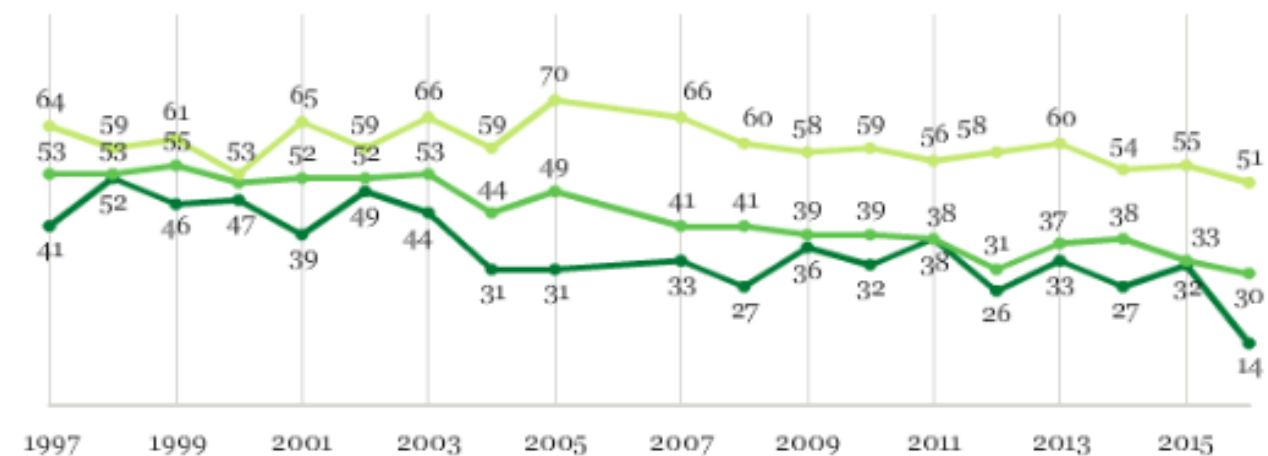
Trust in "mainstream media" has been eroding since 1970s in all sectors, though more marked on right, because of...

1. the media themselves
2. modernity, mistrust of other institutions
3. accessibility of bias-confirming stories
4. extreme partisanship

Trust in Mass Media, by Party

% Great deal/Fair amount of trust

■ Republicans ■ Independents ■ Democrats



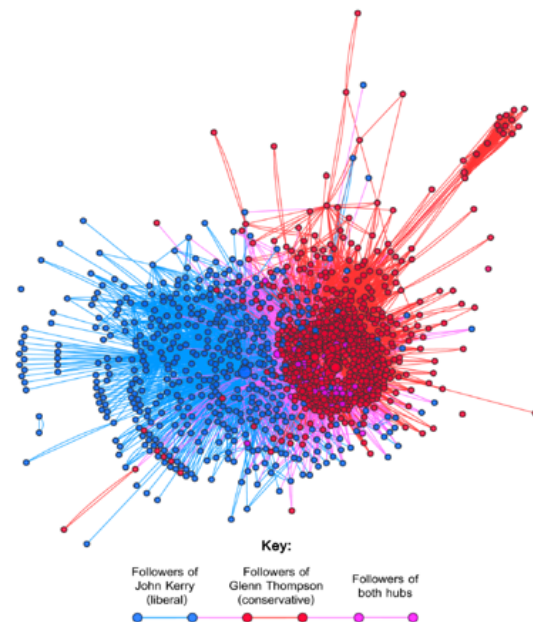
GALLUP

Partisan Tribalism

“Partisan bias now operates more like racism than mere political disagreement. Americans’ deep bias against the political party they oppose is so strong that it acts as a kind of partisan prism for facts, refracting a different reality to Republicans than to Democrats.”

“The Real Story About Fake News Is Partisanship.” Amanda Taub, NY Times, 2017

Figure 3. Core Homophilous Follower Networks Of Two Political Hubs



Note: This diagram depicts core followers of two hubs closely matched on follower count and

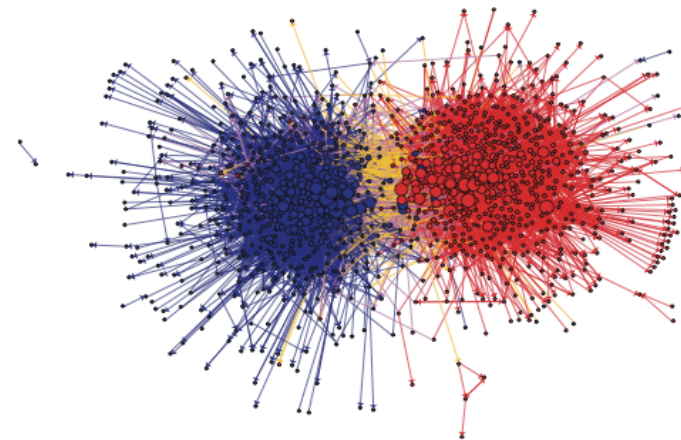


Figure 1: Community structure of political blogs (expanded set), shown using utilizing a GEM layout [11] in the GUESS[3] visualization and analysis tool. The colors reflect political orientation, red for conservative, and blue for liberal. Orange links go from liberal to conservative, and purple ones from conservative to liberal. The size of each blog reflects the number of other blogs that link to it.

“Community structure among political blogs,” Adamic & Nathalie Glance, 2005, “Divided They Blog”

Boutyline and Willer, “The Social Structure of Political Echo Chambers: Ideology and Political Homophily in Online Communication Networks.” 2014

Venue matters: FB users’ networks less strictly homophilous (Bakshy et al.) Average facebook user: 20 percent of friends from other party.

But the FB newsfeed tends to reinforce political views.

Siloing of political discourse reflects offline polarization



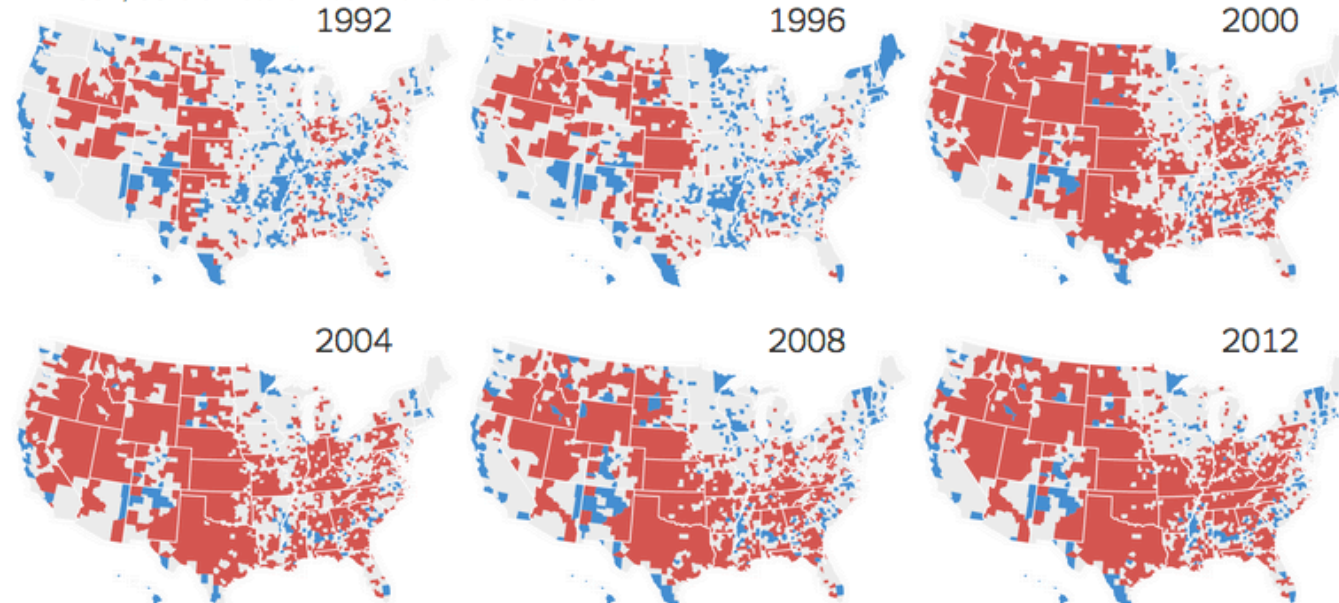
Online discourse facilitates "siloing" of political discourse...

But siloing has independent offline roots

Polarization of political discourse on the Internet mirrors polarization of elite/activist views and the increasing importance of elective associations (geographical, occupational)

Counties that voted for the Republican or Democratic presidential candidate by 20 percentage points or more

In 1992, 38% of voters lived in landslide counties.



In 2012, 50% of voters lived in landslide counties.

Who do you believe?

Both Republicans and Democrats find “fake news” a problem, but differ on definition and source.



In the months since [the election], the biggest pushers of fake news have been the traditional media itself.

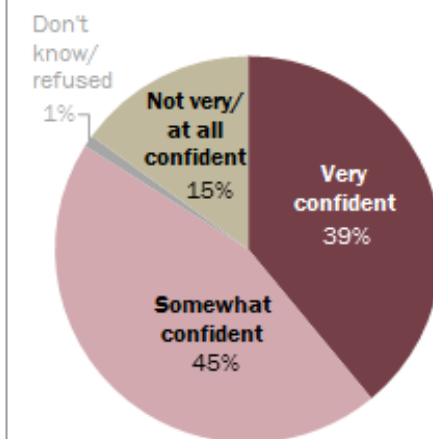


Most Americans Who See Fake News Believe It, New Survey Says

An exclusive Ipsos poll conducted for BuzzFeed News found that 75% of American adults who were familiar with a fake news headline viewed the story as accurate.

Majority are confident in their ability to recognize fake news

% of U.S. adults who are ___ in their ability to recognize made-up news



Source: Survey conducted Dec. 1-4, 2016. "Many Americans Believe Fake News Is Sowing Confusion"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Debate

On Thursday, April 27, we'll hold a pseudo-Oxford-style debate on the motion, "Resolved, the most effective defense against 'fake news' will be in extending education rather than via algorithms that identify such stories, reduce 'filter bubbles', adjust search result rankings, etc." Pick one side, affirmative or negative, and enumerate three points to defend your position —no mealy-mouthed straddling or equivocating!—citing as necessary the readings assigned for April 27.

Debate

Team Yea: Zackary H., Sidney D., Harold S., Charmaine C.
(rebuttal)

Team Nay: Leland L., Anjile A., Alexandra C., Pranav A. (rebuttal)

Teams will alternate. Each member will have 90 sec. to present one or two arguments. Then one member from each team will speak in rebuttal of the other for 2 min.

The class will vote on the Question before the debate and then again after the debate. Whichever side moves more people to its cause will be deemed the winner.

In sum...

Responses to issues of “pollution” such as pornography and fake news can take the form of:

Technological fixes

Legal or institutional solutions

Educational intervention

Economic approaches

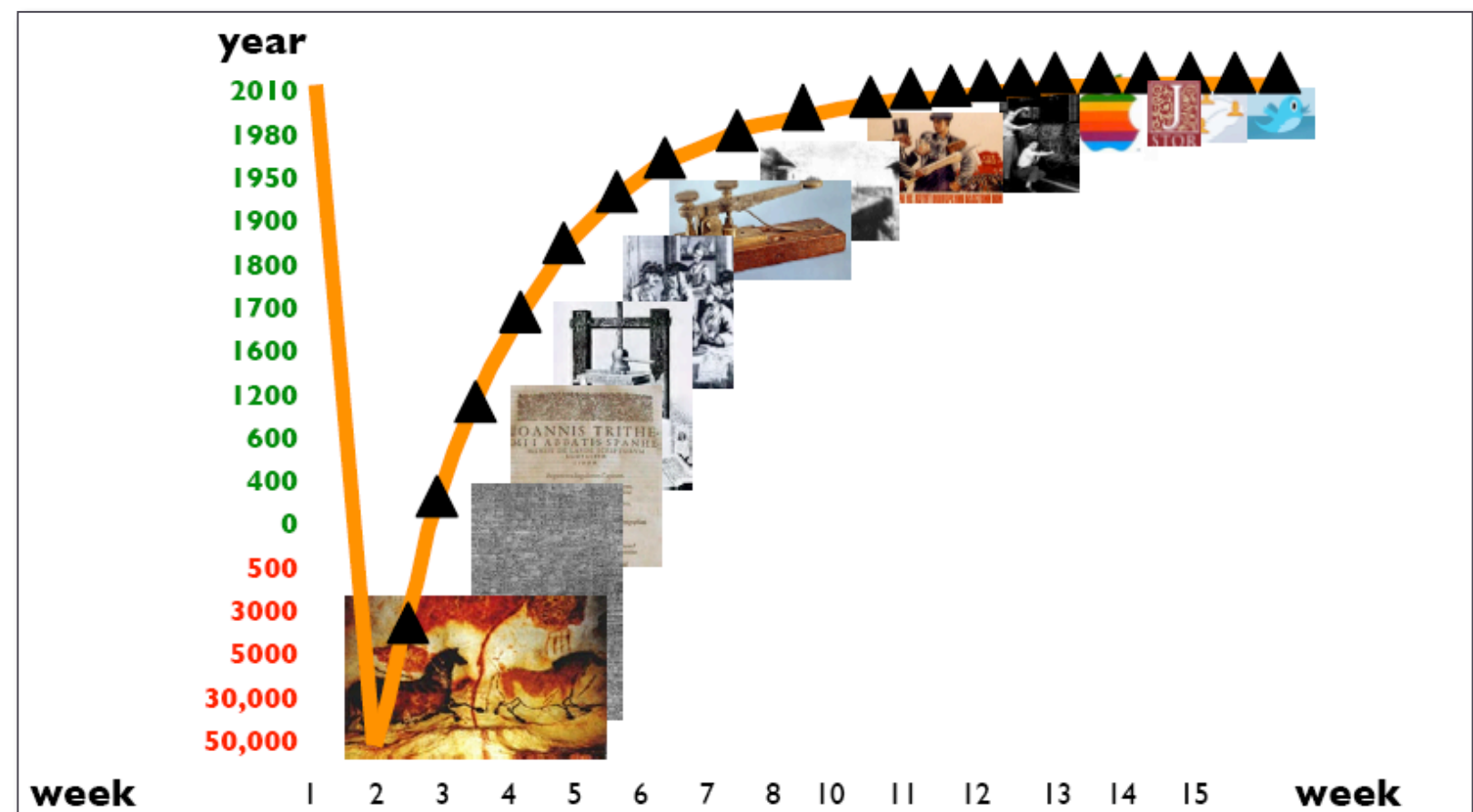
Where else has technology interacted with social, political, and economic forces to produce an outcome?

We've been here before

Writing
Print
Telegraph &
telephone
Newspapers
Advertising
IP
Propaganda
Photography
Radio & TV
Computers
Search
Internet...

Where else has technology interacted with social, political, and economic forces to produce outcomes?

Where hasn't it?



Looking Backwards

Which classes were most/least valuable?

Which readings were most/least valuable?

How could assignments be improved?

Other suggestions....



Good-bye and good luck

