

Challenges in Running a Commercial Web Search Engine

Amit Singhal





Overview



- Introduction/History
- Search Engine Spam
- Evaluation Challenge
- Google



Introduction



Crawling

Follow links to find information

Indexing

Record what words appear where

Ranking

- What information is a good match to a user query?
- What information is inherently good?

Displaying

Find a good format for the information

Serving

Handle queries, find pages, display results



- The web happened (1992)
- Mosaic/Netscape happened (1993-95)
- Crawler happened (1994): M. Mauldin
- SEs happened 1994-1996
 - InfoSeek, Lycos, Altavista, Excite, Inktomi, ...
- Yahoo decided to go with a directory
- Google happened 1996-98
 - Tried selling technology to other engines
 - SEs though search was a commodity, portals were in
- Microsoft said: whatever ...



Present



- Most search engines have vanished
- Google is a big player
- Yahoo decided to de-emphasize directories
 - Buys three search engines
- Microsoft realized Internet is here to stay
 - Dominates the browser market
 - Realizes search is critical





- Early systems Information Retrieval based
 - Infoseek, Altavista, ...
- Information Retrieval
 - Field started in the 1950s
 - Primarily focused on text search
 - Already had written-off directories (1960s)
 - Mostly uses statistical methods to analyze text





- IR necessary but not sufficient for web search
- Doesn't capture authority
 - Same article hosted on BBC as good as a slightly modified copy on john-doe-news.com
- Doesn't address web navigation
 - Query ibm seeks www.ibm.com
 - To IR www.ibm.com may look less topical than a quarterly report





But there are links

- Long history in citation analysis
- Navigational tools on the web
- Also a sign of popularity
- Can be thought of as recommendations (source recommends destination)
- Also describe the destination: anchor text





Link analysis

- Hubs and authority (Jon Kleinberg)
 - Topical links exploited
 - Query time approach
- PageRank (Brin and Page)
 - Computed on the entire graph
 - Query independent
 - Faster if serving lots of queries
- Others...





- Google showed link analysis can make a huge difference and is practical too
 - Everyone else followed
- Then there is the secret sauce
 - Link analysis
 - Information retrieval
 - Anchor text
 - Other stuff





Interfaces

- Many alternatives existed/exist
 - Simple ranked list
 - Keywords in context snippets (Google first SE to do this)
 - Topics/query suggestion tools (e.g. Vivisimo, Teoma)
 - Graphical, 2-D, 3-D
- Simple and clean preferred by users
 - Like relevance ranking
 - Like keywords in context snippets



End Product



As of today

- Users give a 2-4 word query
- SE gives a relevance ranked list of web pages
- Most users click only on the first few results
- Few users go below the fold
 - Whatever is visible without scrolling down
- Far fewer ask for the next 10 results



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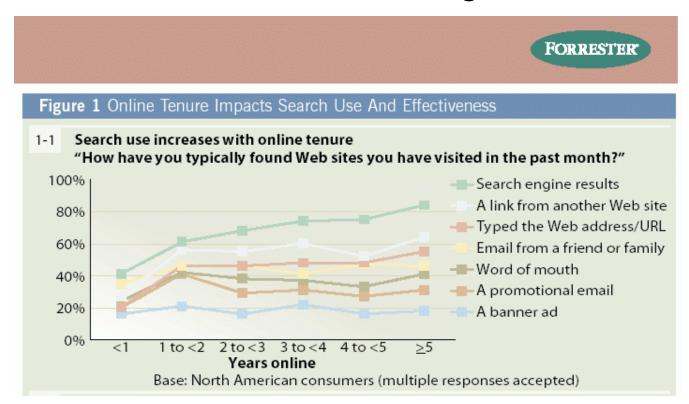


Oh No ... This is REAL





80% of users use search engines to find sites





Enter the Greedy Spammer



- Users follow search results
- Money follows users, spam follows ...
- There is value in getting ranked high
 - Affiliate programs
 - Siphon traffic from SEs to Amazon/eBay/...
 - Make a few bucks
 - Siphon traffic from SEs to a Viagra seller
 - Make \$6 per sale
 - Siphon traffic from SEs to a porn site
 - Make \$20-\$40 per new member



Big Money



- Let's do the math
- How much can the spam industry make by spamming search engines?
 - Assume 500M searches/day on the web
 - All search engines combined
 - Assume 5% commercially viable
 - Much more if you include porn queries
 - Assume \$0.50 made per click (from 5c to \$40)
 - \$12.5M/day or about \$4.5 Billion/year



How?



Defeat IR

Keyword stuffing

airplane tickets plane and ticket hawaii airplane tickets air france airplane tickets

cheapest airplane tickets low fare airplane tickets travel airplane tickets purchase

airplane tickets student discount airplane tickets lowest airplane tickets airplane tickets to florida orbit

low price airplane tickets airplane tickets deal get cheap airplane tickets the

- Crawlers declare that it is a SE spider
- They dish us an "optimized" page

These search terms have been highlighted: cheap airplane tickets cheap airairplane tickets Flight Tickets Flight Preferences <mark>cheap</mark> international airairplane **tickets** really <mark>cheap</mark> airairplane **tickets** airairplane tickets cheap student airline airplane cheap ticket airplane cheap fare ticket Trip Type airplane tickets cheap airplane tickets air airplane tickets discount airplane Round Trip tickets airplane tickets price one way airplane tickets international airplane Depart from tickets last minute airplane tickets cheapest airplane tickets airplane tickets Arrive at <mark>cheap</mark> buy airplane tickets online airplane tickets cheap international airplane Hotel Search Departure Date Time tickets vintage airplane tickets free airplane tickets airplane tickets canada February airplane tickets online cheap holiday airplane tickets student airplane tickets Date Time Return airplane tickets discount buy airplane tickets online cheap one way airplane Custome: Service February tickets cheap airplane tickets for holiday around the world airplane tickets cheapest air airplane tickets ticket plane airplane tickets to hawaii first class RAVELFORUM airplane tickets discounted airplane tickets very cheap airplane tickets bargain





But that should be easy...



Just detect keyword density

```
These search terms have been highlighted: rich chinese

We have the best selection of (asian) spoiled rich chinese babe eats grapes nude! porno inside.

Only here will you find (asian) spoiled rich chinese babe eats grapes nudel pictures inside my (asian) spoiled rich chinese babe eats grapes nudel website.

Scroll down to get the latest information on everything. The only (asian) spoiled rich chinese babe eats grapes nudel sets with up to date collection of (asian) spoiled rich chinese labe eats grapes nudel also the latest gallery and (asian) spoiled rich chinese babe eats grapes nudel pictures.

You came here to see some (asian) spoiled rich chinese babe eats grapes nudel pictures.

You came here to see some (asian) spoiled rich chinese babe eats grapes nudel action, huh?

or some free (asian) spoiled rich chinese babe eats grapes nudel action, huh?

And if you agree to your terms and conditions go ahead and enter our free galleries of (asian) spoiled rich chinese babe eats grapes nudel site on the internet.

Subscribe now for FREE and get Harcore XXX Pix Delivered Daily!

E-mail Address: your@email.com

Submit

Sieve minutes arise subscribing, an examal self arrice for your crift full delaying.

Yes, Im ready

Let Me Enter (asian) spoiled rich chinese babe eats grapes nude!
```



But that is easy too...



Just detect that page is not about query







Legitimate NLP Parse



Noun phrase to noun phrase

Taking Control

Once you recognize that herbs for migraine has an impact on your life, it is important to take control of managing your herbs for migraine. The first step is to schedule a specific appointment with your health care provider to discuss herbs for migraine. For a proper herbs for migraine diagnosis, illness severity assessment, and treatment plan, an appointment dedicated to herbs for migraine is necessary.

Taking Control

Once you recognize that Ocular Migraine Stroke has an impact on your life, it is important to take control of managing your Ocular Migraine Stroke. The first step is to schedule a specific appointment with your health care provider to discuss Ocular Migraine Stroke. For a proper Ocular Migraine Stroke diagnosis, illness severity assessment, and treatment plan, an appointment dedicated to Ocular Migraine Stroke is necessary.









- No one should link to these bad sites
 - Expired domains
 - The owner of a legitimate domain doesn't renew it
 - Spammers grab it, it already has tons of incoming links
 - E.g., anchor text for
 - The War on Freedom
 - The War on Freedom: How and Why America was attacked
 - The War on Freedom

```
These search terms have been highlighted: rich chinese

We have the best selection of (asian) spoiled rich chinese babe eats grapes mude! porno inside.

Only here will you find (asian) spoiled rich chinese babe eats grapes nude! pictures inside my (asian) spoiled rich chinese babe eats grapes nude! Webste

Scroll down to get the latest information on everything.

The only (asian) spoiled rich chinese babe eats grapes nude! asso the latest galery and (asian) spoiled rich chinese babe eats grapes nude! asso the latest galery and (asian) spoiled rich chinese babe eats grapes nude! pictures.

You came here to see some (asian) spoiled rich chinese babe eats grapes nude! asso in a really cute blonde?

Or some free (asian) spoiled rich chinese babe eats grapes nude! as this a fine ass on a really cute blonde?

Ask of You gree to your terms and conditions on a head and enter our free galleries of (asian) spoiled rich chinese babe eats grapes nude!

This has got to be the HOTIEST (asian) spoiled rich chinese babe eats grapes nude! at on the internet.

Subscribe now for FREE and get Harcore XXX Pix Delivered Daily!

E-mail Addresssyour@email.com

Submit

A text minutes after subscribing, an a small will trives for you will full detailed.

Yes, Im ready

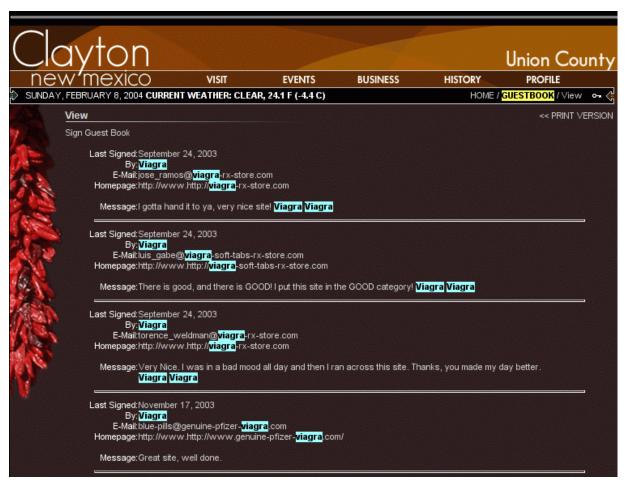
Let Me Enter (asian) spoiled rich chinese babe eats grapes nude!
```







Guestbooks





Get Links



Mailing lists

W3C home > Mailing lists > Public > html-tidy@w3.org > October to December 1999

Natural Viagra Alternative! (Adv.)

This message: [Message body] [Respond] [More options] Related messages: [Next message] [Previous message]

From: < Viagra@weeklysex.com>

Date: Sat, 11 Dec 1999 17:27:02 +0000

To: < html-tidy@w3.org>

Message-Id: <16270281811057@napolionline.com>

The Ultimate Sensation!

Get your "Men's Ultra" Now, No Doctor's Prescription needed! 100 % Natura

Special Sale Price \$39.95 - 60 Caplets

Includes Shipping & Handling "30 Day Money Back Guarantee" Credit Cards, 1

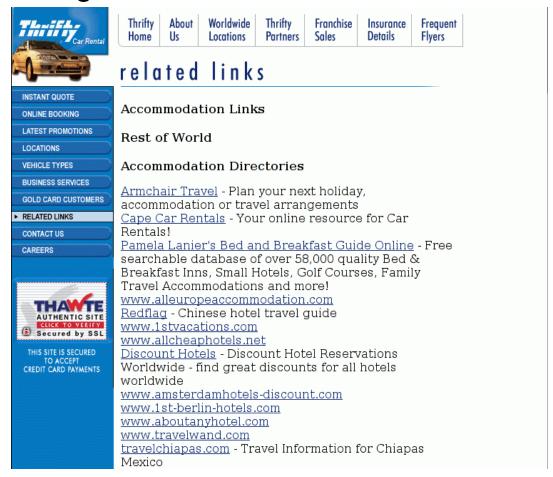
Received on Saturday, 11 December 1999 17:26:03 EST



Get Links



Link Exchange





State of Affairs



- There is big money in spamming SEs
- Easy to get links from good sites
- Easy to generate search algorithm friendly pages
- Any technique can be and will be attacked by spammers
- Have to make sense out of this chaos



We counter it well



- Most SEs are still very useful
 - Used over 500 million times every day
 - All search engines put together
- Our internal measurements show that we are winning
- Still need to be watchful



And then...



Googl	Tu	Advanced Search	<u>Preferences</u>	Langua	ge Tools	Search Tips
	le	miserable failure	niserable failure 💳		Google 9	Search

Web Images Groups Directory News
Searched the web for miserable failure.

Results 1 - 10 of about 267,000. Search took 0.07 seconds.

Michael Moore.com

CLICK HERE TO CONTINUE TO MICHAELMOORE.COM Tuesday, January 27th, 2004
You Say Deserter, I Say More Dessert... by Michael Moore. Friends,. ...

Description: Official site of the gadfly of corporations, creator of the film Roger and Me and the television show...

Category: Arts > Celebrities > M > Moore, Michael

www.michaelmoore.com/ - 13k - Feb 8, 2004 - Cached - Similar pages

Michael Moore.com

... He also testifies pre-war intelligence **failure** is "disturbing." His words overshadow the coming reports from the Senate and the CIA. ... www.michaelmoore.com/index_real.php - 46k - Feb 8, 2004 - <u>Cached</u> - <u>Similar pages</u>

Biography of President George W. Bush

Home > President > Biography President George W. Bush En Español.

George W. Bush is the 43rd President of the United States. He ...

Description: Biography of the president from the official White House web site.

Category: Kids and Teens > School Time > ... > Bush, George Walker

www.whitehouse.gov/president/gwbbio.html - 29k - Cached - Similar pages

Sponsored Links

Say "No" to Bush Election

We need new voters to register!
Our bumper stickers tell the world
www.momerath.us/vote

Liberal Voodoo Dolls

Do Liberals Bug You? Bug Them Back.
Put a Curse on the Competition!
www.PinheadVoodooDolls.com

iWorkWithFools.com

Work With Fools? We All Do. Read and Share Real Stories. www.iWorkWithFools.com Interest:

See your message here...



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Information Retrieval



- Test collection paradigm of evaluation
 - Static collection of documents (few million)
 - A set of queries (around 50-109)
 - Relevance judgments
 - Extensive judgments not possible (100x1,000,000)
 - Use pooling
 - Pool top 1000 results from various techniques
 - Assume all possible relevant documents judged
 - Biased against revolutionary new methods
 - Judge new documents if needed



On the Web



- Collection is dynamic
 - 10-20% urls change every month
 - Spam methods are dynamic
 - Need to keep the collection recent
- Queries are also time sensitive
 - Topics are hot then not
 - Need to keep a representative sample



On the Web



Search space is HUGE

- Over 200 million queries a day
- Over 100 million are unique
- Need 2700 queries for a 5% (700 for 10%) improvement to be meaningful at 95% confidence

Search space is varied

- Serve 90 different languages
- Can't have a catastrophic failure in any
- Monitoring every part of the system is non-trivial

IR style evaluation

- Incredibly expensive
- Always out of date



On the Web

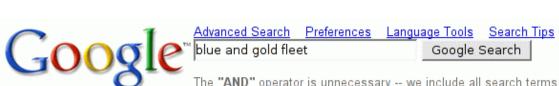


- But what about user behavior?
 - You can use clicks as supervision.
- Clicks
 - Incredibly noisy
 - A click on a result does not mean a vote for it
 - The destination may just be a traffic peddler
 - User taken to some other site
 - If anything, this (clicked) result was BAD



Blue and Gold Fleet





The "AND" operator is unnecessary -- we include all search terms by default. [details]

Web Images Groups Directory News

Searched the web for blue and gold fleet.

Results 1 - 10 of about 127,000. Search took 2.39 seconds.

By default, Google searches for variations of your search terms. To search only for an exact term, place a '+' sign before it.

Homeport

Blue and Gold Fleet, exclusive provider of transportation to Alcatraz Island, is a passenger vessel company and tour excursion operator providing vessel ... www.blueandgoldfleet.com/ - 11k - Cached

Blue & Gold Fleet

Main Menu: Blue & Gold Fleet ... Blue & Gold Fleet also operates the Alameda/Oakland Ferry and the Vallejo Baylink Ferry. Schedules. ... 198.94.156.9/BlueGoldFleet/ - 4k - Cached

Blue & Gold Fleet Bicyclist's Guide

Blue & Gold Fleet Bicyclist's Guide, Main Menu : Blue & Gold Fleet : Bicyclist's Guide You can find out more about bicycling in the ... 198.94.156.9/BlueGoldFleet/bicycles.html - 3k - Cached [More results from 198.94.156.9]

Transit.511.org

... Alameda/Oakland Ferry Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) American Canyon Transit Angel Island/Tiburon Ferry BART Benicia Transit Blue & Gold Fleet Brentwood Dimes ... www.transitinfo.org/ providers/coverage.asp?mc=InitialMap&cid=BG - 36k - Cached

San Francisco: Blue and Gold Fleet

... < Previous | Main | Next >>. Blue and Gold Fleet. San Francisco Bay - July 2003. Graphically modified. Taken from ferry to Alcatraz. Permalink. thespacebetween.typepad.com/photos/san francisco/ blue and gold fleet.html - 10k - Cached



We do Very Well



- Continually evaluate our system
 - In multiple languages
 - Tests valid over large traffic
 - Caught many possible disasters
- Constantly launch changes/products
 - Stemming, Google News, Froogle, Usenet, ...



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 - Finding Needles in a 20 TB Haystack, 200M times per day



Past



1995 research project at Stanford University



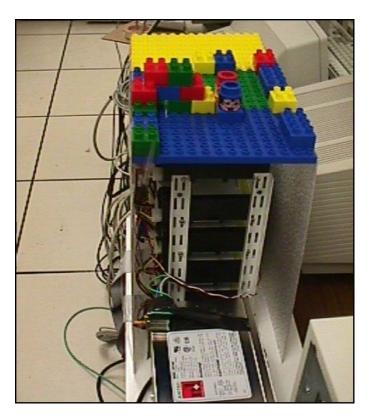


Lego Disk Case



One of our earliest storage systems











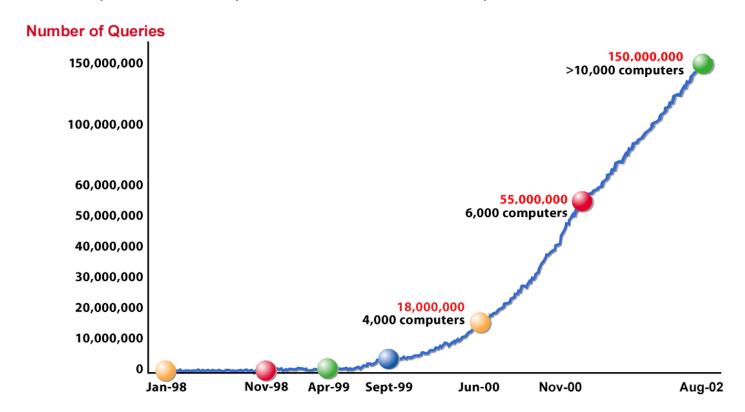






Growth

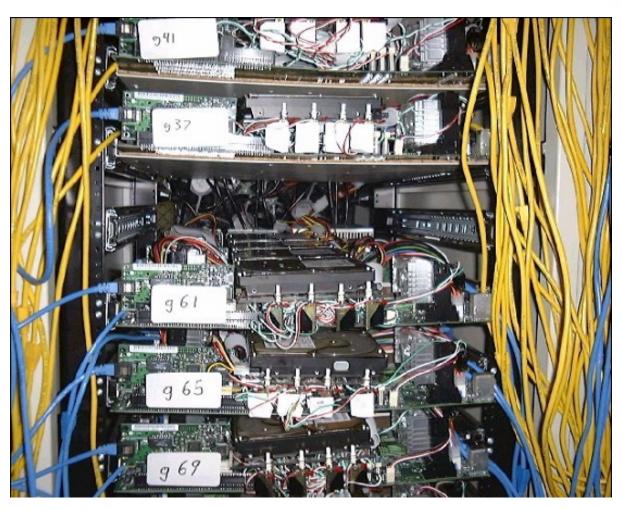
- Nov. 98: 10,000 queries on 25 computers
- Apr. 99: 500,000 queries on 300 computers
- Sept. 99: 3M queries on 2,100 computers





Servers 1999







Datacenters now





And 3 days later...



Where the users are...







What can we learn...



- Structure of Web
- Interests of Users
- Trends and Fads
- Languages
- Concepts
- Relationships

For both breaking news and obscure information alike, people around the world search on Google at www.google.com. With a bit of analysis, this flurry of searches often exposes interesting trends, patterns, and

On a monthly, weekly, and sometimes daily basis, this Google Zeitgeist page will be updated to reflect lists, graphs, and other tidbits of information related to Google user search behavior.

Archived information available here.

Top 10 Gaining Queries Top 10 Declining Queries Week Ending Jan. 28, 2002 Week Ending Jan. 28, 2002 1. sarah connor 1. golden globes 2. rose red 2. kim schmitz 3. mike tyson 3. yahoo 4. Chu Mei-feng

4. ADSL

5. kazaa

6. martin luther king

7. florida lottery 8. <u>NTT</u>

9. NHK

10. carrie hamilton

2001 Year-End Google Zeitgeist available here.

8. mothman prophecies

5. astrid lindgren

7. martina hingis

9. miss+germany

10. super bowl

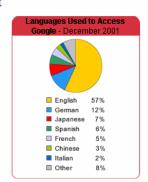
6. shane west

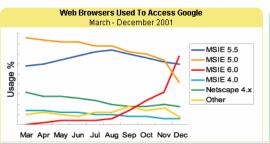
Google Zeitgeist - Search patterns, trends, and surprises according to Google

December 2001 Zeitgeist

Top 10 Gaining Queries December 2001
1. segway
2. navidad
3. george harrison
4. herr der ringe
5. pearl harbor
6. christmas carols
7. <u>hanukkah</u>
8. norad
9. <u>vanilla sky</u>
10. orlando bloom

Top 10 Declining Queries
December 2001
1. taliban
2. BLU-82
3. melbourne cup
4. leonid meteor shower
5. michael jackson
6. melanie thornton
7. hurricane michelle
8. star wars trailer
9. thanksgiving recipes
10. pink floyd









Spelling Correction: Britney Spears



488941 britney spears 40134 brittany spea britany spears 35315 brittney spea 24342 britany spear britny spears 7331 britny spears briteny spears 2696 britteny spea britteny spears 1807 briney spears brinev spears 1635 brittny spear 1479 brintey spear brittny spears 1479 britanny spea brintev spears 1338 briting spear 1211 britnet spear britanny spears 1096 britiney spea britiny spears 991 britaney spea 991 britnay spear britnet spears 811 brithney spea britinev spears 811 brtiney spear 664 birtney spear britaney spears 554 brintney spea britnav spears 664 briteney spea 601 bitney spears brithney spears 501 brinty spears brtiney spears 544 brittaney spe 544 brittnay spea birtney spears 264 briter spears 364 brittiny spea brintney spears 329 bitney spears briteney spears 269 bretney spear bitnev spears 269 britneys spea 244 britne spears brinty spears 244 brytney spear brittaney spears 220 breatney spea 220 britiany spea brittnay spears 199 britnney spea 163 britary spear britey spears 147 breatny spear brittiny spears 147 brittiney spe brtney spears 147 britty spears 147 brotney spear bretnev spears 147 brutney spear britneys spears 133 britteney spe 133 brighey spear brithe spears 121 bittany spear

17 brittanie spears

15 briterney spears

15 britheny spears

15 brinney spears

15 briten spears

9 brinttany spears 9 britanay spears 9 britinany spears 9 brith spears 9 britnew spears 9 britneyn spears 9 britiney spears 9 brtiny spears 9 brtittney spears 9 brtns spears 9 brytny spears 9 rhitney spears 8 birtiny spears 8 bithney spears 8 brattany spears 8 breithy spears 8 breteny spears 8 brightny spears 8 brintay spears 8 brinttey spears 8 briotney spears 8 britanys spears 8 britley spears 8 britneyb spears 8 brithrey spears 8 brithty spears 8 brittner spears 8 brottany spears 7 baritney spears 7 birntey spears 7 biteney spears 7 bitiny spears 7 breateny spears 7 brianty spears 7 brintve spears 7 britianny spears 7 britly spears 7 britnej spears 7 britneyu spears 7 britniey spears 7 britnnay spears 7 brittian spears 7 briwny spears 7 brrittany spears 7 brttiney spears 7 btiteny spears 7 btrittany spears δ beritny spears 6 bhritney spears

5 brnew spears 5 broitney spears 5 brothw spears 5 bruteny spears 5 btiyney spears 5 btrittney spears 5 gritney spears 5 spritney spears 4 bittny spears 4 bnritney spears 4 brandy spears 4 brbritney spears 4 breatiny spears 4 breetney spears 4 bretiney spears 4 brfitney spears 4 brightany spears 4 brieteny spears 4 briety spears 4 briitny spears 4 briittanv spears 4 brinie spears 4 brinteney spears 4 brintne spears 4 britaby spears 4 britaev spears 4 britainey spears 4 britinie spears 4 britinney spears 4 britmney spears 4 britnear spears 4 britnel spears 4 britneuy spears 4 britnewy spears 4 britomes spears 4 brittaby spears 4 brittery spears 4 britthey spears 4 brittnaev spears 4 brittmat spears 4 brittneny spears 4 brittmare spears 4 brittteny spears 4 brintney spears 4 briyeny spears 4 brnity spears 4 bitteny spears 4 brttiany spears 4 bryney spears

3 britis spears 2 brirreny spears 3 britmeny spears 2 brittany spears 3 britneeev spears 2 britttans spears 3 britnehy spears 2 britttney spears 3 britnely spears 2 britain spears 3 britnesy spears 2 britane spears 3 britnetty spears 2 britaneny spears 3 britnex spears 2 britania spears 3 britneyxxx spears 2 britann spears 3 brithity spears 2 britanna spears 3 brithtey spears 2 britannie spears 2 britannt spears 3 brithwey spears 3 britterny spears 2 britannu spears 3 brittneey spears 2 britanyl spears 3 brittnney spears 2 britanyt spears 3 brittnyey spears 2 briteenv spears 3 britwen spears 2 britenany spears 3 brightney spears 2 britenet spears 3 britney spears 2 britenia spears 3 broteny spears 2 britenys spears 3 brtanev spears 2 britianev spears 3 brtiiany spears 2 britin spears 3 brtinay spears 2 britinary spears 3 brtinney spears 2 britmy spears 3 brtitany spears 2 britnamey spears 3 brtitens spears 2 britnat spears 3 brtnet spears 2 brithbey spears 3 brytiny spears 2 britndy spears 3 btney spears 2 britneh spears 3 drittney spears 2 britneney spears 3 pretney spears 2 britney6 spears 3 rbritney spears 2 britneye spears 2 barittany spears 2 britnesh spears 2 bbbritney spears 2 britneym spears 2 bhitness spears 2 britneyvy spears 2 bbritny spears 2 britnhey spears 2 bbrittany spears 2 britnjey spears 2 beitany spears 2 brithne spears 2 beitny spears 2 brithu spears 2 bertney spears 2 britoney spears 2 bertny spears 2 britrany spears 2 betney spears 2 britreny spears 2 betny spears 2 britry spears 2 bhriney spears 2 britsanv spears 2 biney spears 2 brittanay spears 2 bintey spears 2 brittang spears 2 biretny spears 2 brittans spears 2 biritany spears 2 brittanyh spears 2 birittany spears 2 brittansm spears



121 bridney spears

121 britainy spears

121 britmey spears

109 brietney spears

109 brithny spears

Google



Ethics

- No pay for inclusion (in index)
- No pay for placement (in ranking)
- Clearly demarked results and ads
- 20% engineer time doing random stuff
 - Out came news, froogle, orkut
- Users come first



Recent launches...





Category: Computers > Security > Advisories and Patches > Third-Party

CERT Coordination Center

... January 29, 2004 Changes to CERT Advisories CERT advisories have become

a core component of US-CERT's Technical Cyber Security Alerts. ...

Description: The CERT Coordination Center studies Internet security vulnerabilities, provides incident response...

Category: Computers > Security

www.cert.org/ - 29k - Cached - Similar pages

CERT® Advisories

... self-propagating malicious code that exploits certain configurations of Microsoft Windows susceptible to the vulnerability described in **CERT advisory** CA-2001 ...

www.cert.org/advisories/ - 101k - Cached - Similar pages

[More results from www.cert.org]













Some perks...





Our Chef Charlie...









Thank You...



