



CSU Fresno
Dept. of Criminology
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Piecing together the Intelligence Puzzle!



An FBI official once advised me that “intelligence drives operations,” and that is unquestionably the case. In order for the government to realistically assess various threats and to plan appropriate responses, it must have “intelligence.” While this is a very simple concept, the difficulties begin once you attempt to answer the question about the agency responsible for gathering and evaluating this intelligence, and how to make this information all come together.

While there are sixteen federal agencies and various subunits of other agencies tasked with gathering intelligence, with a particular focus on terrorism as a whole, the critical components are not only the information, retention and evaluation process, but also the mechanism for sharing this information with other agencies or individuals who both have a “need to know” and can also add to the intelligence picture based on their own agency’s activities.

An immediate problem in this process is that there is a glut of information, not all of which can be analyzed or evaluated in a timely fashion, and some of the intelligence that is gathered could be falsely discarded as being irrelevant, or its gathering could be curtailed due to issues of legality.

It cannot, however, always be readily apparent whether information initially obtained during the intelligence gathering process is important, or if not, whether it could become important at some unknown future date. The natural tendency of someone in the intelligence gathering business is to save “everything” lest something become important later on and is no longer available.

Fortunately or unfortunately, the nature of the intelligence gathering process is subject to strict federal regulations that ostensibly serve to guarantee that those responsible for the intelligence gathering process do so without violating constitutional and/or human rights, and that intelligence information is not utilized for nefarious

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or unlawful purposes. That is not to say that there have not been “glitches” or transgressions.

The process itself, however, is somewhat imperfect. The different intelligence agencies in the U.S. do not always cooperate with one another, information is “held close” while another agency has the need for the very same information, organizational ego gets in the way of a unified mission, and the multitude of internal security clearances beyond the basic secret and top secret categories, ensure that information does not always get to where it does the most good.

What is seldom discussed, however, is that information that could be of intelligence value, particularly as it relates to individuals engaged in criminal or terrorist activities, is routinely gathered in the course of your typical state and/or local law enforcement officers responding to seemingly unrelated activities.

These officers, however, do not have a “terminal” from which to check the databases of all federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies, and there is no national database for federal agencies to check all routine police reports, including parking and vehicle citations, accident reports, pawn information, offense reports, field contact cards, and all documents listing names of places, witnesses, victims and suspects, vehicles, etc.

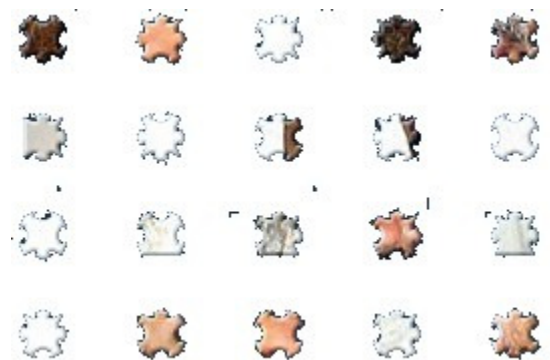
What we have then, looks like this:

Intelligence Analyst A reviews the following information:



Analyst A cannot recognize anything of value and ignores the seemingly meaningless information.

Intelligence Analyst B reviews the following information:



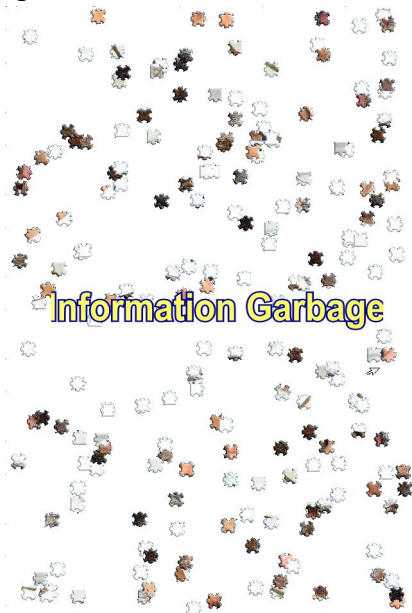
The information is seen to be meaningless and is ignored/discarded.

Intelligence Analyst C reviews signal intelligence (telephone intercepts) and is peeked by the conversation but the agency is prohibited from retaining or further assessing the information since the monitoring was not authorized by law or regulation. Analyst C does not retain the relevant documents/voice recordings.

Police Detective A conducts a typical criminal investigation and questions 20 or more individuals without learning anything that is helpful in the investigation. The information the detective was confronted with looked like this:



With no relevant connection to anything involving the offense being investigated and certainly not to terrorism or organized crime, the information is considered irrelevant and not further acted upon. What three of the four individuals were looking at was:



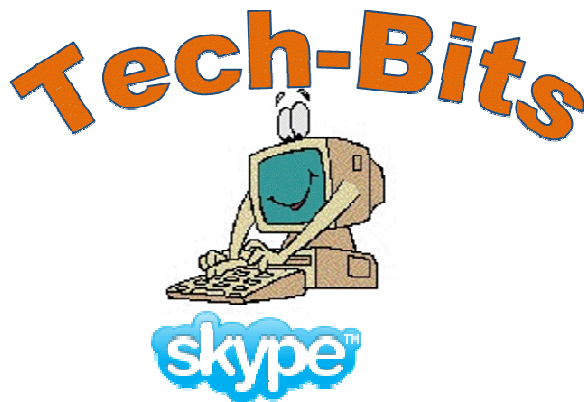
If the intelligence analysts and the police detective had entered all of this unconnected information in a common universally accessible file, a computerized inquiry would have connected the information and provided the following unexpected connection/picture from the many puzzle pieces:



This lack of information flow and exchange is a serious problem at the federal level and even worse when looking at the working relationship between federal and non-federal agencies. This problem is recognized at the national level, and some changes have occurred as a result of it. There currently are FBI officials attached to the CIA and vice versa, in an attempt at breaking down distrust and unwillingness to work together.

The exchange of information between federal agencies is further facilitated by the new A-Space specifically for use by the intelligence analysts of the sixteen main

intelligence bodies/agencies in the United States. A-Space is the MySpace equivalent for the intelligence community, which allows analysts to enter classified information and make inquiries that are visible to all of the other analysts in the system so that they can better recognize event patterns and become aware of incidents and individuals scrutinized by their counterparts. In other words, each agency can submit unreadable puzzle pieces that as a whole will then generate a recognizable picture useful to the intelligence community. The web address for A-Space? I am sure some enterprising hackers are already attempting to compromise the website.



If you use skype and appreciate its technical capabilities, you may want to take it with you when you travel and do not have access to your personal computer.



The skype software can be loaded onto a USB memory stick or drive and with the addition of a batchfile, you can execute the

skype software with any computer from your USB drive. Since all of your contacts on skype are resident in skype itself and not on your USB drive or within your home computer, you will always have access to your latest contact list.

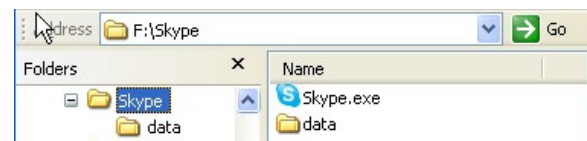
Just follow the instructions below:

Download the NEWEST version of Skype and install it on any computer as normal.

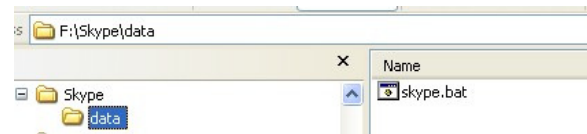
* Find where the Skype.exe was installed (Usually C:\Program Files\Skype\Phone\Skype.exe)

* Copy the Skype.exe file to any directory on your USB Drive

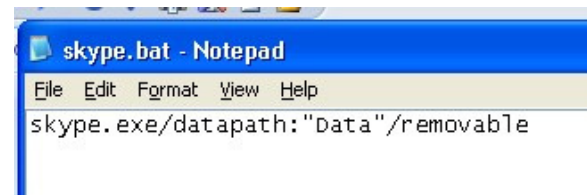
* In that new directory create a directory called "data"



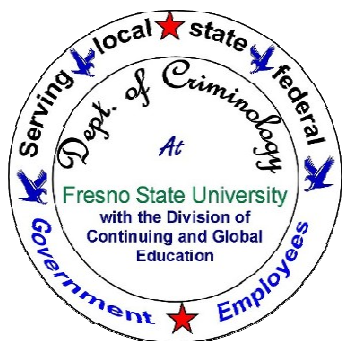
* Now create a file (with notepad) called "skype.bat"



* Edit the "skype.bat" file and place the following line there:skype.exe /datapath: "Data" /removable



That's it.



B.S. in Criminology Degree Program Downtown Fresno

Two new sets of classes begin this August as indicated below:

Aug/Sep 2009

Crim 112 Professionalism in Criminal Justice
Meets from 1800-2200 on the following
Wednesdays: Aug 5, 12, 19, 26, Sep 2, 9, 16,
23

Meets from 0800-1430 on the following
Saturdays: Aug 15, Sep 19

Crim 170 Research Methods

Meets from 1800-2200 on the following
Mondays: Aug 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Sep 7*, 14,
21

Meets from 0800-1430 on the following
Saturdays: Aug 1, Sep 5

Required Textbook:

Michael G. Maxfield and Earl Babbie, *Basics of Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology* (2nd Ed.). Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

Interested government employees with 50 or more lower division academic college units can still join by emailing Dr. Schweizer at haralds@csufresno.edu

POLICE EMPLOYMENT



DynaCorp is continually seeking experienced law enforcement officials for its contracts with the U.S. Government to provide needed expertise and advice to governments and organizations in hot spots around the world. If you are retiring or have retired from an active law enforcement career, this may be your opportunity to share your professional knowledge and experience in a well-paid assignment with DynaCorp, in such places as Iraq and Afghanistan.

<http://www.dyn-intl.com/policemissions/police-missions-home.aspx>

If you are interested and would like more information, email Dr. Schweizer for a personal contact with a current DynaCorp law enforcement professional who can tell you more about the ins and outs of an assignment with DynaCorp.

Did you know:

The only law enforcement agencies in the U.S. that do not require at least a H.S. diploma or GED are two federal agencies:

The U.S. Border Patrol and the Metropolitan Police of the District of Columbia.