



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

DOCUMENT 86

#94568-1  
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DATE 8/20/02 BY SP10K/SPB  
3/24/03 SP10K/SPB

*The FBI's Public Source Information Program  
Fact Versus Fiction*

[Redacted] b7c

# *Objectives of this presentation*

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- Types of information available to law enforcement
- History and growth of the FBI's Public Source Information Program (PSIP)
- FBI's PSIP and it's support of the investigative objectives of the FBI
- Demo of ChoicePoint
- Recent news articles on the FBI's usage of public source information (Fact vs. Fiction)
- Privacy legislation recently passed and it's potential impact on law enforcement's availability of public records
- Discussion of policy for the use of public source information during criminal cases

# Public Source Databases

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○ Contain billions of public records including:

Property records

Census information

Professional licenses

Telephone books

Newspaper articles

○ Drivers records

Vehicle records

Credit Bureau Headers

# In the beginning, there was Lexis-Nexis.....

It met the needs of many, due to the fact it contained

- **Public Source Information**
- **News Article Archives**
- **Legal Information**

This was the first time in FBI history, these types of information were so easily accessible to investigative personnel.

# A revolution occurred



**BIRTH OF  
THE  
INTERNET**

**You no longer  
have a college  
course to learn  
how to operate  
a computer.**

**Computers  
are not "just  
for nerds"  
anymore**

**Information Super  
Highway was built**

*Many databases are now available  
and are much more user-friendly*

○ ChoicePoint – Public records

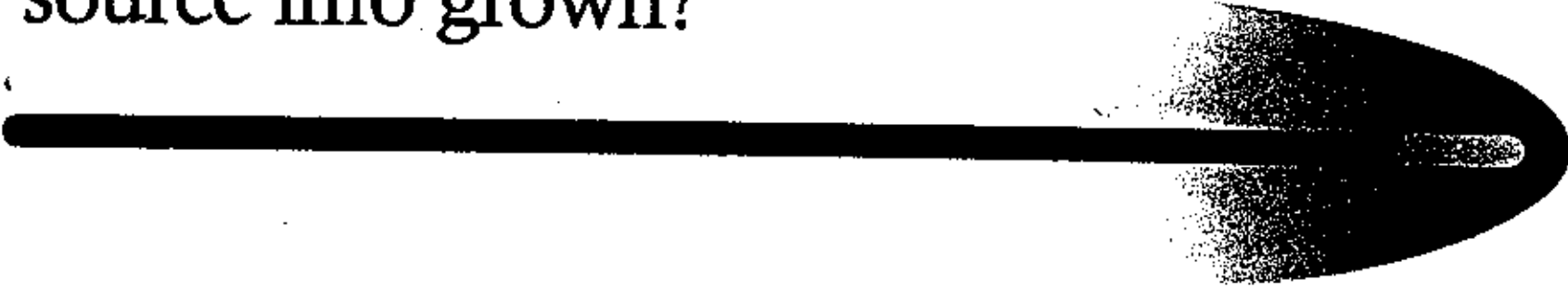
WestLaw – Legal information and news

Lexis-Nexis – Public records, legal information and news

Dun and Bradstreet – Records regarding companies

○ Credit Bureau Reports – Live credit header information

How much has the FBI's use of public source info grown?



Usage of public source information systems has increased by 9,600% since 1992.

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# Success of the PSIP

**TOP TEN FUGITIVE CAPTURED:** Aurlieas Dame McClarty - He was wanted for a double murder in Orlando and bank robbery in Baltimore and numerous other crimes in between. Information found in ChoicePoint, McClarty was located. McClarty was taken into custody without incident. - Baltimore Division

**I was able to locate a fugitive through the ChoicePoint database within minutes of getting the printout** **b2**  
ChoicePoint replacing Lexis-Nexis in the morning and sent a request to our OpCenter. I heard about  
~~received a reply with an address that was completely new to me.~~ Based on this info, the fugitive was  
located. Since that time most of the Agents on the NY Fugitive Squad have been using this service for  
our cases. The fact that we can do it ourselves (either from the office or from home) makes it real  
convenient. **The amount of info. generated is a real plus for fugitive investigations.** - New  
York Division

**After 24 years of eluding the FBI, a fugitive wanted for armed robbery and the brutal murder**  
of a prominent Louisiana Attorney and State Senator was found using public source information. -  
SITC

During the investigation of the Egypt Airlines crash, timely access to public source information gave the FBI  
the **ability to rapidly assess the bonafides of the passengers on the plane**, permitting early  
conclusions to be drawn regarding possible causes of the crash.

## Success of the PSIP

**A subject from Oklahoma was a fugitive for 17 years.** As a result of information, subject's alibi was destroyed in court and revealed a outstanding warrant in Florida. **He was sentenced to 52 years and 3 months.** -SITC

Huey Rich, son of US Rep. Bobby Rush, D-Ill, was killed by two individuals claiming to be police, who wore bulletproof vests, carried badges and walkie-talkies, when they shot and robbed Rich. Leo Foster and Darcell Prince were charged in the killing.

**Prince was arrested, at the Columbus, Ohio address.** - Chicago Division

**Identification Order fugitive located** who was wanted for the murder of his ex-wife in Louisiana. Fugitive's girlfriend was located in New Mexico which subsequently led to his arrest. -SITC

b7E

# Benefits to the FBI

Statistics for Butte and Savannah for FY 2000	
# of ITC requests received	67,932
# of ITC requests with positive results	67,310
# Subjects located	2,495
# Subjects identified	4,163
# Witnesses located	5,466
# Witnesses identified	5,016
# Assets located	1,067
# Assets identified	2,092
# Business identified	6,391
# New business associates identified	6,565
# Financial audit trails enhanced	3,253
# New leads generated	12,516
# Arrests made	524
% of ITC requests resulting in new investigative information	99.10%

\*Butte and Savannah account for only 4% of the PSIP searches

## *Fact Versus Fiction*

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Since the Wall Street Journal article in May 2001, there have been other news articles and one television show that have focused on the FBI contract with ChoicePoint and other public records providers.

There have also been many privacy websites that have discussed the FBI's use of public source information.

There is both fact and fiction contained in these documents.

# *Gramm-Leech-Bliley Act*

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- **Limits access to Credit Header information.**
  - It does have a law enforcement exception, however at least one of the credit bureaus has stated they will no longer make credit header information.
- **Lawsuit of IRSG and TransUnion versus FTC**