

Politics and Web 2.0

“Internet fundraising has leapt ahead, with prospective Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama enjoying particular success thanks to Web 2.0 interactive and social networking tools that enhance online community participation.” – July 2008

<http://www.america.gov/st/elections08-english/2008/July/20080710130812mlenuhret0.6269953.html>

- Saving democracy with Web 2.0
 - “The ideal democratic process is participatory and the Web 2.0 phenomenon is about democratizing digital technology”

<http://www.wired.com/software/webservices/commentary/circuitcourt/2006/10/72001>

Opensecrets.org and fec.gov

- Nonpartisan guide to money’s influence on U.S. elections and public policy
 - Where does the data come from?
 - What about the site makes it more/less useful?
- Who established Federal Election Commission?
 - Rules for nonpartisanship?
 - Rules for ensuring fairness?
- What is the relationship between organizations?

Ethics and oversight

- Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington
 - CREW: fixthefec.org
- In April 2008 “FEC ‘toothless’, ‘neutered’, ‘paralyzed’
 - <http://www.buzzflash.com/articles/analysis/281>
- In June 2008 Senate confirms five commissioners
 - Recess appointment, blah blah blah
- Does FEC have oversight over blogs and Internet?
 - Cost of blogs *not* part of campaign finance!

Online campaign contributions

- How easy is it to donate?
 - How can we tell, where do we start?
- What about security and/or privacy?
 - What does the lock on the browser mean?
 - What does encryption mean?
 - What is a ‘certificate’? Who issues them?
- What is phishing and how can it be checked?
 - Who does the phishing, who gets hooked?

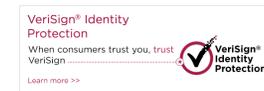
SSL, TLS and digital certificates

"RFC 5246: TLS 1.2 protocol provides communications security over the Internet. The protocol allows client/server applications to communicate in a way that is designed to prevent eavesdropping, tampering, or message forgery."

- TLS is Transport Layer Security, SSL is Secure Sockets Layer, used interchangeably now, but ...
 - Netscape to the world
 - Low-level protocol, below TCP/IP

CA: Certificate Authority

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Certificate_authority
 - Trusted third party, provides public key, certifies identity (to some extent)
- How does security work?
 - Essentially math, prime numbers, and factoring
 - 2,3,5,7,13,17,...101...
 - Is 15,485,867 prime? 472,930,477?



Aside: Search Engine Stuff

- Google query for 'campaign contributions'

What are these links?



What are these links?

Facebook or Google AdSense/Adwords

- Click through rate of .04%?
 - <http://www.socialmediaready.com/2008/04/07/facebook-ad-click-through-rates-are-really-pitiful/>
- What is Google AdSense?
- What is Google Adwords?
 - <https://adwords.google.com/select/TrafficEstimatorSandbox>

