

Re: Hidden information question

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- *From:* xhoster@xxxxxxxxxx
 - *Date:* 26 May 2006 15:14:20 GMT
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"Reef Fish" <Large_Nassau_Grouper@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Jerry Dallal wrote:

Schizoid Man wrote:

Several coworkers would like to know their average salary.
How can
they calculate it, without disclosing their own salaries?

It's perhaps a semantic thing, but in the scheme proposed by you, and earlier by xhos. everyone disclosed their own salaries except YOU,

Sure, they disclosed it to the calculator, or a piece of paper. Does that really count as discloser? Do you think the first person is in cahoots with a bunch of pieces of paper?

who
thinks you are smarter than the rest of them.

This statement says a lot about you, but nothing about the system under question.

The proposed scheme is bogus.

If YOU can play the game of adding a random number to YOUR salary,

The **first** person adds a random number. It doesn't matter whether first person is you or me or someone else.

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then assuming that you are working in a think-tank that everyone can come up with the same idea, and adjust the average from his OWN fake noise (random or not is irrelevant).

That is, if EVERYONE enters $S_i + E_i$ where E_i is known only to person i , then nobody will ever know the true average salary. In order for the scheme to work, one has to make the tacit assumption that there is ONE, and ONLY ONE, smart donkey in the group, who thinks he is smarter than the rest, and the rest is indeed as dumb as he thinks by telling the truth of their salary when you think you are smart enough to fool them.

The whole scheme of having the first person add a random number is not some kind of secret plot. It is an open collaboration. It takes a seriously cracked mind not to understand this.

Congratulations.

Xho

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