# 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

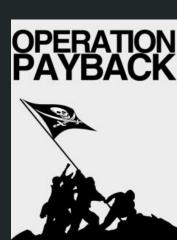


#### **Cultural Rift**

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.

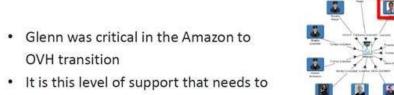
#### Citizen Four

Q Palantir

be disrupted

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

Anons leak proposal



 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.

Glenn Greenwald

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)