

A large-scale architectural model of a city, likely a riverfront development, is displayed in a museum. The model features a dense grid of buildings, a prominent blue river with several ships, and a bridge. The background shows a museum interior with a sign that reads "VIRTUAL WORLD" and "多功能力".

Visualizing A Web Of Data

Stamen Design

Eric Rodenbeck

Michal Migurski (me)

Shawn Allen

Tom Carden

Geraldine Sarmiento

Deborah Monaghan

Ben Cervený

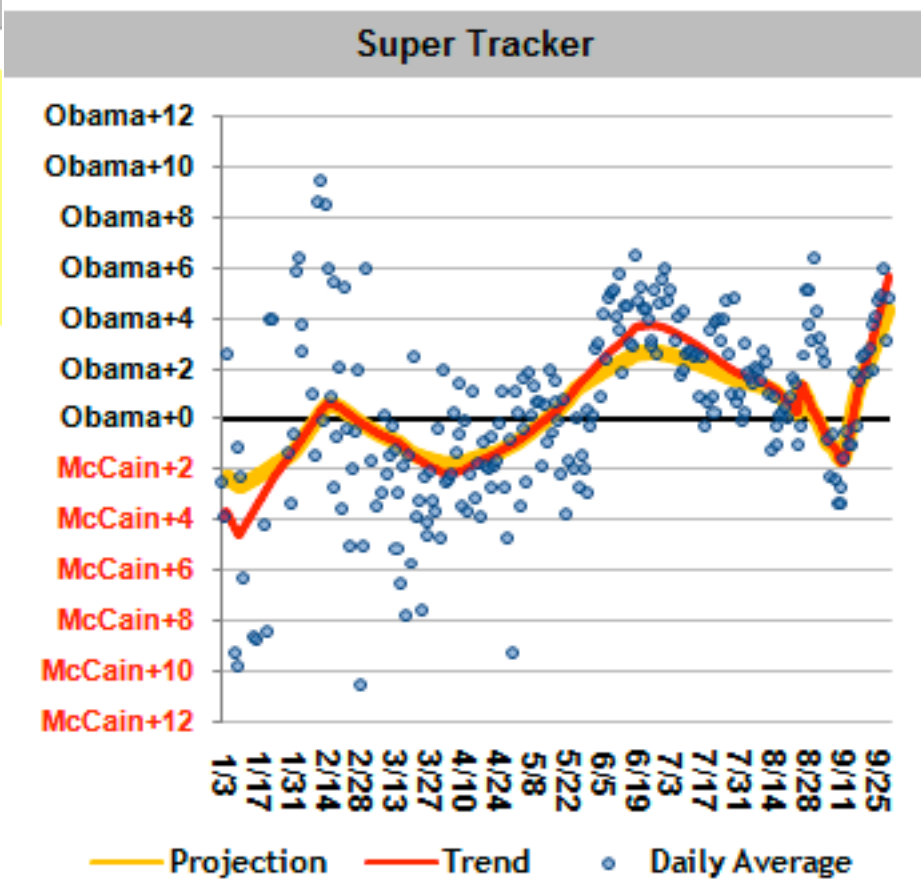
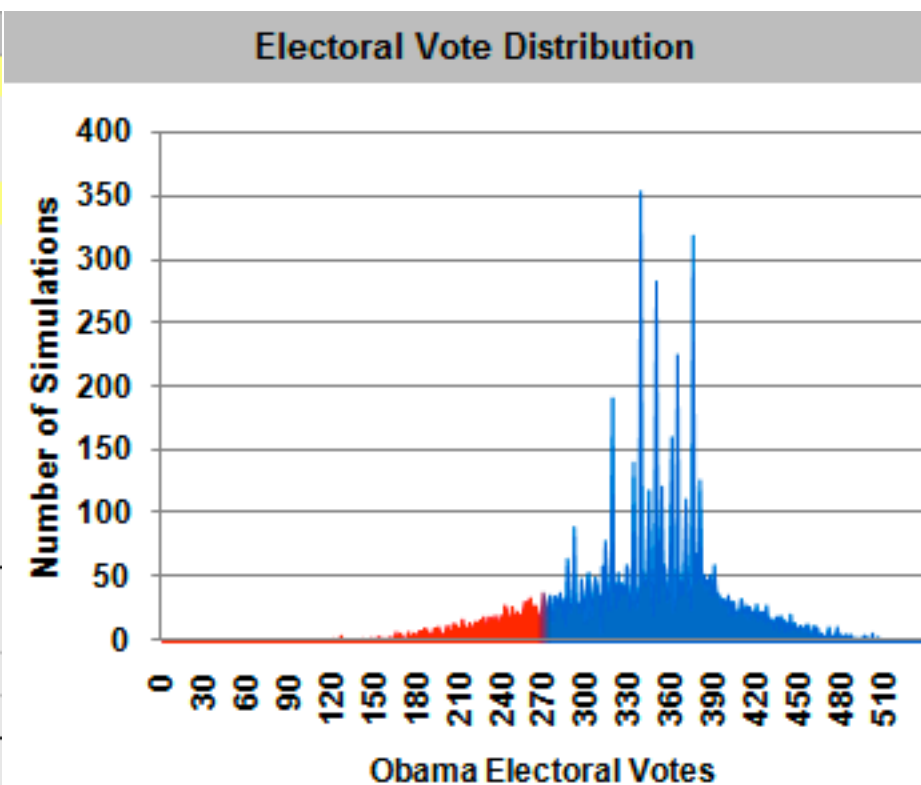
Sha Hwang

Data + Design

**Open data and visualization are colliding,
and feeding off one another to mutual benefit**

Agency	Weight	Date	Size	DEM	GOP	Margin
SurveyUSA	<div></div> 1.15	9/24	661	53	43	Obama +10
PPIC	<div></div> 0.93	9/13	1157	50	40	Obama +10
Field	<div></div> 0.91	9/10	830	52	36	Obama +16
Rasmussen	<div></div> 0.81	9/22	500	56	39	Obama +17
ARG	<div></div> 0.69	9/19	600	53	39	Obama +14
Rasmussen	<div></div> 0.30	8/20	500	54	41	Obama +13
PPIC	<div></div> 0.17	8/16	1047	48	39	Obama +9
Rasmussen	<div></div> 0.13	7/24	500	52	42	Obama +10
Field	<div></div> 0.12	7/11	672	54	30	Obama +24
SurveyUSA	<div></div> 0.08	6/18	503	53	41	Obama +12
PPIC	<div></div> 0.05	7/15	1401	50	35	Obama +15
Rasmussen	<div></div> 0.05	6/23	500	58	30	Obama +28
Polling Average				52.7	39.4	Obama +13.3
Trend-Adjusted				55.4	37.3	Obama +18.2
538 Regression <div></div> 0.75				55.1	36.9	Obama +18.2
Snapshot				55.4	37.2	Obama +18.2
Projection				57.2	40.9	Obama +16.2
Win %				98%	2%	Safe DEM

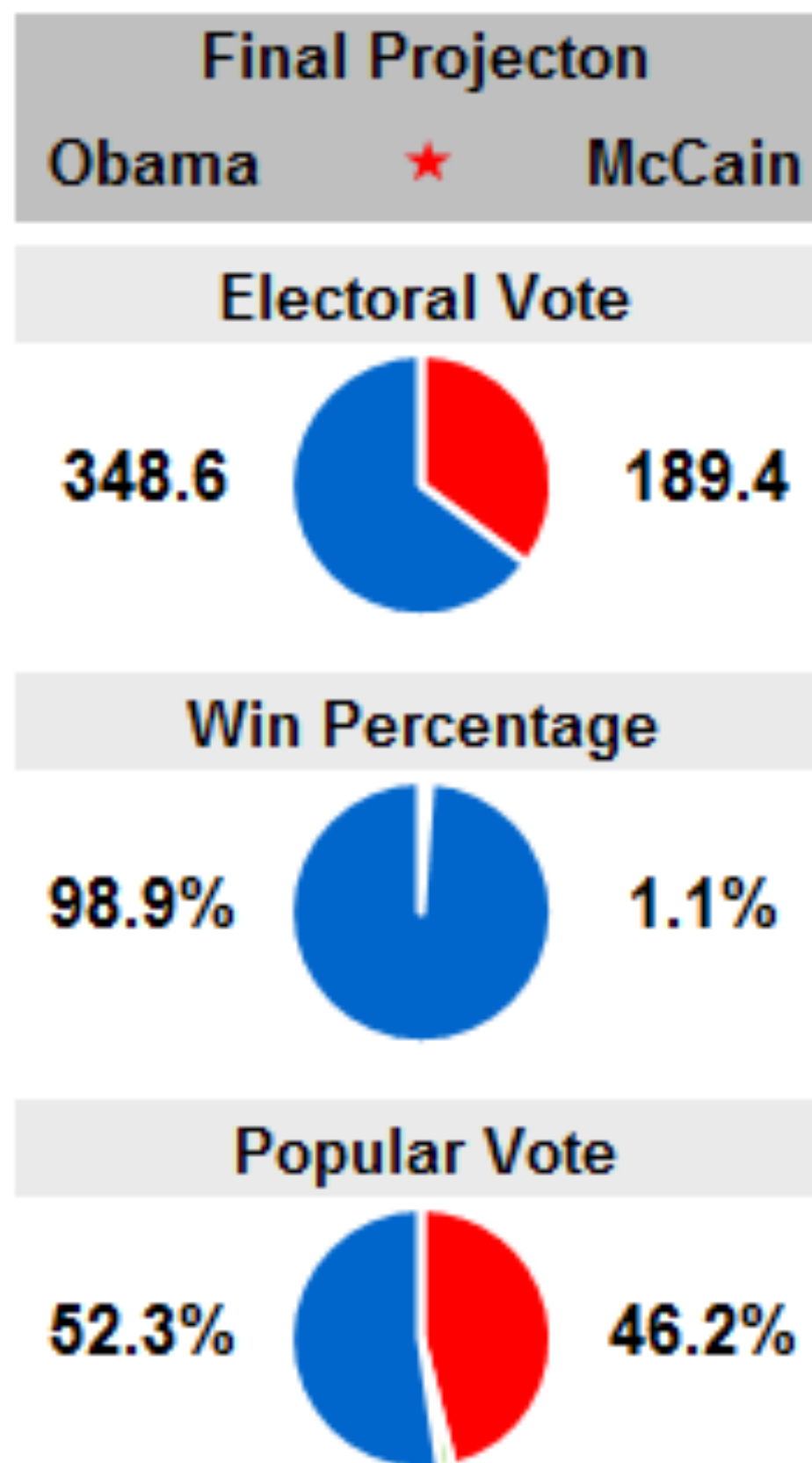
Agency	Weight	Date	Size	DEM	GOP	Margin
Quinnipiac	<div></div> 1.42	9/18	1418	49	45	Obama +4
PPP	<div></div> 1.23	9/21	1084	51	44	Obama +7
Rasmussen	<div></div> 0.93	9/28	500	49	48	Obama +1
CNN	<div></div> 0.91	9/22	794	49	45	Obama +4
Rasmussen	<div></div> 0.89	9/23	700	50	47	Obama +3
ARG	<div></div> 0.77	9/24	600	45	48	McCain +3
InsiderAdvantage	<div></div> 0.73	9/23	505	50	41	Obama +9
National Journal	<div></div> 0.46	9/13	402	45	44	Obama +1
PPP	<div></div> 0.42	9/8	1078	47	46	Obama +1
Rasmussen	<div></div> 0.40	9/14	500	46	48	McCain +2
InsiderAdvantage	<div></div> 0.40	9/17	508	51	41	Obama +10
Suffolk	<div></div> 0.31	8/23	450	44	39	Obama +5
ARG	<div></div> 0.29	9/12	600	44	46	McCain +2
Rasmussen	<div></div> 0.28	9/7	500	49	46	Obama +3
Rocky Mtn News	<div></div> 0.26	8/12	500	41	44	McCain +3
Mason-Dixon	<div></div> 0.25	8/14	400	46	43	Obama +3
Quinnipiac	<div></div> 0.24	8/18	1060	46	47	McCain +1
Zogby Interactive	<div></div> 0.23	9/11	825	45.5	47.5	McCain +2
InsiderAdvantage	<div></div> 0.23	9/10	501	49	46	Obama +3



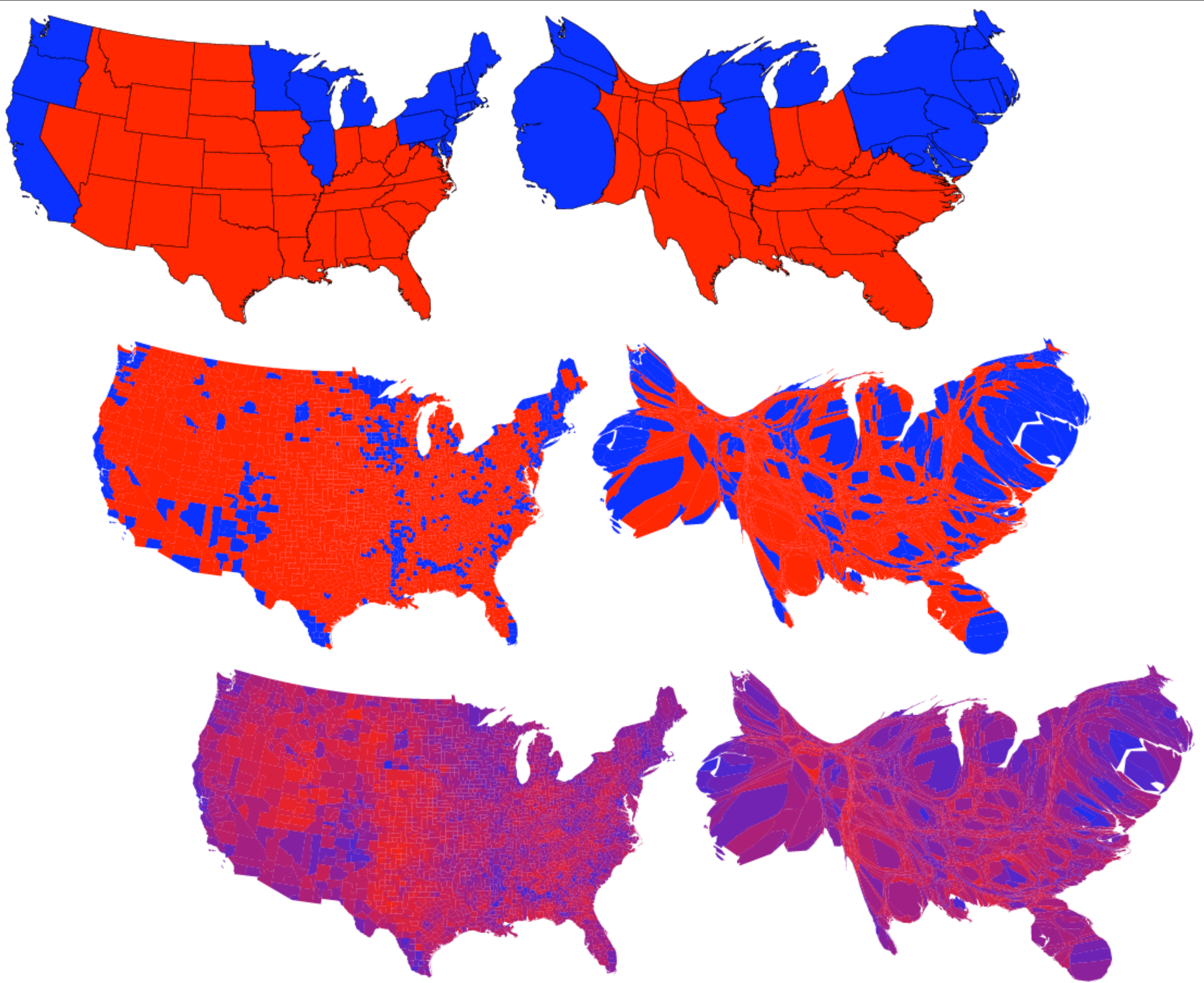
Agency	Weight	Date	Size	DEM	GOP	Margin
ID Research 2000	<div></div> 0.67	9/17	500	33	62	McCain +
ID Rasmussen	<div></div> 0.62	9/10	500	29	68	McCain +
ID ARG	<div></div> 0.54	9/9	600	26	68	McCain +
ID Greg Smith	<div></div> 0.36	8/20	600	29	52	McCain +
ID Research 2000	<div></div> 0.14	7/29	500	37	53	McCain +
ID Polling Average				29.9	62.9	McCain +
ID Trend-Adjusted				33.4	60.1	McCain +
ID 538 Regression <div></div> 0.75				36.0	56.5	McCain +
ID Snapshot				34.1	59.3	McCain +
ID Projection				35.7	62.7	McCain +
ID Win %				1%	99%	Safe G

Agency	Weight	Date	Size	DEM	GOP	Margin
IL Research 2000	<div></div> 0.96	9/17	800	56	36	Obama +
IL Rasmussen	<div></div> 0.72	9/17	500	56	40	Obama +
IL Big Ten	<div></div> 0.68	9/16	628	52.9	37	Obama +
IL ARG	<div></div> 0.62	9/15	600	51	45	Obama +
IL Rasmussen	<div></div> 0.25	8/12	500	53	38	Obama +
IL Rasmussen	<div></div> 0.09	7/8	500	52	41	Obama +
IL Polling Average				54.1	39.1	Obama +
IL Trend-Adjusted				56.9	36.5	Obama +
IL 538 Regression <div></div> 0.75				56.5	36.3	Obama +
IL Snapshot				56.8	36.5	Obama +
IL Projection				58.7	39.7	Obama +
IL Win %				99%	1%	Safe D

Agency	Weight	Date	Size	DEM	GOP	Margin
IN SurveyUSA	<div></div> 1.34	9/29	687	45	48	McCain +
IN Selzer	<div></div> 0.89	9/15	600	47	44	Obama +
IN CNN	<div></div> 0.83	9/15	890	43	48	McCain +
IN Rasmussen	<div></div> 0.74	9/18	500	47	49	McCain +
IN Big Ten	<div></div> 0.67	9/16	612	43.2	46.7	McCain +
IN ARG	<div></div> 0.64	9/16	600	44	47	McCain +
IN Howey-Gauge	<div></div> 0.44	8/29	600	43	45	McCain +
IN SurveyUSA	<div></div> 0.38	8/17	645	44	50	McCain +
IN Rasmussen	<div></div> 0.30	8/20	500	43	49	McCain +
IN SurveyUSA	<div></div> 0.09	6/22	625	48	47	Obama +
IN IN Legis. Insight	<div></div> 0.05	5/30	601	38	47	McCain +
IN Polling Average				44.7	47.3	McCain +
IN Trend-Adjusted				46.8	45.6	Obama +
IN 538 Regression <div></div> 0.75				42.8	50.2	McCain +
IN Snapshot				46.3	46.1	Obama +



Nate Silver maintained a set of simple information graphics. These were kept minimal: maps, pie charts, bar charts, spark lines. However, the constantly-shifting nature of the election made the site an addictive experience. Fans of the site visited it constantly, showing the emotional value of timely, important information presented simply.



Casualties of War

FACESANALYSISTHEIR STORIES

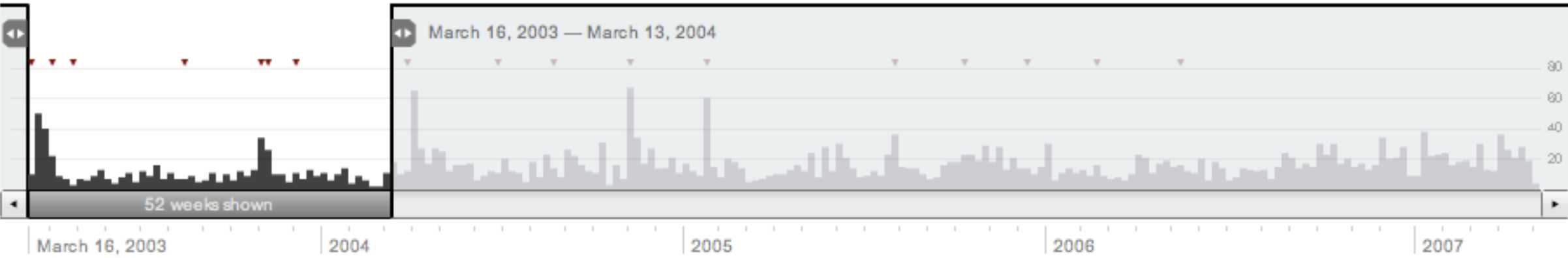
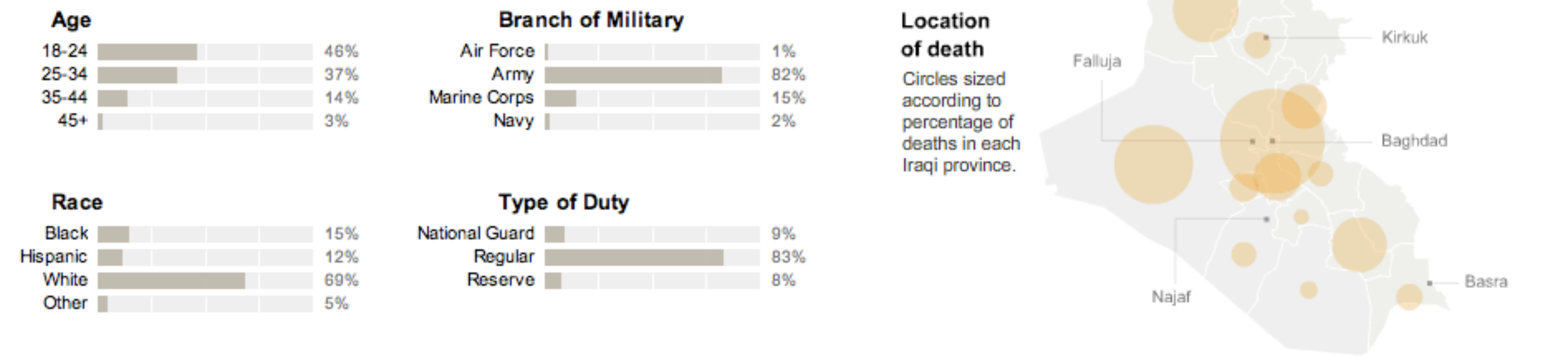
E-MAILEMAILFEEDBACK

Use the slider below to investigate the demographics and military status of U.S. service members who died during the war in Iraq.

MARCH 16, 2003 — MARCH 13, 2004 (52 WEEKS)

Show allLast two monthsInitial invasionFirst invasion of FallujaSecond invasion of Falluja

566 deaths



This is the New York Times Casualties of War, again dealing with a constant flow of new incoming information. This piece debuted in 2005, and has been kept up to date through the present day.

Casualties of War

FACESANALYSISTHEIR STORIES

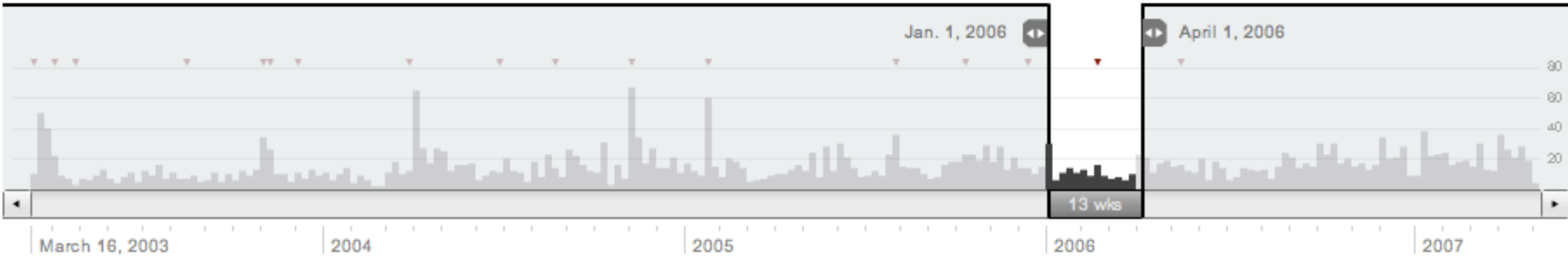
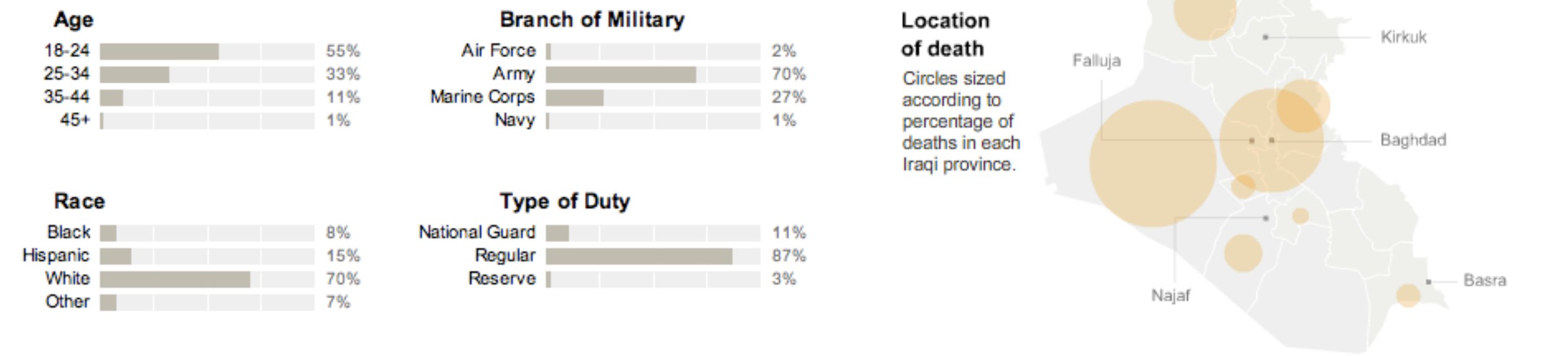
E-MAILEEDBACK

Use the slider below to investigate the demographics and military status of U.S. service members who died during the war in Iraq.

JAN. 1 — APRIL 1, 2006 (13 WEEKS)

Show allLast two monthsInitial invasionFirst invasion of FallujaSecond invasion of Falluja

150 deaths



Casualties of War

FACESANALYSISTHEIR STORIES

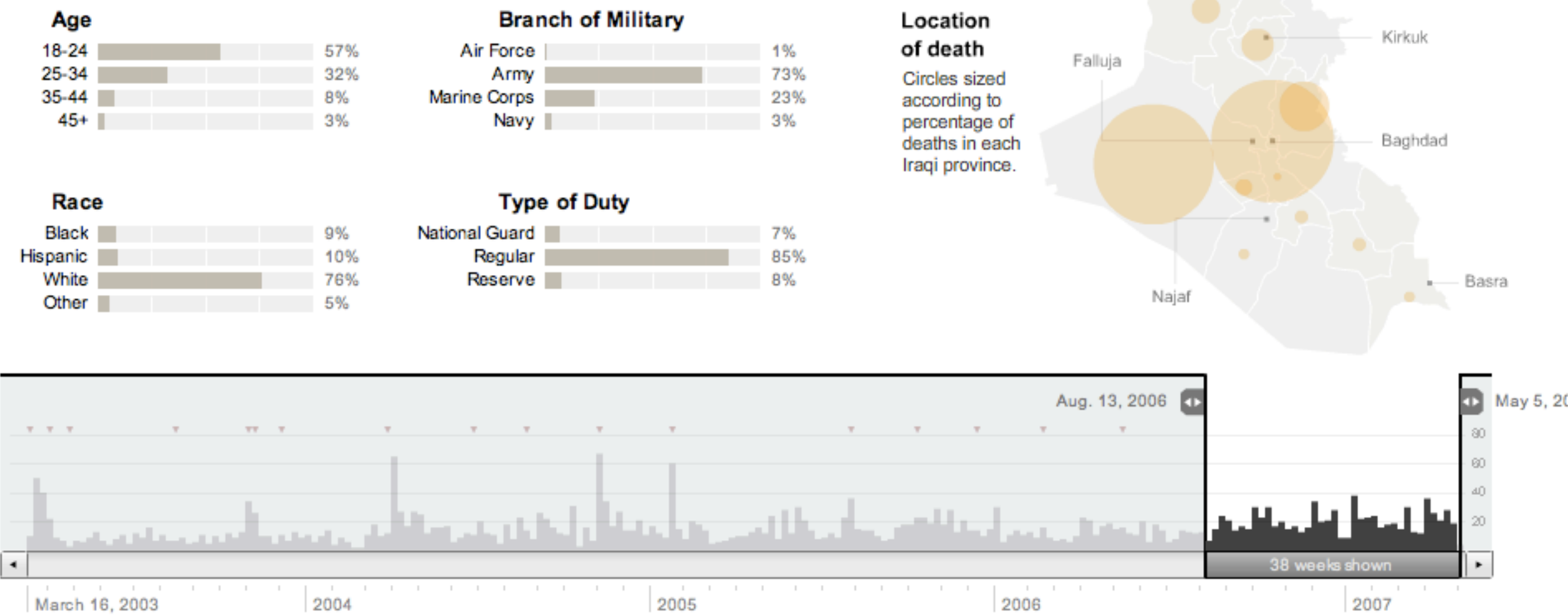
E-MAILEMAILFEEDBACK

Use the slider below to investigate the demographics and military status of U.S. service members who died during the war in Iraq.

AUG. 13, 2006 — MAY 5, 2007 (38 WEEKS)

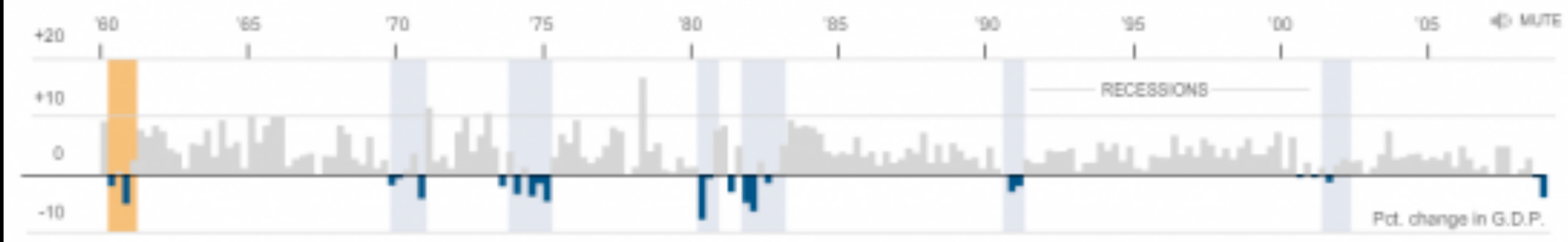
Show allLast two monthsInitial invasionFirst invasion of FallujaSecond invasion of Falluja

775 deaths



How the Government Dealt With Past Recessions

Since the Great Depression, presidents have frequently experimented with Keynesian economics to combat recessions. Three economists chronicle the history of government policy during past recessions and explain what worked and what didn't.



Live, Vast, and Deep

The iron triangle of information visualization

The iron triangle of information visualization

“Live”: our favorite projects demonstrate data that is, ideally, being generated as you watch it.

“Vast”: data can cover an enormous surface area, think Google Maps

“Deep”: data is dense, interlinked

Live, Vast, and Deep

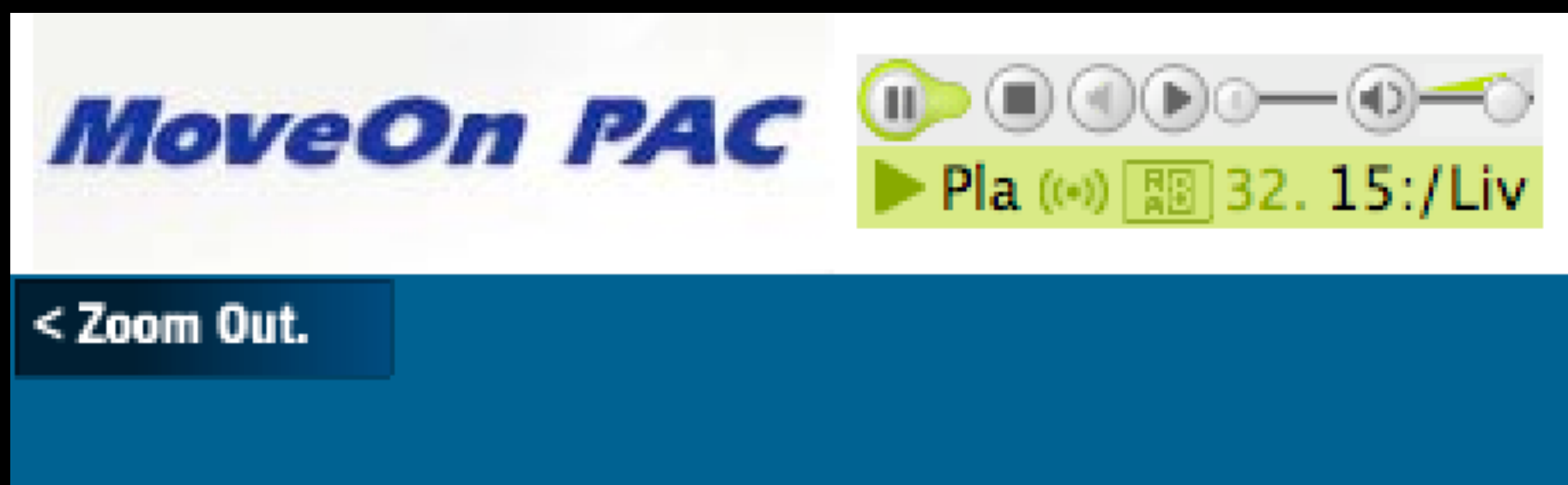
MoveOn.org

Virtual Town Hall

Influencing the 2004 Presidential election

MoveOn's Virtual Town Hall was an early project we did with US-based liberal political group, MoveOn.org. In 2004, they were (unsuccessfully) trying to prevent a second term for President Bush.

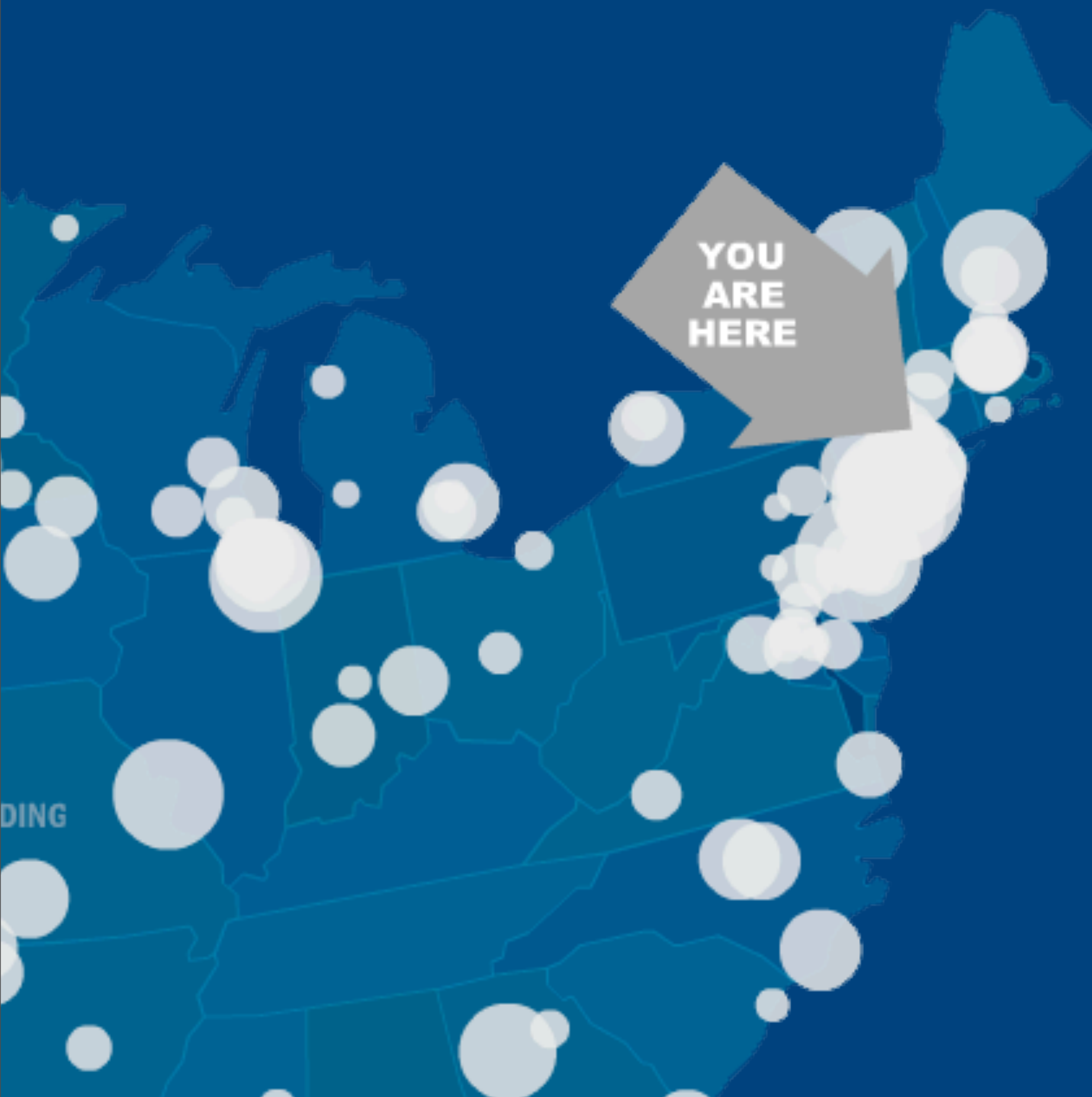
They wanted to improve on the conference calls they were doing via regular phone connections – these were both expensive and not-very-good.



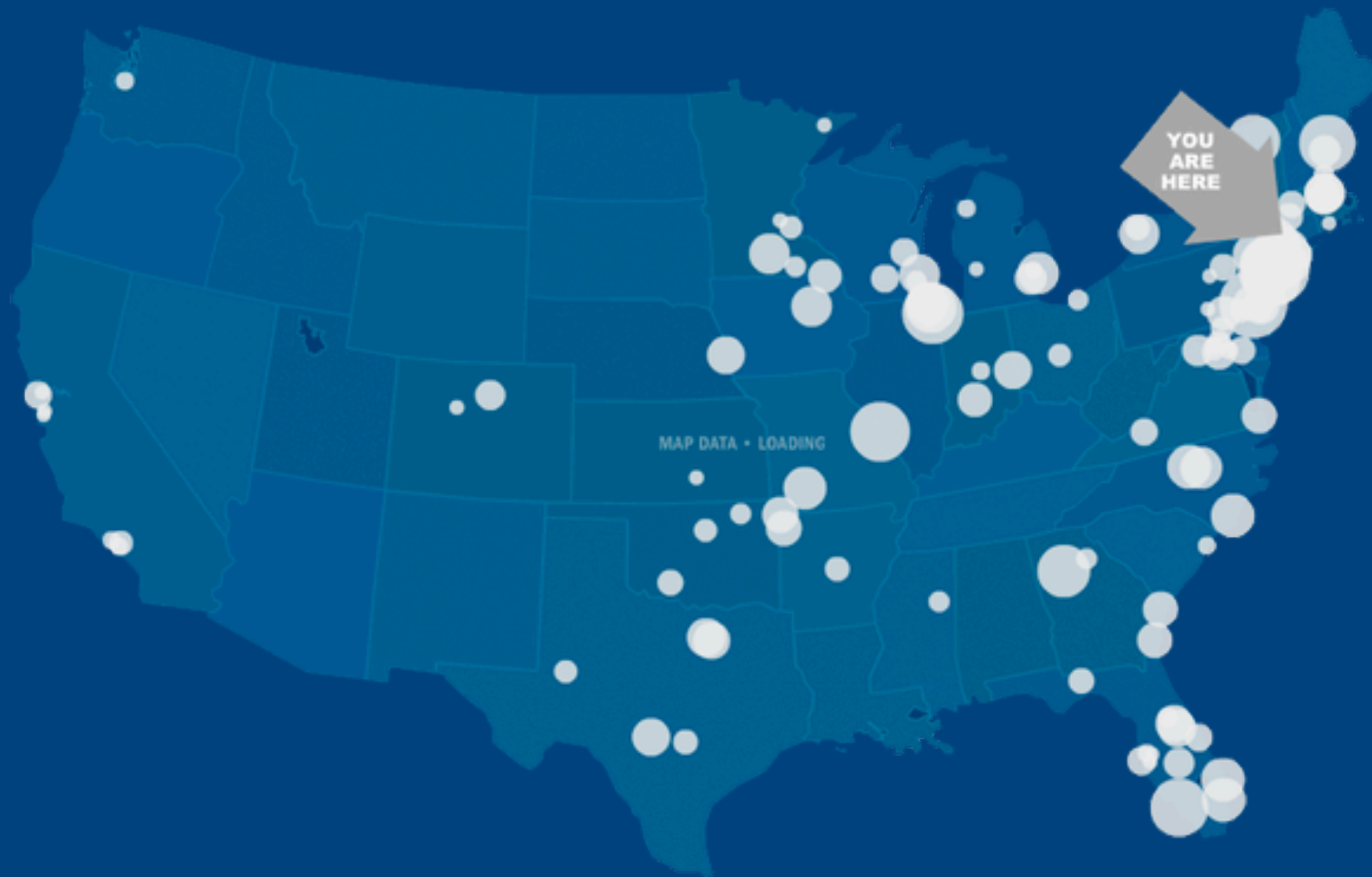
The first difference the project introduced was a move to the web. That's the Real Audio plugin up there on every page. The application was used as a radio call-in show, with music and conversation broadcast centrally.

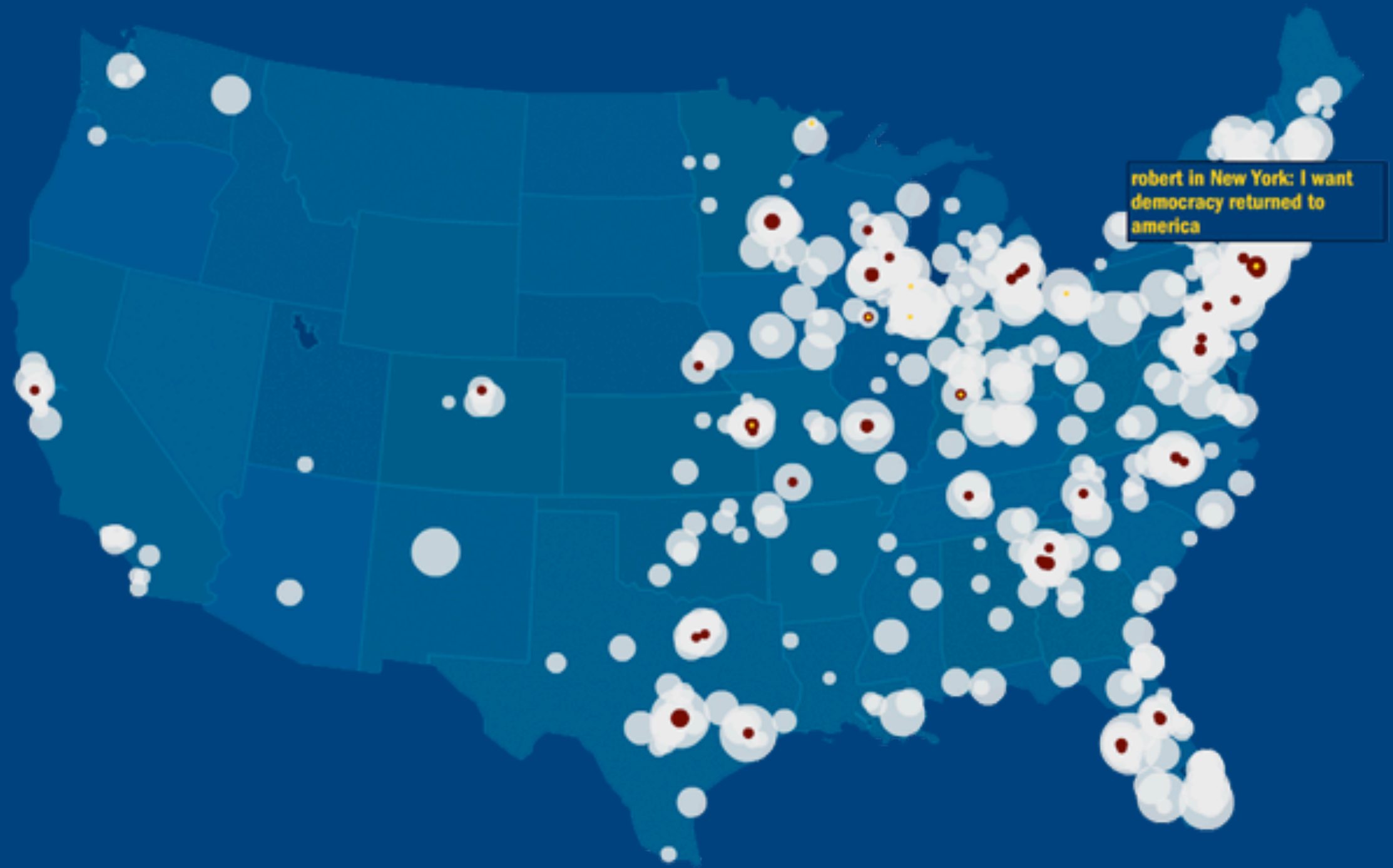


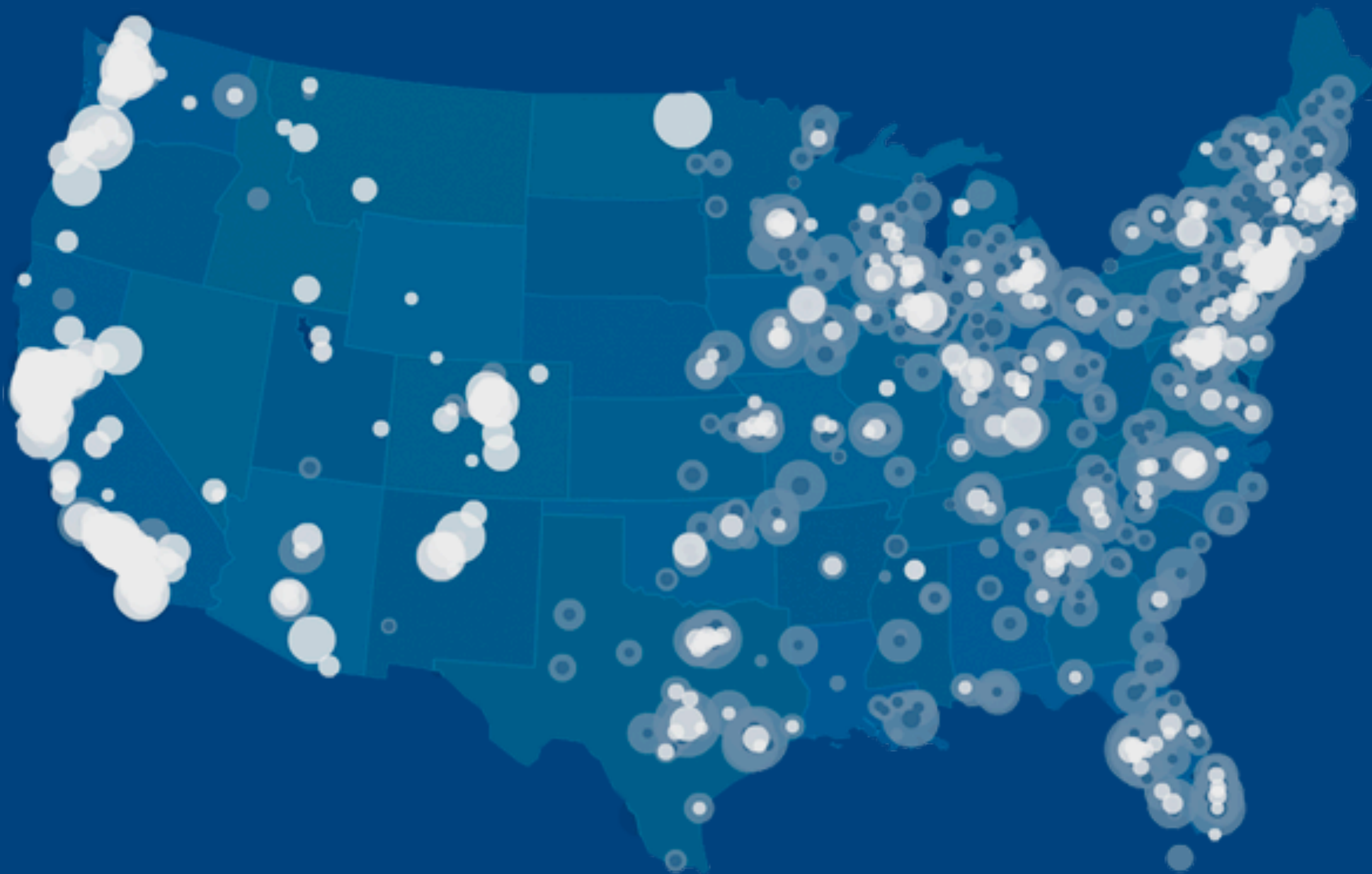
The second big difference the project introduced was that users identified themselves with a post code and a headcount of people with them

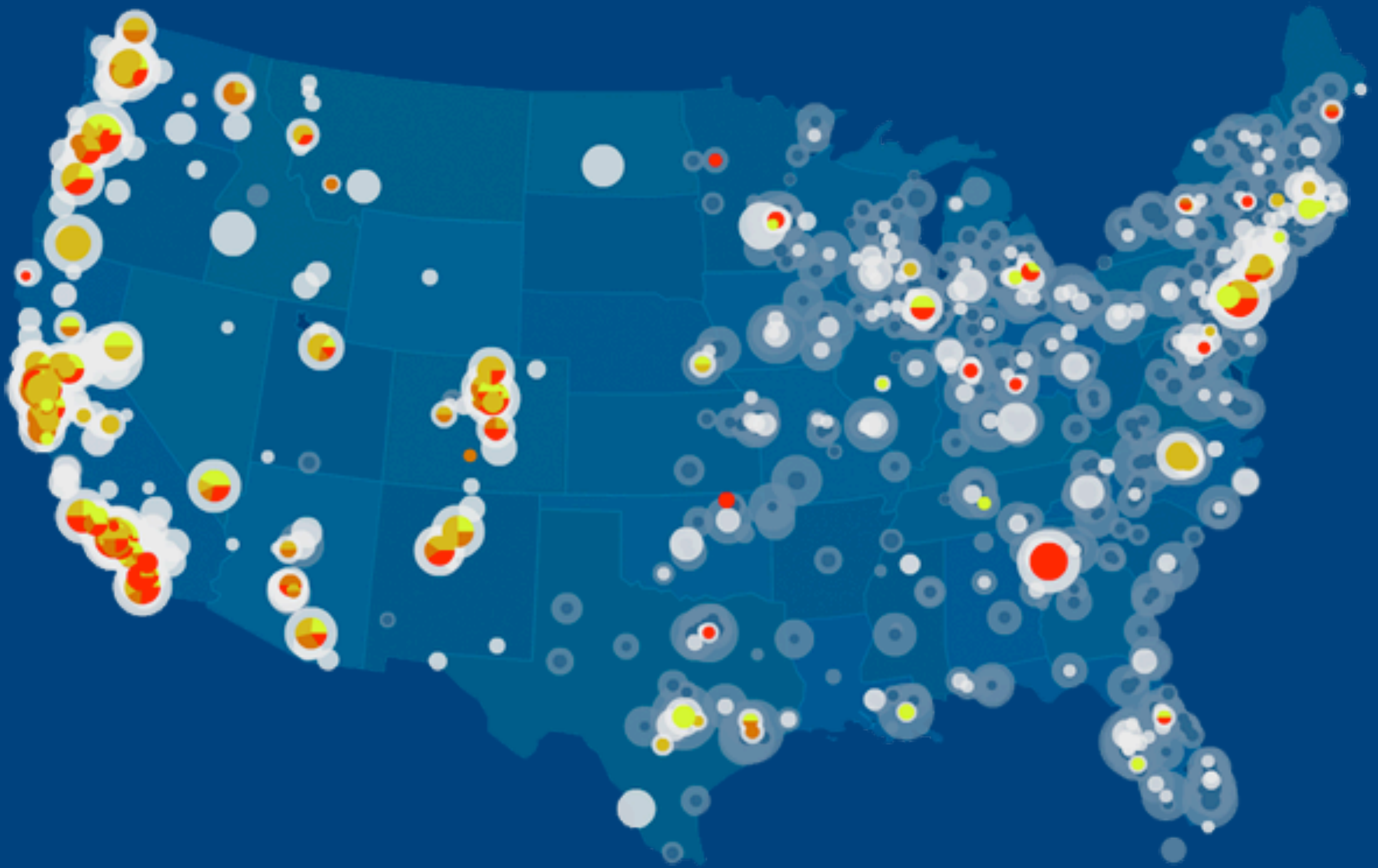


The result: Virtual Town Hall knows where you are, and where everyone else is.









50K people joined us on for the first Town Hall!

859 parties have responded.

How many of you will attend a phone party July 11 and bring a friend?

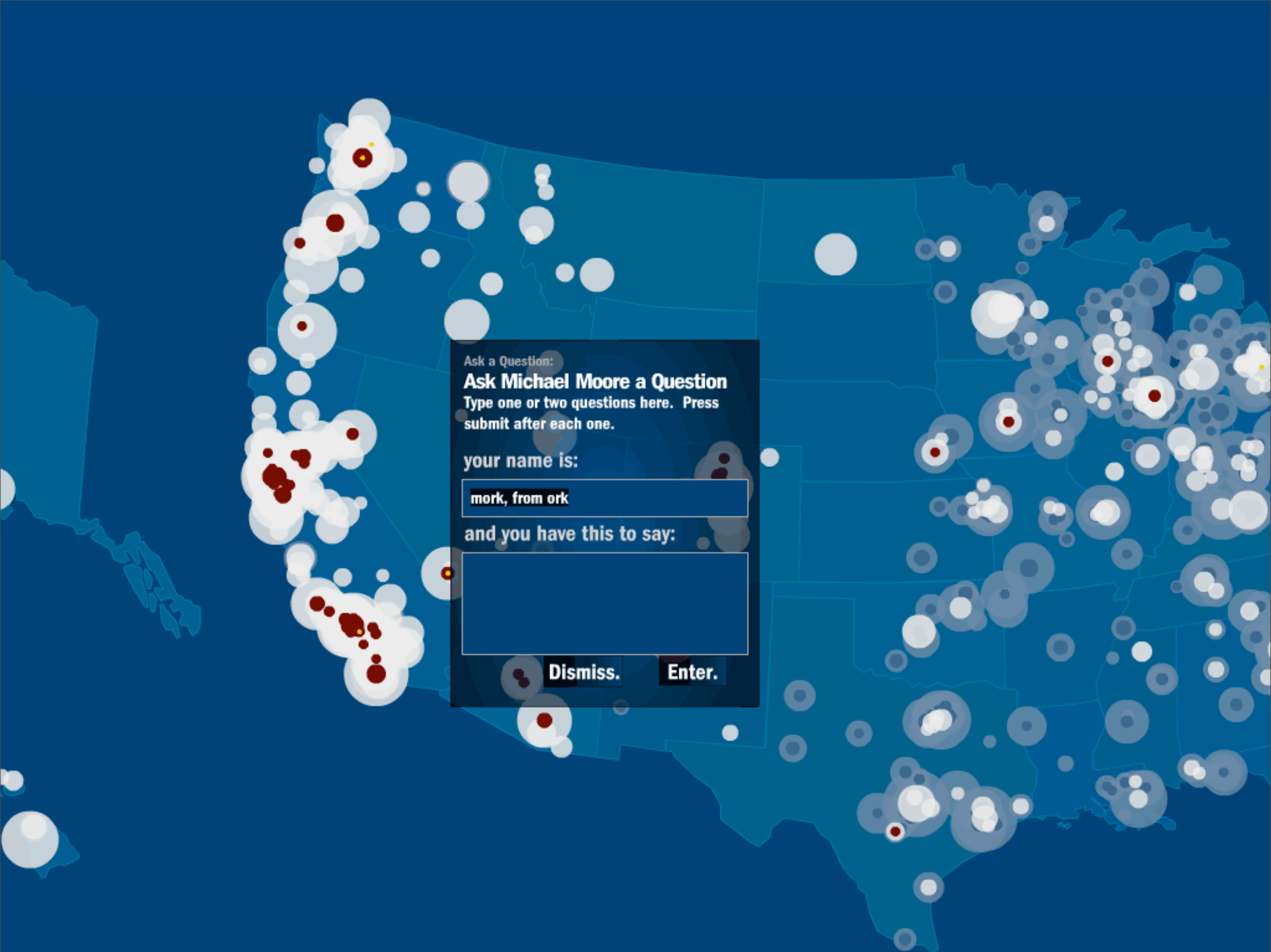


- 189 said: 0-24%
- 227 said: 25-49%
- 226 said: 50-74%
- 217 said: 75-100%

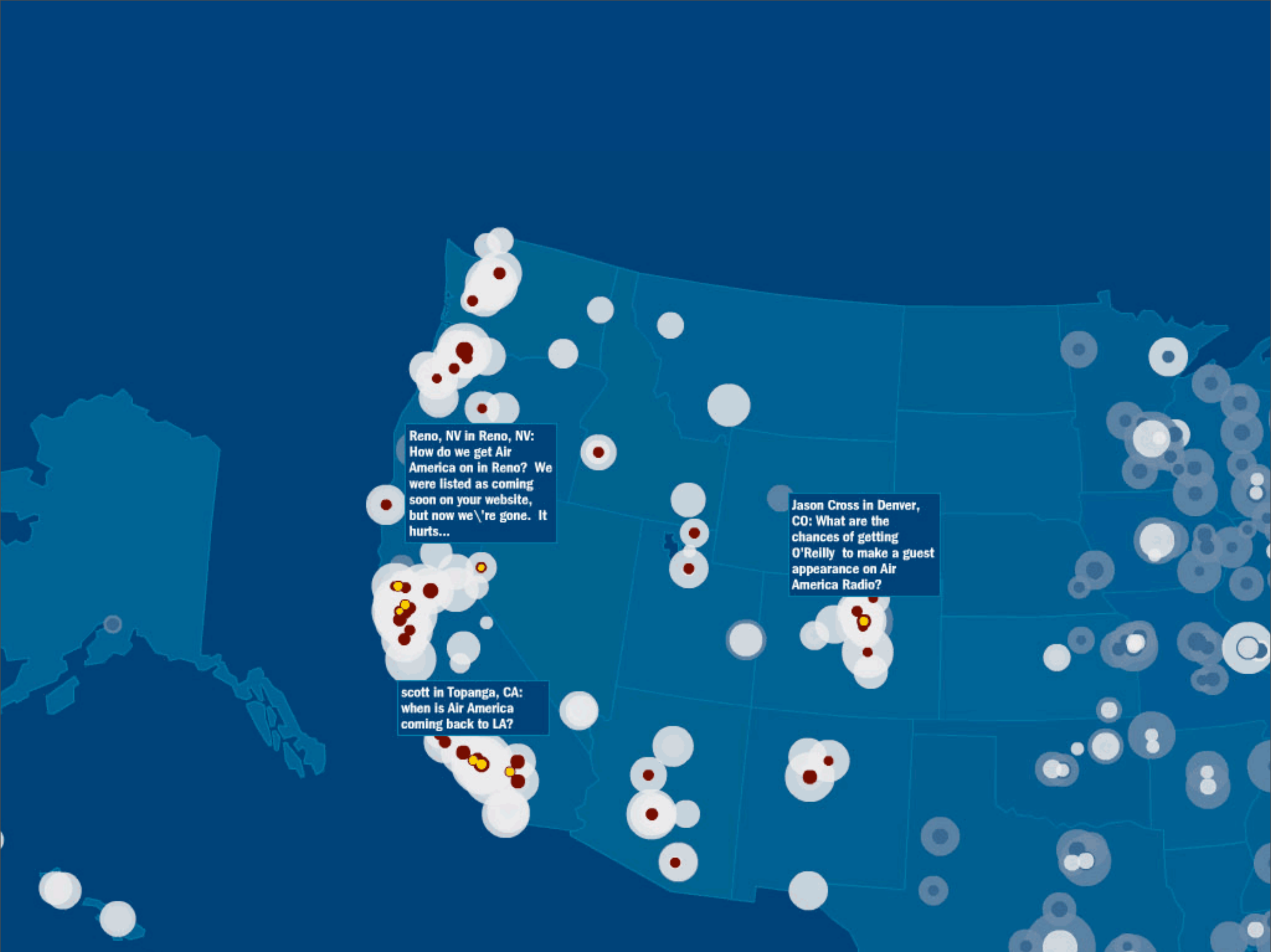
Currently active poll prompt: How many will make calls?

Hide Legend.

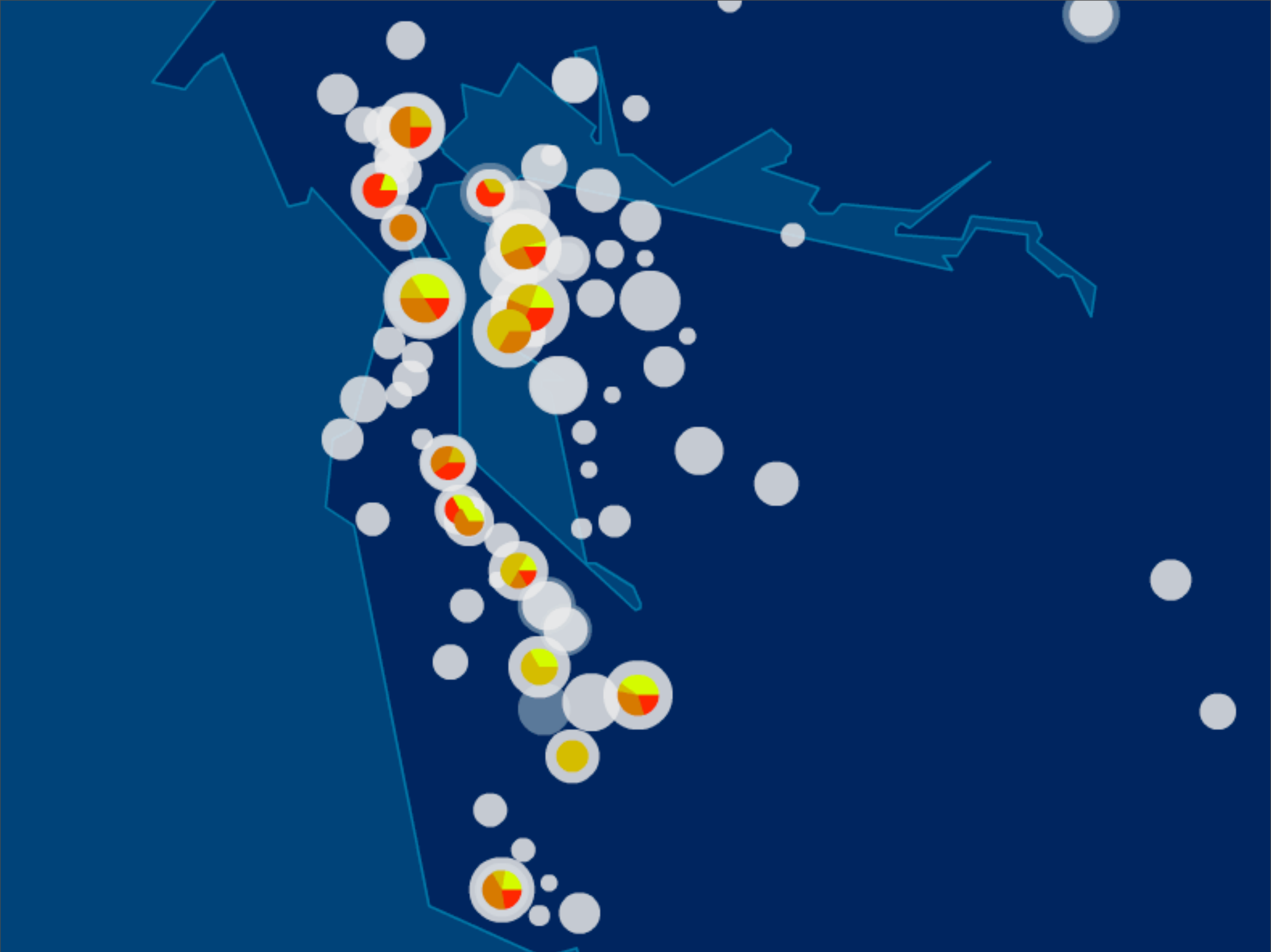
This ability to reach through the map, to see other people around you, imparted a feeling of presence and excitement to the application.



Special guest, Director Michael Moore, could accept questions from the audience



The map showed a constant stream of input from people around the country. We heard from people in remote parts of the United States that they were able to see, for the first time, how many like-minded individuals were near them.

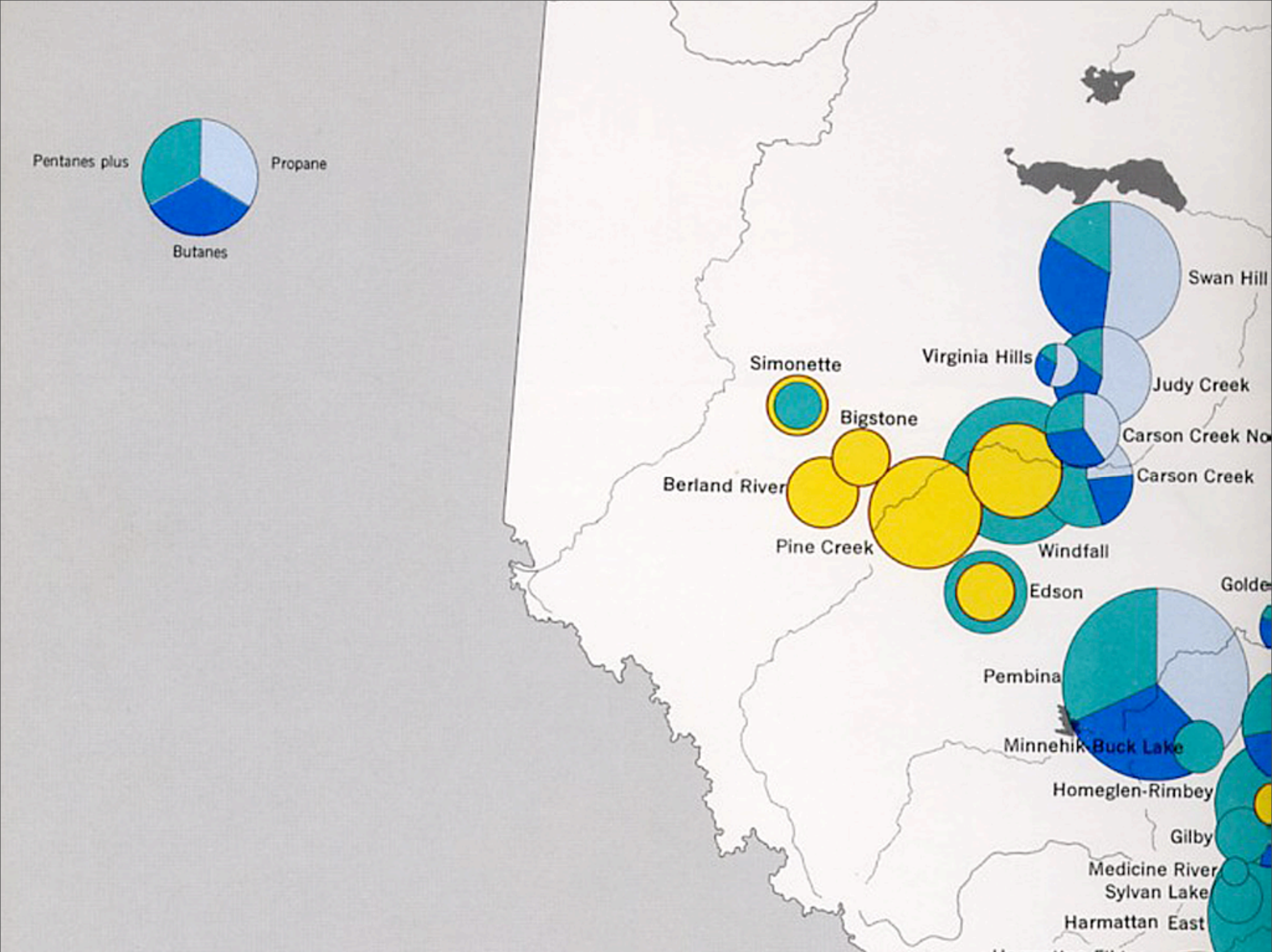


You could zoom in and see your local area – this is the San Francisco Bay Area, showing all the people attending nearby along with pie charts showing their answers to straw poll questions.

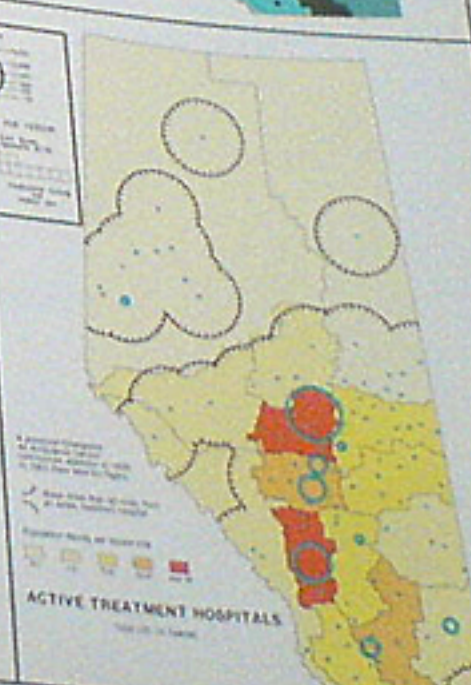
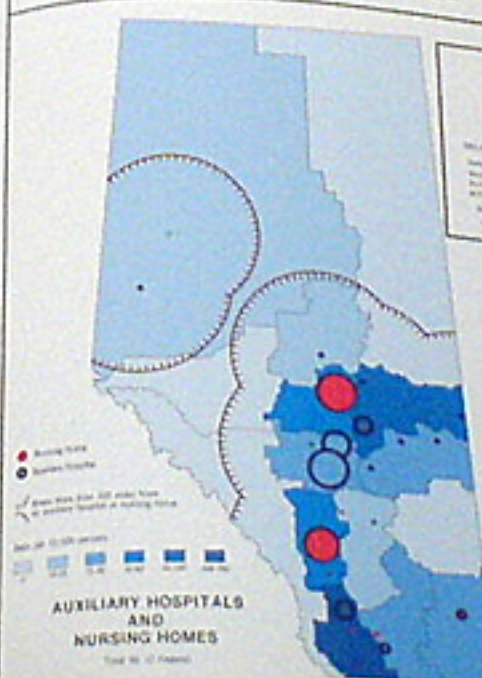
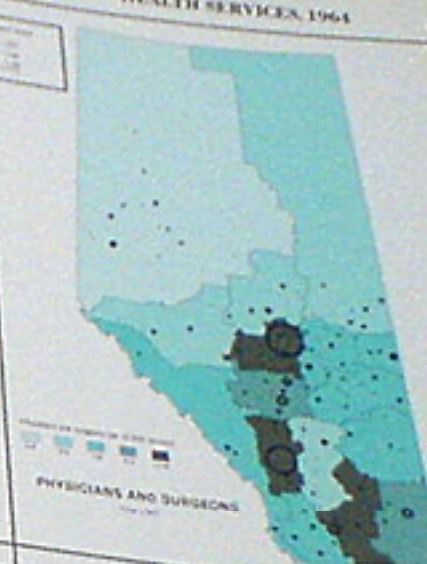
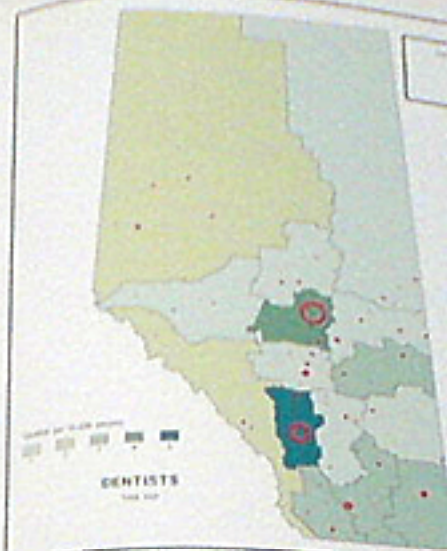
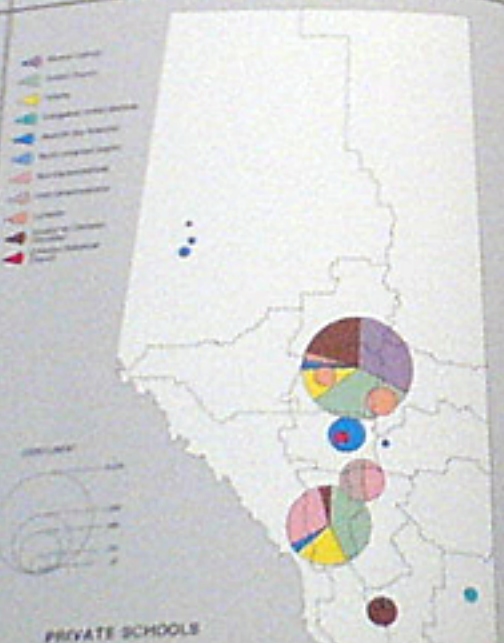
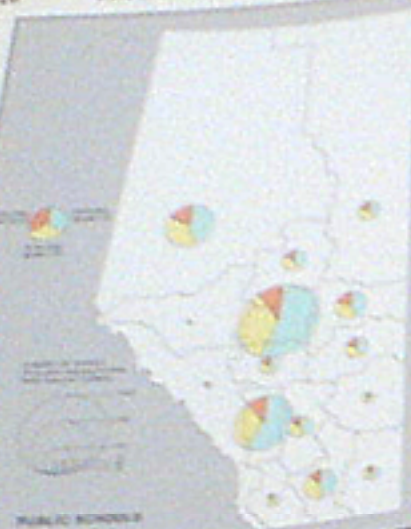
Steal From The Best

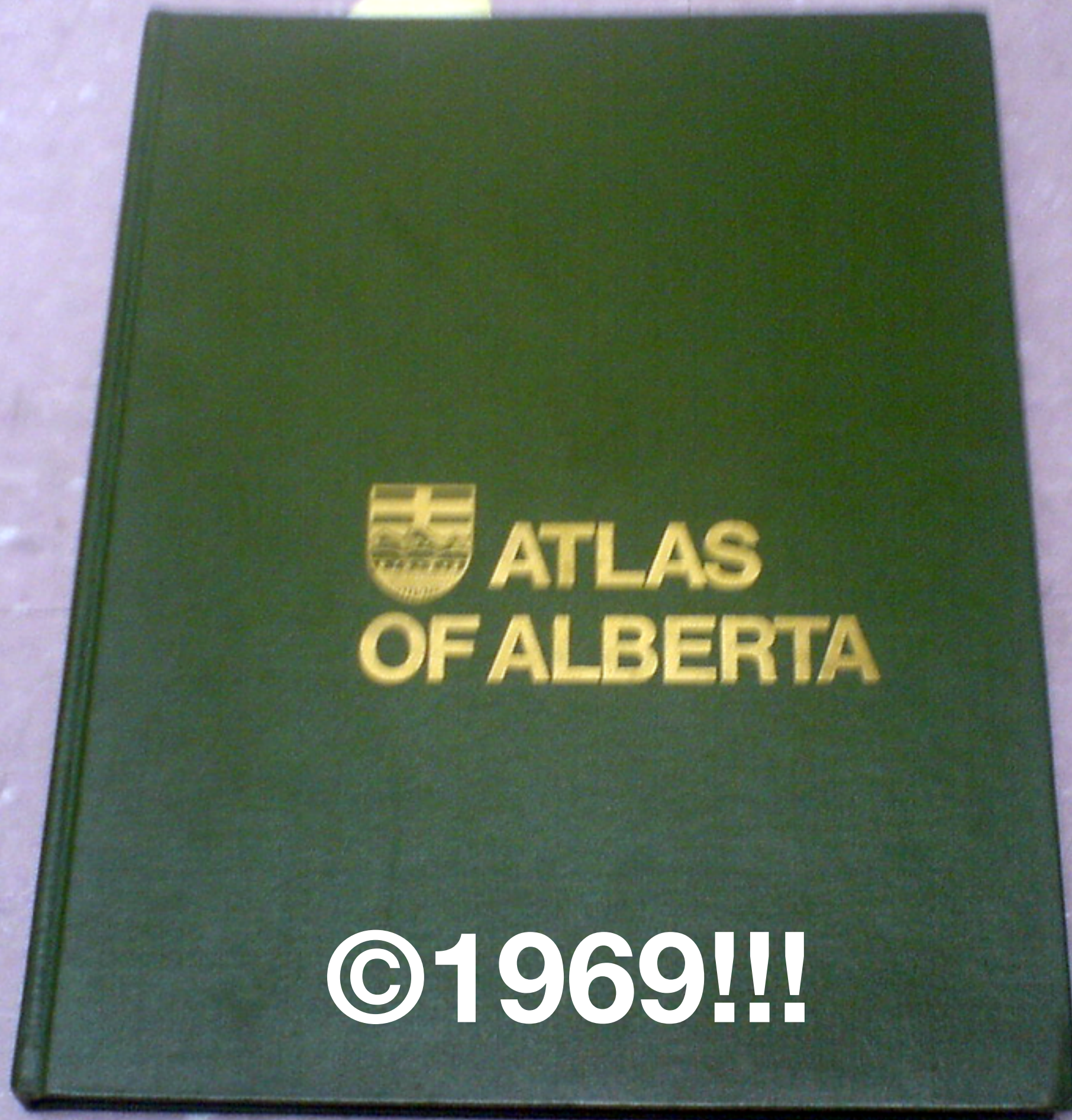
“A healthy musical continuum is one where everyone involved is listening to everyone else very, very closely, but they're not only listening to music from the people in their own scene, they're tuned in to other stuff, and then they use that stuff from outside as part of their arsenal in this sort of ongoing battle with the other producers or rivals.”

—Simon Reynolds, The Hardcore Continuum



This is not, strictly speaking, a new form of visual presentation.



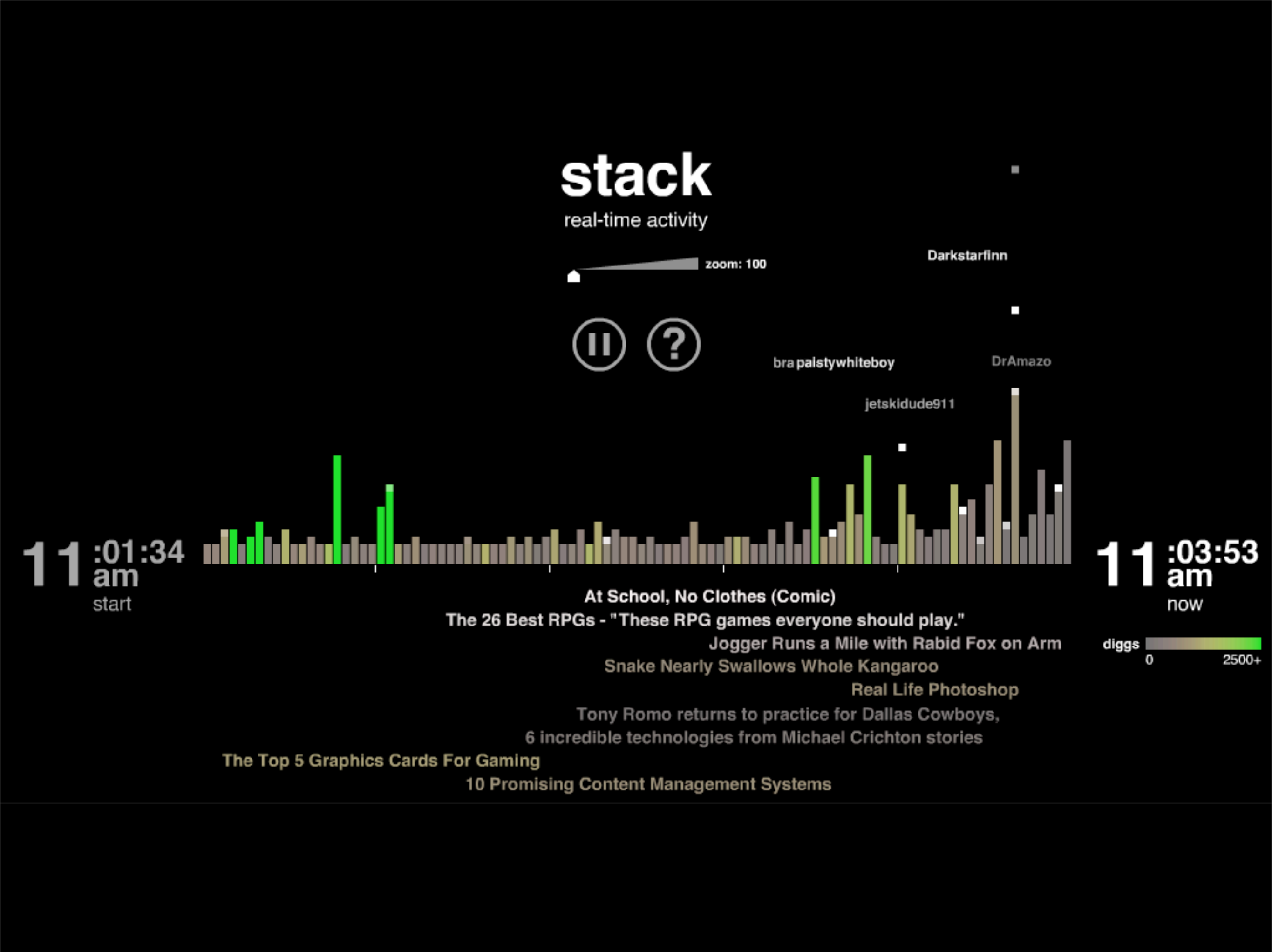


This is a major influence on our work, a Canadian atlas published almost 40 years ago. What's different now is the introduction of instant, live feedback via the internet.

Digg Labs

Illustrating dense social activity

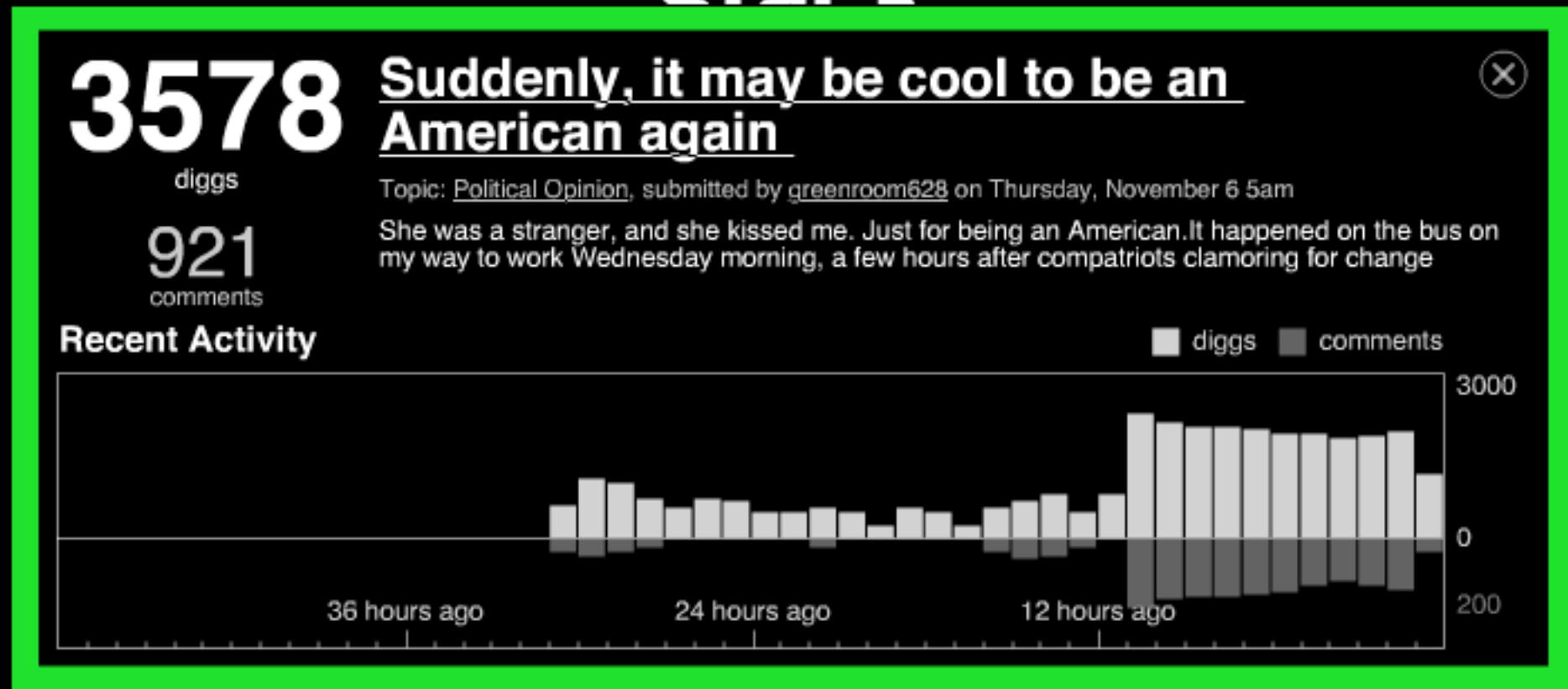
<http://labs.digg.com>



What's interesting here is that the Labs section visually demonstrates up-to-the-moment live activity on the website. This is Stack, which shows current popular stories on the site. User activity falls from the top of the screen and builds up columns of popularity.

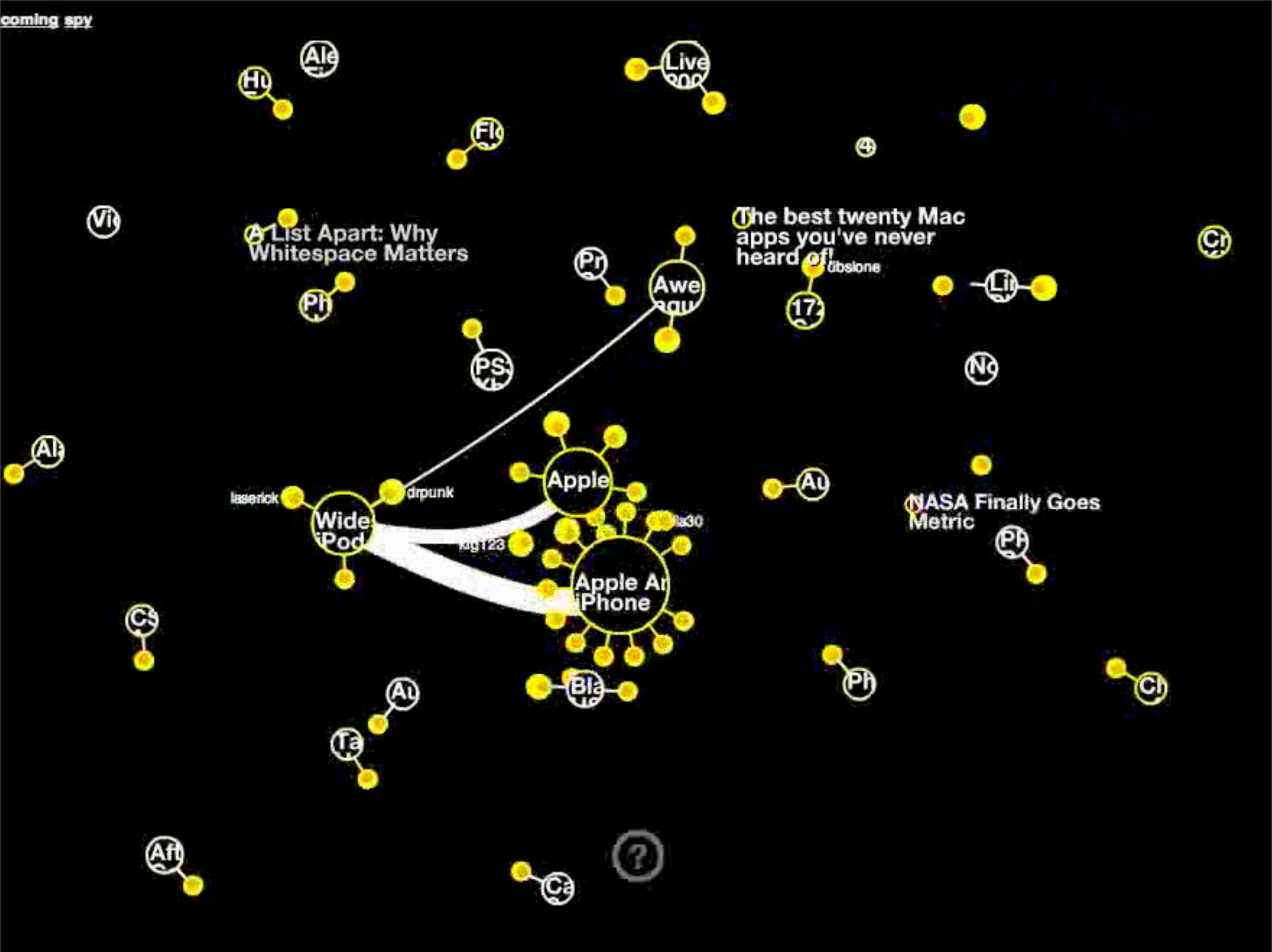
It's an animated pie chart, and is designed to evoke Tetris.

stack

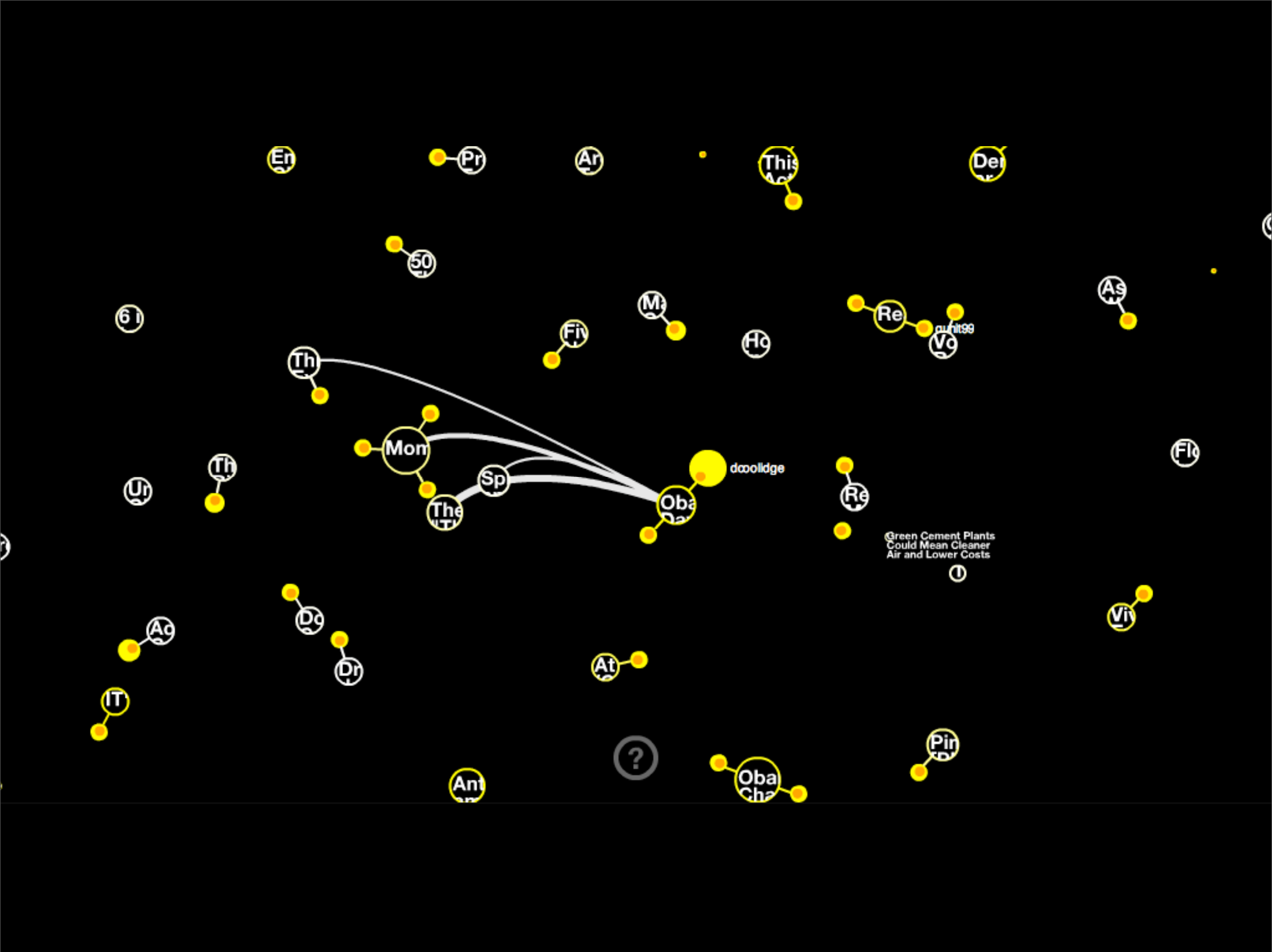


You can expand individual stories to see what historical activity looks like.

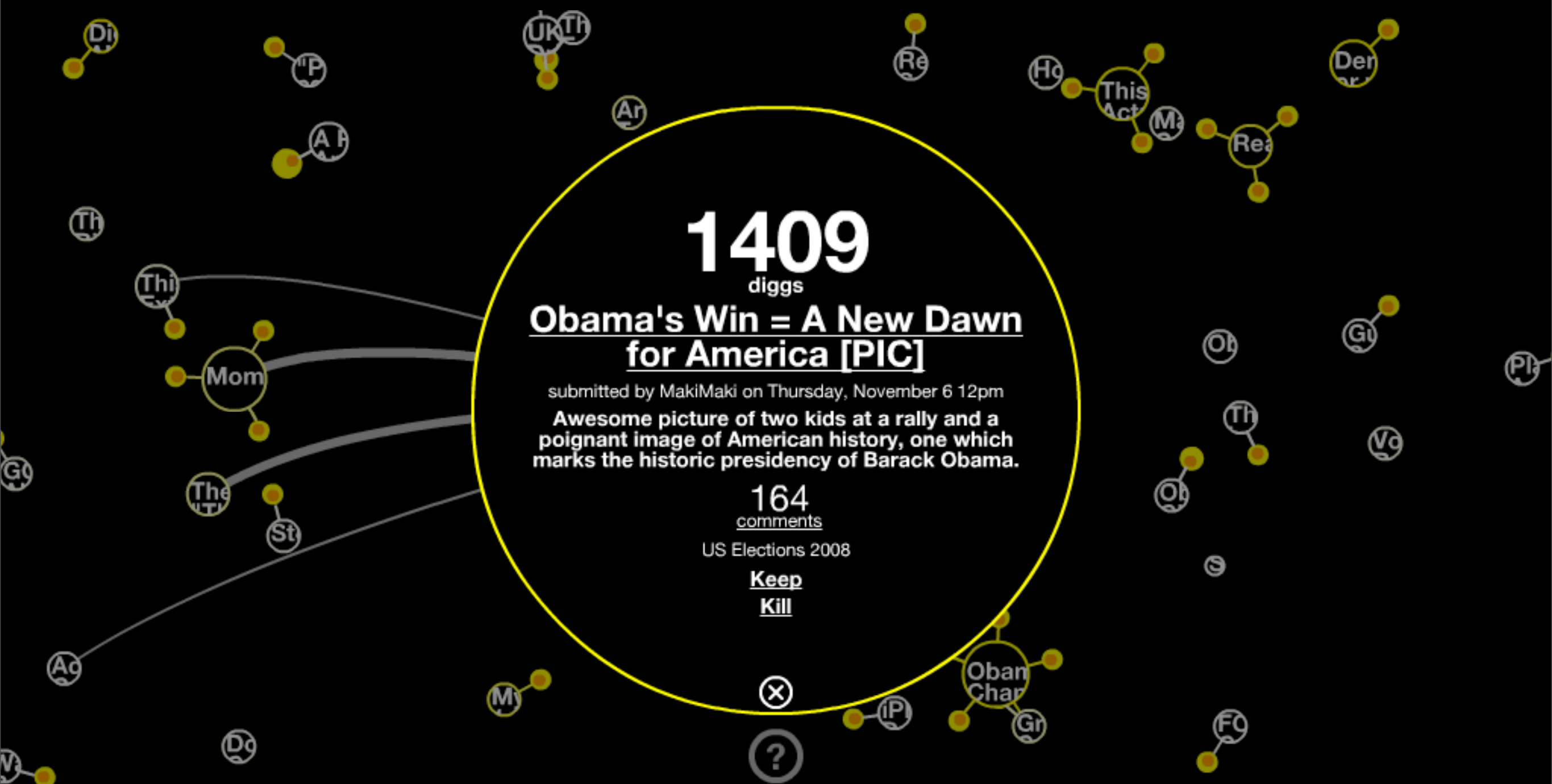
Here’s one from earlier today – the chart across the bottom shows that this popular post–election story hit the front page about 9 hours previously, and you can see a burst of voting and comment activity.



This is a video of Digg Swarm, which shows the same underlying data but in a different visual form. Here user activity is shown using a biological clustering concept.



Users swarm around stories, and stories grow connections based on shared voting activity.



As before, you can investigate the visual interface – read more about something that looks interesting.

Live, Vast, and Deep

Trulia Hindsight

Historical views of home construction

<http://hindsight.trulia.com>

Our work with San Francisco-based Real Estate information aggregator Trulia demonstrates the potential vastness of data online.

Trulia collects data about residential properties for the entire country, from government and private sources. They wanted to demonstrate the massive scale of this information collection by creating something that could be relevant and interesting to people who weren't necessarily in the market for a home.



Trulia Hindsight maps properties by the year they were built in the entire United States. Search for specific properties or neighborhoods through the search box. Slider controls allow you to view specific time frames and scrub through the timeline. Or just play and watch. View the [map](#).

Pages

- » [About Trulia Hindsight](#)
- » [FAQ](#)
- » [Suggest a Link](#)

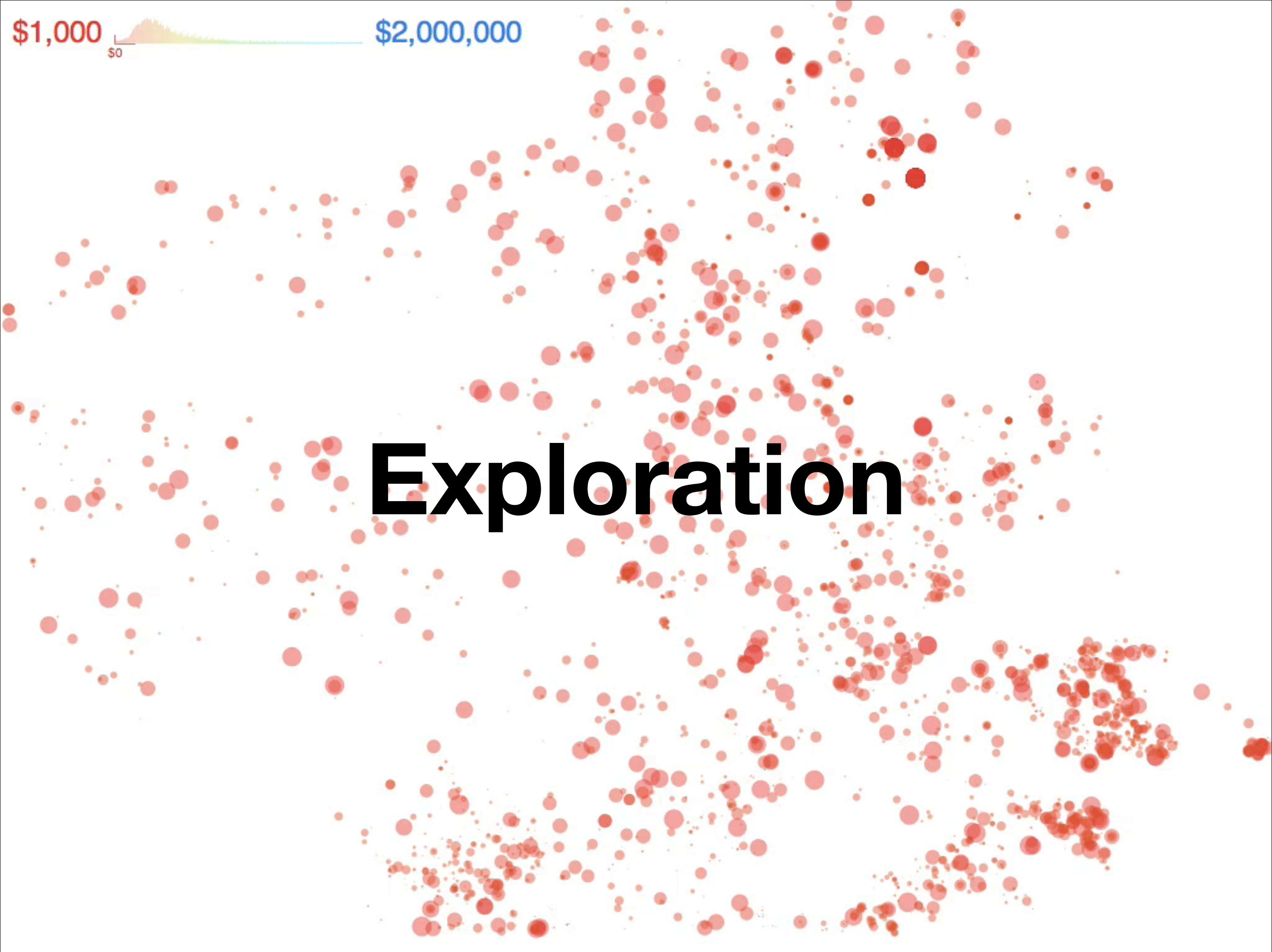
Hindsight is initially presented in the form of a blog, with posts about a variety of communities nationwide.



The interface shows colored dots for each home. You can immediately see construction patterns resulting from tract home development, where whole swaths of similar homes are laid down at once.

We used the standard slippy map interface, so it's possible to move around the country and see construction for different zoom levels. Even when you look up your childhood home in an out-of-the-way town, you can see historical information, link to it, and share it.

This is the SF Bay Area, you can see how people started off living in SF and Oakland in the North in the late 19th century, and then slowly moved down the Bay filling in former farmland with homes. There is a massive bump immediately after World War II.



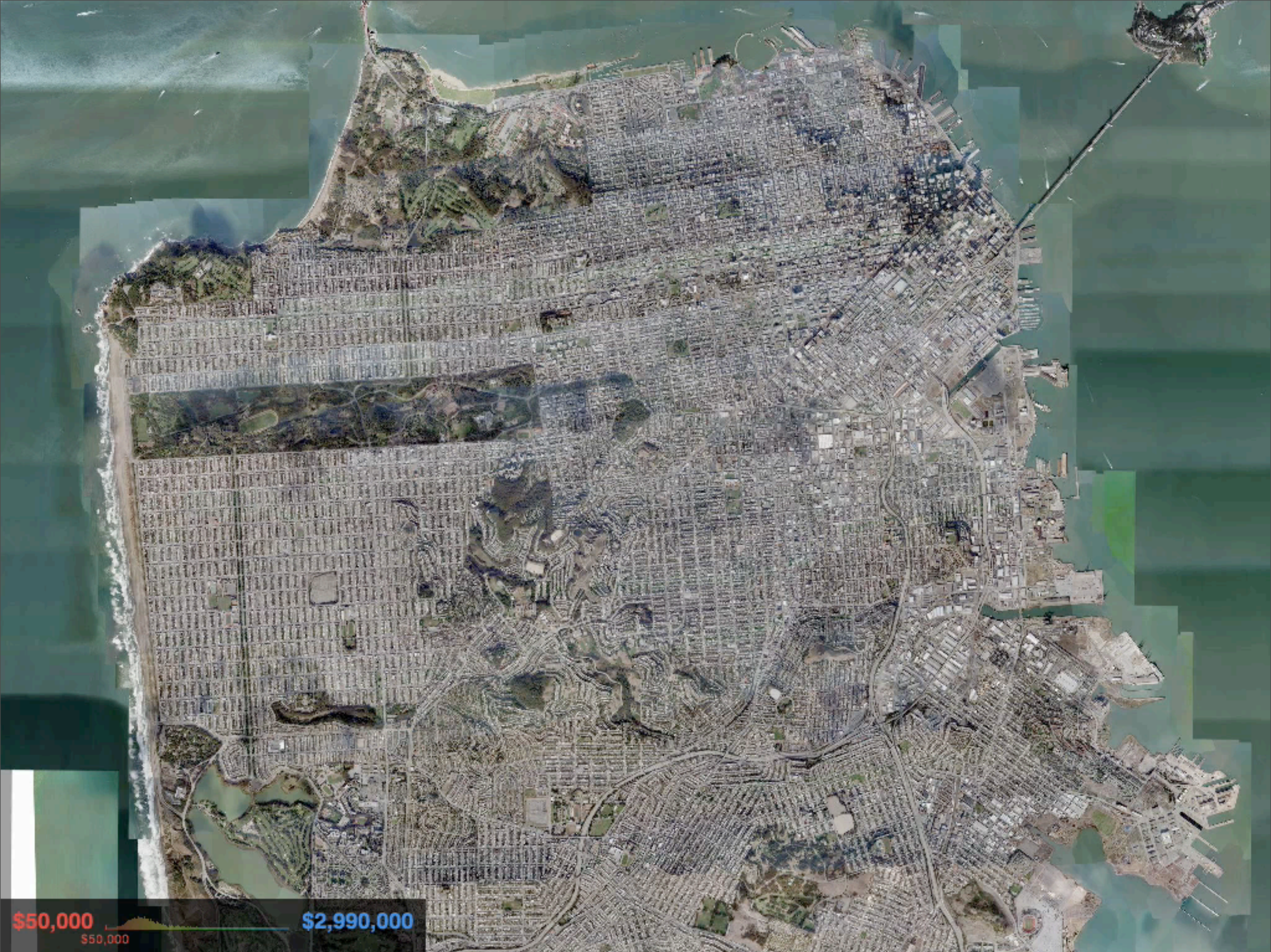
I've shown three projects with a fairly high degree of polish.

It's important to note that these don't spring from our heads fully-formed, there's a lot of exploratory work and dead-ends that contribute to the final piece.


This was an early sketch we did in Processing, showing data animated by house price, from cheapest to most expensive. It beautifully demonstrated animated sweeps, but home prices as a metric seemed insufficiently "real" for a final piece.



This is the same visualization style, also with just properties in San Francisco, now animated by construction date. This was a more satisfying visualization, the information presented is more directly relevant to people, because it's possible to use it to tell a story about the city.



We added satellite imagery to the visualizations before, and quickly ran into a problem of accidental visual resonance. Prior to the last five or so years, the place most people encounter data visualization is through science, through the military, and through disaster response.

An aerial photograph of the Oakland Hills fire of 1991, showing a dense residential area with many houses. The image is processed to remove red, orange, and yellow colors, making it look like a night-time satellite view. A face is superimposed on the image, with the eyes and nose formed by the fire's shape. The text "Accidental Visual Resonance (avoid!)" is overlaid in white.

Accidental Visual Resonance (avoid!)

42

Hindsight looked too much like this NASA image of the fires in the Oakland Hills in 1991. You can pick out each home, and neighbourhood, clearly. “Accidental Visual Resonance.” In response, we removed red, orange, and yellow colors to keep it from looking like a fire.



This shows Plano, Texas - an example of suburban housing development.

At the bottom you can see a timeline of development - it's quite short, because these homes were all built around the same time, quite rapidly.

Cloudmade

New cartography for OpenStreetMap

<http://maps.cloudmade.com>



OpenStreetMap is the new story here



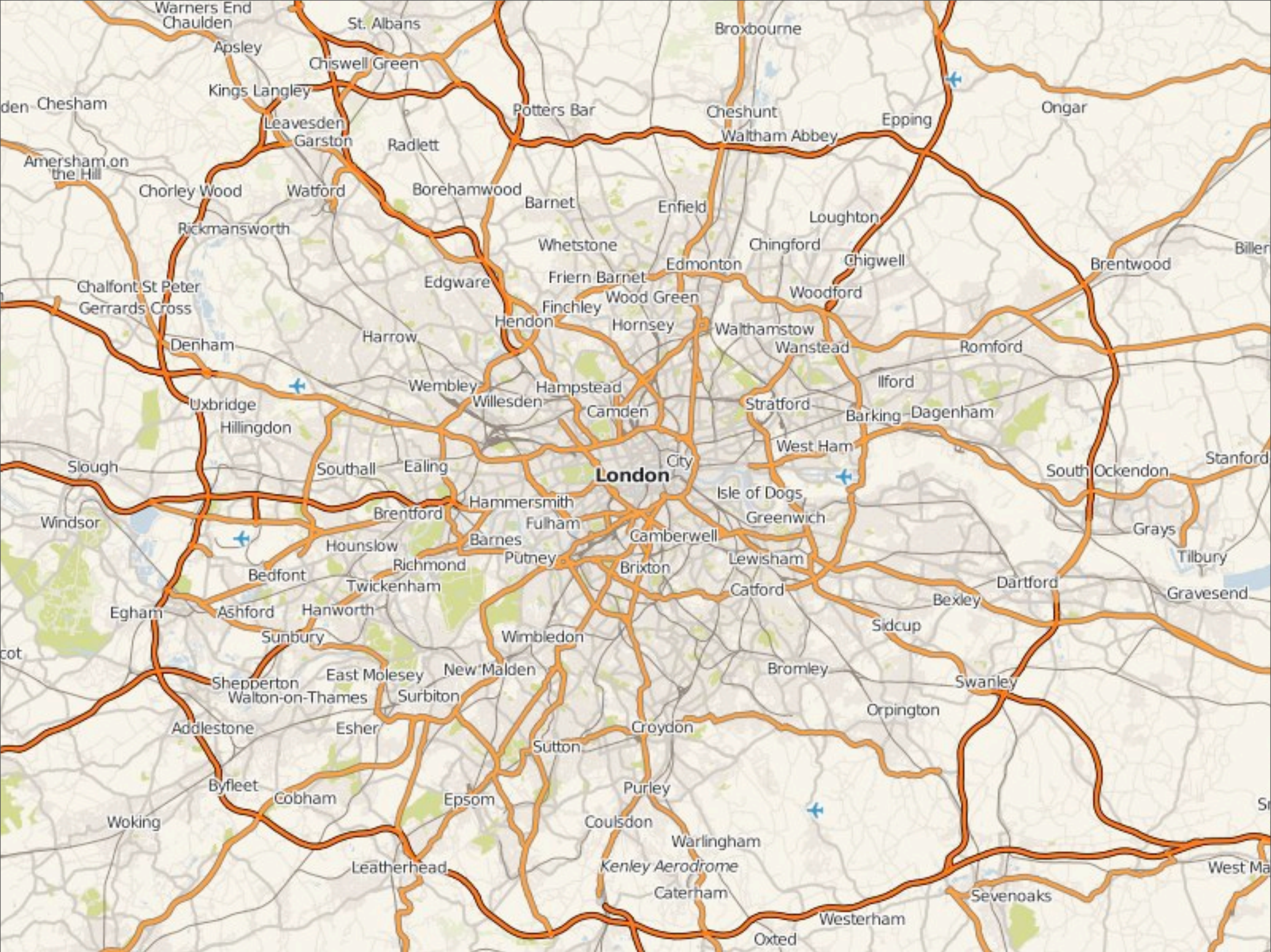
In four years of work, the volume of data in OpenStreetMap has progressed enormously.



Baghdad



London



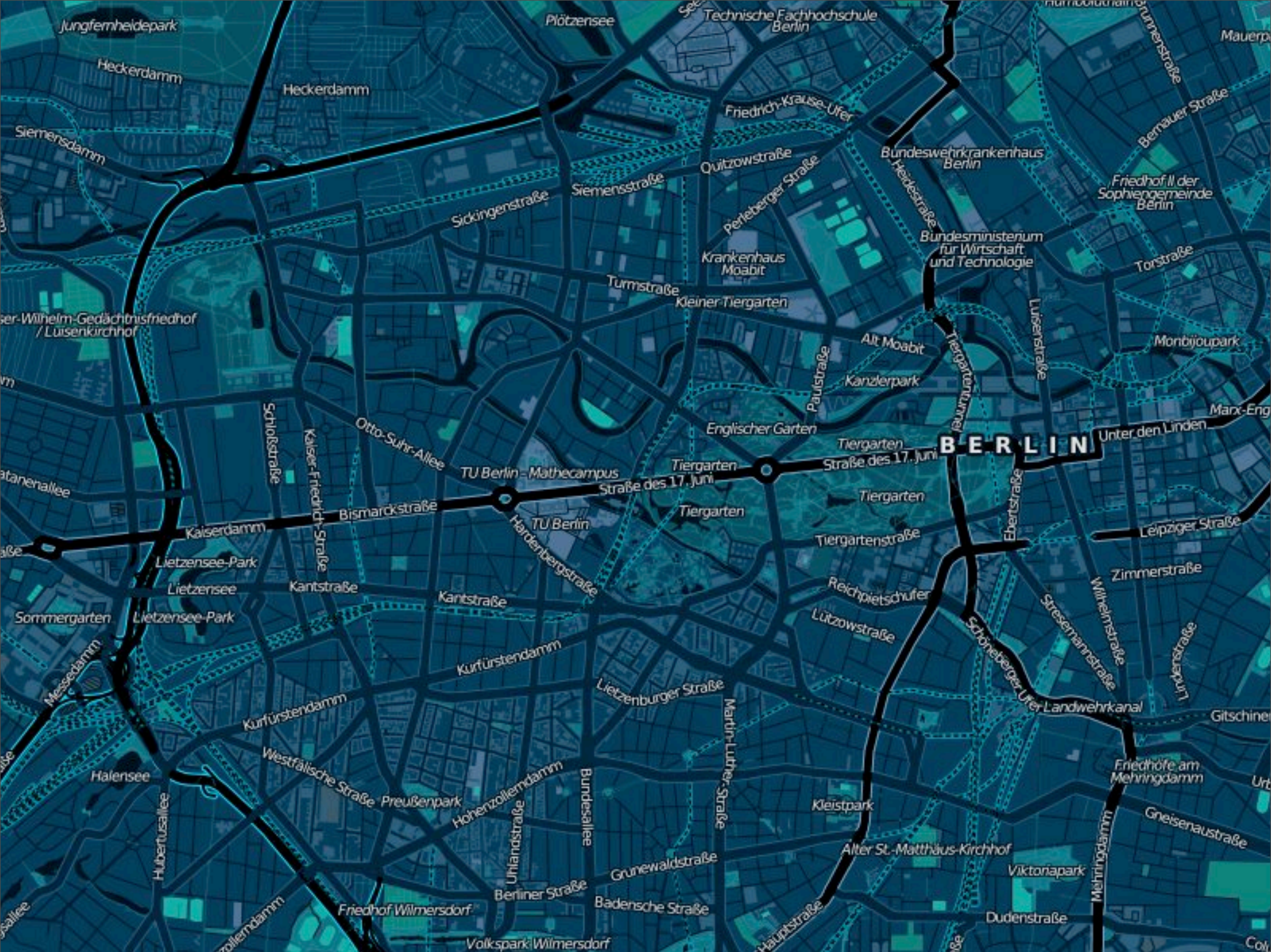




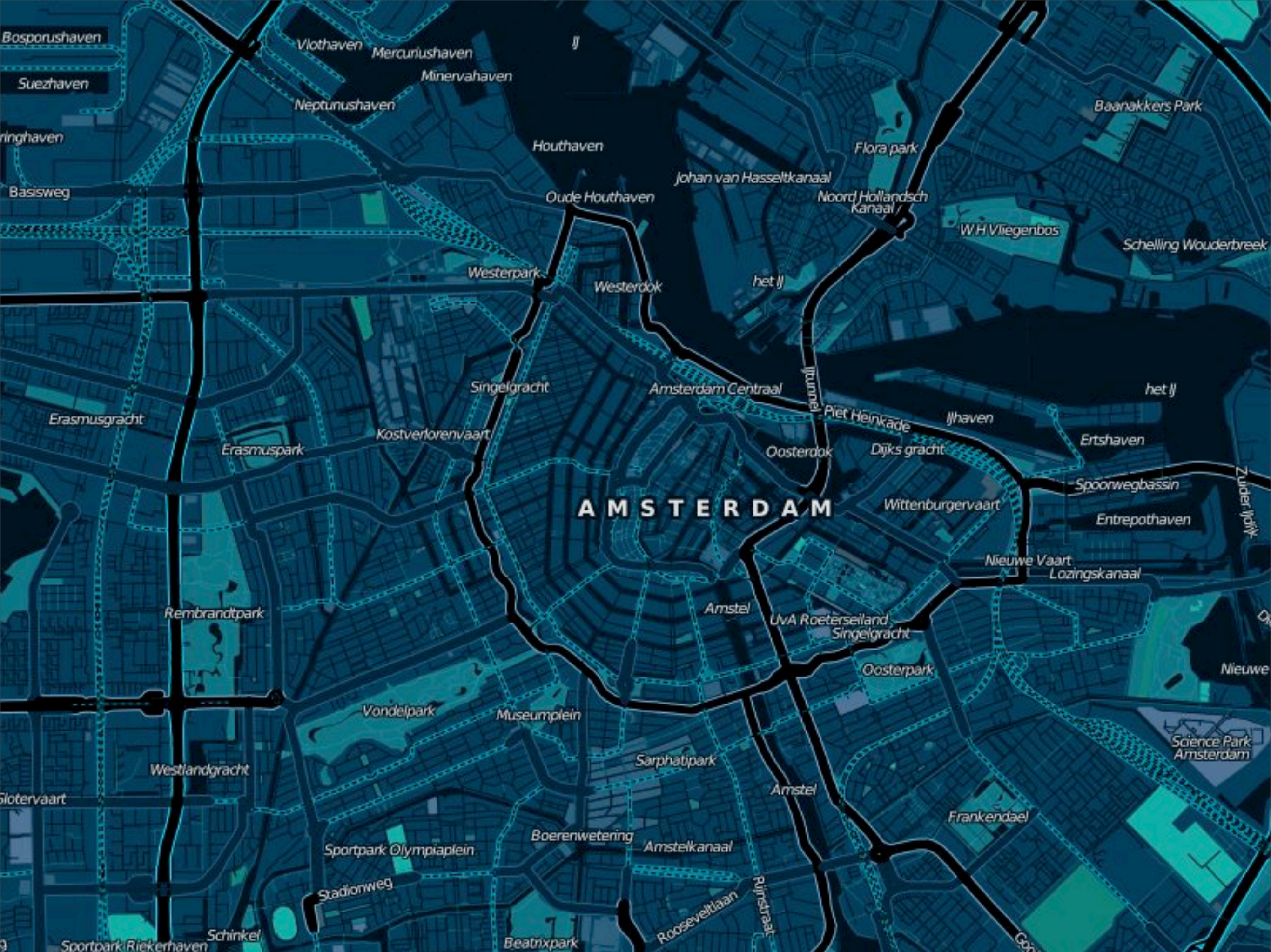
Appearances Matter















Intentional Visual Resonance (pursue!)

Live, Vast, and Deep

SFMOMA ArtScope

Immersive modern art browsing
<http://sfmoma.org/pages/artscope>

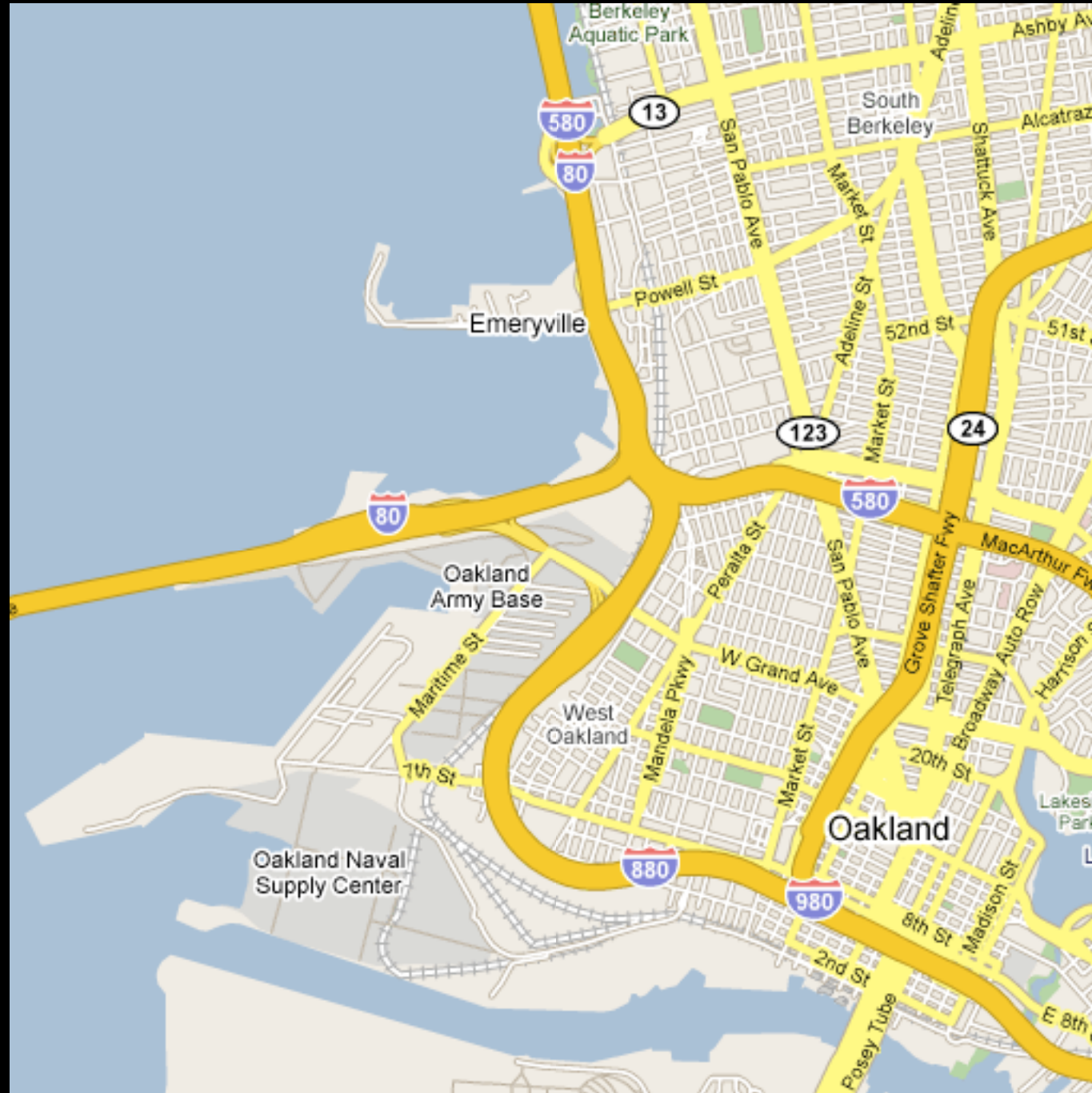
The SFMOMA ArtScope is our most recent project.

This is a deep dive into the Museum Of Modern Art's collection, most of which is not on display in the museum.

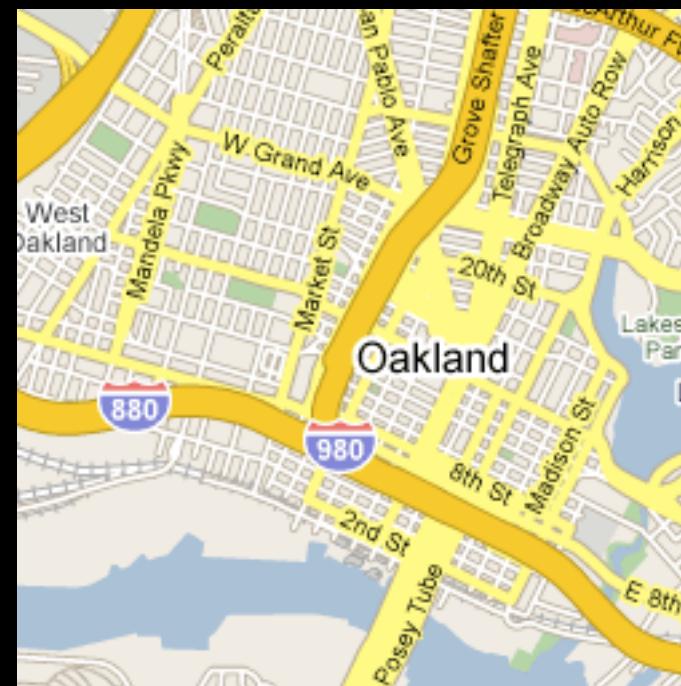
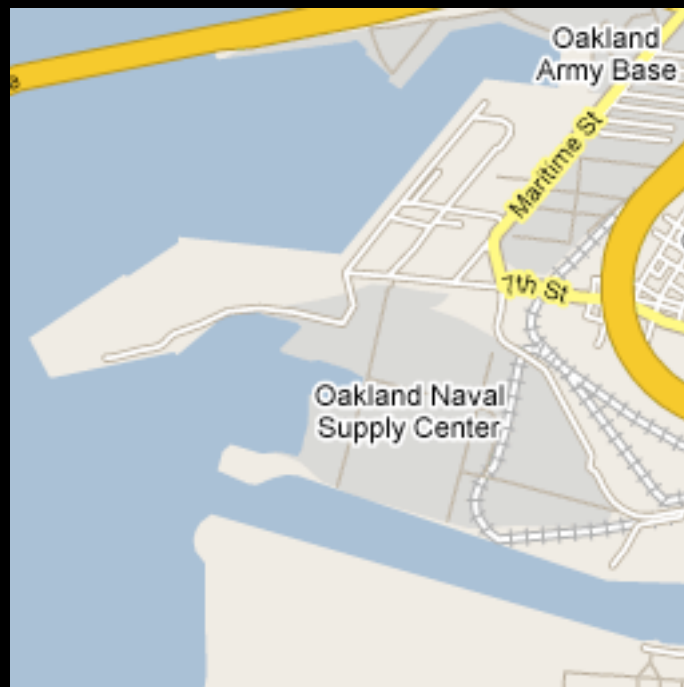
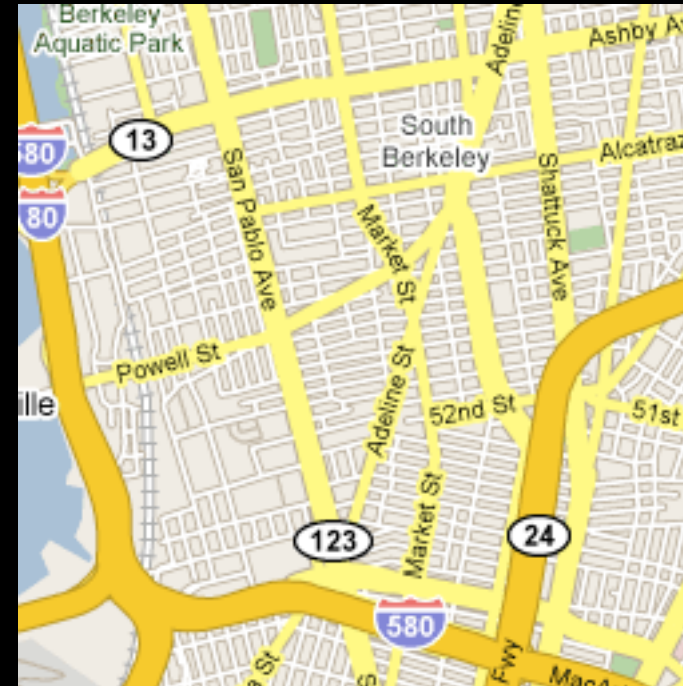
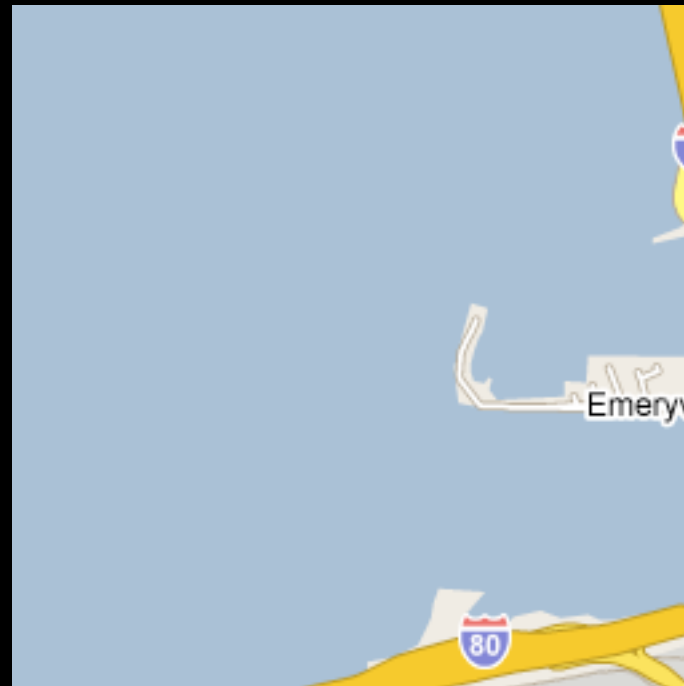
It doesn't look like a map, but we've been exploring the use of development and publishing ideas from online maps and satellite images for other purposes.



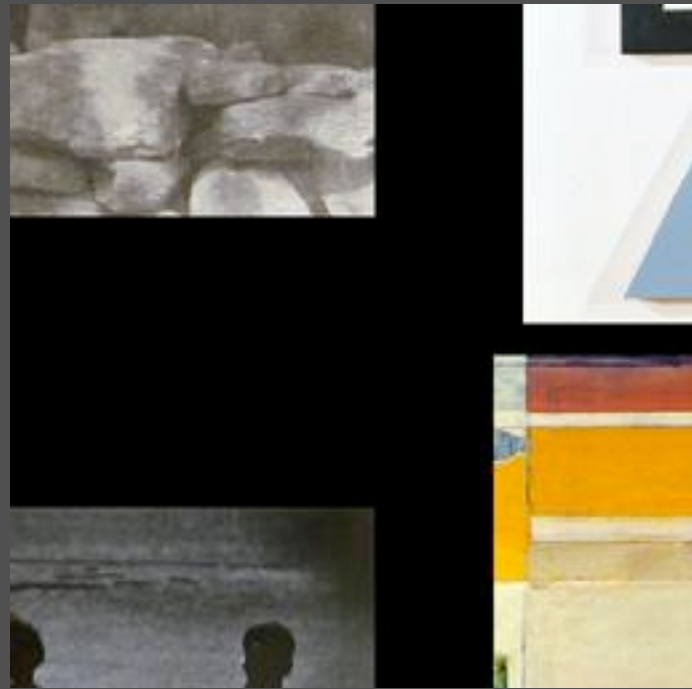
This is an image from Microsoft's Terraserver, from 2004. Prior to the release of Google Maps in 2005, this and MapQuest were the only good ways to get geographical information online. Interactions were slow, form-based, and limited. Imagery and map content was limited and poorly-designed.



Google's maps were a massive step forward, because they allowed you to move the map in the page, zooming freely from one place to another.




The infinite, continuous road maps and satellite imagery are available over a regular broadband connection because Google serves them to you as small square images






This idea can be applied to other kinds of deep navigation.





**SFMOMA ArtScope**



[SHOW INSTRUCTIONS](#)

[SEARCH](#)

Kenneth Josephson

Chicago

1961
photograph | gelatin silver print

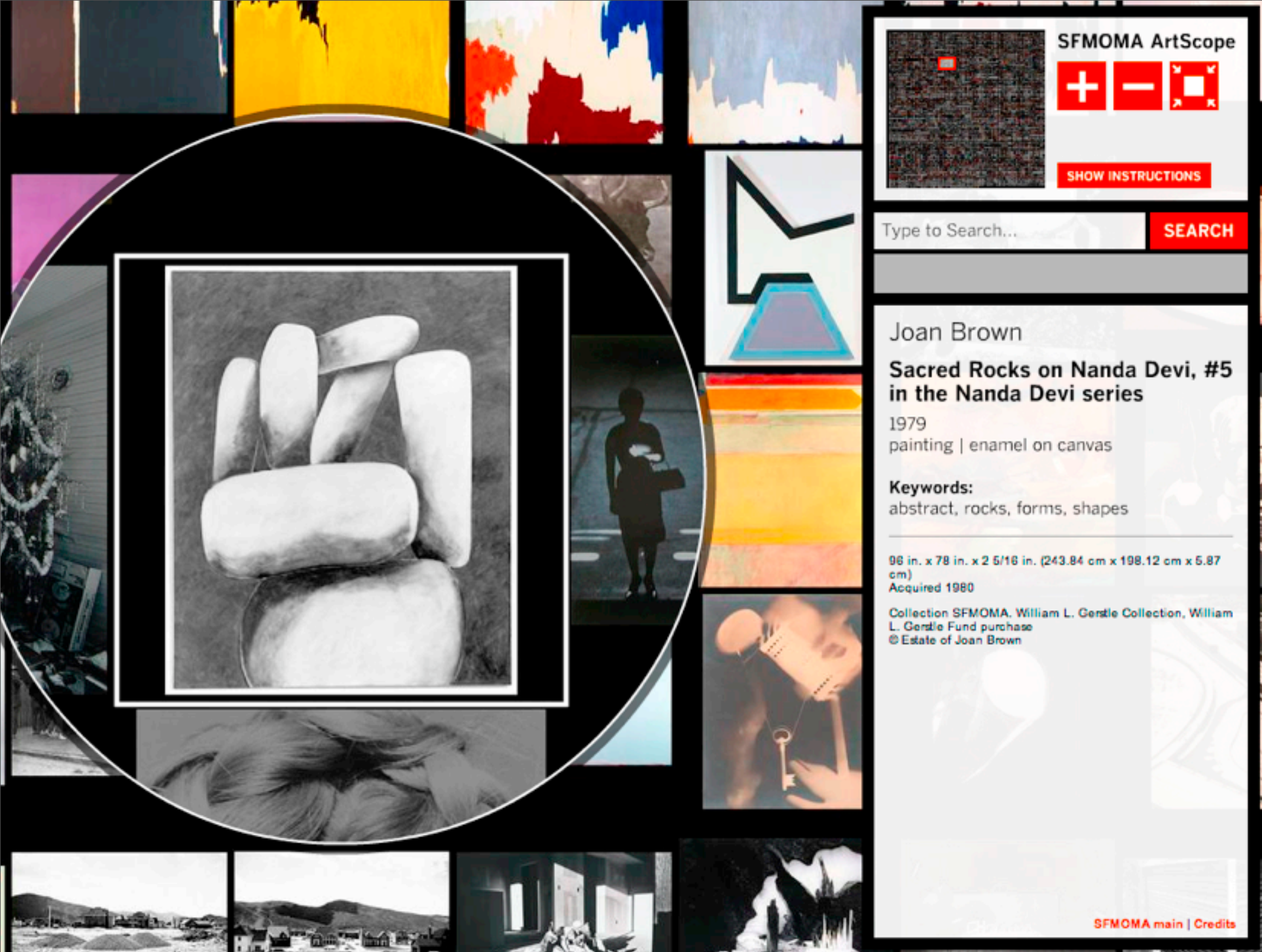
Keywords:
men, women, shadows

8 1/16 in. x 11 15/16 in. (20.48 cm x 30.32 cm)
Acquired 1980

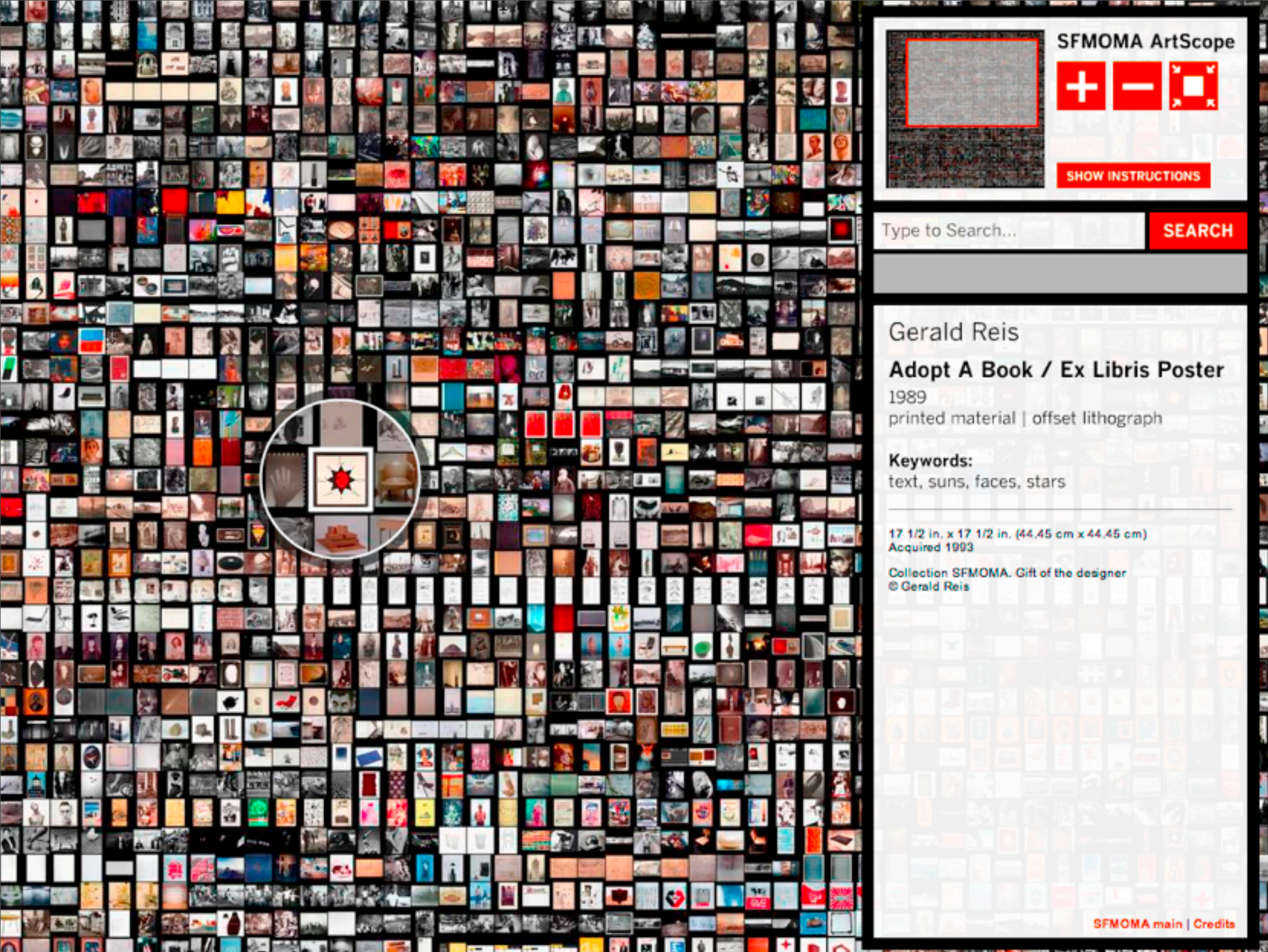
Collection SFMOMA. Gift of the Sidney and Diana Avery Trust
© Kenneth Josephson

[SFMOMA main](#) | [Credits](#)

This is ArtScope



You can move the magnifying glass around to see what's in the Museum of Modern Art's extensive collection, or use tags and text searches to the right if you know what artist you're looking for, or are interested in browsing artwork by medium or subject.



Really though, it's a kind of Google Maps for Modern Art.

All the familiar interaction metaphors – panning, zooming, small overview map – are there. There are certain interaction ideas popular on the web that are ripe for application to new contexts.

Maps, Generally

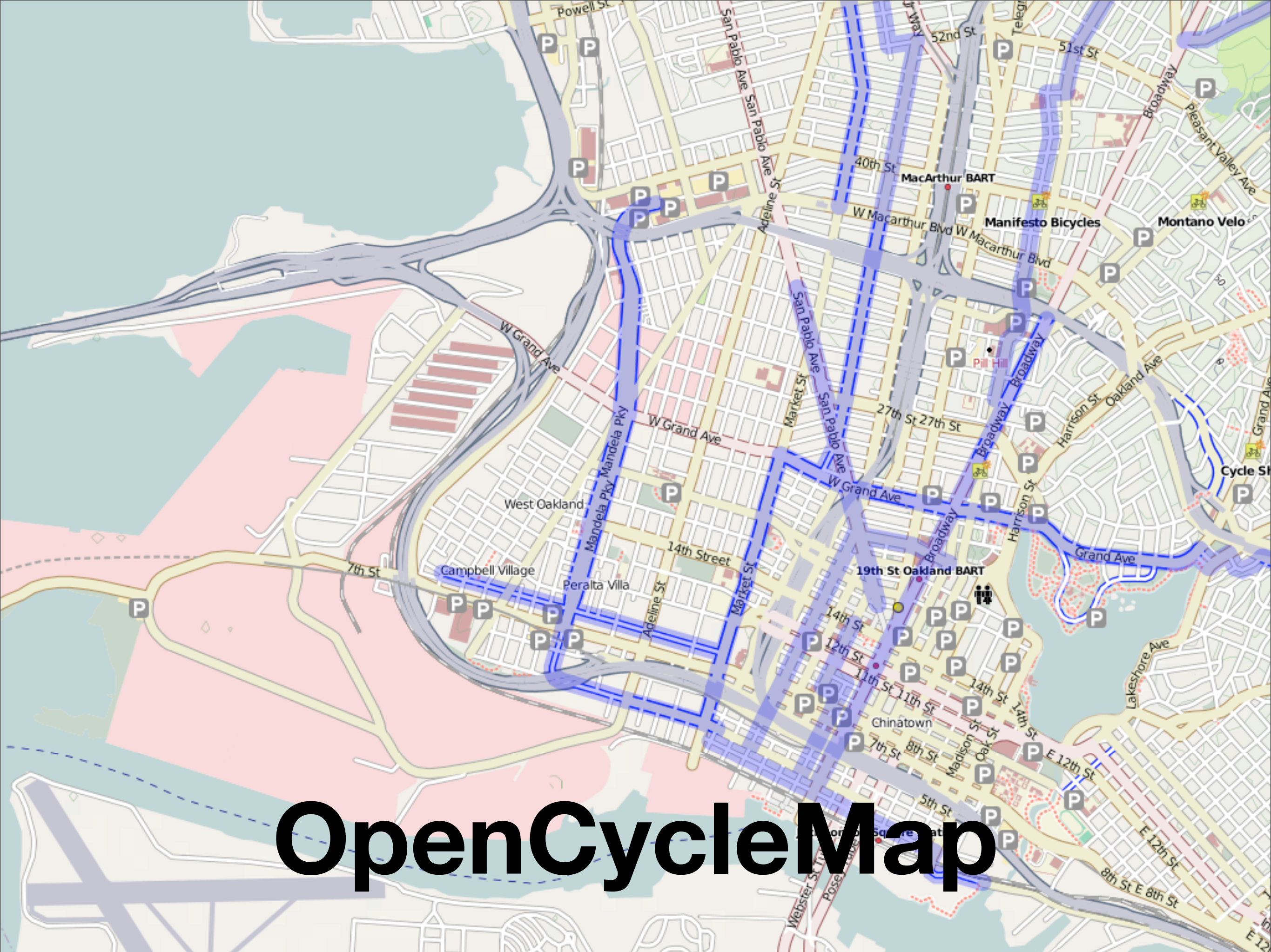
Maps online are swiftly becoming the focal point for new thinking about data



OpenStreetMap

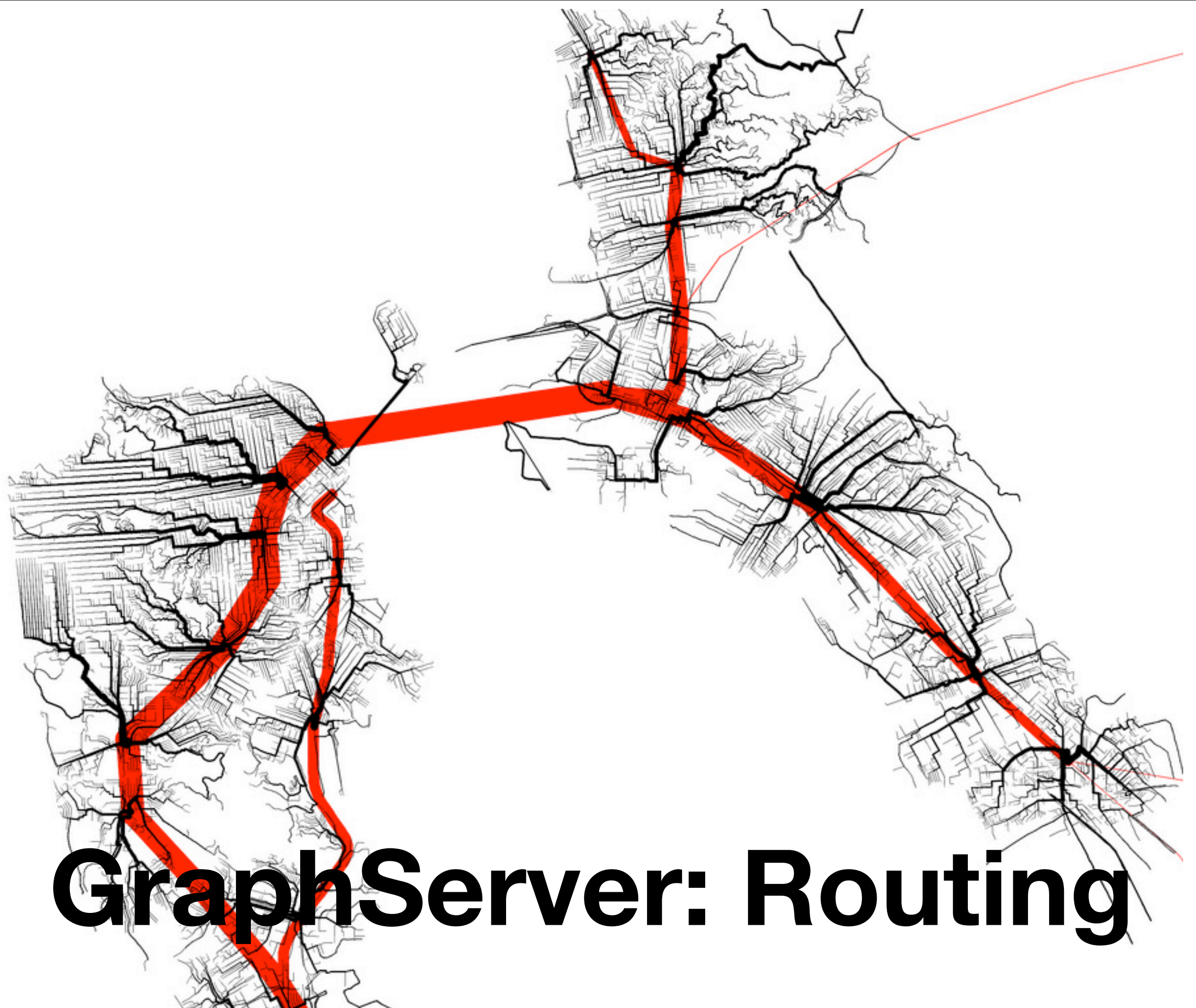
© 2005 OpenStreetMap.org





Andy Allan: Open Cycle Map

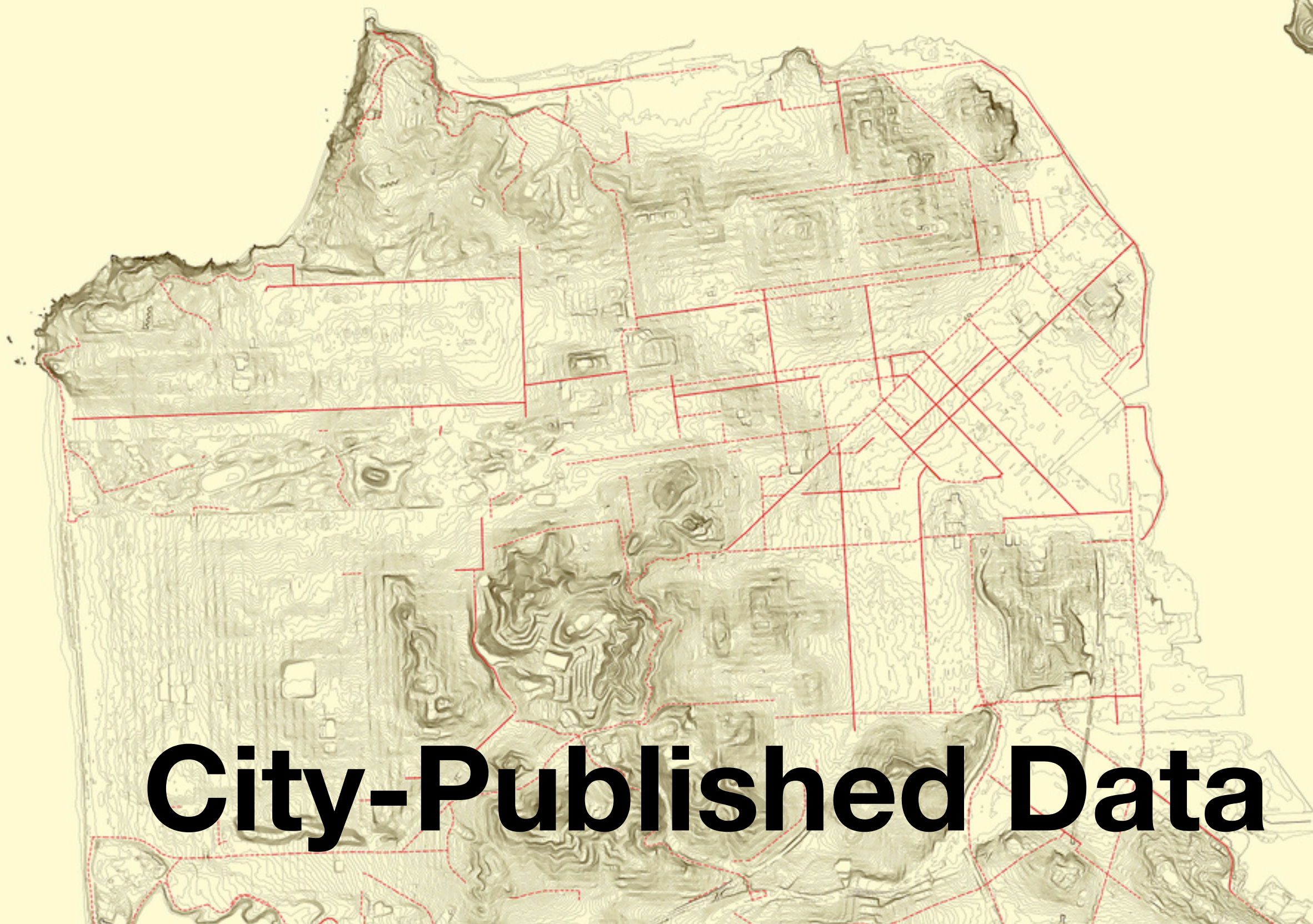
This is an award-winning custom render of OpenStreetMaps that illustrates why making your own maps from scratch is important: there are a lot of different kinds of geographic context out there, beyond just freeways and pizza places.



Brandon Martin-Anderson: shortest-path tree of San Francisco transit (red) and walking (black)
This is just transit, with an indication of walk + ride time.

SAN FRANCISCO

changes in elevation **and bike routes**



City-Published Data

73

Shawn Allen: San Francisco contours and bike routes
Shawn overlaid bike routes on contoured hill in SF, using data directly published by city government.

The image shows a map of West Oakland, California, with a grid of streets. Overlaid on the street grid are several irregular, semi-transparent colored regions. These regions are colored in shades of green and yellow, representing different levels of crime density. The colors range from dark green (low density) to bright yellow (high density). The text 'Heat Maps, Underneath' is overlaid on the map in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Heat Maps, Underneath

74

Oakland Crimespotting heat maps
Meanwhile, this is a heat map of crime in West Oakland with a thin layer of street context from OSM.

Black Box/Reach Through

“...scientific and technical work is made invisible by its own success. When a machine runs efficiently, when a matter of fact is settled, one need focus only on its inputs and outputs and not on its internal complexity. Thus, paradoxically, the more science and technology succeed, the more opaque and obscure they become.”

—Bruno Latour, Pandora’s Hope



Visualizing urban data



This is the state of the art in mapping crime information for cities in the US. Maps are designed by programmers and not fully resident on the web.

Generally speaking, it's hard to link to things and hard to explore information laterally.

“Native To A Web Of Data”

Tom Coates, 2006

<http://www.plasticbag.org/files/native/>

I've borrowed the title of this talk from Tom Coates's Native to a Web of Data.

“A web of data sources, services for exploring and manipulating data, and ways users can connect them together”

“Designing Data For Reuse”

Matt Biddulph, 2005

<http://www.hackdiary.com/slides/xtech2005/>

Another influential piece of writing in this space is from Dopplr CTO Matt Biddulph.

Matt describes a series of best practices around open data formats and permanent, guessable URL's.

Views

**How many ways are
there to look at data?**

Murder

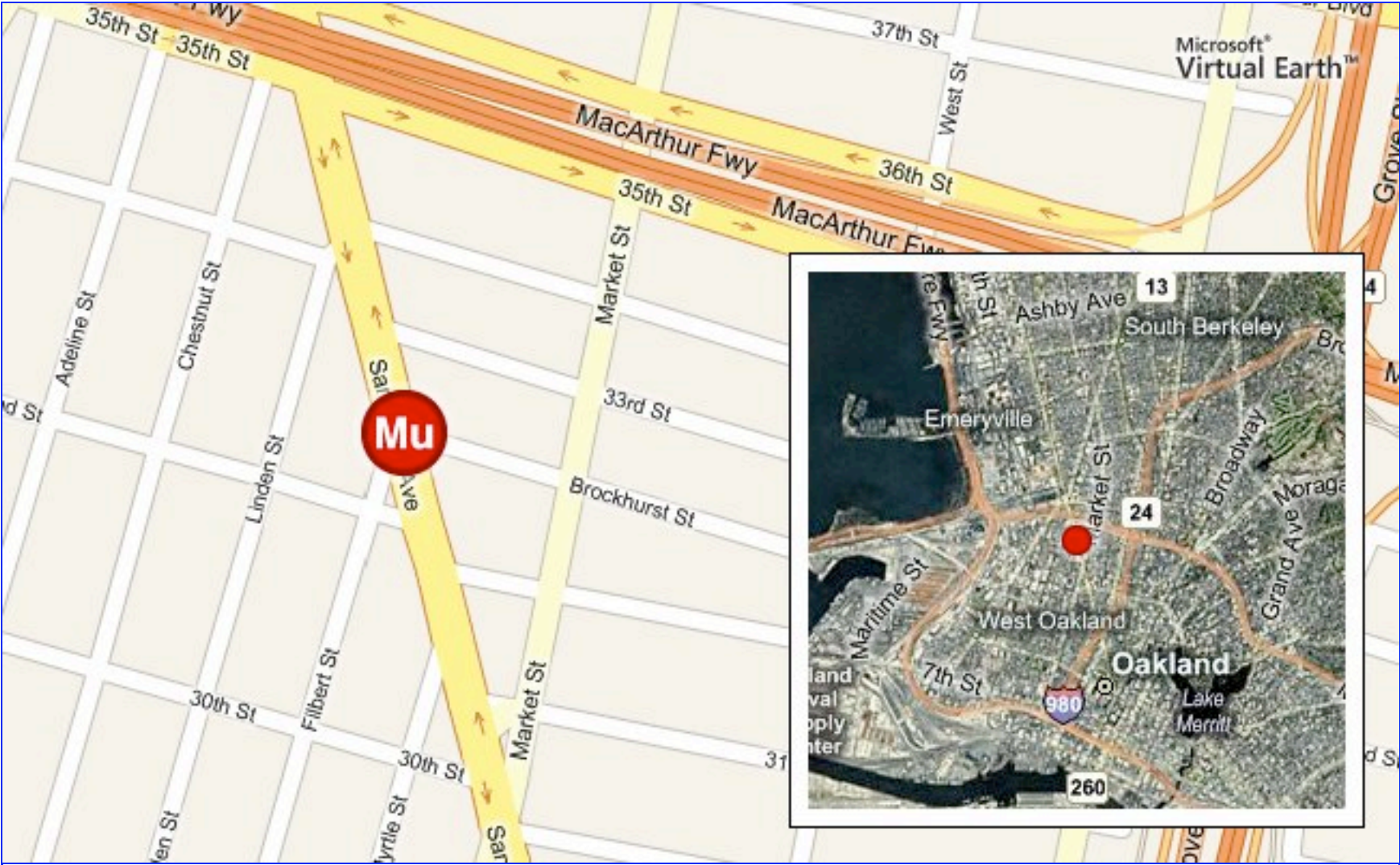
Wednesday, Mar 5, 2008 5:48am

MURDER

Case Number 08-016924-003, Police Beat [06X](#).

3200 block of San Pablo Ave, Emeryville, CA 94608, USA

Scroll down to see related and nearby reports, or to leave a comment.



[View an interactive map of this report.](#)

Related Reports

These reports are directly related to the one above, and may be part of the same incident.

First, there is a page for every individual crime report in the system.

This is the most basic building block of the site. Each one has a sensible URL that includes a map, connected reports, and nearby neighborhood information.

205 Reports Of Robbery

Showing 20 reports, Thursday, Mar 13, 2008 through Monday, Mar 17, 2008.

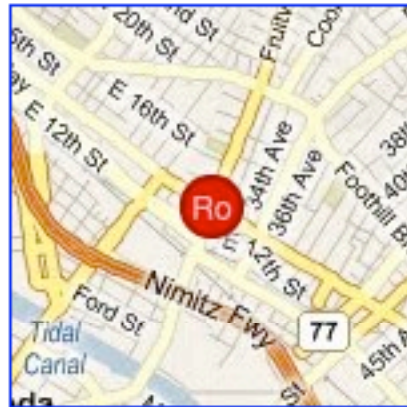
[Earlier](#) reports of robbery

3:30am
Monday, Mar 17, 2008



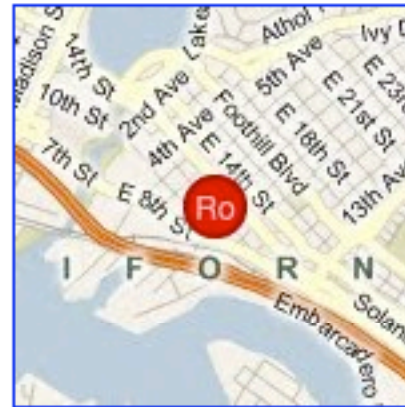
CARJACKING WITH FIREARM
([08-020179](#))

1:00am
Monday, Mar 17, 2008



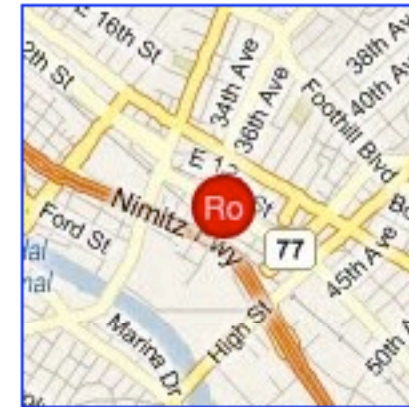
ATTEMPTED ROBBERY-OTHER
DANGEROUS WEAPON ([08-020164](#))

10:30pm
Sunday, Mar 16, 2008



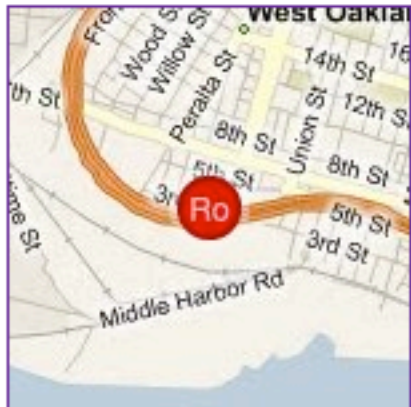
ROBBERY - STRONG ARM (HANDS,
FISTS, FEET, ETC.)
([08-020155](#))

12:00am
Sunday, Mar 16, 2008



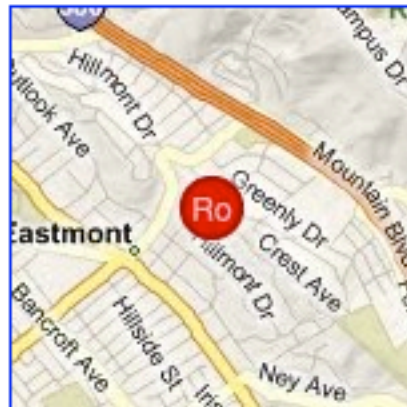
ROBBERY - STRONG ARM (HANDS,
FISTS, FEET, ETC.)
([08-020022](#))

10:00pm
Saturday, Mar 15, 2008



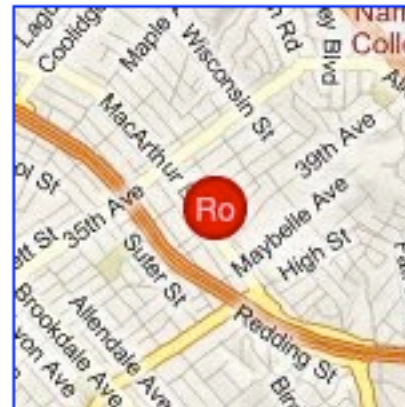
CARJACKING WITH FIREARM
([08-019953-001](#))

10:00pm
Saturday, Mar 15, 2008



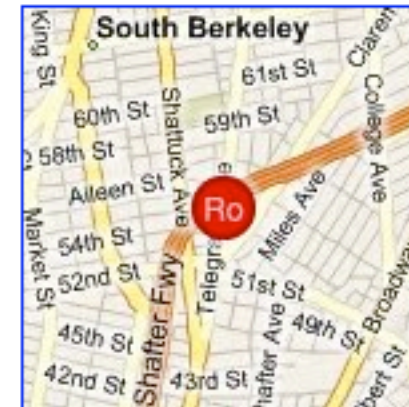
CARJACKING WITH FIREARM
([08-019953](#))

9:20pm
Saturday, Mar 15, 2008



ROBBERY-FIREARM ([08-019940](#))

8:15pm
Saturday, Mar 15, 2008



ROBBERY-FIREARM ([08-019918](#))

Second, there are listing pages that show collections of reports: by day, by type of crime, by police beat.

Police Beat 4X

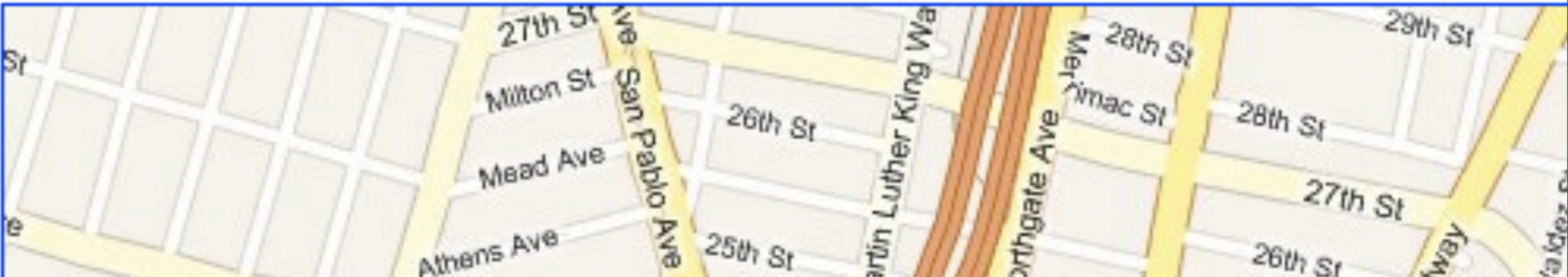
[Contact your officer for beat 4X.](#)

Downloadable spreadsheets and [RSS feeds](#) of reports from beat 4X are available below. Subscribe to feeds in your preferred feed reading software, or download spreadsheets for use in [Microsoft Excel](#), [OpenOffice Calc](#), [Apple Numbers](#), and other spreadsheet programs.

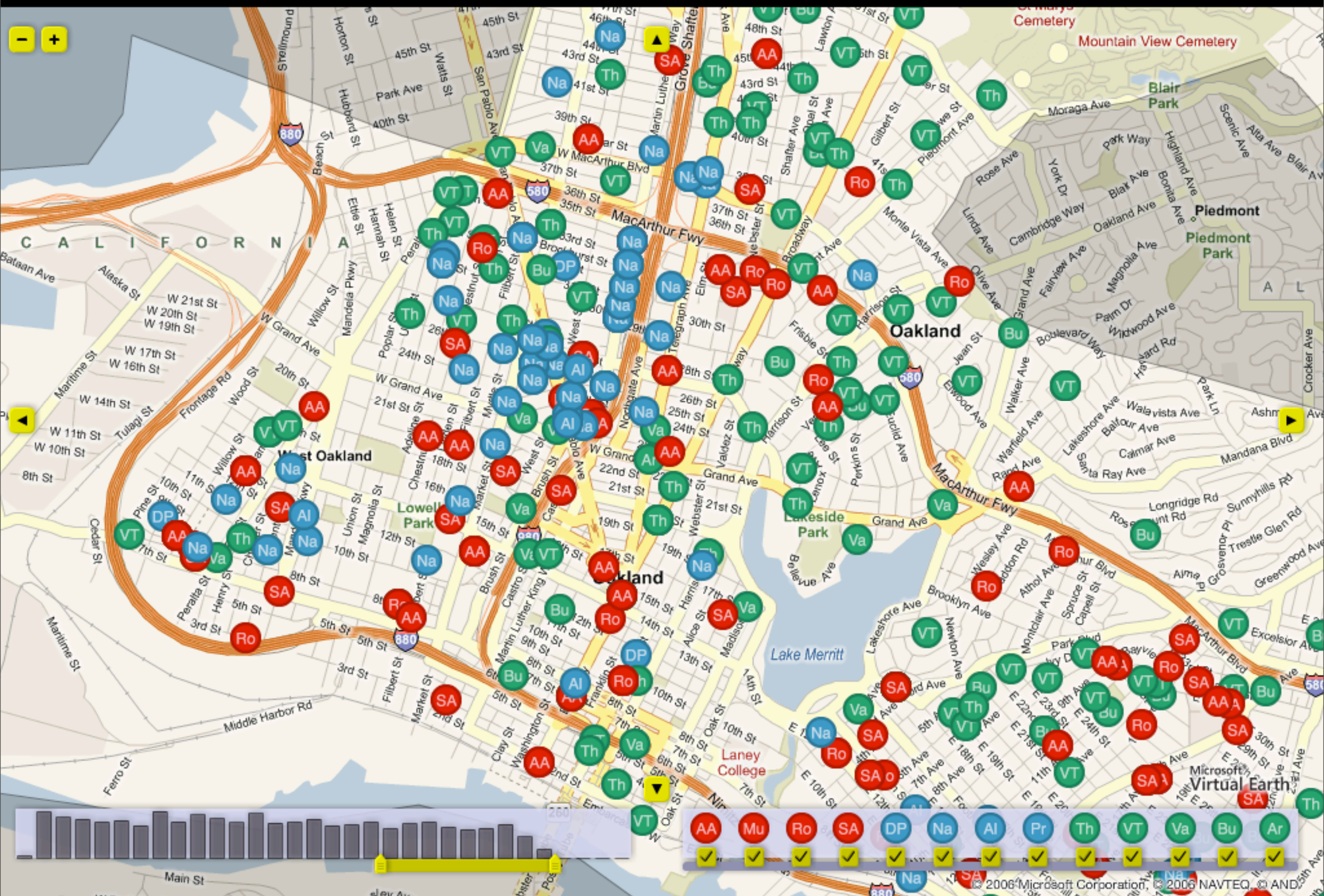
 [News feed of reports in beat 4X](#)

Spreadsheets of  [last week's reports](#) /  [last month's reports](#) in beat 4X.

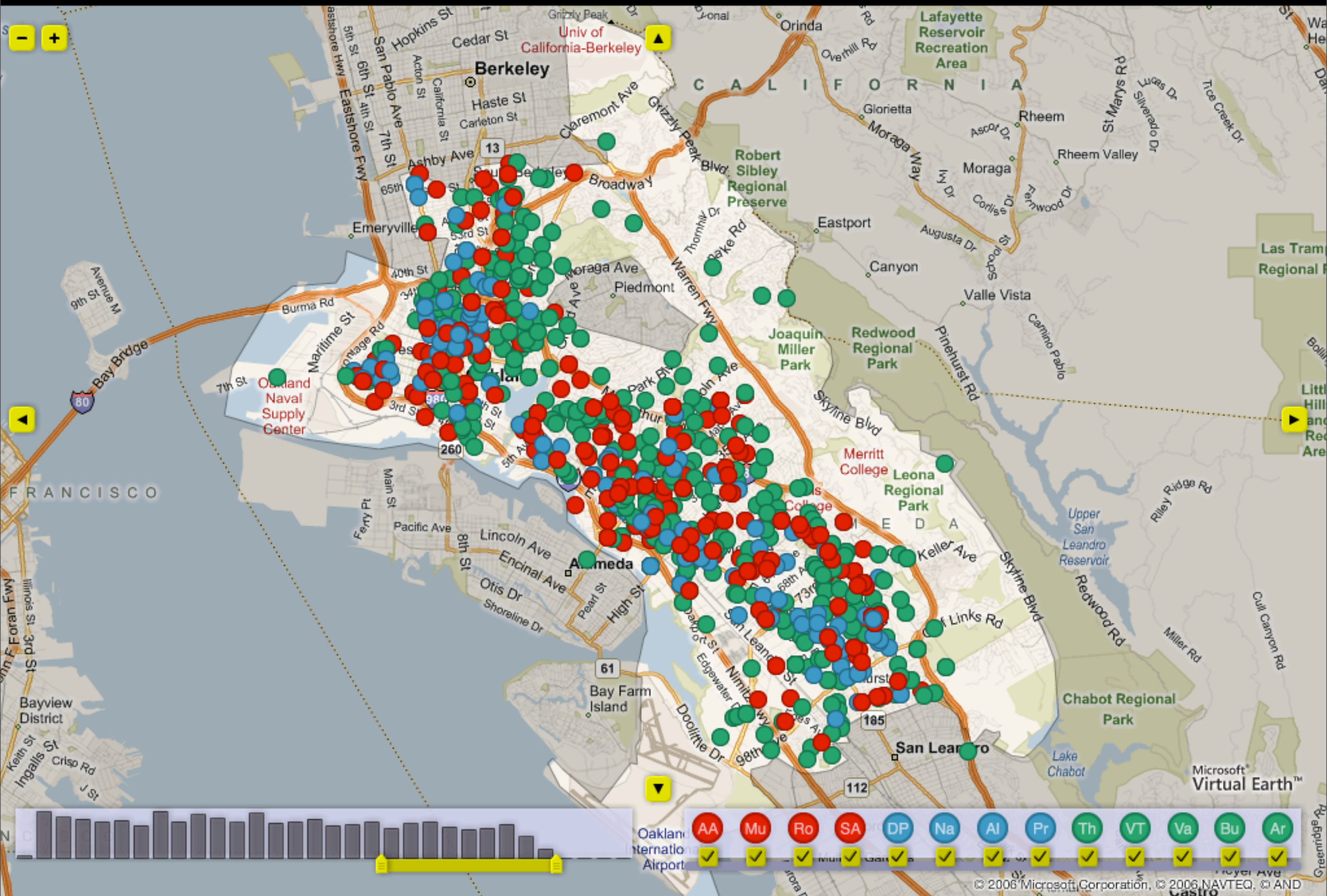
Reports in the Past Week



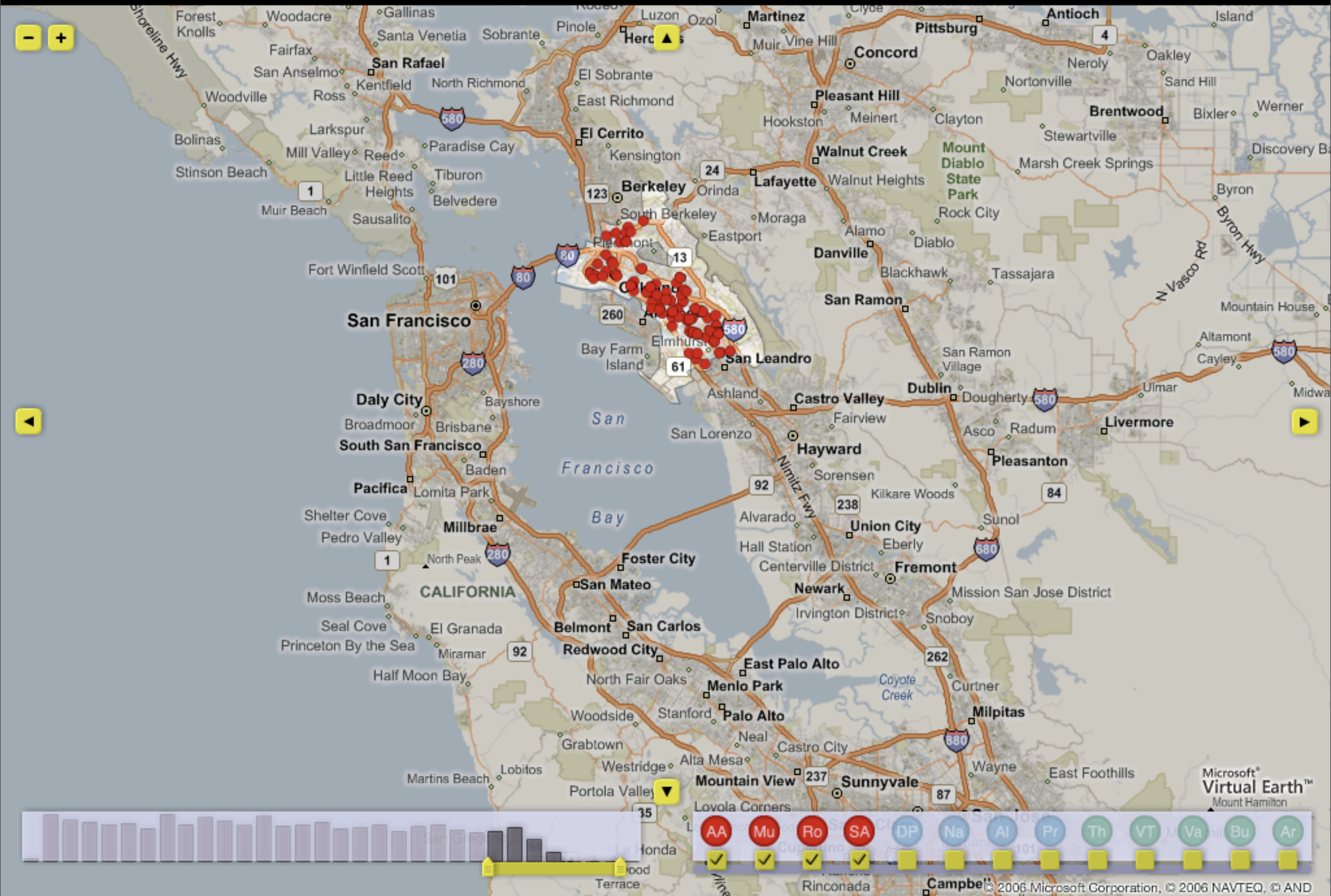
We're intentionally trying to stretch the definition of "API" here: the classic, Flickr-driven concept of an XML web service is definitely one Web 2.0 compliant way of looking at things, but Excel files and permanent URLs right there on the website is a broader concept that invites members of the non-geek public to join in. These have all been API-like "handles" that visitors can connect with.



Third, everything is presented on a map.



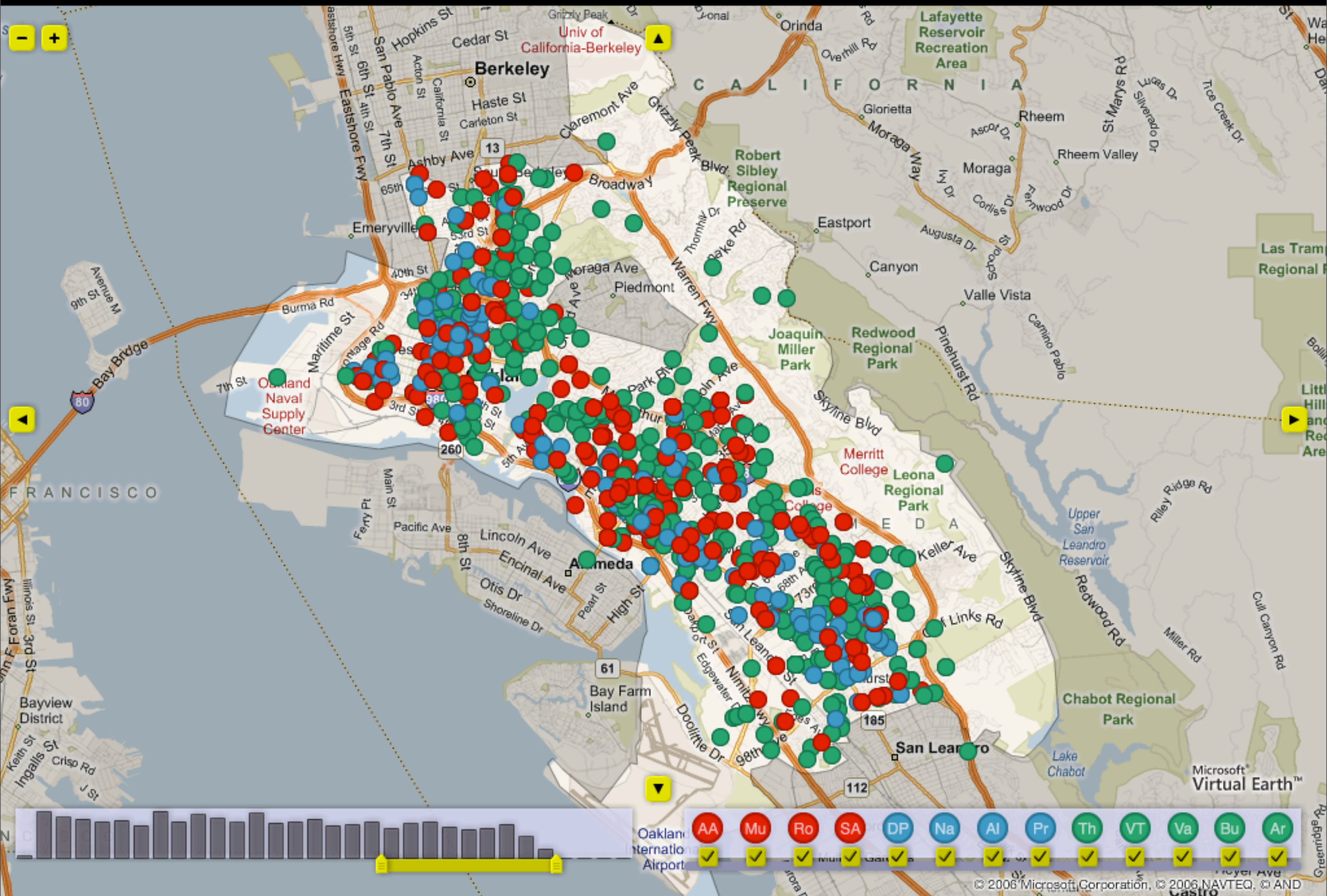
The map shows global context.

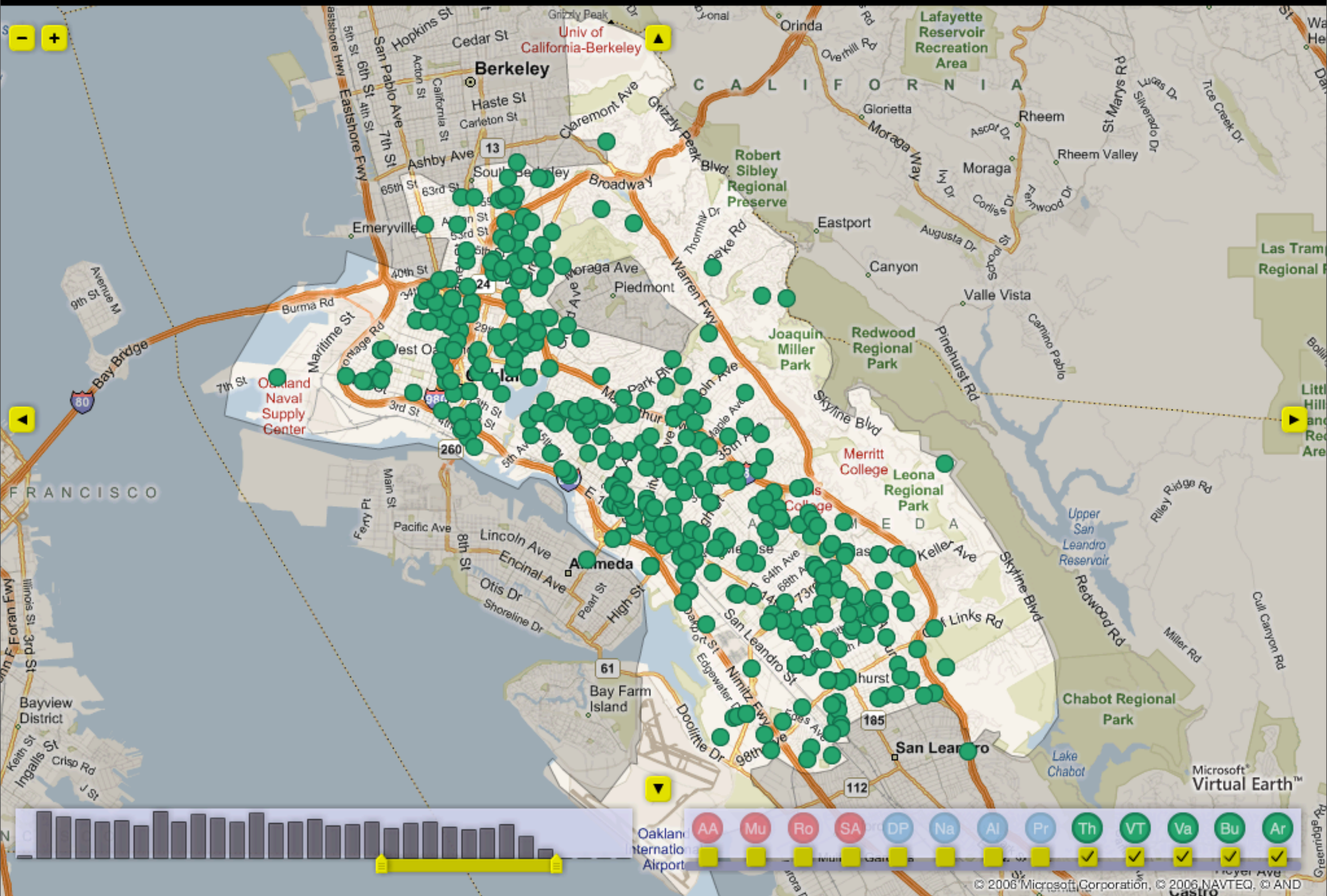


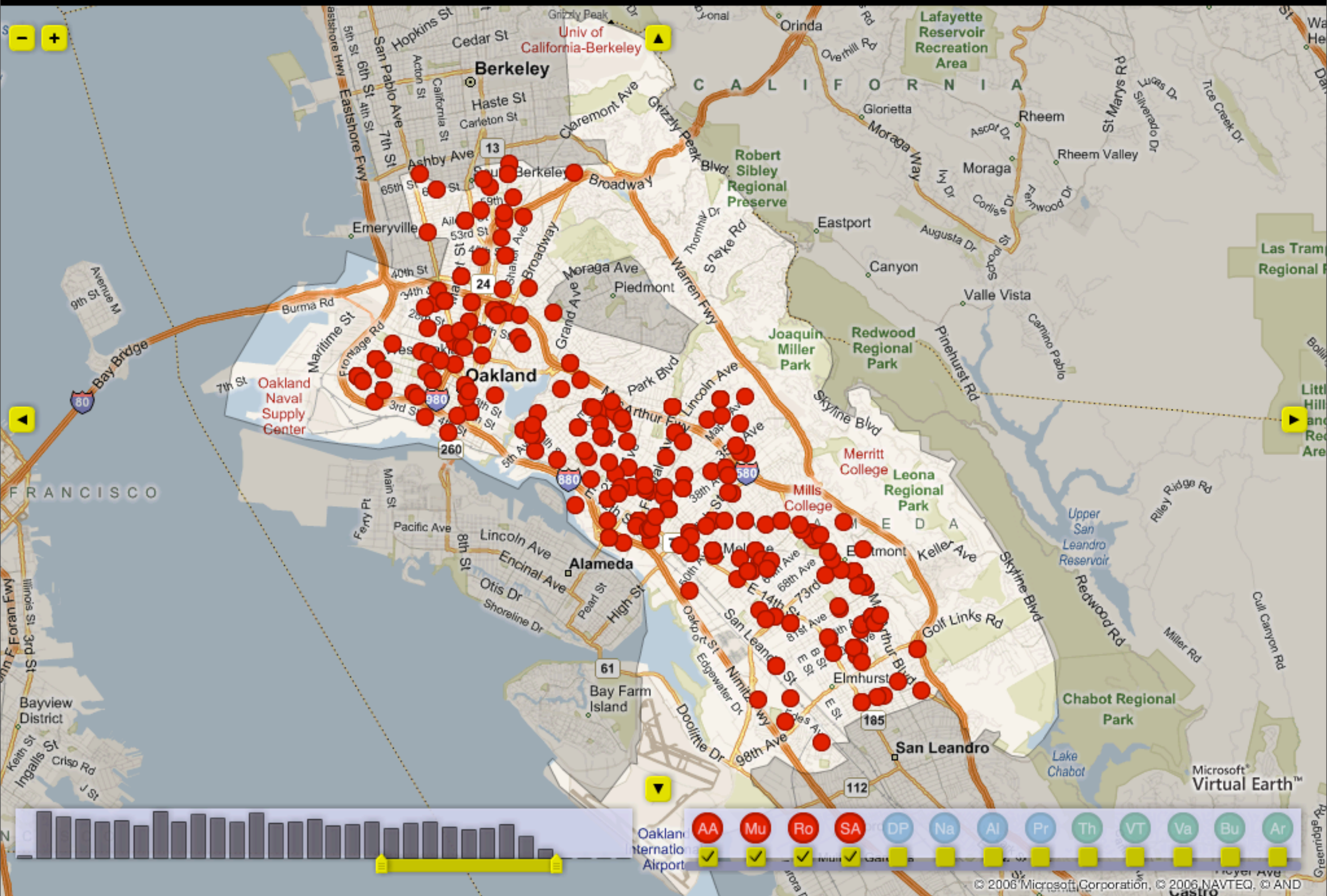
As well as the relative isolation of just one city of data.

Lessons

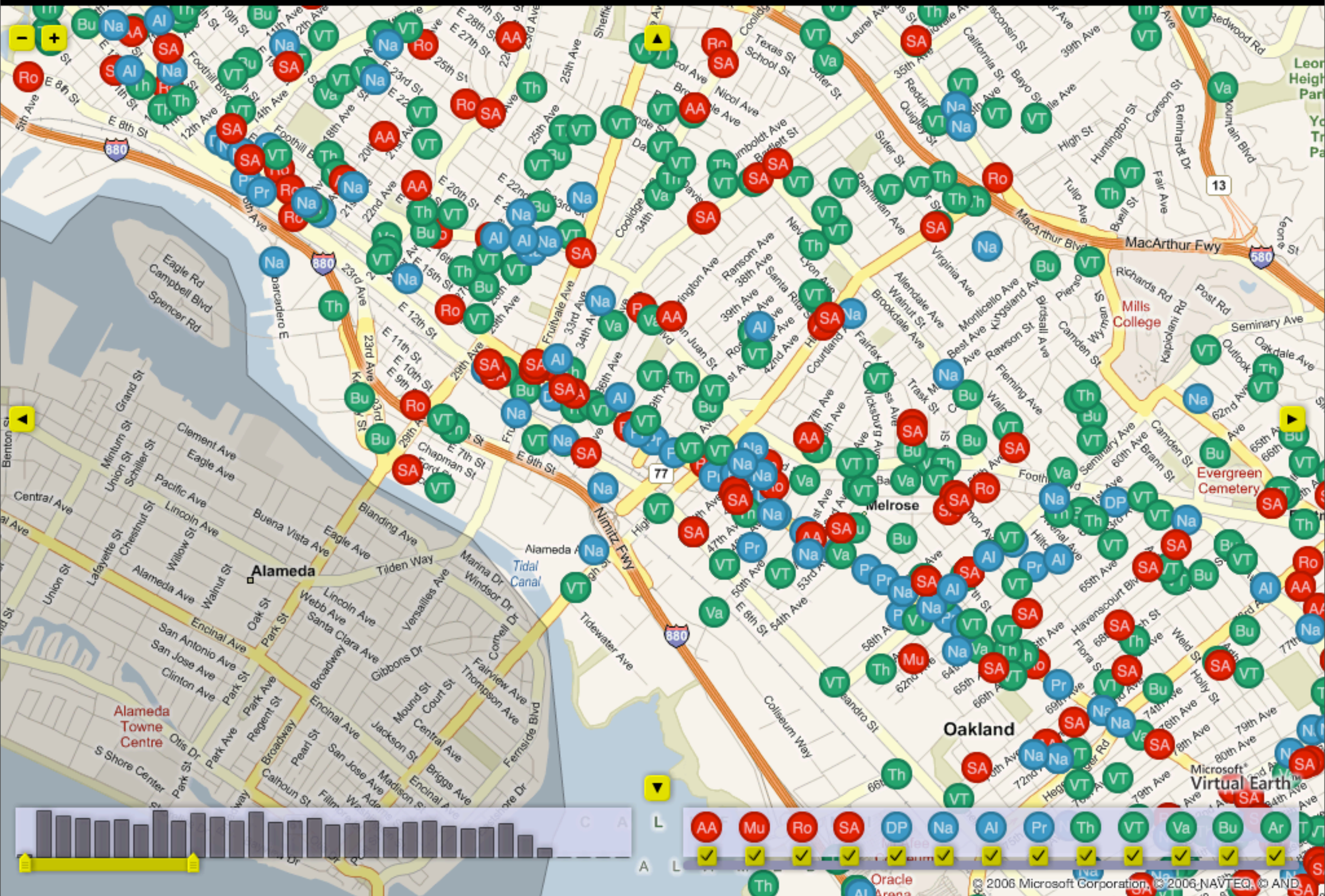
**What can be learned
from visual data?**

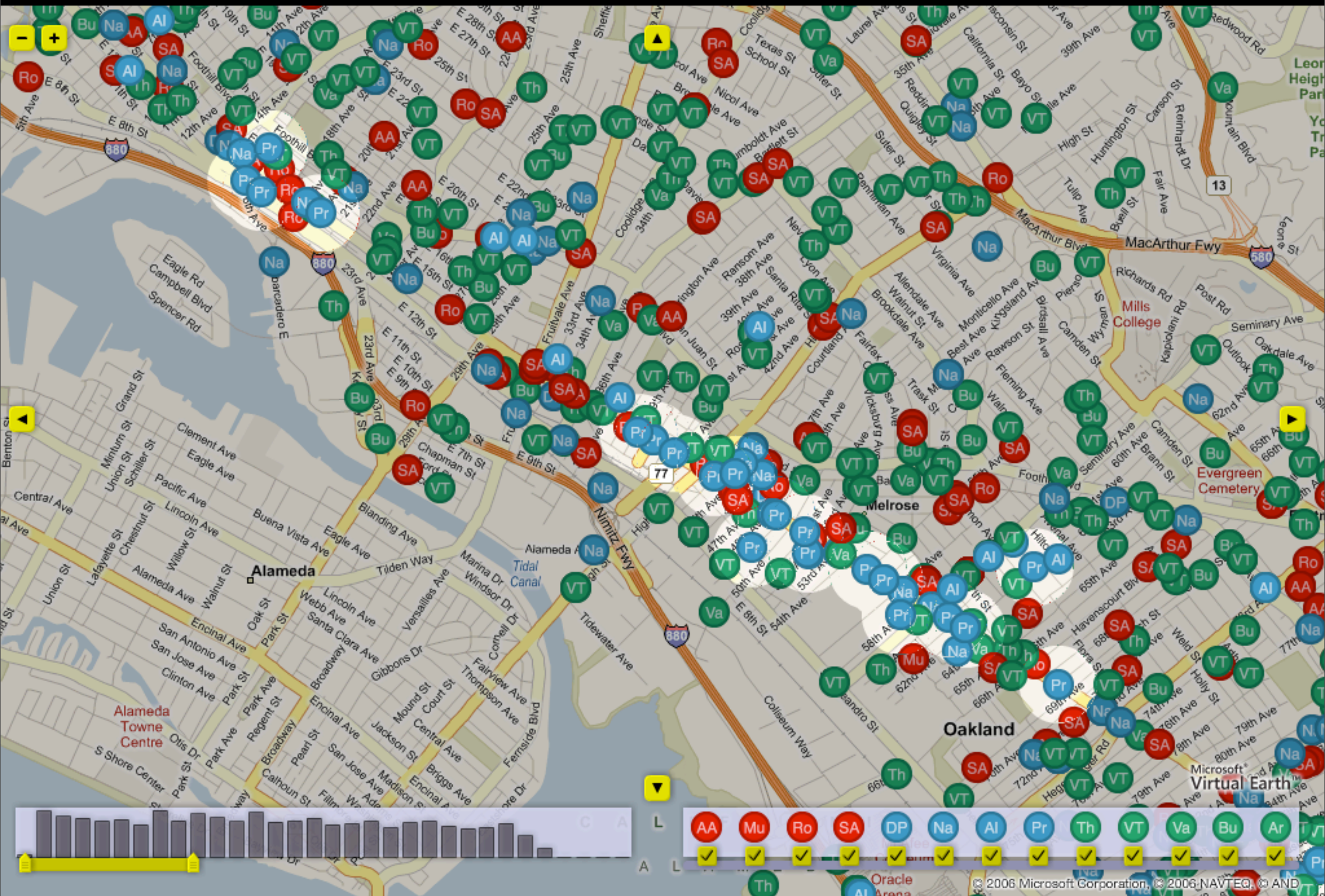


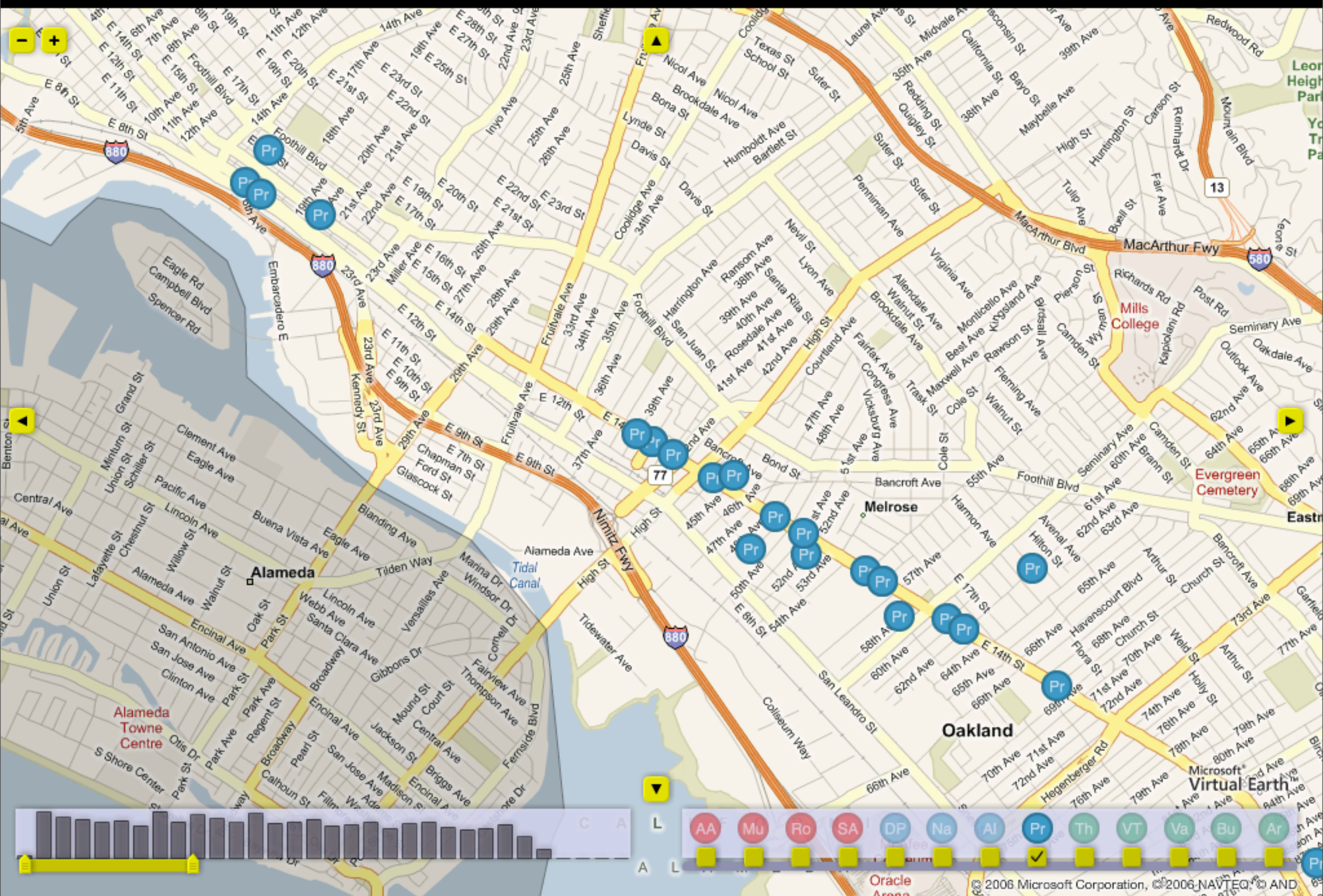




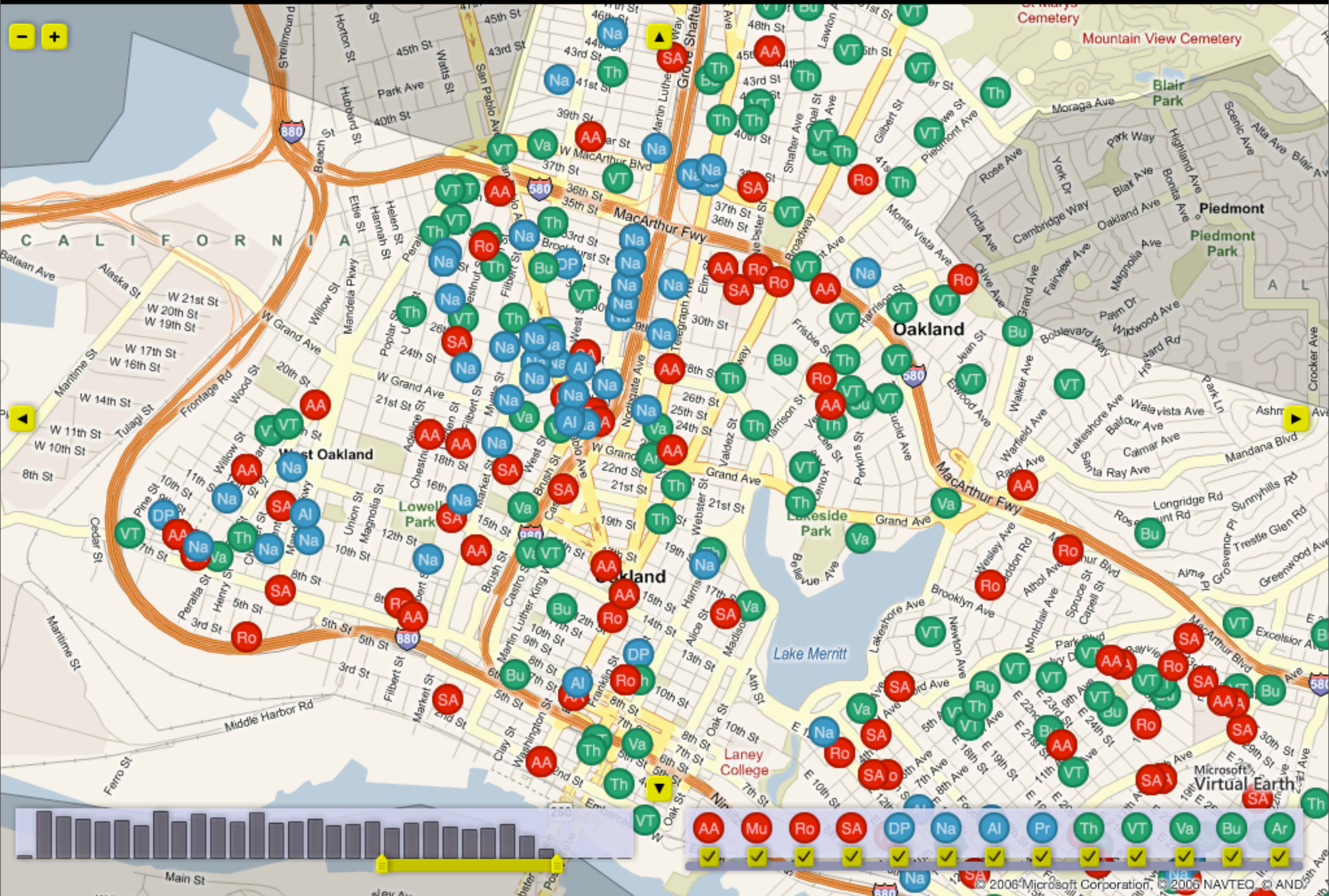
Here we see reports of just one particular type, isolated on the map.

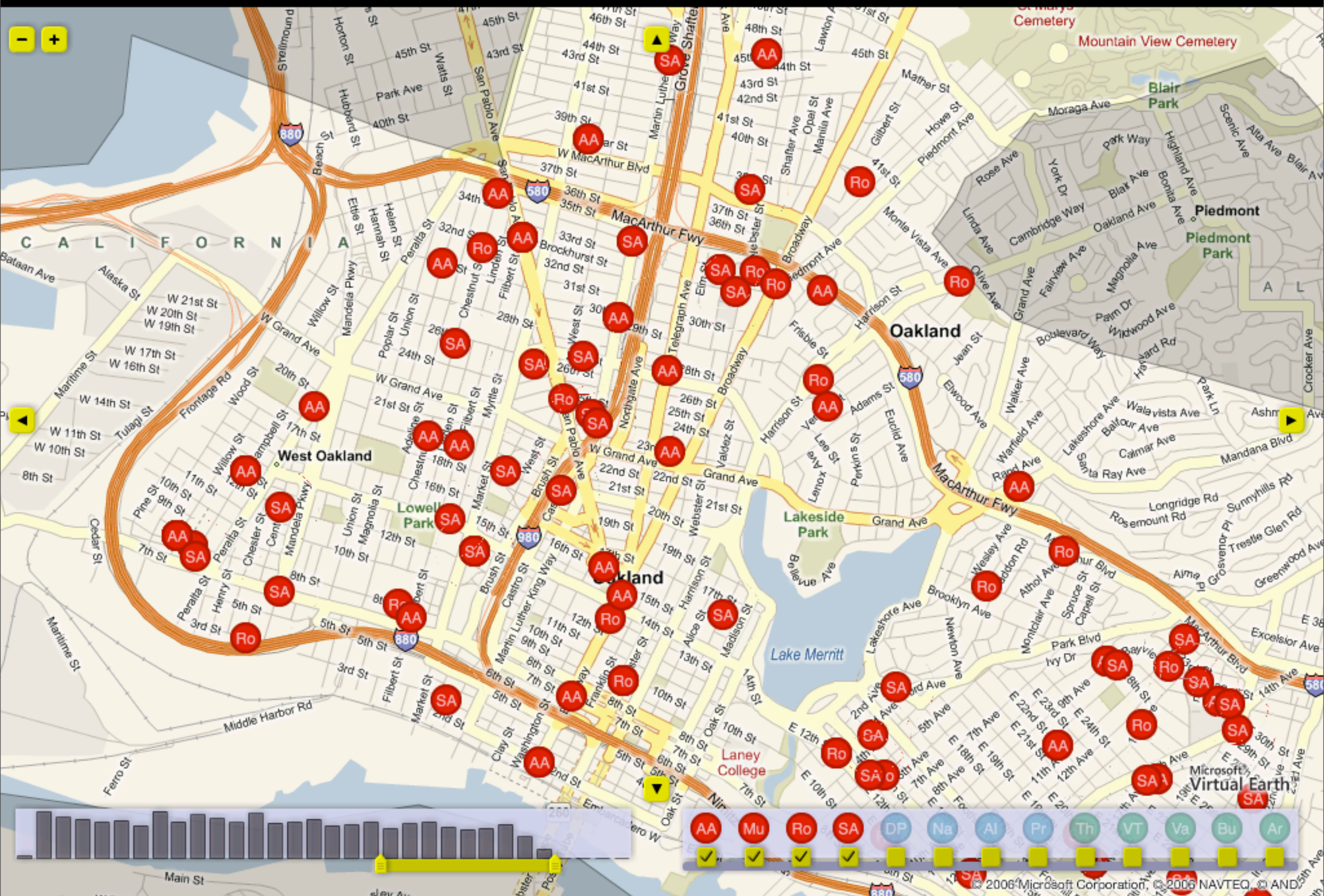




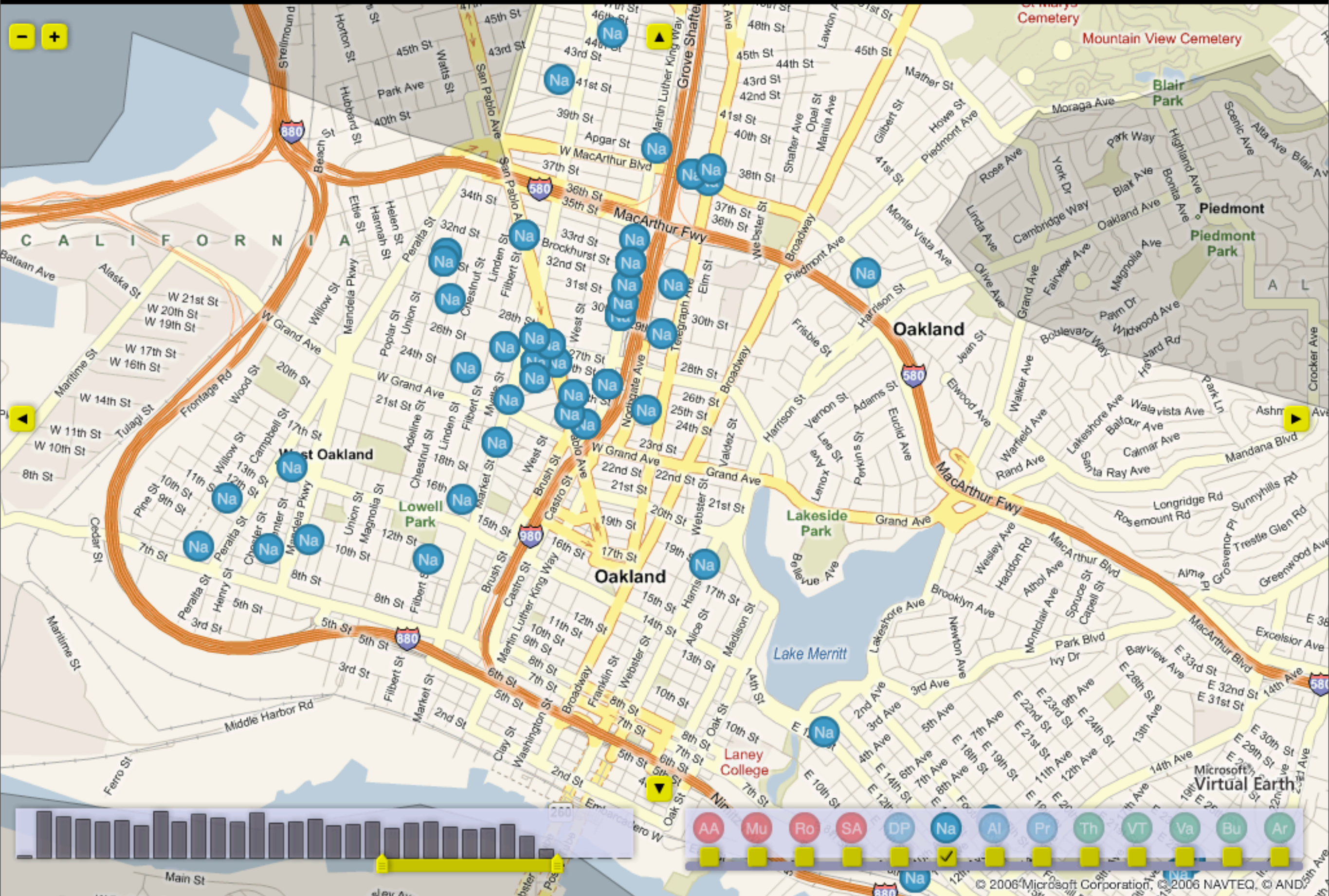


These reports almost all happened on one day – prostitution in particular following this “sting” pattern.





Violent crime is spread all over – there isn't as much of a focus in West Oakland as you'd expect



Most of these narcotics reports are in beats 06X and 07X

Design + Data

**Open data and visualization are colliding,
and feeding off one another to mutual benefit**



Thank You
mike@stamen.com