

Anonymous

History

- Born out of /b/
 - “Anonymous” username
- Trolls with occasionally moral motivations
 - Habbo Hotel
 - Hal Turner



Project Chanology

- Tom Cruise video leaked
 - Church of Scientology DMCA'd everyone
- Anonymous fights back
 - Black faxes, phone calls, DDoS'ing
 - Physical protests; over 9,000 attendees



Cultural Rift

- Originally in it for the lolz
- Influx of “Hacktivists”
- Today, they are primarily “Hacktivists”
 - Attacks on PayPal
 - Attacks on HBGary



#noemail

- Anonymous is certainly a #noemail group
- Privacy/convenience being two crucial concerns (eliminate trust on third-party email provider)
- Communicate primarily through IRC/4chan

Generation Like

- Idea of Anonymous opposed to notion of 'likes'
- Anons shame each other for big headedness/fame claiming
 - See Commander X

Dana Boyd

- Boyd talks about teens using culture references to communicate securely
 - Girl using song lyrics in Facebook post to evade her mom's concern
- Similar to Anons, who use memes to identify each other pseudo-secretly
 - Anon uses term “over 9000” when trolling Hal Turner via phone

Networked Individual

- Drastic increase of individuals online since 1980
 - New, lower-friction medium for information spread
- Anonymous sometimes plays role in supporting rebellions

Virtual Reality

- Real-time shared experience galvanized some Anons into Egypt revolution involvement
- VR will only add to the closeness of that connectivity; could spark more international involvement by Anonymous?

Astra Taylor

- “If you owe the bank a thousand dollars, the bank owns you. If you owe the bank a trillion dollars, you own the bank”
- Anonymous enabled by a similar idea

Nancy Baym

- Talks about public's insane (read: inane) interest in daily life of celebrities
- Anons have Twitter accounts, but unverifiable
 - Completely changes fan/celebrity interaction (in which verified identity is usually paramount)

Blogging

- Sullivan and Popova really talk about monetization of their blogs/online activities
- One thing that's interesting is that Anonymous doesn't monetize at all
 - Do not even accept donations

Lilyn Hester

- Asked her about Google peering sites with NSA
- Anonymous hasn't taken an issue up with Google
- Although, Google has cooperated with NSA, against principles of Anonymous

Pew Report

- “American’s privacy strategies post Snowden”
- Years later, poor security habits remain
 - Anons likely among them; at risk for doxing
- Only small fraction of general public use PGP and Tor (2%), in U.S.

Citizen Four

- HBGary and Palantir had a proposal to U.S. gov to destroy reputation of Glenn Greenwald
- Anons leak proposal

Palantir

Glenn Greenwald

- Glenn was critical in the Amazon to OVH transition
- It is this level of support that needs to be disrupted
- These are established professionals that have a liberal bent, but ultimately most of them if pushed will choose professional preservation over cause, such is the mentality of most business professionals.
- Without the support of people like Glenn wikileaks would fold.



Journalism after Snowden

- Discuss the need and importance of a “privacy bill of rights”
- Anons would certainly support such a bill
 - Ensures them and those they fight for protections they deserve

Tor

- Integral to Anonymous' methods
- Provides as-close-as-possible Anonymity with national adversary

Six degrees of separation

- Loosely related to concept of PGP
- Really hinges on “web of trust” where an individual you know vouches for identity of someone you don’t
- PGP very widely used in Anonymous communication

Duncan Watts

- Studied a simulated marketplace (of songs) and the market's response to manipulation
- Anonymous' decentralized nature is similar
 - Ops Anon decide on likely guided by same principles of cumulative attachment

Book Report

- Appelbaum (one of the authors) is very involved with Tor dev
- Cypherpunks' thesis was “the internet is liberated by cryptography”
 - Indeed, many of the things Anonymous does would not be possible without modern crypto

Memes

- Memes used as a way of identify verification
- Memes and Anonymous share their birth place
- “Anonymous is an idea”

Morozov

- Questions whether the Internet actually inhibits/encourages democracy
- Anons claim that an unfiltered Internet is essential for free speech
 - They fought Scientology because they saw their DMCA as threat to open info
 - Anons often tie free speech with democracy

Online Dating

- Anons have not targeted online dating
- Likely due to their large fraction of Hacktivists; trolls (as they were in the early days) would likely target online dating

Digital Cosmopolitan

- Zuckerman wants cross-cultural political involvement
- Anonymous in some ways is encouraging political involvement across cultures

Spoonflower

- Cloth (pictured) similarly inspired by V for Vendetta as Anonymous was
- Open marketplace without
 - Censorship



Works Cited

(in notes below)