

sci.math: Re: [XPOST] A unique number for every "person" – can it be done?

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From: gerard46 (gerard46_at_rtt.net)

Date: 02/27/05

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| Ioannis wrote:

> TGOS wrote:

> Hello,

> First please excuse the xpost, but the topic of this post does not fit
> into any single NG and I didn't want to miss the right people by posting
> to the wrong NG. Maybe we can find out where it really belongs to in the
> discussion process and move the thread to the right group.

> For halve a year now I'm thinking about creating an algorithm, this
> sounds like math, but without some form of hashing used in cryptography
> it will most likely get nowhere, and the topic is program related. You
> see, it's very hard to categorize the topic.

> The problem can be summarized in one sentence:

> Calculate a number for every human being, company and organization on
> earth, that is guaranteed to be unique till the end of time.

> The rules in detail:

[snip]

> Be creative, try to find data useful for the purpose. Things you may
> want to use:

> – Date of birth / Year of foundation

> – Place of birth (consider not always known, names can change over time,
> better go for coordinates)

> – Name (First, Last / Name of company/organization)

> – Name of parents (consider orphans / companies)

> – Blood Type (consider companies have no blood type)

> – Gender (consider companies)

> – Eye color (should be constant, consider companies)

> and so on.

There are people who don't know where they were born, when they were born, or their birth name. They, of course, had a name assigned to them later, but you see the problem. And then there is the problem

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of translating non-Latin names to Latin names, or whatever alphabet you want to use. The use of Gender can cause problems with trans-sexuals (right of privacy in this country) and also you have to consider hermaphrodites and the "opposite", I don't know what the word is for that. Also, eye color can change, and often does for babies, and so on.

|> Just because some people may not know something or something may not
|> apply to certain people doesn't mean you can not use it. But explain
|> what to do in the case it does not exist or is unknown.

|
| The simplest idea I can come up with would be to find a way to
| mathematically encode one's fingerprints, since they are unique. One
| could for example take the decimal equivalent of the file contents of a
| standard JPEG or GIF's consecutive bytes of one's fingerprin