



2013 Open Source Digital Forensics Conference

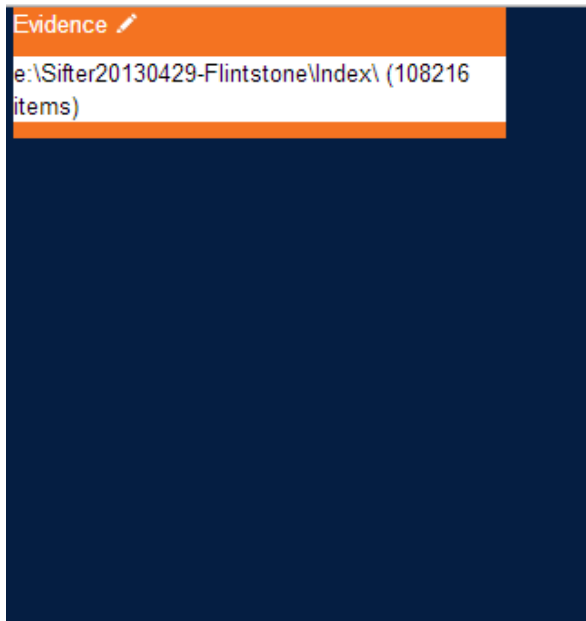
SIFTER

Visualize, Cluster, and Rank Text String Search Hits

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Cell 7. 345 documents, region 1. Top terms: width, height, from, http, href, size, you, return, new, border,



SIFTER

Search Indexes For Text Evidence Relevantly

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Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Naval Postgraduate School

Theory & Research by Nicole L. Beebe, Ph.D., UTSA
Software Developed by Jon Stewart, Lightbox Technologies

Motivation

- String searching nearly infeasible, yet still worthwhile
 - Much info/evidence sought is textual in nature
 - Extremely low signal to noise ratio (<5%)
 - Millions+ hits for reasonably small queries
 - Resource constraints favor other search techniques
- Current attempts to solve the problem
 - State of the art DF tool features *adding* to noise
 - Cluster-based platforms for increased compute power
 - Hit sorting (query, data type, allocation status)
 - Analyst heuristic of simple sorting

DIGITAL FORENSIC STRING SEARCH OUTPUT

What We Want...

Web Images Videos Maps News Shopping Gmail more ▼



school San Antonio

Search

About 34,000,000 results (0.27 seconds)

Advanced search

34 million
Search Hits
... in 2010
>250M in 2013

Engine is useful
because search
hits are ranked

[San Antonio Independent School District](#) ✓

PreK-12th grade. Located in **San Antonio**, Texas. Includes district information and links to each campus.

www.saisd.net/ - Cached - Similar

[Keystone Private School San Antonio, Texas](#) ✓

Keystone **School** is a diverse, private **school** for academically accelerated and motivated students from K-12 located in **San Antonio**, Texas.

www.keystoneschool.org/ - Cached - Similar

[San Antonio Schools - San Antonio Texas School Ratings - Public ...](#) ✓

Find top-rated **San Antonio** schools, read recent parent reviews, and browse private and public schools by grade level in **San Antonio**, Texas (TX).

www.greatschools.org/texas/san-antonio/ - Cached - Similar

News for [school San Antonio](#)



[Texas mom says she waved finger, not gun, at team](#) - 21 hours ago

The **school** district is in northeast **San Antonio**. The saga began Thursday night after Kirby Middle **School's** seventh-grade volleyball team soundly beat ...

The Associated Press - 338 related articles »

Montgomery
County Courier

[Southwest School of Art and Craft - Southwest School of Art & Craft](#) ✓

A free family art experience on Saturday mornings during the **school** year. Weekend Intensive Workshops ... The Heart of **San Antonio** Creative Learning ...

Classes - For Brides Only - Facilities Rental - Events

R
A
N
K

DIGITAL FORENSIC STRING SEARCH OUTPUT

What We Want...

The screenshot shows a Clusty search interface. The search bar contains the text "school san antonio". The Clusty logo is circled in red. On the left, a sidebar lists various categories with counts, also circled in red. The main content area displays the top 216 results for the query, with a total of 37,896 results retrieved. The results are listed in a vertical column, each with a title, a brief description, and a URL. The results include:

- San Antonio ISD**: PreK-12th grade. Located in San Antonio, Texas. Includes district information and links to each campus. www.saisd.net - [cache] - Yippy Sources II, Open Directory, Yippy Sources III
- The Winston School San Antonio**: Private K-12 school for students with learning differences or learning disabilities. www.winston-sa.org - [cache] - Open Directory, Yippy Sources III, Yippy Sources II
- School of Medicine, The University of Texas Health Science Center**: Welcome to the UT School of Medicine in San Antonio - a great place to live, study, discover and practice medicine. A strong and supportive faculty, numerous ... som.uthscsa.edu - [cache] - Yippy Sources III, Open Directory, Yippy Sources II
- Northside Independent School District - San Antonio, TX 78238**: PreK-12th grade. Located in San Antonio, Texas. Includes district information and links to each campus. www.nisd.net - [cache] - Yippy Sources II, Open Directory, Yippy Sources III
- St. Anthony Catholic High School, San Antonio, TX**: College-preparatory school for young men, grades 9 through 12. www.sachs.org - [cache] - Open Directory, Yippy Sources III
- South San Antonio Independent School District**: PreK-12th grade. Located in San Antonio, Texas. Includes district information and links to each campus.

The sidebar on the left, circled in red, contains the following categories and counts:

- All Results (216)
- University (31)
- District (19)
- Archdiocese of San Antonio (23)
- Express-News (16)
- Private (14)
- ISD, Elementary School (19)
- Elementary (9)
- Pictures (12)
- Released (7)
- Worship, Church (12)

Below the sidebar is a search box labeled "find in clouds:" with a "Find" button.

In short...

What would “Googling” be like without ranking and clustering algorithms?

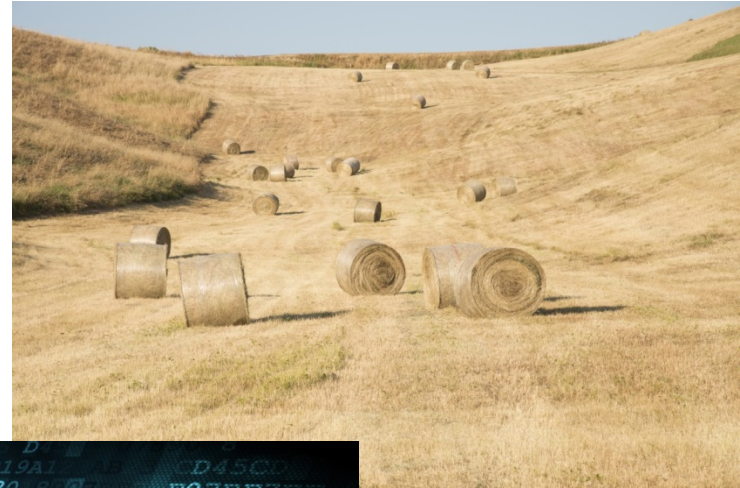
... Ask a digital forensic analyst!



A Problem Remains



+



=



Big Data Forensics Challenges Necessitate Intelligent Algorithms

For Example:

- Ranking Algorithms
 - Identify ranking features applicable to this domain
 - Few of the 200+ features Google uses apply here
- Clustering Algorithms
 - Use artificial intelligence techniques to group files and unused disk blocks based on content

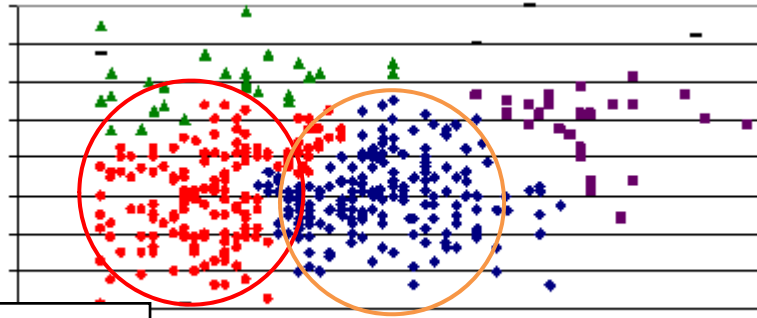
... SEVERELY LACKING IN MODERN DF TOOLS !

Search Hit Ranking

Simulated Digital Forensic Text String Search Hit Output:

Search Hit	Rank Score
I plan to kill her after dark tonight...	3.5
...kill killed killer killing...	1.4
kill -9 3303	0.8

“Process kill”
Cluster



“I want to kill...”
Cluster

```
uWWWWWWh  
isadb_schedule_kill_oldPolicy_sas: %s %d  
uPPPPh  
NL9E
```



Clustering Search Hits

- Group related items
- Mitigates vocabulary differences problems
- Helps browsing
 - vs. retrieval tasks

Research/Engineering Gap Filled

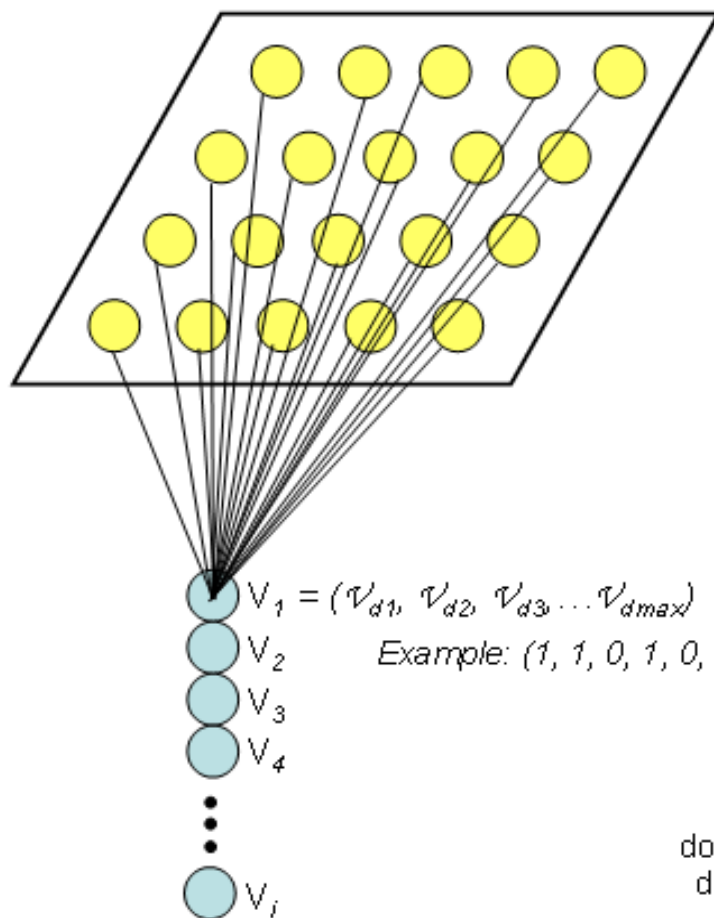
- Past studies showed promise of clustering
 - Conducted comparative analysis of mainstream algorithms
- Ranking algorithm development needed
 - Theorized and empirically validated monolithic ranking algorithm (further research needed)
- Digital forensics software tool needed
 - Implemented/integrated clustering and ranking in Sifter

Sifter Design/Architecture

- Clustering algorithm
 - Scalable Self-Organizing Map (SSOM) (Roussinov & Chen, 1998)
 - Determined traditional algorithms not scalable
- Ranking algorithm
 - Metadata features
 - 10 block-level
 - 9 hit-level
 - Linear SVM model
- Lucene for indexing, Boolean searching
- Apache Tika for file parsing
- The Sleuthkit file system/image handling
- Fsrip for extracting file system data in JSON
- Web-based (localhost) GUI
- Java based

20-node (4x5) Kohonen SOM Network

(i Documents and Input Vector of Order n)

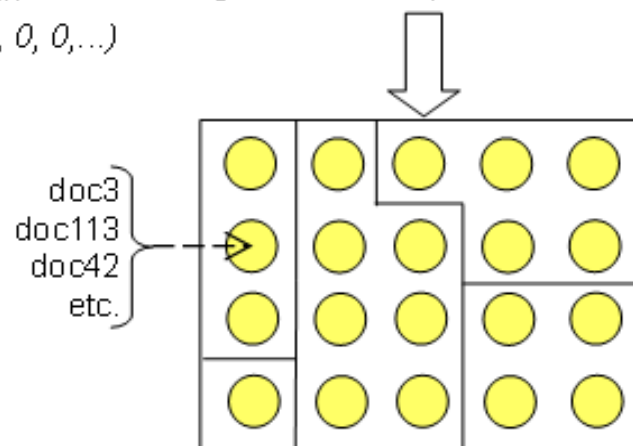


Legend

Node vector dimensionality = d_{max}

Self-Organizing Process:

1. Initialize node vector dimension weights ($0 < w < 1$)
2. Calculate distance between doc vectors and node vectors
3. Adjust weights of winning node vectors (map "learning")
4. Iterate until map stabilizes
5. Present each doc vector again to assign to doc to vector node
6. Cluster nodes into "regions" (AKA "neighborhoods")



SSOM vs. Kohonen SOM

Scalable SOM

- Leverages sparseness of vectors
- Node updates = f (number of *non-zero* elements)
- Uses scalable weights
 $w_{ij}(t) = f_j(t) a_{ij}(t)$
 - $f_j(t)$ updated not calculated
- Distance calculations are also updated, not calculated

Kohonen SOM

- Vector sparseness is irrelevant
- Node updates = f (number of elements in vector)
- Uses normal weights (w_{ij})
- Full pairwise Euclidian distance calculations

LET'S LOOK AT THE TOOL...

Configuration

```
sifter_props.xml
1  <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
2  <!DOCTYPE properties SYSTEM "http://java.sun.com/dtd/properties.dtd">
3  <properties>
4  <comment>No comment</comment>
5  <entry key="max_neighbor_radius">11</entry>
6  <entry key="temp_dir"/>
7  <entry key="som_width">40</entry>
8  <entry key="max_alpha">0.001</entry>
9  <entry key="som_height">40</entry>
10 <entry key="max_vector_features">3000</entry>
11 <entry key="thread_pool_size">3</entry>
12 <entry key="large_file_threshold">64</entry>
13 <entry key="doc_freq_threshold_high">0.66</entry>
14 <entry key="min_som_term_length">3</entry>
15 <entry key="indexing_buffer_size">64</entry>
16 <entry key="random_seed">17</entry>
17 <entry key="doc_freq_threshold_low">1.0E-4</entry>
18 <entry key="min_alpha">2.0E-4</entry>
19 <entry key="num_som_iterations">3</entry>
20 <entry key="min_neighbor_radius">2</entry>
21 <entry key="num_top_cell_terms">20</entry>
22 </properties>
23
```

Adjust:

- SOM size
- Alpha
- Vector size
- Thread pool size
- Large file threshold
- Indexing buffer size

...others as needed

NOTE: Significant performance impact results from improper parameter configuration

Index Case & Create SOM

1. Index Image(s)

```
c:\Sifter> .\bin\fsrip.exe -unallocated=block dumpfiles Evidence.E01 |  
.\index_evidence.bat Index_Directory stoplists\stoplist_winXP.txt
```

2. Create SOM

```
c:\Sifter> .\make_som.bat Index_Directory
```

3. Start webserver

```
c:\Sifter> .\start_webserver.bat
```

4. Start Sifter GUI

Open browser (Chrome)
<http://localhost:8080>

5. Open evidence

Click on 'Evidence' in upper left of GUI



Specify appropriately
Lists available for:

- WinXP
- Win7
- Win Server 2003
- Win Server 2008
- Red Hat Enterprise v5.8
- Ubuntu v11.10

Add Evidence

Specify the path to the evidence index.

Index Path

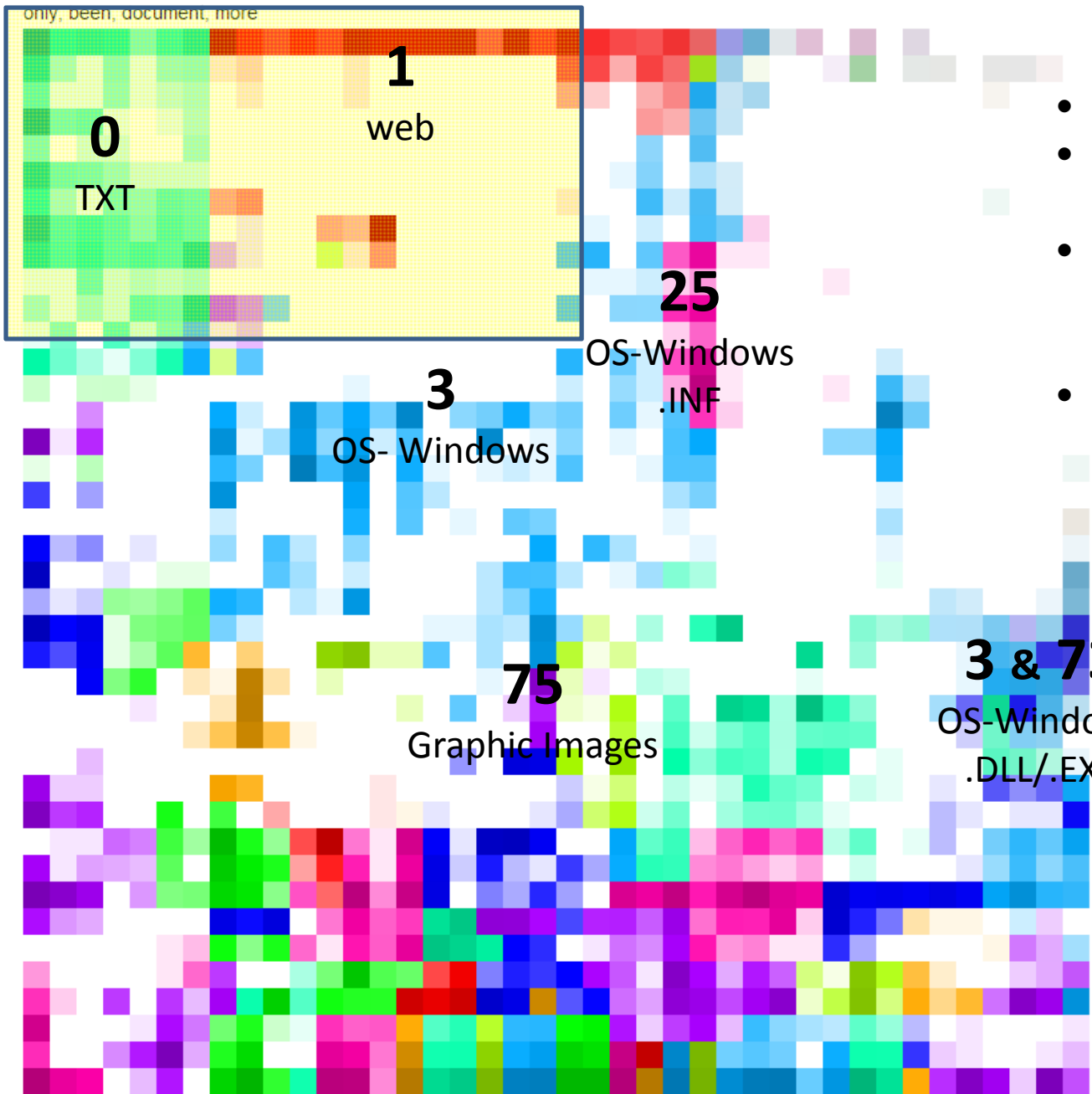
e:\Sifter20130429-Flintstone\Index\

Cancel

OK

Cell 0. 431 documents, region 0. Top terms: you, from, have, use, your, can, has, may, one, information, used, any, must, when, o

only, been, document, more



- 40x40 SOM
- Colored regions are thematically related
- Cell hovered over shows “gps” above map
 - Cell metadata
- “Know your neighbor”
 - Cell/region similarity = $f(\text{neighbor dist.})$

NOTE:
Colors & region locations vary between cases

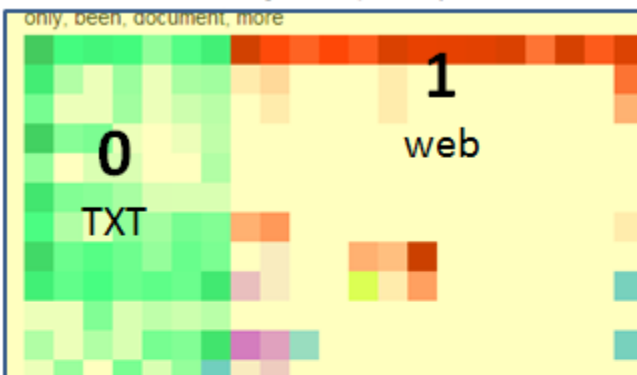
cell:0 AND print Q Search

28 items (0.021s). [Download \(CSV\)](#)

10 ▾

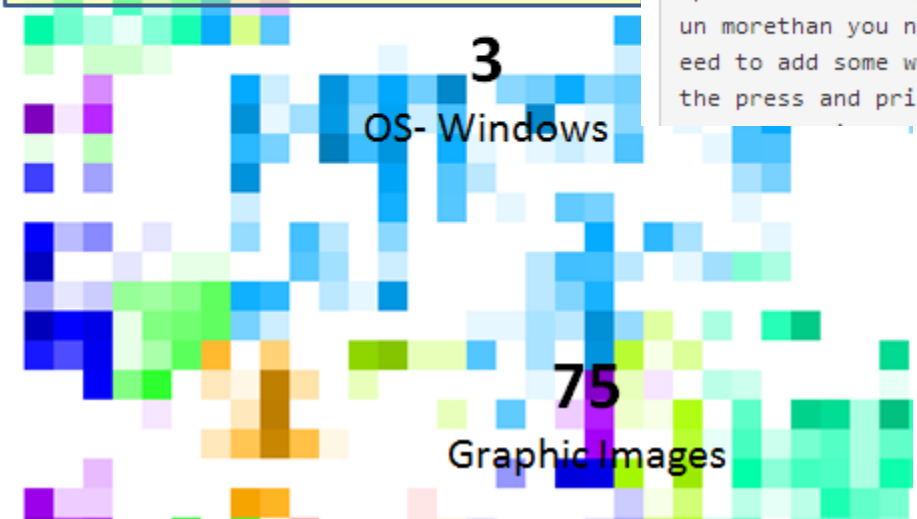
ID	Score	Name	Path	Extension	Size	Modified	Accessed
4322	5.245695	LearnCompat.htm	WINDOWS/pchealth/helpctr/System/CompatCtr/	htm	2588	Thu Oct 12 19:44:04 CDT 2006	Thu Oct 12 19:44:04 C
69448	5.1263494	339385	\$Unallocated/		2048	Wed Dec 31 18:00:00 CST 1969	Wed Dec 31 18:00:00 C

Cell 0. 431 documents, region 0. Top terms: you, from, have, use, your, can, has, may, one, info



\$Unallocated/339385

e thing to 2 more plates. Then take 1 of the flats and place it on the plate exactly up to the next mark and cover up the exposed area you have already burned. Burn the Do the same process with the other 2 flats (each on a separate plate). Develop all space between each bill. The paper you will need will not match exactly but it will come the way. Disaperf computer paper (invisible perforation) does the job well. Take the paper thickness right. Start with the black plate (the plate without the serial number) more than you need because there will be a lot of rejects. Then while that is prepared to add some white and maybe yellow to the serial number ink. You also need to a the press and print the other side. You will now have a bill with no green seal or s



- Accepts Boolean queries
- Search by cell and string
- Explore cells with rich metadata
- View native file via pop-up window

Survey the SOM – Identify Region Types

- Click on cell, pop-up of cell metadata (click on cell again to disappear)
- Shows number of docs & region ID
- Top terms (\geq tri-grams) listed; provides insight into cell
- “Cluster strength” is measure of cluster dispersion
 - Lower number means ‘tighter’ cell... docs in cell are more similar to each other



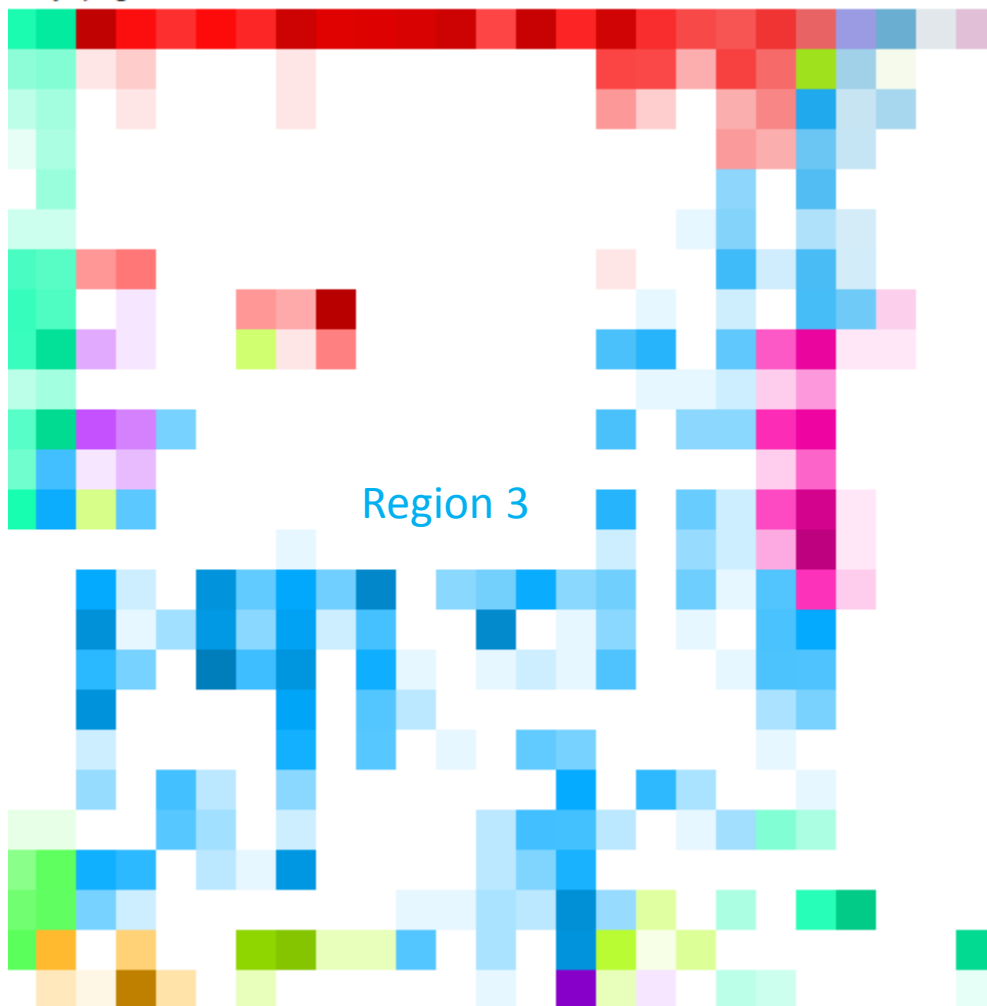
Region 0: Plain text

- Unallocated text files
- Some web cache
- Some Windows files (Help)

Region 1: Web browsing

- Web browsing data & cache
 - htm, asp, css, php
- Unallocated web artifacts

NOTE: “documents” = allocated files and unallocated clusters

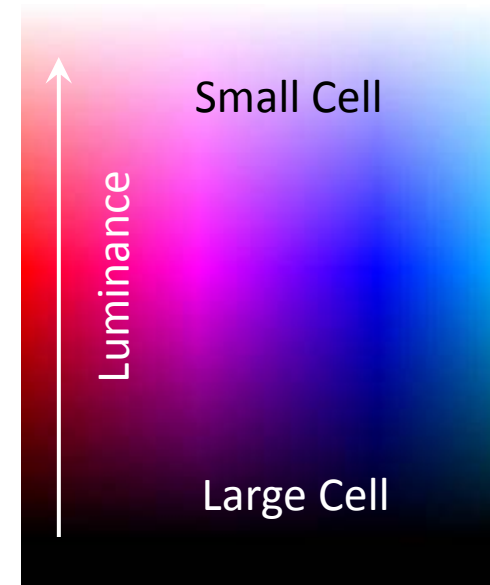
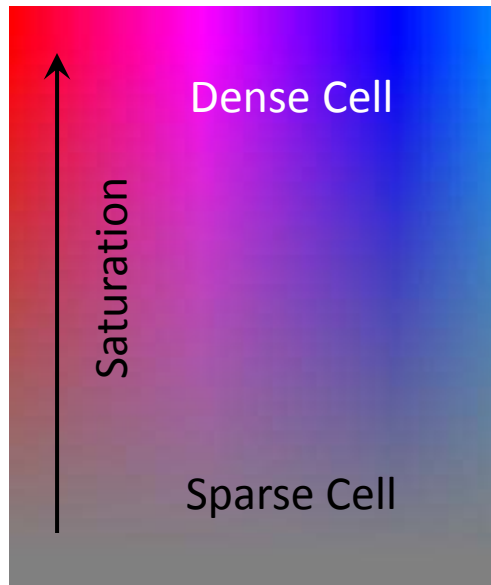
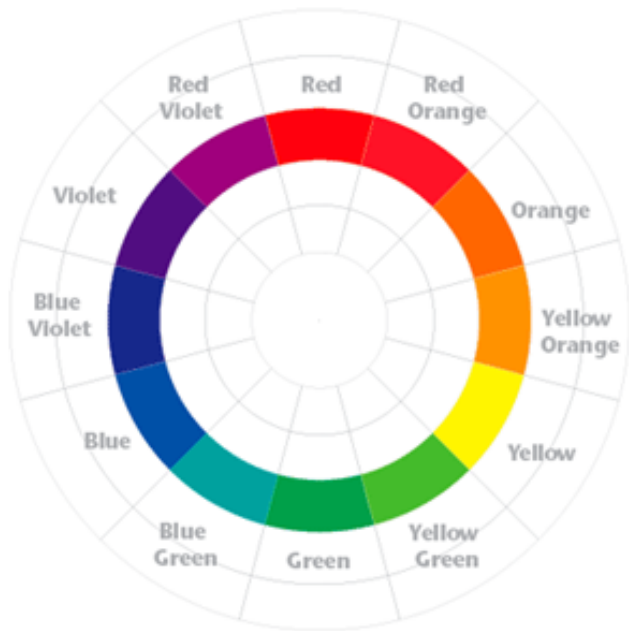


Operating system regions
behave differently...

Region 3: Windows System

- Non-compact region, spreads throughout map
- Indicative of OS data
 - Varied within class, but similar relative to other data classes
- Example types:
 - ini, mof, mfl, hlp, inf, pnf

HSL Color Design of Cells



Hue

The color
Provides 'region' view of SOM
Measure of inter-cell similarity
(related cells = same hue)

Saturation

Intensity of color
Measure of cell dispersion
More grey = more disperse
(zero saturation = neutral grey)

Luminance

Brightness of color
Measure of docs/cell
Darker color = more docs
(zero luminance = black)

So... Assess/identify regions via darkest, least grey cells in region

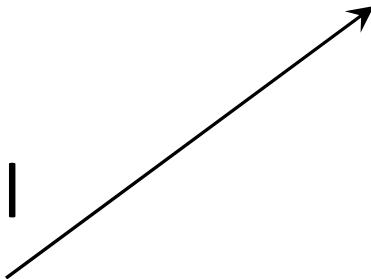
Test Case: Flintstone Counterfeit Caper

The suspects in this case are Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble. Fred and Barney have been accused of printing, disseminating, and using counterfeit money. The computer being analyzed belongs to Barney. It is believed that Fred and Barney have colluded via email. A search of Fred and Barney's homes resulted in the seizure of a printing press, advanced printers, and counterfeit currency of various denominations.



- The evidence:
 - Fred's computer
 - 1.6 GB hard drive, WinXP
 - Ground truth of evidence:
 - Collusion/coordination via web email
 - Web research on how to counterfeit
 - Saved PDF files re: 'how to'
 - Graphic mages of bills (jpg, gif)

(Poor) String Search List

- counterfeit
 - dollar
 - fake
 - bill bill
 - **print** 
 - fred
 - flintstone
 - barney
 - rubble
- Search results for 'print'
 - 920 'docs' contain 'print'
 - 5,723 hits in those docs
 - 59 hits relevant (<1% relevant)
 - 19 hits in 11 unallocated clusters
 - 40 hits in 10 allocated files
 - Now able to focus search in regions and cells of interest...

Run search queries

- Standard Boolean options
- Include cell(s) of interest to focus query

cell:0 AND print Search

28 items (0.017s). [Download \(CSV\)](#) 10 records per page

ID	Score	Name	Path	Extension	Size	Modified	Accessed	Created	Cell	Cell Di
4322	5.245695	LearnCompat.htm	WINDOWS/pchealth/helpctr/System/CompatCtr/	htm	2588	Thu Oct 12 19:44:04 CDT 2006	Thu Oct 12 19:44:04 CDT 2006	Thu Oct 12 19:44:04 CDT 2006	0	38.035t
69448	5.1263494	339385	\$Unallocated/		2048	Wed Dec 31 18:00:00 CST	Wed Dec 31 18:00:00 CST 1969	Wed Dec 31 18:00:00 CST	0	56.879:
69709	5.1263494	339646	\$Unallocated/						0	62.373:
69796	5.1263494	339733	\$Unallocated/						0	62.696t
69402	5.1263494	339339	\$Unallocated/						0	54.831t
69564	5.1263494	339501	\$Unallocated/						0	56.879:
70015	5.1263494	339952	\$Unallocated/						0	60.063t

\$Unallocated/339385

e thing to 2 more plates. Then take 1 of the flats and place it on t
 up to the next mark and cover up the exposed area you have already b
 Do the same process with the other 2 flats (each on a separate plate).
 ace between each bill. The paper you will need will not match exactly
 the way Disaperf computer paper (invisible perforation) does the job
 aper thickness right. Start with the black plate (the plate without t
 un more than you need because there will be a lot of rejects. Then w
 eed to add some white and maybe yellow to the serial number ink. You
 the press and print the other side. You will now have a bill with no
 t. Keep doing this until you have as many different numbers as you wa
 a large amount of money by now but there is still one problem; the p
 ags and about 16 to 20 drops of green food coloring (experiment with
 adjustments and dye all the bills. Also it is a good idea to make t

Query: **cell:0 AND print**

Results: Hits ranked 2-7 = relevant

... and hits ranked 15-18 are relevant

10/28 hits in cell 0 for 'print' are relevant (35.7% relevancy precision)

2946	5.0070033	Dc13.htm	RECYCLER/S-1-5-21-1343024091-152049171-682003330-1003/	htm	86361	Thu Oct 12 20:52:33 CDT 2006	Thu Oct 12 21:10:01 CDT 2006	Thu Oct 12 21:10:01 CDT 2006	0	141.9094
1231	5.0070033	counterfeit[2].htm	Documents and Settings/nicole/Local Settings/Temporary Internet Files/Content.IE5/PMEJJA73/	htm	63287	Thu Oct 12 20:52:16 CDT 2006	Thu Oct 12 20:52:16 CDT 2006	Thu Oct 12 20:52:16 CDT 2006	0	141.9094
1412	5.0070033	Howstuffworks How Counterfeiting Works.htm	Documents and Settings/nicole/My Documents/	htm	86361	Thu Oct 12 20:52:33 CDT	Thu Oct 12 20:52:33 CDT 2006	Thu Oct 12 20:52:32 CDT	0	141.9094
3089	5.0070033	D	RECYCLER/S-1-5-21-1343024091-152049171-682003330-1003/Dc19.htm:slack					Oct 12 0:01 CDT	0	141.9094
6742	4.992085	p						Aug 23 0:00 CDT	0	91.20542
6743	4.992085	p						Aug 23 0:00 CDT	0	87.62608
6871	4.992085	0						Oct 12 8:03 CDT	0	109.6809

Counterfeit

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Jump to: [navigation](#), [search](#)

The examples and perspective in this article or section may not represent a [worldwide view](#). Please improve the article or discuss the issue on the [talk page](#).

For other uses, see [Counterfeit](#) (disambiguation).

A [counterfeit](#) is an imitation that is made usually with the intent to deceptively represent its content. It describes forged [currency](#) or [documents](#), but can also describe [clothing](#), [software](#), [pharmaceuticals](#), [weapons](#), and [art](#). In this results in [patent infringement](#) or [trademark infringement](#).

This covers a wide range of consumer items, from outright fakes in the sense that they are non-functional

Cell 7. 345 documents, region 1. Top terms: width, height,



Cell 7 (7, 0)

345 documents, region 1

[Add cluster to search query](#)

Top terms: *width, height, from, http, href, size, you, return, new, border, function, use, table, src, value, has, var, your, top, true*

Cluster strength (lower is better):
32.6069732144299

6 -you 7 -border 8

-you -item_id -width

46 47 48



Examination of Cell 7, Region 1 - Web

\$Unallocated/338935

```
n%26sourceid=promo%26subid=rp%26hl=en class=f1>See your message here...
Monopoly.com - Treasure Chest
... The more money you have, the easier it is to own it all - so print your ow
Just click on the image of the money you want to find a whole page-full. ...
www.hasbro.com/monopoly/pl/page.treasurechest/ dn/default.cfm - 21k - Cached -
Funny Money Fake counterfeit monopoly money Children Kids Birthday ...
... Funny Money. ... 5.5" Crayon Bank $1.29. $3.49 STANDARD BAG INCLUDES: Mone
Memo Pad, Pencil, Keychain, Pencil Sharpener, Bounce Ball, Chinese Yo-Yo. ...
www.partypalooza.com/FunnyMoneyCU.html - 16k - Cached - Similar pages
Funny Money Deluxe Goody Bag Extras Hundred Dollar Bill ...
... Funny Money Deluxe Bag Extra Items. Wad of Play
Money Hundred Dollar Bill Kickball. Go
```

Number

cell:7 AND print

15 items (0.032s). [Download \(CSV\)](#)

ID	Score
57577	5.537124
53517	5.4785776
8546	5.420031
8547	5.420031
46213	5.420031
39615	5.420031
39623	5.420031
22923	5.3614845
68998	5.3614845

ID	Score	Document	Score	Document
22923	5.3614845	292860	\$Unallocated/	2048
68998	5.3614845	338935	\$Unallocated/	2048

... will similarly find other top-ranked hits in cells 12, 16, 19

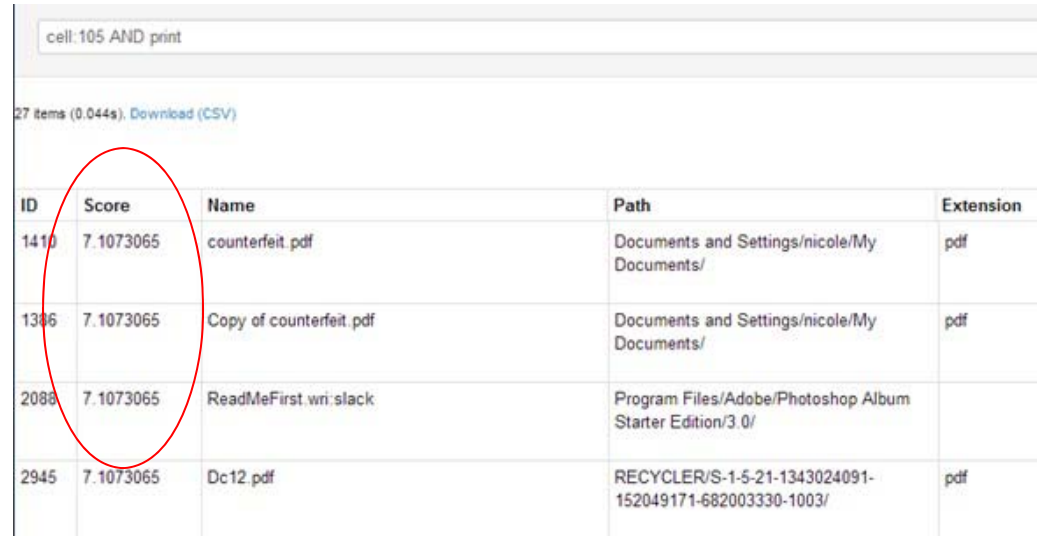


Neighbors and Borders

- Special consideration of border cells (e.g. #105)
 - Often has high cluster dispersion
- Cell 105 – Region 3
 - Cluster strength score = 204 (large)
 - Top terms are web related
 - Borders ‘web region’ (Region 2)
 - Primary difference term between cell 105 and red/Region 2 neighbors is ‘width’
- Conclude:
 - Cell 105 node vector is web related
 - Distal ‘docs’ in cell 105 are system related
 - Note difference terms between cell 105 and blue/region 3 neighbor cells
- Analyst actions:
 - Review docs close to cell node vector (centroid) of cell 105 for web artifacts and stop reviewing cell as move into system related material

Ranked Search Hits

- Text string search hit ranking algorithm*
 - 19 measured block-level & hit-level features
 - Block-level features
 - Date/time info
 - Filename/path info
 - Storage location
 - Data/file type**
 - Hit-level features
 - TF-IDF of search term
 - Similarity measures
 - Proximity measures
 - Hit frequency in object
 - Etc.



cell: 105 AND print

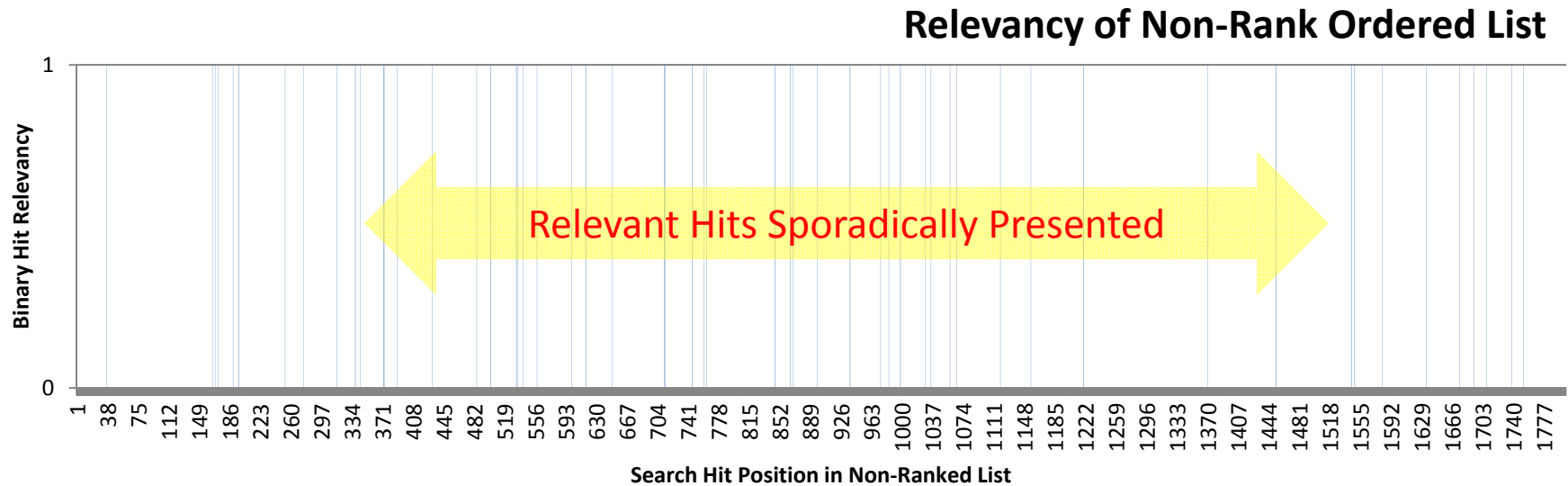
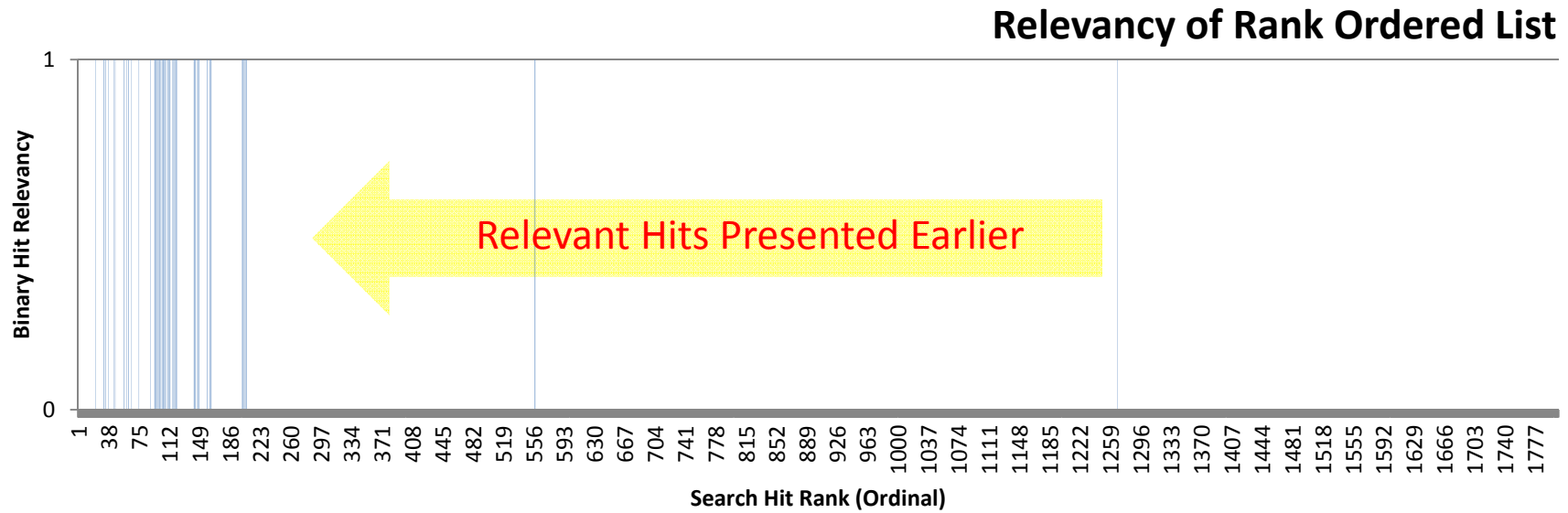
27 items (0.044s). [Download \(CSV\)](#)

ID	Score	Name	Path	Extension
1410	7.1073065	counterfeit.pdf	Documents and Settings/nicole/My Documents/	pdf
1386	7.1073065	Copy of counterfeit.pdf	Documents and Settings/nicole/My Documents/	pdf
2088	7.1073065	ReadMeFirst.wri.slack	Program Files/Adobe/Photoshop Album Starter Edition/3.0/	
2945	7.1073065	Dc12.pdf	RECYCLER/S-1-5-21-1343024091-152049171-682003330-1003/	pdf

* Patent pending on ranking algorithm

**Sceadan (UTSA GPLv2 licensed data classifier) used to type classify unallocated blocks

Comparative Performance



Key Points

- Sifter
 - Ingests disk image files (e.g., dd, .E01)
 - Indexes evidence via Lucene and Tika
 - Clusters and ranks string search hits
 - Provides means for improved exploratory search
 - Visual SOM clustering of hits (cells and regions)
 - Improves analytical efficiency
 - Rank ordered lists
 - Ability to include/exclude clusters with query
 - Leverages other research advances
 - Empirically derived digital forensic stoplists
 - Open source naïve statistical data type classifier (Sceadan)

Future Dev. Plans (hopes)

- Linux/OSX installers
- Added features
 - Table view sorting
 - Hit level bookmarking
 - Bookmark removal capability
 - Ranking algorithm parameter tuning via GUI
 - Search term prioritization
 - Temporal reference point (e.g. date of hack vs. date of analysis)
 - Data type prioritization
- Automated mapping configuration
 - Iterative, sample-based SOM build/re-build
- SOM usability improvements
 - Layout stability
- Ranking function improvements
 - Additional R&D (train ranking algorithm(s) on more cases)
 - Case type specific ranking algorithms
- TSK 3.0 integration

Sifter v1.0 (beta)

Released 10/16/13

Apache 2.0 Licensed

Email Nicole Beebe for a copy

(source for Mac/Linux, Windows Installer)

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COMMENTS?? QUESTIONS??