

Conducting Investigations and Interviews

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-
- What we'll cover:
 - Using investigative tools and public records
 - Interview techniques
 - Questions ?

- Using public records for backgrounds and investigations:
- Example: Ex-Titan arrested for robbery: digging deeper



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Ex-Titan Keith Bulluck arrested, victim's credibility questioned

Posted: Aug 25, 2013 4:31 AM PDT
Updated: Aug 26, 2013 4:45 AM PDT
Reported by Nancy Amons - email

Click to read story

4 HD

00:34/04:18

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- Celebrity 'irrational' behavior may be linked to brain chemistry

Play

How I did the Keith Bulluck story

- Focus of any investigation: what do we want to know, and where is the information?
- In this case – key question is: who is the victim? Is he credible?
- How I back grounded the victim:

Copy STATE OF TENNESSEE, COUNTY OF DAVIDSON

This communication is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

To Any Lawful Officer to Execute and Return:

08/01/13 08/09/13 08/12/13
107-1140 0735-0925 1120-1125

WHEREAS, complaint is made to me by the Plaintiff(s) that the Defendant(s) is/are unlawfully detaining a certain real property situated in Davidson County, Tennessee and bounded or known and described as follows:

755 Glenview Dr, Nashville, TN 37206

AND WHEREAS, the Plaintiff(s) claim the right to the possession of said real property:

We therefore command you to summon the Defendant(s) to appear before the Metropolitan General

Sessions Court of Davidson County, Tennessee, to be held in Courtroom 5D, Justice A. A. Birch Building, 408 Second Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee, on THURSDAY 8/22/2013 at 8:45 A.M.,

to answer the above complaint and claim for rent, by Plaintiff(s) in the sum of possession Dollars and the possession plus any rents and late charges, utilities, and damages which become due or are discovered claim(s) for possession by the court date plus reasonable attorney fees, plus possession of the premises and the costs of this cause.

We, Robert Parks Apts, Agent for ARB Properties LLC, Principal,

and Susie St. James, Surety, do hereby bind ourselves, our heirs and assigns

to said Defendant(s), to pay all costs and damages which shall accrue to said Defendant(s), for the wrongful

prosecution of this suit.

Entered: August 1, 2013

Robert Parks Apts Agent for ARB Properties LLC Susie St. James
Surety

13080002 /

Judgment is granted to Plaintiff(s) against Defendant(s) All defendants

in the amount of \$ possession and all costs and taxes, and for possession of the described property for which a writ of restitution and execution shall be issued on

COURTROOM 5D Alias Amended Counter-Claim

No. 13M6802

Robert Parks Apts, Agent for ARB Properties LLC

Plaintiff(s)

Address c/o Action Collection Agency, Inc
POB 210166, Nashville, TN 37221 615-942-6380

Telephone vs. D.C.

Habib Abdi Hashi 484-1837 / 256-7400

Defendant Abdikarim Ismail-OCCPANT

Address 755 Glenview Dr Nashville, TN 37206

SERVE PERSONALLY

Defendant Serve defendant(s) at: 755 Glenview Dr Nashville, TN 37206

Address Nashville, TN 37206

D **DETAINER WARRANT** **D**
Metropolitan General Sessions Court

Issued 8-6, 20 13

8/22 **RICHARD R. ROOKER, Clerk**

EARLIEST THURSDAY By: Amckee Deputy Clerk

Set for 8:45 A.M. on 8/22, 20 13

Courtroom 5D, Justice A. A. Birch Building, 408 Second Avenue North, P.O. Box 196304, Nashville, Tennessee 37219-6304

Service by: Private Process D.C. Sheriff O.C. Sheriff Other

Reset for: _____

Come to hand same day issued and executed as commanded on: _____

Start with the obvious: call, go to victim's address on arrest report. What's up with the eviction notice?

Does Habib Hashi have a criminal record?

Defendant Details:

Defendant	Case Number	Defendant Status	Case Status
Hashi, Habib A	SC296788	Completed Court Process	Completed Court Process

 Detailed criminal history.

Appearance Details:

Date	Judge	Court Room	Attorney	Reason
07/14/1999 - 12:00 A.M.	Holt, Aaron			

 Attorney of Record Request

Charge Details:

Charged/Cited Offense(s)	Amended	Convicted	Disposition	Bond	Date
Traffic -False Accident Report			Guilty	N/A	07/14/1999

Charging Instrument:

Downloads

The court system has this Habib with a dob of Jan 1, 1973.

Keep your resources at your fingertips:

Create a document with hyperlinks

I call mine “Hotlinks”

Here's how to see who owns a certain property in Metro, or to look at the property at that address. There are photos of the houses.

<http://170.190.30.53/WebproNashville/Default.asp?br=exp&vr=6>

Here's how to find out the owners of property everywhere in the state. Unlike in Metro, there are no pictures.

<http://www.assessment.state.tn.us/>

How can I look up a civil court file in Metro? <http://caselink.nashville.gov/>
(customize for your jurisdiction)

Look up codes violations on a Metro property

<http://www.nashville.gov/codes/index.asp>

<https://permits.nashville.gov/kivanet/2/rfs/index.cfm>

How do I check the ownership history of Metro property, or see if a company has liens against it?

<http://www.registerofdeeds.nashville.org/recording/logon.asp>

user name, xxxx password, xxxxx.

How do you find out if someone has a felony conviction record in Tennessee?

<https://apps.tn.gov/foil-app/search.jsp;jsessionid=BA7F6B6D526C785BDA85FA4E477E1393.portalprod7>

How do I look up a criminal history in Metro?

<http://ccc.nashville.gov/portal/page/portal/ccc/caseSearch/caseSearchPublic/caseSearchPublicForms>

Who's on the sex offender registry in Tennessee?

http://www.tbi.tn.gov/sex_ofender_reg/sex_ofender_reg.shtml

National Sex Offender Public Registry - <http://www.nsopr.gov>

Inmate locator

<http://theinmatelocator.com/Tennessee.html>

Verify a contractor's license

<http://verify.tn.gov/>

How do I see who owns a business in Tennessee?

<https://tnbear.tn.gov/ECommerce/FilingSearch.aspx>

State employee travel reimbursements, contracts, salaries:

[Http://www.tn.gov/opengov/](http://www.tn.gov/opengov/)

OSHA inspections – check a company’s record after a workplace accident

<http://www.osha.gov/pls/imis/establishment.html>

Find what a certain website looked like at a particular point in time.

www.archive.org

Federal Elections Commission - Campaign contribution information

www.fec.gov

Who is behind a Web site, unlisted phone numbers

www.whois.net

www.domaintools.com

This is a great way to find the phone number of a company or agency that doesn't publicly post contact info on its site.

People, phone numbers, addresses

www.anywho.com

Tip: After a name search, address search can be done by using two spaces for first name and two spaces for last name and typing in street name.

People, phone numbers, addresses, emails, area codes, ZIP codes

www.whitepages.com

www.superpages.com

www.switchboard.com

Internet Public Library: Out-of-town newspapers, info on people there

www.ipl.org/div/news/

Good at searching social network username

www.123people.com

These Web sites have links to many, many free public record sites:

www.searchsystems.net

www.brbpub.com

BRB Publications updates links to state and local agencies that provide free on-line public records

Charities: IRS revocations

<http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=96136,00.html>

Check to see if someone has an IRS designation as a nonprofit:

<http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=249767,00.html>

Guidestar

www.guidestar.org

Tennessee Charities

[Financial Reports for Registered Charitable Organizations](#)

[Registered Fundraising Counsels](#)

[Registered Professional Solicitors](#)

- Why Hotlinks works:
- To-Do list you can customize
- It's portable: use it on your smart phone, laptop, cloud storage
- Share it with your colleagues
- Training tool for new members of your staff
- Reminder of steps to follow

Take a minute and list three local resources you would use to build your “Hotlinks” page:

- 1
- 2
- 3



The Art of the Interview

**Story: Mayor
announces
design award
for city-
financed
renovation of
historic
“Bridge
Building”**



The Bridge Building

- Release: office space and event space
- Original press release said restaurants and retail
- Who's in the building? How did they get there?

- [play](#)
- The Mayor's wife 7/12/2013 6:00 pm

Before the interview:

Research – what do the documents say?

Who do I need to talk to?

Bring key documents with you

Point out contradictions

Follow up on contradictions

The logo consists of the letters 'IRE' in a bold, serif font. The letters are white and set against a black rectangular background. The 'I' and 'E' have thin horizontal lines extending from their top and bottom respectively. The 'R' is a classic serif 'R'. The entire logo is centered on a white background, which is flanked by thin horizontal lines in blue and red on both sides.

IRE

Tips from the experts: Investigative Reporters and Editors

- Source Development: Andy Hall, Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism
- Focus before the interview: what do I already know about this person or topic?
- Background yourself by talking to other sources, reading research.
- Conduct interviews in person, whenever possible
- Strive to meet reluctant interviewees on their own turf
- Dress to blend in with your source and the scene
- Prepare: what will open this interviewee up?
- Consider using a chronological approach – a natural storytelling format
- “What happened next?”

- Embrace silence – listen lots, talk little
- Ask how the source knows the information
- Press for specifics
- Probe for differences between how things are supposed to work and reality
- Bring along key documents to cite details
- Use a recorder if possible

- Tisha Thompson, WRC-TV Washington, D.C.
- Anticipate what the source is worried about: will I lose my job, go to jail, who ratted me out, how much do they really know?
- “This will be hard. But I wouldn’t ask you to do it if I didn’t think it would help other people”
- “We can’t fix the problem without your help”
- “This is your chance to say whatever you want to say”
- Remind them they are being smart and brave

- Open by talking about something they are proud of: a family photo, medals and plaques
- Let them talk. Don't interrupt. Then go back and hash over the details you care about
- Don't be afraid to challenge them. "Are you sure that's what happened? Is there any chance you've made a mistake?"
- Don't be afraid to ask the same question over and over again

- From Marilyn Thompson, The Washington Post
- Be prepared. Make notes to yourself about topics and questions you need to cover
- If the subject is nervous, put away the notebook or tape recorder. Take it out again after they relax
- Be persistent. Don't be afraid to come back to a key question until it is answered satisfactorily.
- Don't be afraid of awkward silences.
- No question is too stupid. Don't assume anything.

- Lea Thompson, Dateline
- Interviewing whistleblowers:
- If someone won't talk directly, find an intermediary they can talk to you through
- Insiders can't talk between 9 and 5 pm. Be ready to flex your hours
- Don't take sides
- "End" the interview. The source may relax and talk more.

- James Grimaldi, The Washington Post
- Use key documents to find key people.
- Where are complaints filed? Grievances? Lawsuits? They are potential sources
- Admit ignorance if you don't know something.
- Assemble your exhibits – identify your top 12 documents and bring copies with you
- Read depositions by good lawyers. Watch how they catch contradictions and how they assemble their questions

-
- John Ferrugia
 - Know your subject better than your interviewee: prepare
 - Dead space is your friend. They feel they have to talk
 - Your body language should say: “I’m ready to listen.”
 - Redirect your interviewee: “yes, you’ve made that point, but this is the question.”
 - Don’t project anger or frustration. It’s not about YOU.

-
- You don't have to reveal everything you know:
 - Corey Jenkins

-
- Alan Goldman, Associated Press
 - If you use a notebook, make it a small one
 - Don't make disparaging remarks about other people; it might be someone he likes. Keep it neutral.
 - Discover a common interest. Do you both like hockey, cars, did you go to the same school, etc?
 - Write a letter to their home. No one gets letters; it's special.

-
- Susan Snyder, Philadelphia Inquirer
 - Don't make your source feel like a one night stand.
 - Return their phone calls, emails, follow up after the interview.

- Nancy's favorite wrap-up questions:
- What did I miss that I need to know?
- What's the most important thing I should know?
- Who else should I talk to? Can you introduce us?
- What documents do I need to read?
- Where can I find them?
- How do you know this? How can I verify this?

- Questions to ask – sources
- Who else should I talk to?
- How do you know that?
- What documents, emails, reports do you have that back up what you're saying?
- What's the most important thing I need to know?
- Is there anything else I need to know?
- What didn't I ask?
- If someone is trying to discredit you, what will they tell me?

Keep the pipeline of tips flowing to you:

- Publicize your e-mail, phone number
- Google Alerts
- Electronic subscription notifications

	Subject	Received
erts	Google Alert - horse meat	Thu 8/29/2013 6
erts	Google Alert - Meningitis	Thu 8/29/2013 5
erts	Google Alert - "music city center"	Thu 8/29/2013 5
erts	Google Alert - "convention center authority"	Thu 8/29/2013 3
erts	Google Alert - "john morgan" and chancellor	Thu 8/29/2013 1
erts	Google Alert - horse meat	Wed 8/28/2013 1
erts	Google Alert - horse meat	Wed 8/28/2013
erts	Google Alert - tva	Wed 8/28/2013 1
erts	Google Alert - "music city center"	Wed 8/28/2013 1
erts	Google Alert - Meningitis	Wed 8/28/2013 1
erts	Google Alert - TennCare	Wed 8/28/2013
erts	Google Alert - Meningitis	Wed 8/28/2013
erts	Google Alert - Meningitis	Wed 8/28/2013 1
erts	Google Alert - "music city center"	Wed 8/28/2013 1
erts	Google Alert - horse meat	Wed 8/28/2013
erts	Google Alert - TennCare	Wed 8/28/2013
erts	Google Alert - horse meat	Wed 8/28/2013
erts	Google Alert - "convention center authority"	Wed 8/28/2013
erts	Google Alert - horse meat	Wed 8/28/2013
erts	Google Alert - horse meat	Wed 8/28/2013

Google Alerts

Horse Slaughter Divides Horse Lovers

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By FRANK MORRIS



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<http://education.umkc.edu/kc-teach>

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KCUR

ON AIR American Routes

2:00PM - 4:00PM

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[iTunes](#)

[Windows](#)

Up Next

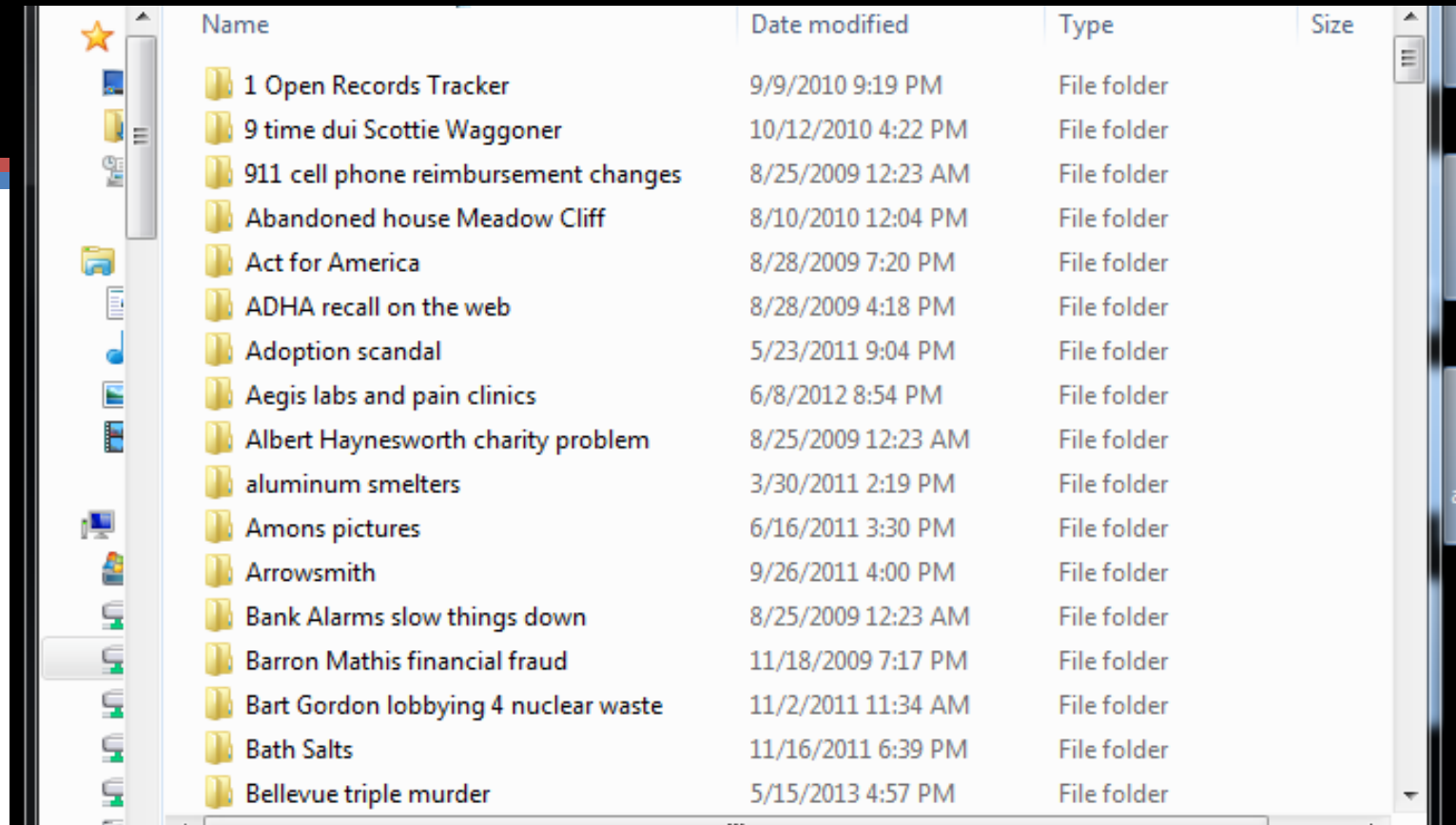
4:00PM - 5:00PM

All Things Considered

NPR News magazine that features in-depth reporting, breaking news, analysis, commentary and interviews.

Google Alert finds horse slaughter story on Kansas radio station
Every day, Google Alerts keep me up on the latest news on my topic, worldwide

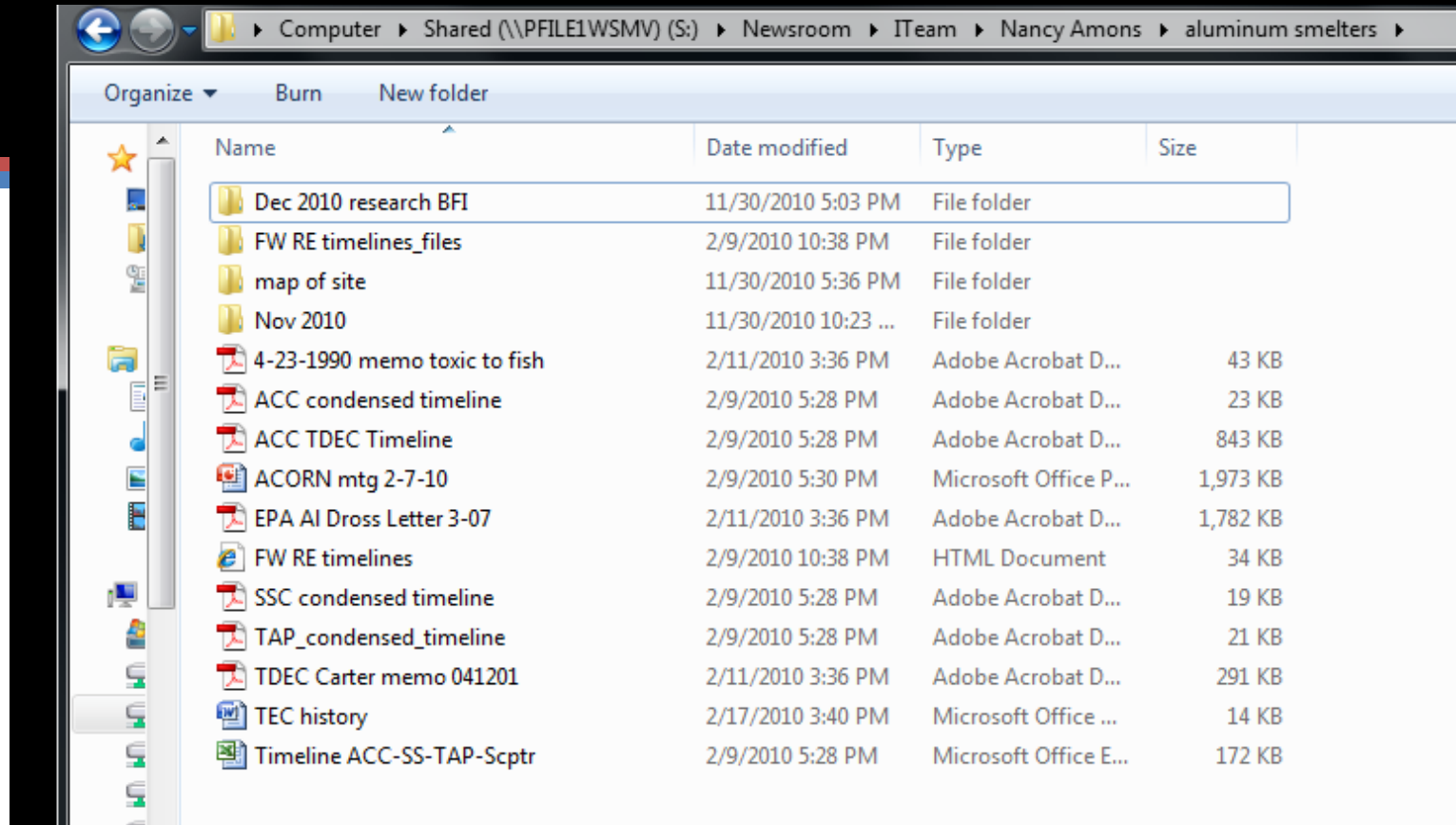
-
- Good organization creates follow-ups
 - Use the tools you have:
 - Microsoft Folders
 - Outlook reminders



A screenshot of a Windows Explorer window displaying a list of folders. The window has a sidebar on the left with navigation icons and a main pane showing a table of folders. The table has four columns: Name, Date modified, Type, and Size. The folders listed include various topics such as '1 Open Records Tracker', '9 time dui Scottie Waggoner', '911 cell phone reimbursement changes', 'Abandoned house Meadow Cliff', 'Act for America', 'ADHA recall on the web', 'Adoption scandal', 'Aegis labs and pain clinics', 'Albert Haynesworth charity problem', 'aluminum smelters', 'Amons pictures', 'Arrowsmith', 'Bank Alarms slow things down', 'Barron Mathis financial fraud', 'Bart Gordon lobbying 4 nuclear waste', 'Bath Salts', and 'Bellevue triple murder'. All folders are listed as 'File folder' type.

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
1 Open Records Tracker	9/9/2010 9:19 PM	File folder	
9 time dui Scottie Waggoner	10/12/2010 4:22 PM	File folder	
911 cell phone reimbursement changes	8/25/2009 12:23 AM	File folder	
Abandoned house Meadow Cliff	8/10/2010 12:04 PM	File folder	
Act for America	8/28/2009 7:20 PM	File folder	
ADHA recall on the web	8/28/2009 4:18 PM	File folder	
Adoption scandal	5/23/2011 9:04 PM	File folder	
Aegis labs and pain clinics	6/8/2012 8:54 PM	File folder	
Albert Haynesworth charity problem	8/25/2009 12:23 AM	File folder	
aluminum smelters	3/30/2011 2:19 PM	File folder	
Amons pictures	6/16/2011 3:30 PM	File folder	
Arrowsmith	9/26/2011 4:00 PM	File folder	
Bank Alarms slow things down	8/25/2009 12:23 AM	File folder	
Barron Mathis financial fraud	11/18/2009 7:17 PM	File folder	
Bart Gordon lobbying 4 nuclear waste	11/2/2011 11:34 AM	File folder	
Bath Salts	11/16/2011 6:39 PM	File folder	
Bellevue triple murder	5/15/2013 4:57 PM	File folder	

Microsoft Folder System – One example of an organization tool



This is what you see when you drill down into the “Aluminum Smelters” folder

-
- Good organization – creates follow ups
 - Someone promises to get it to you “next week”
 - Send them an email reminding them – keep the thread going to remind them of your promise
 - Set up an appointment reminder in your calendar

But don't believe the IT staff when they say – "Oh, everything gets backed up every night!"





RECOVERY.GOV

TRACK THE MONEY

Recovery.gov is the U.S. government's official website that provides easy access to data related to Recovery Act spending and allows for the reporting of potential fraud, waste, and abuse.

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Home > Where is The Money Going? > Recipient and Agency Data > Recipient Projects

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RECIPIENT PROJECTS

Make selection(s) below and hit GO to see the locations of recovery projects on the map. Click on a dot or award name for more details.

State: Zip code:
 County: Cong Dist:
 Agency:
 Category: Recipient Name:

Type: Contracts Grants Loans
 Status: Not Started In Progress Completed
 Funding: \$0 - \$147.13M

GO

Tennessee

Total Funds Awarded: **\$5,963,748,561**
 Total Awards: **7,900**
 Jobs by Quarter: **1,894**



List of Awards 1-15 of 7900 Re

Recipients	Award	Details
1220 EXHIBITS, INC	\$31,083	PROFILE AV
12th District Drug Court Foundation, Inc.	\$100,000	PROFILE AV
17TH JUDICIAL DIST	\$60,000	PROFILE AV

Summary:

- Stay organized
- Follow your curiosity: file lots of Open Records Requests
- Keep tips flowing to you – esubscriptions and Google alerts
- Set up your own “Hotlinks” – be ready FAST

Investigations and Interviews

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