

Robert Spahr

Poster: Data Loss Cruft (Corruption)



Since 2003, I make art from the digital leftovers produced by the main stream media as well as the digital leftovers we create as individuals left behind on social networking sites, and scattered across the web. I write automated computer programs that collect these digital leftovers by scraping them from the web, and remixing them into a digital collage. I call this work 'Cruft', which is a computer hacker term defined as an unpleasant substance; excess; superfluous junk; and redundant or superseded computer code.

Computer code downloads a recent photo from the Whitehouse.gov website as well as a report published by The Bureau of Investigative Journalism listing U.S. covert drone war casualty estimates. The text file of casualty estimates is literally inserted into the binary code of The White House photo. The drone war information becomes hidden from view, but corrupts the image producing visual distortion often referred to as a glitch. This Cruft **re-generates** a new image by altering the data, displaying the corruption and reminding us of it's origin.

Topic: Computational Art and Glitch

**Author:
Robert Spahr**

Dataloss Cruft 19-23-13 @15:22 www.robertspahr.com/work/dataloss/

Southern Illinois
University Carbondale,
Department of Cinema &
Photography
Illinois, USA
www.robertspahr.com



References:

- [1] www.whitehouse.gov
- [2] www.thebureauinvestigates.com/category/projects/drones/
- [3] www.robertspahr.com

Contact:
rob@robertspahr.com

Keywords: CRUFT, generative, glitch, computational art, net.art, drone warfare, obama, corruption