Beyond Search: Interlinking Public Information

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### Background

- The problem of integrating databases is as old as the hills
  - · MEA requires it
  - Organizational structure encourages "islands of information" that eventually need to merge
  - Recently, cross-enterprise applications require it

# It's an Incredibly Hard Problem to "Solve"

- Syntactic Translations
  - · E.g. of units, of codes, etc.
- Semantic Translations
  - Synonyms: "gloves" vs. "hand protectors"
  - · Taxonomic promotion: "phillips driver" vs. "screwdrive"
- · Implicit Domain Knowledge
  - "salary" in the french database includes a lunch allowance and is before taxes...

# But People Chip Away at it Every Day

- Lots of sweat goes a long way
- · Clever tools can make it easier
  - E.g. determine that two fields have similar distributions of words or numbers
  - · E.g. find discrepancies post-merger
  - · E.g. try to auto-extract sub-fields
  - · Etc.
- Especially with a user in the loop, this is all annoying but doable.

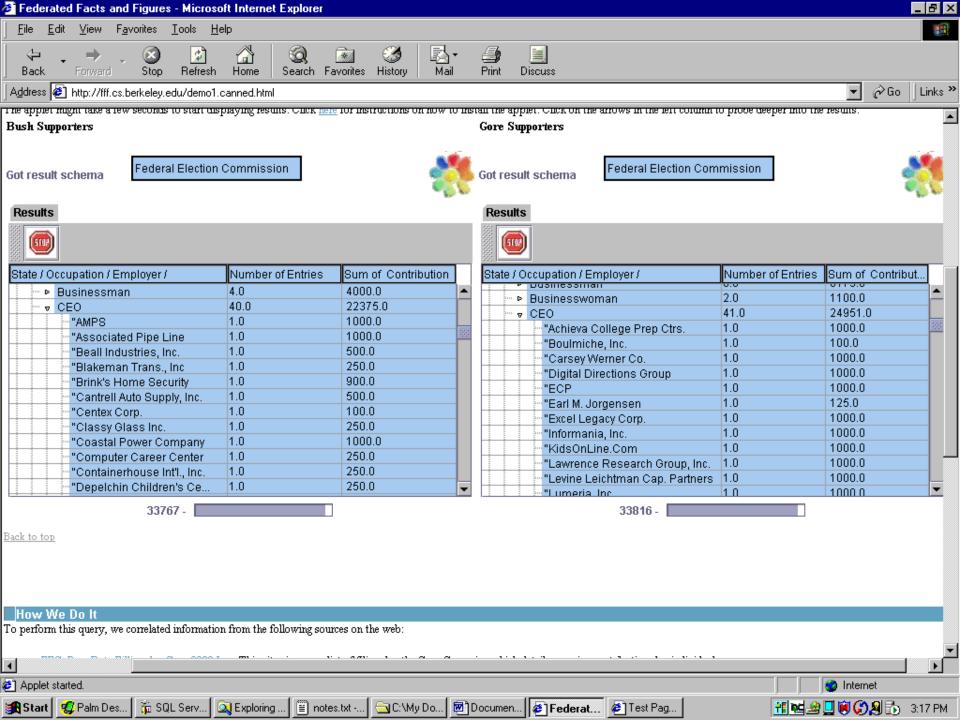
#### Enter the Web

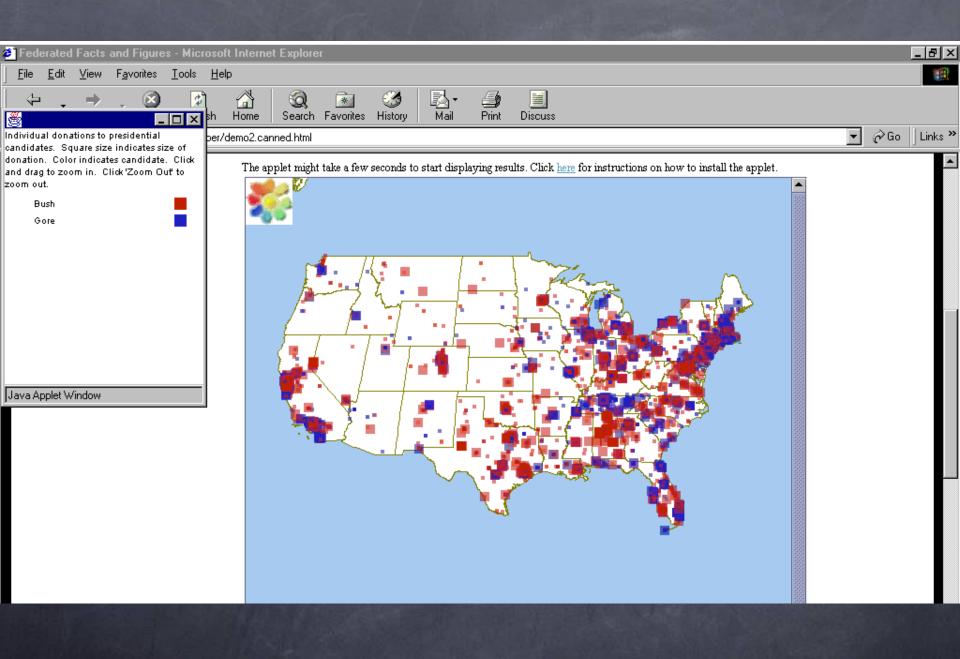
- We have learned to think of the web as "the stuff in Google"
  - · I.e. textual documents
- But there's a ton of "facts and figures" you can get at on the web
  - Not on any static web page, hence not crawled
    - · The "Deep Web"
  - · Facts and Figures are not amenable to text searching
- What would happen if you tried to link up some of those?

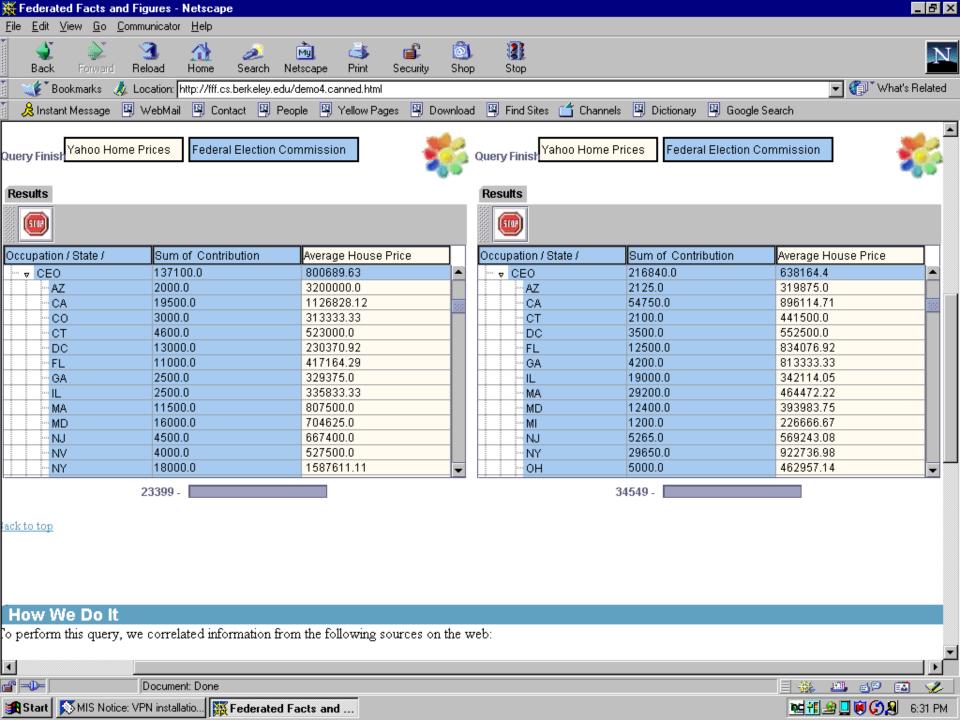
### Telegraph

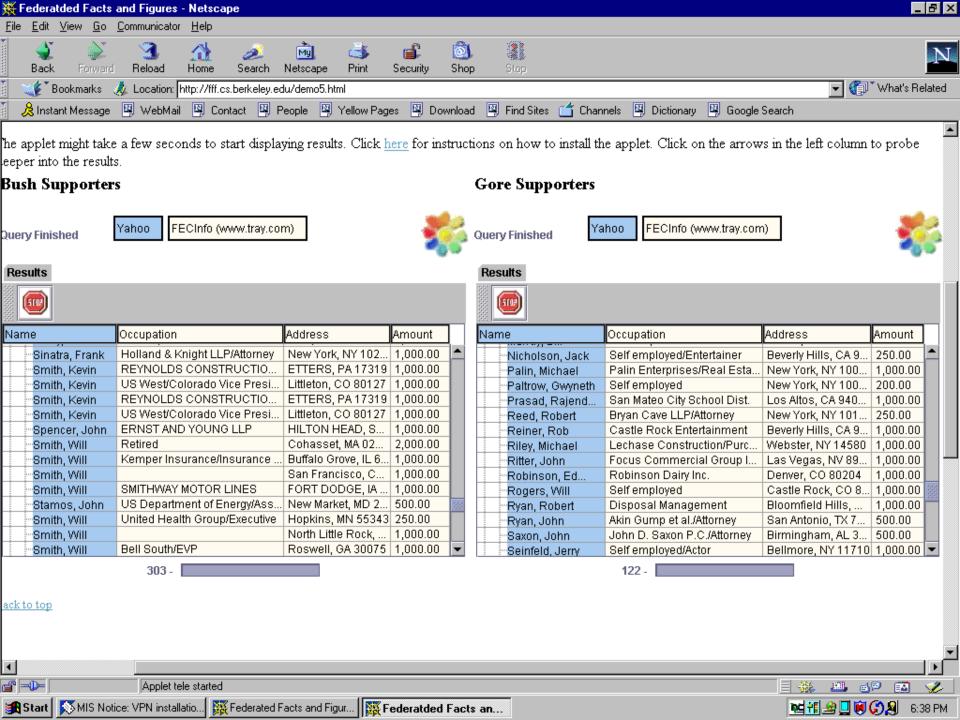


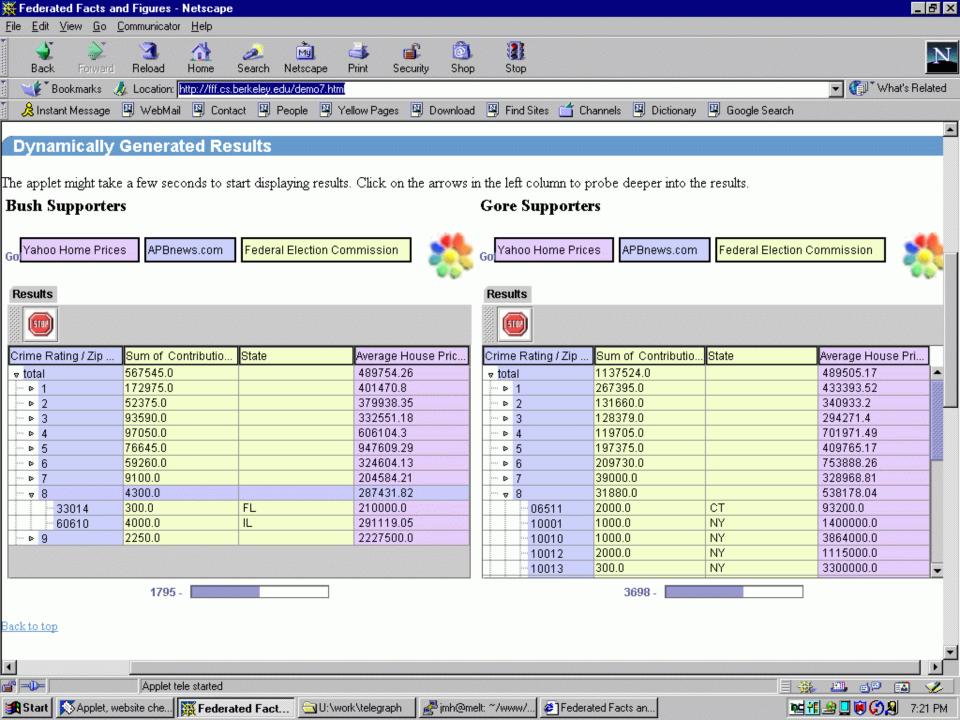
- System we began building in 1999
- Fírst app: "Federated Facts and Fígures", Election
  2000
- Now focused on "streaming databases"
  - · E.g. sensor feeds
  - · E.g. network packets
- Some screenshots from Election 2K











## Discussion Topics

- Prívacy
- · Veracity & Responsibility
- · Transparency of use
- · Secondary use
- · TIA
- "White-hat" activities
- Indívíduals and demographics (aggregates)
- · Interplay with streaming data