

"The Internet is not a thing, a place, a single technology, or a mode of governance.

It is an agreement. "

John Gage, Director of Science,

Sun Microsystems, Inc.

# REPUBLIC OF WEB — A WEB OF, BY, AND FOR THE PEOPLE

# Objectives of the talk

- Look at some definitions and views about "information".
- Discuss a way to track dynamic information.
- Republic of Web examples to show the usefulness of this way.
- Report on ContextMiner's election 2008 crawls and related projects.

## Information revisited

"[Information] is a central and defining characteristic of all life forms, manifested in genetic transfer, in stimulus response mechanisms, ... and, in the case of humans, in the intelligent acquisition of understanding and wisdom."

D. Kaye (1995). The nature of information. Library Review 44(8), 37-48.

### Definitions of information

- 'information is informing, telling; thing told, knowledge, items of knowledge, news'.
  - Oxford English Dictionary
- Information In information processing, knowledge concerning such things as facts, concepts, objects, events, ideas, and processes that within a certain context has a particular meaning.
  - IBM Dictionary of Computing

### Views on information

- "Library and information professionals, thus have a perception of information as objective matter, defining it instrumentally in terms of data, facts, knowledge and opinion, to be applied to learning, decision making, problem solving and other tasks."
  - Kaye (1995)
- "[Information is] that sense created at a specific moment in time space by one or more humans."
  - Dervin (1992)

### Role of information

- "At a very fundamental level information colors our perceptions of the world around us, and thereby influences attitudes, emotions, and actions."
  - Rowley (1998). What is information? Information Services & Use, 18, 243-254

$$\Delta I + (S) \to (S + \Delta S)$$

■ Brookes (1974). Robert Fairthorne and the scope of information science. *Journal of Documentation* 30(2), 139-152

### Information derivatives

Oth derivative



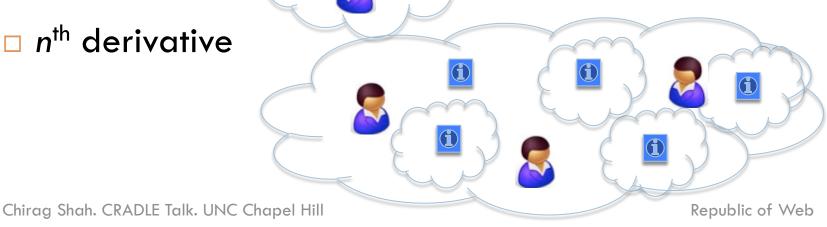
□ 1<sup>st</sup> derivative



 $\ \square$  2<sup>nd</sup> derivative

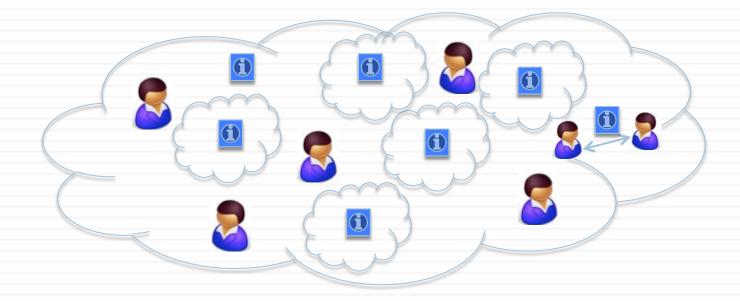


 $\square$   $n^{\text{th}}$  derivative

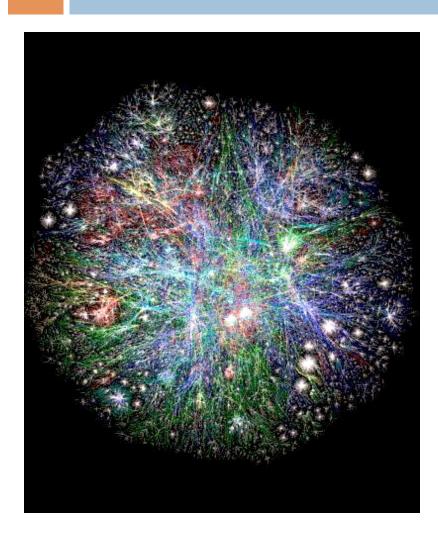


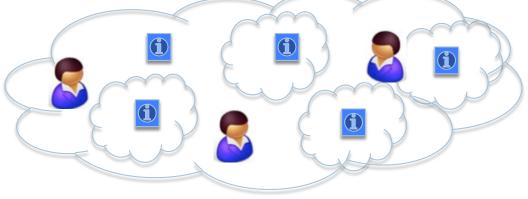
# Republic of Web

Information of, by, and for the people



# Republic of Web





### Social networks



mother duck + ducklings + chirag (papa duck)

In this photo: Bizzy Maness (photos), Madison Williams (photos), Nathan Yarnall (photos), Sarah Jagdmann (photos), Chirag Shah (photos | remove tag), Jimmy Fay (photos), Joe Levin-Manning (photos), Carissa Chambers (photos)

From the album: "DCDI '08!" by Sarah Jagdmann



#### Sarah Jagdmann wrote

at 11:54pm on November 3rd, 2008

so i guess this is our team photo for dcdi this year



#### Amanda Michelle Jackson wrote

at 12:05am on November 4th, 2008

without me and Teon and Jane and Naomi? Thanks.



#### Sarah Jagdmann wrote

at 12:08am on November 4th, 2008

by the time we realized we hadn't taken one yet the first car had already left and people were still dancing :(

thanks for the jacket joe! it was very warm :)



#### Joe Levin-Manning wrote

at 12:19am on November 4th, 2008

anytime! ready for gamecock?



#### Carissa Chambers wrote

at 12:21am on November 4th, 2008

I can't BELIEVE I forgot to arrange a team photo. I ALWAYS arrange a team photo at comps. don't let it happen again at Gamecock guys!



#### Amanda Michelle Jackson wrote

at 12:21am on November 4th, 2008

We won't--and Bizzy and I will remind you sometime to take that picture of us that you wanted to take.



#### Carissa Chambers wrote

at 12:25am on November 4th, 2008

hahahaha! I just noticed the caption. niiiice.

## Social Q&A



#### **Resolved Question**

Show me another »

### How far is my mailbox supposed to be from the street or curb?

7 hours ago





sensible...

#### Best Answer - Chosen by Asker

It needs to be close enough that the mailman can reach it without stretching too far out the window of their vehicle. Call your local Post Office for minimum and maximum distances.

4 hours ago



#### Asker's Rating: \*\*\*\*

That is exactly what I did and the post office says the opening of the box should line up with the inside of the curb! And the postman came right after we installed it and said it is better than others because theirs are too low in the ground!

Thanks!

# Blogs

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2008

#### New York Times Reports Palin "Quote" About Africa was a Hoax

By now everyone has heard about the leak from a staffer in the John McCain campaign, that Governor Sarah Palin had to be told that Africa was a continent, not a country. Fox News initially reported the source of the story as an unnamed McCain campaign member. MSNBC did Fox one better; David Shuster, an MNBC anchor, reported, "Turns out it was Martin Eisenstadt, a McCain policy adviser, who has come forward today to identify himself as the source of the leaks."



Trouble is, as the New York Times now reports, there is no such person as Martin Eisenstadt, His existence, the supposed leak, and Governor Palin's remark about Africa were all a hoax.

One would have thought that the media's mauling of Governor Palin would have ended with the defeat of the McCain-Palin ticket. However, the media seems intent on destroying her future political prospects as well. Unfortunately, the revelation of the hoax will not get one-tenth of the publicity as the original false story.

UPDATE: HOT AIR reports that the fictional Martin Eisenstadt was not the source of the smear for Carl Cameron at Fox News, and so far at least Fox News is not retracting the original Carl Cameron report, even though MSNBC has retracted the story.

POSTED BY THE KOSHER HEDGEHOG AT 11:30 AM | Trackback



3 COMMENTS:

Anonymous said...

Much like the weapons of mass destruction were?

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2008 12:32:00 PM

Lowell Brown said...

Anonymous, an excellent attempt to change the subject to something absolutely irrelevant. In a way, I am impressed.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2008 12:41:00 PM

# Video sharing

My Campaigns -> Elections 2008 -> Vote Different -> In-links



Vote Different [YouTube Video]

Query: hillary

Description: Make up your own mind. Decide for yourself who should be our next president, NOTE: This is a mashup of the famous Apple 1984 Super Bowl ad, Search for the original on YouTube.

Username: ParkRidge47

Category: **Duration:** 1.23 min.

Keywords: 1984, Apple, Barack, Clinton, Hillary, Ingsoc, Macintosh, Obama

Who is "ParkRidge47" By Micah L. Sifry, 03/07/2007 - 3:06pm Article about the author of "Vote Different"

The first piece of voter-generated video to make a splash in Campaign 2008 has hit, and with it comes a mystery. Is "Vote Different" really the work of an amateur, a civilian if you will? Or is it a shrewd move by someone who wants to stir up trouble between the Hillary Clinton and Barack Obema campaigns? After all, comparing Hillary to Big Brother, droning on about her "conversation" with America and portraying her supporters as silent automatons is hardly what Obama supporters want to say about the former First Lady. Or is it?

Yesterday, I was talking with several of TechPresident's contributing bloggers, and we all agreed that "Vote Different" was a terrific piece of viral video. Indeed, the minute-long mash-up of Apple's famous "1984" ad and some Hillary speeches has been viewed more than 100,000 times since being posted two days ago by someone using the handle "ParkRidge47."

One tip-off that this is not the work of a rank amateur is how well the video integrates not just Hillary's speeches into the rectangular TV boxes shown in the spot, but the placement of Obama's circular campaign logo on the

Breaking News: The Barocket

Takes Off on YouTube

Original "Think

Different" video

Mashup Madness, and the Rise of Videracy

woman runner's shirt (see below). Of course, it's totally possible that someone unconnected with any political operation could have these skills.

#### Vote Different



Select: Action: [First Page] [Prev] Showing page 1 of 8 pages [Next] [Last Page] L E X R E X: Rescuing the REPUBLIC - One Heart, and One Mind at a time 2 March 2007 - Posts - First Read - msnbc.com 3 Political video smackdown / 'Hillary 1984': Unauthorized Internet ad ... 4 Assistant/Atlas: Hollywood's Young Shoulders 5 The (liberal)Girl Next Door 6 Yahoo's Presidential 'Mashup Debate' Won't Support Mashups 7 All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others. 8 Watching Big Sister - washingtonpost.com 9 techPresident - Who is "ParkRidge47"? 10 Who is the person behind the Clinton attack ad?

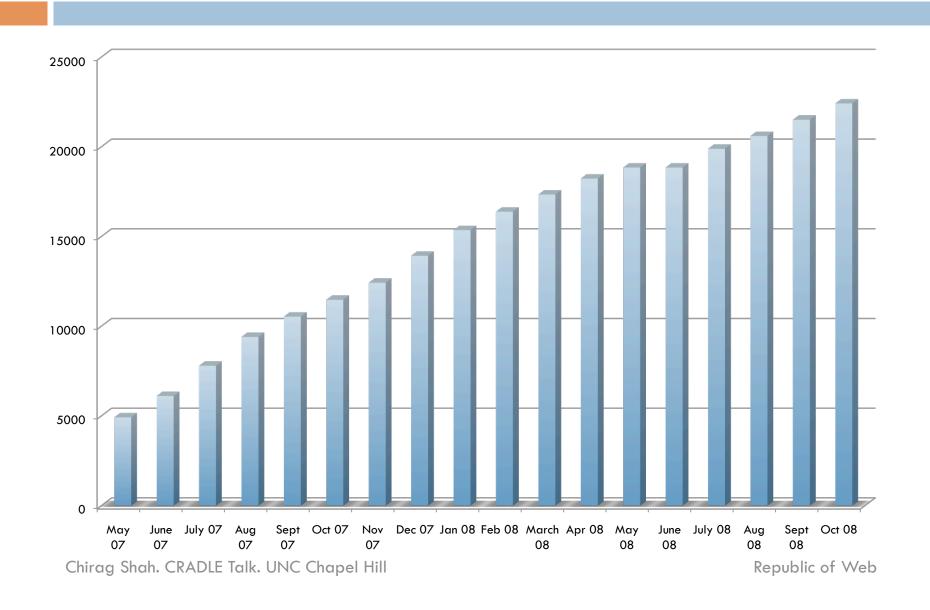
(ib) print email: delicious Sil digg technorati Related links: On "Hillary 1984": Phil de Vellis Speaks to YouTube and

Chirag Shah. CRADLE Talk. UNC Chapel Hill

# ContextMiner and the elections 2008

Collecting data and mining contextual information relating to the elections 2008.

### Overview of the collection



### Overview of the collection

- □ As of Oct. 20, 2008:
  - □ Unique videos: 22,104
  - □ Unique authors: 8,352
  - Total views: 575,488,029
  - □ Average views: 23,503
  - Total comments: 3,130,856
  - Average comments: 128
  - Total ratings: 2,912,976
  - Average ratings: 119

# Obama vs. McCain

	Barack Obama	John McCain
Videos posted	577	94
Number of views	34,387,028	1,919,855
Number of comments	69,188	23,711
Number of ratings	219,876	15,622
Number of times favorited	13 <b>,</b> 51 <i>7</i>	3,791

	Barack Obama	John McCain
Avg. views per video	59,596	20,424
Avg. comments per video	120	252
Avg. ratings per video	381	166
Avg. number of times a video favorited	23	40

### Connectors and mavens

#### Connectors

(People who posted at least one comment for a video)

Author: No. of videos

EdinHaglersville: 198

ryanshaunkelly: 196

uterfan: 174

iTellYouNoLie: 151

conservativegrunt: 117

LeeKwangEng: 113

overmind25:100

SeventiesPopRock: 93

Veritatem1212:89

egginanest: 89

#### Mavens

(People who posted a lot of comments in our collection)

Author: No. of comments

SeventiesPopRock: 817

gravelin08:746

EdinHaglersville: 606

sunstorm007:584

Veritatem1212: 548

ryanshaunkelly: 529

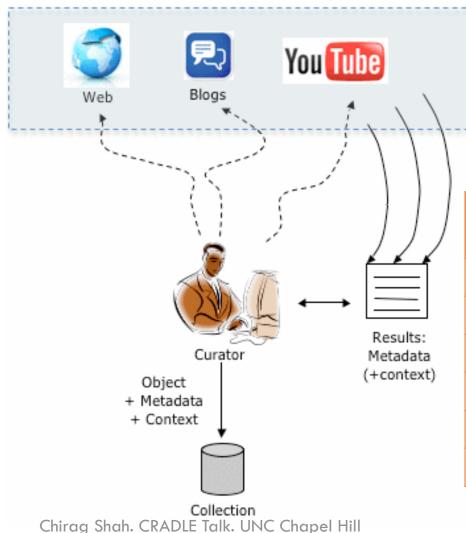
iTellYouNoLie: 523

LeeKwangEng: 501

Search: 496

overmind25: 394

# ContextMiner public beta





www.contextminer.org

	Early July to Mid-Nov., 2008
Users	67
Active campaigns	135
Queries	318
YouTube videos	39,369
Blogs	71,100
In-links	1,2 <i>57,7</i> 36

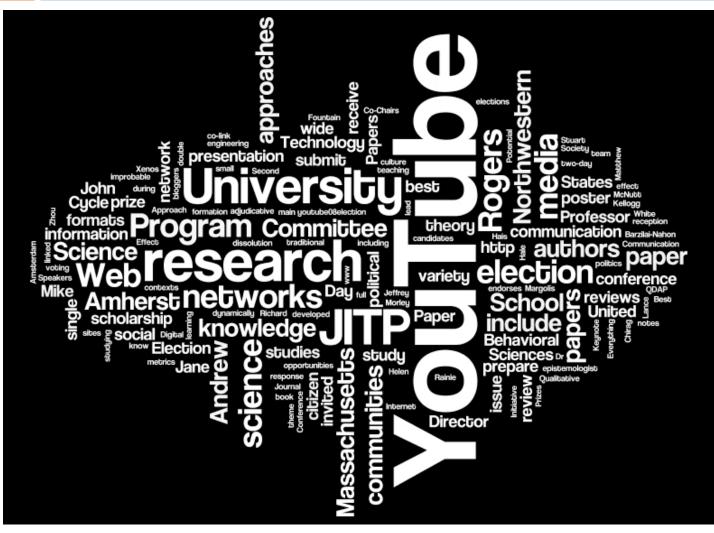
# TubeKit public beta



www.tubekit.org

- Allows one to build a harvester for YouTube
- Also includes several other tools for YouTube crawling
- Runs on the local site
- Support for downloading videos too
- More than 200 downloads

# CFP: YouTube and the 2008 Election Cycle in the United States



April 3-4 UMass Amherst Papers due: 01/07/2009

# Summary

- Information not just bytes, databases, or bit streams.
- Studies of how people transform information and how information transform people are very valuable.
- www.contextminer.org
- www.tubekit.org
- www.republicofweb.org

### Thank You!

VidArch team:

Gary Marchionini, Helen Tibbo, Cal Lee, Paul Jones, Rob Capra, Terrell Russell, Chirag Shah, Laura Sheble, Yaxiao Song