

**OPEN MINDS**  
**Technology and Informatics**  
**Institute**

**Have we seen the end of consumer  
privacy in health care?**

October 17, 2012

Deborah C. Peel, MD

patientprivacyrights

why consent and control  
are needed:

the surveillance economy

government fusion centers

corporate data mining industry

# Not Track? Advertisers Say 'Don't Tread on Us'

By NATASHA SINGER

October 13, 2012 [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/14/technology/do-not-track-movement-is-drawing-advertisers-fire.html?\\_r=1&ref=natashasinger](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/14/technology/do-not-track-movement-is-drawing-advertisers-fire.html?_r=1&ref=natashasinger)



--campaign to defang the “Do Not Track” movement began late last month

--“what is really at stake here is the future of the surveillance economy”

--House to FTC: ‘Do Not Track’ might restrict “the flow of data at the heart of the Internet’s success.”

-- [open letter from the board of the Association of National Advertisers](#): Microsoft’s action is wrong. The entire media ecosystem has condemned this action”

The New York Times

# How Companies Learn Your Secrets

By Charles Duhigg

Published: February 16, 2012

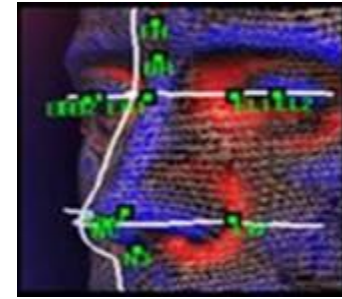
**“If we wanted to figure out if a customer is pregnant even if she didn’t want us to know, can you do that? ”**



<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/19/magazine/shoppinghabits.html?pagewanted=all>



# BEYOND FINGERPRINTS FUSION CENTERS



## Biometric Databases and Quantitative Privacy

by Danielle Citron September 8, 2012

\$1B next generation ID system

**multimodal biometrics:** palm prints, fingerprints, iris, retina, voice, face, gait

Data from state, local, & federal law enforcement; mug shots, DNA databases, driver ID photographs; **federal, state, & local fusion centers mine information** posted online, private security camera footage, & systems of private partners.

<http://www.concurringopinions.com/archives/2012/09/biometric-databases-and-quantitative-privacy.html#more-65882>

# You for Sale: Mapping, and Sharing, the Consumer Genome

June 16, 2012

Justin Bolle for the New York Times

## Acxiom--world's largest consumer database



- 50 trillion data transactions/year.
- 500M consumers worldwide, a majority of US adults
- **sales of \$1.13B**
- **1,500 data points per person**

[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/17/technology/acxiom-the-quiet-giant-of-consumer-database-marketing.html?\\_r=3&ref=todayspaper](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/17/technology/acxiom-the-quiet-giant-of-consumer-database-marketing.html?_r=3&ref=todayspaper)

The Wall Street Journal

# Insurers Test Data Profiles to Identify Risky Clients

By Leslie Scism and Mark Maremont

NOVEMBER 19, 2010

**Life insurers are testing an intensely personal new use for the vast dossiers of data being amassed about Americans: predicting people's longevity.**

Data-gathering companies have such extensive files on most U.S. consumers—online shopping details, catalog purchases, magazine subscriptions, leisure activities and information from social-networking sites—that some insurers are exploring whether data can reveal nearly as much about a person as a lab analysis of their bodily fluids.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704648604575620750998072986.html>



# Can Marketing Data Predict Life Spans?

Deloitte Consulting uses a hypothetical 'Sarah' and 'Beth' to promote technology for life insurers that promises to help size up people's health risk using offline and online dossiers rather than blood tests.

## Some data collected

SARAH



SECOND CHILD BORN LAST YEAR  
HIGH INVESTMENT RISK TOLERANCE  
LIVED IN HOME - TWO YEARS  
OWNS HOME  
COMMUTING DISTANCE - ONE MILE  
**READS DESIGN AND TRAVEL MAGAZINES**  
URBAN SINGLE CLUSTER  
PREMIUM BANK CARD  
**GOOD FINANCIAL INDICATORS**  
**ACTIVE LIFESTYLE: RUN, BIKE, TENNIS, AEROBICS**  
**HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES**  
**LITTLE TO NO TELEVISION CONSUMPTION**

## Some risk-assessment factors

Good financial indicators

Strong ties to community/location

High activity indicators

Foreign traveler

Healthy food choices

Avid outdoor enthusiast

Avid golfer

Little television consumption

Occasional tobacco user

Average commute

Poor financial indicators

Purchases tied to obesity

High television consumption

Lack of exercise

Long commute

SARAH

Actively pursue for new business and retention efforts  
Quickly issue a preferred policy and avoid further medical tests

## Potential actions by insurers

BETH



CURRENT RESIDENCE - FOUR YEARS  
LIVED IN SAME HOMETOWN - 15 YEARS  
CURRENTLY RENTING  
**COMMUTING DISTANCE - 45 MILES**  
WORKS AS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
DIVORCED WITH NO CHILDREN  
**FORECLOSURE/BANKRUPTCY INDICATORS**  
AVID BOOK READER  
**FAST-FOOD PURCHASER**  
**PURCHASES DIET, WEIGHT LOSS EQUIPMENT**  
WALKS FOR HEALTH  
**HIGH TELEVISION CONSUMPTION**  
LOW REGIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

BETH

Do not send offers  
Do not pursue aggressive retention efforts  
Collect more information; send to senior staffer for review



# Behavioral Advertising



<http://www.aboutads.info/choices/>

113 companies participate in the **self-regulatory program**

Using the tools on this page, **you can opt out from receiving interest-based advertising** from some or all of our participating companies:

24/7 Media	Adara Media, Inc.	etc
33Across	Adblade Premium Ad Network	etc
Accuen Inc.	AdBrite, Inc.	
Acxiom	Adchemy, Inc.	
Adap.tv, Inc.	Adconion Media Group	

# myths about health privacy

- **HIPAA protects privacy**
- de-identified data is safe
- patients must give up  
privacy to benefit from HIT

# HIPAA regs eliminated consent and privacy

1996

Congress passed HIPAA, but did not pass a federal medical privacy statute, so the Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS) was required to develop regulations that specified patients' rights to health privacy. **Public Law 104-191**

*"... the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to [Congress]...**detailed recommendations on standards with respect to the privacy of individually identifiable health information.**"*

2001

President Bush implemented the HIPAA "Privacy Rule" which recognized the "right of consent". HHS wrote these regulations.  
**65 Fed. Reg. 82,462**

*"...a covered health care provider **must obtain the individual's consent**, in accordance with this section, prior to using or disclosing protected health information to carry out treatment, payment, or health care operations."*

2002

**HHS amended the HIPAA "Privacy Rule", eliminating the right of consent.**  
**67 Fed. Reg. 53,183**

*"The **consent provisions...are replaced** with a new provision...that provides regulatory permission for covered entities to use and disclose protected health information for treatment, payment, healthcare operations."*



Referred Doctors

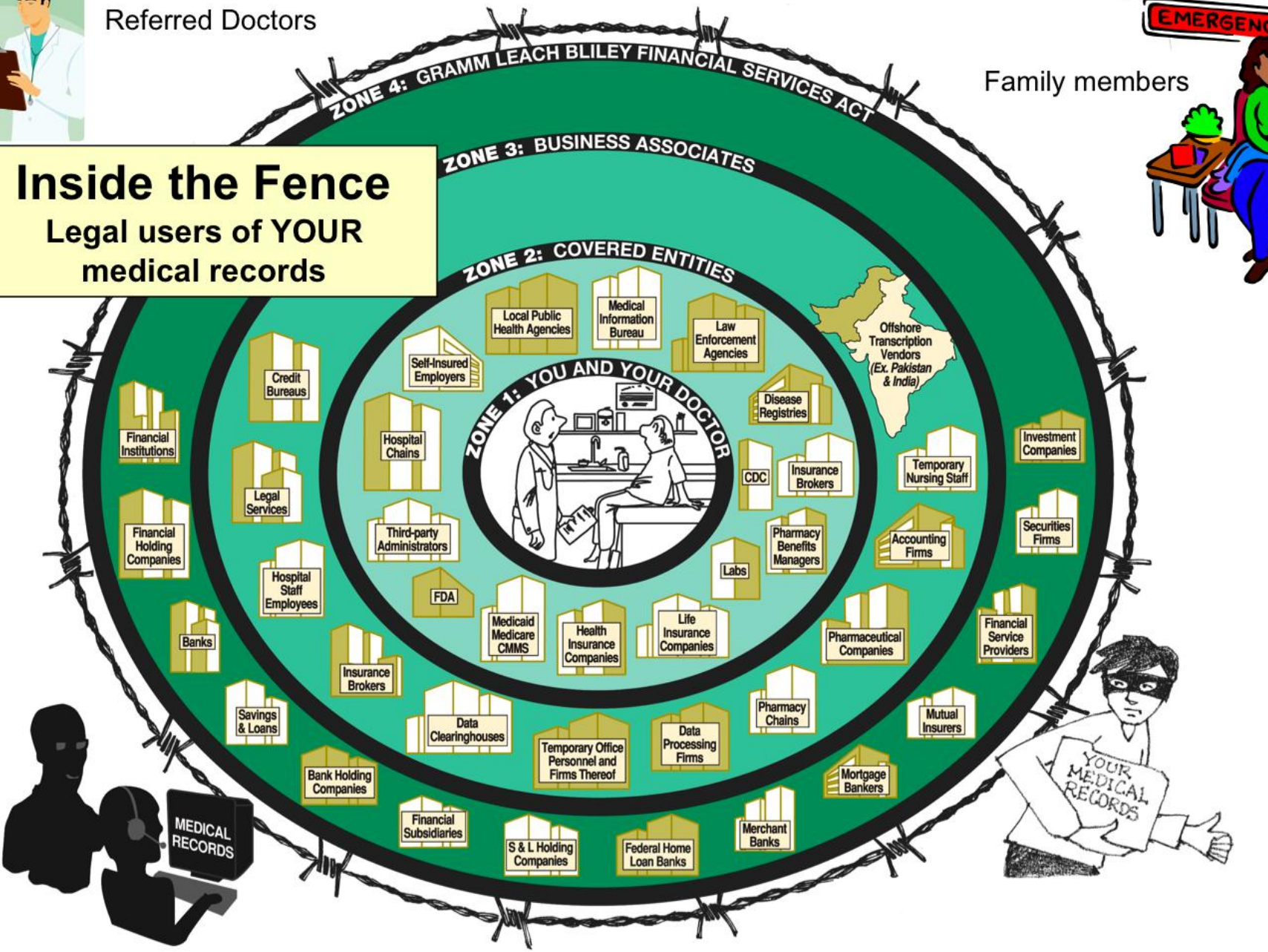
**EMERGENCY**

Family members



# Inside the Fence

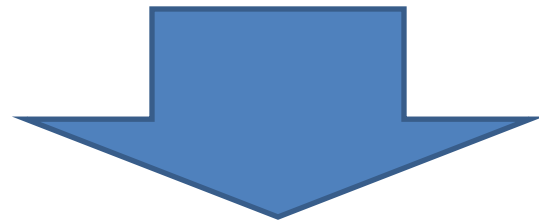
Legal users of YOUR medical records





HIPAA loopholes allow sale of data from EHRs, PHRs, claims data, lab data, prescriptions, health searches, state data, newborn bloodspots, etc, etc

big market for health data,  
gaps in law, no enforcement,  
theft and sale of health data,



health data mining industry





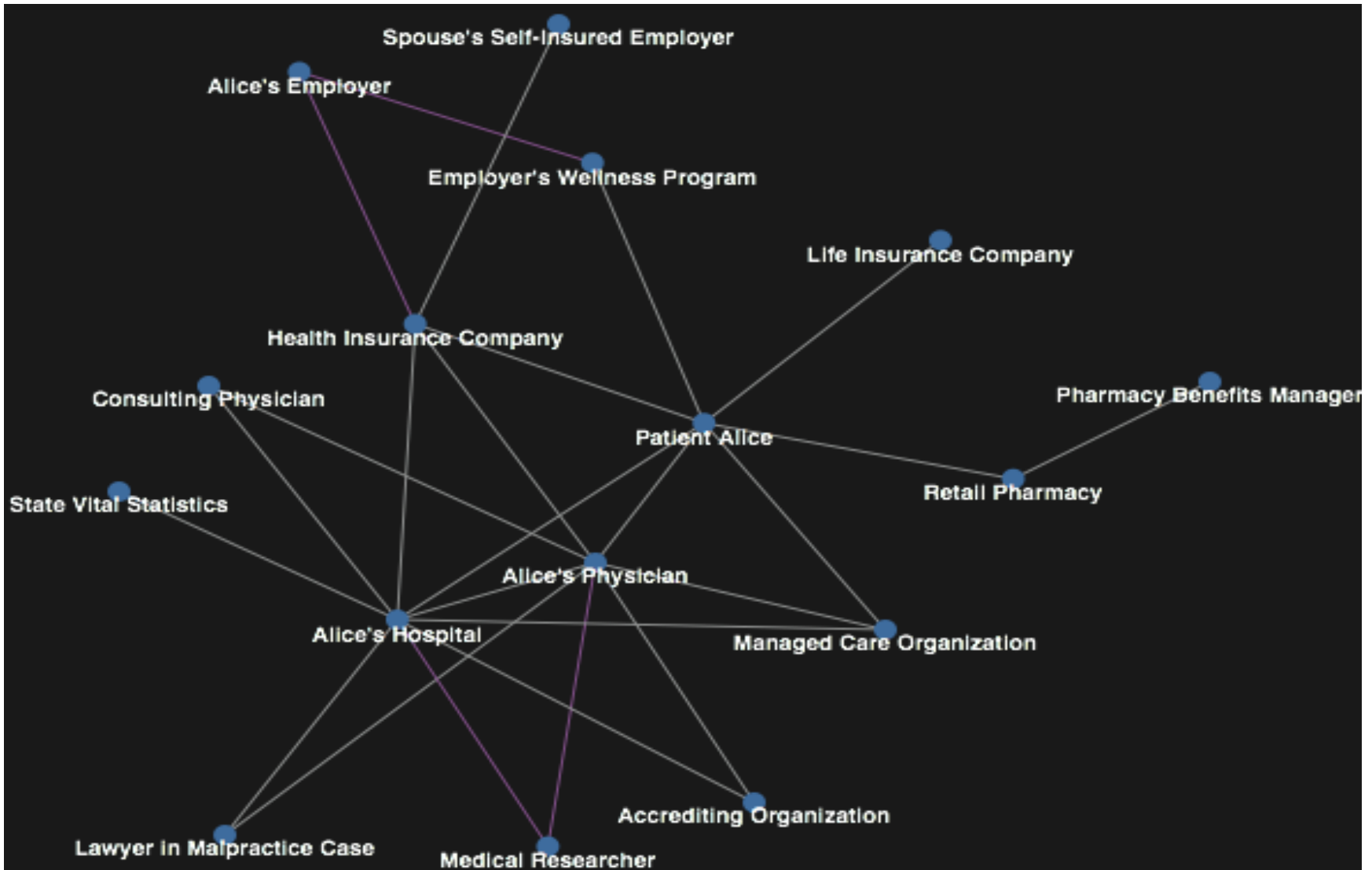
# Prof. Latanya Sweeney

**Secondary use of PHI by BAs is “unbounded, widespread, hidden, and difficult to trace.”**

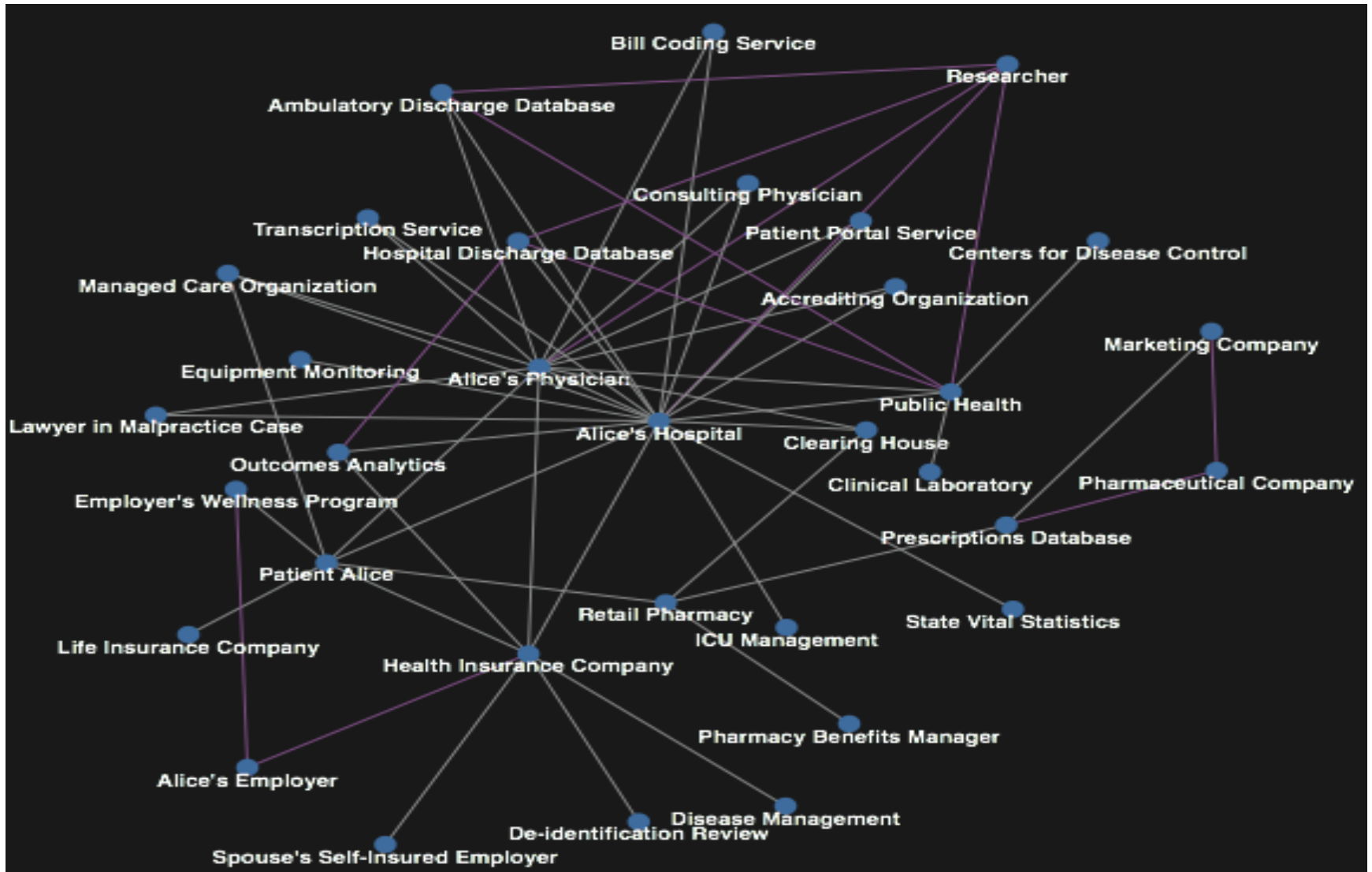
Implementing ‘meaningful use’ **EHRs will “increase data sharing, but adding the NHIN will massively increase data sharing.”**

**Proposed NwHIN models to link all Americans' health information online do not offer “utility or privacy”.**

<http://patientprivacyrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/Sweeney-CongressTestimony-4-22-10.pdf>



US Health data map 1997 <http://tiny.cc/thxtlw>



US Health data map 2010 <http://tiny.cc/thxtlw>



**HITECH:**

**\$27B & historic new  
consumer protections  
for health IT and data  
exchange**

BUT....government & HIT systems  
ignore privacy rights in:

- federal and state law
- common law
- tort law
- US Supreme Court decisions re:  
rights to health information privacy



# existing privacy rights NOT built into EHRs or data exchanges:

- authorization is required to disclose “psychotherapy notes”
- technology to disclose only “minimum necessary” data
- consent is required before sale of PHI
- data cannot be disclosed to insurer if patient pays
- right to segment sensitive data (mental health, DNA, STDs)

- consent is required to disclose addiction treatment records (42 CFR Part 2)
- consent is required to disclose PHI outside military health system (USC 7332, Title 38, Veteran's Benefits)
- audit trail of disclosures of PHI x 3 years
- encryption---industry compliance abysmal <20%
- consent technologies---2014 or later  
(first test 2012)

# the future

## patient-controlled health IT systems & data exchanges

Don Berwick: “Medical records would belong to patients. Clinicians, rather than patients, would need to have permission to gain access to them.”

# tech solutions

steps to patient-controlled health system:

- patient and physician portals
- strong ID: OAuth, OpenIDConnect, User Managed Access (UMA), UProve
- Direct Project--secure email exchange
- Blue Button---patients download electronic copies of data

# tech solutions

- RHEx–patient tokens allow physicians to view select data
- metadata tagging to provide privacy
- independent consent management systems (data holders electronically check patient's preferences)
- health data banks

# legal/policy solutions

- restore federal right of consent
- define 'privacy'
- trust framework based on FIPS
- 'chain of custody' for data
- 'veto' - only PHI for treatment
- 'privacy impact assessments'



# summary

- we are immersed in a surveillance economy
- we still have very strong rights to protect PHI
- we must move from organizational to personal control over PHI

If we LOSE the right to control PHI, will we ever gain control over any other personal information in the Digital Age?

**Will you help? PLEASE donate to build the DataMap:**

**[www.patientprivacyrights.org](http://www.patientprivacyrights.org)**

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Founder and Chair

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