Rights and Responsibilities in Search and Search Advertising

Benjamin Edelman Harvard Business School

Google Search Market Share

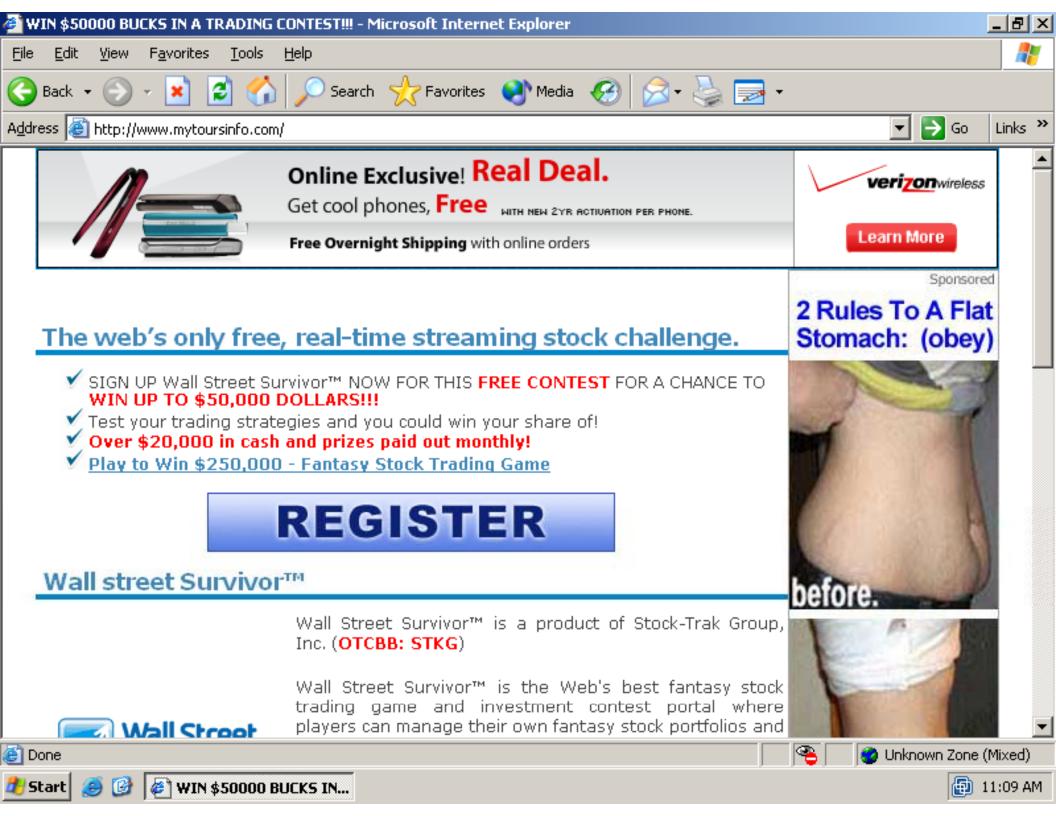


Agenda

- Advertisers' rights: avoiding overpaying
- Sites' rights: algorithmic search priority & bias

Avoiding overpaying

The historic problem

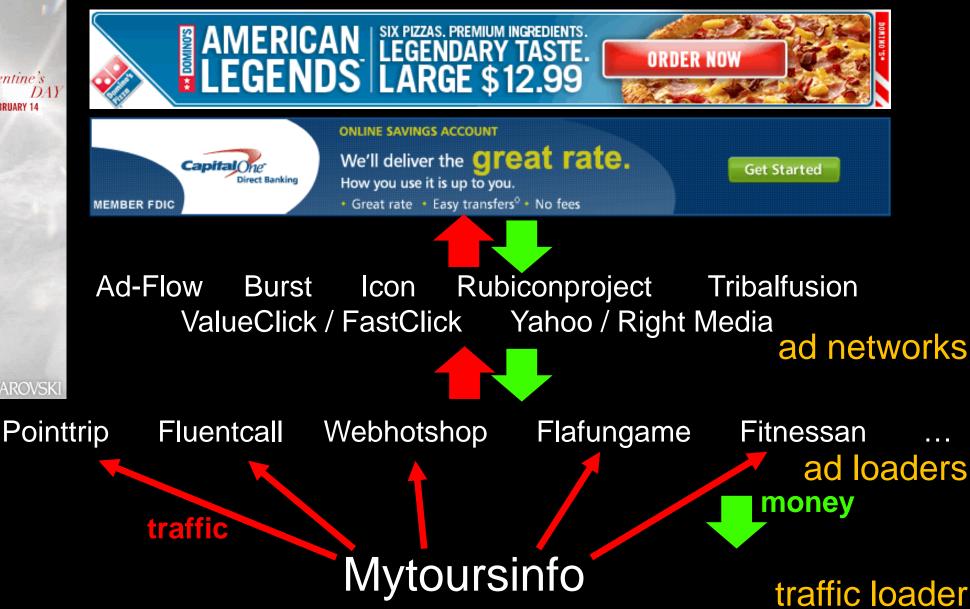


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GET / HTTP/1.1
Host: www.mytoursinfo.com
HTTP/1.1 200 OK ...
<html> ...
<script src="/js/counter.js" type="text/javascript"> ...
<script src="/js/stat.js" type="text/javascript"></script>
GET /js/stat.js HTTP/1.1 ...
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
document.write("<iframe width=0 height=0</pre>
   src='http://www.pointtrip.com/florida_tour.html'>");
document.write("<iframe width=0 height=0</pre>
   src='http://www.fluentcall.com/pda_phones.html'>");
document.write("<iframe width=0 height=0
   src='http://www.webhotshop.com/shopping.htm'>");
document.write("<iframe width=0 height=0</pre>
   src='http://www.freebiespack.com/freebies_insider.htm'...
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   src='http://www.onlinemoneytrading.net/forex_trading.h...
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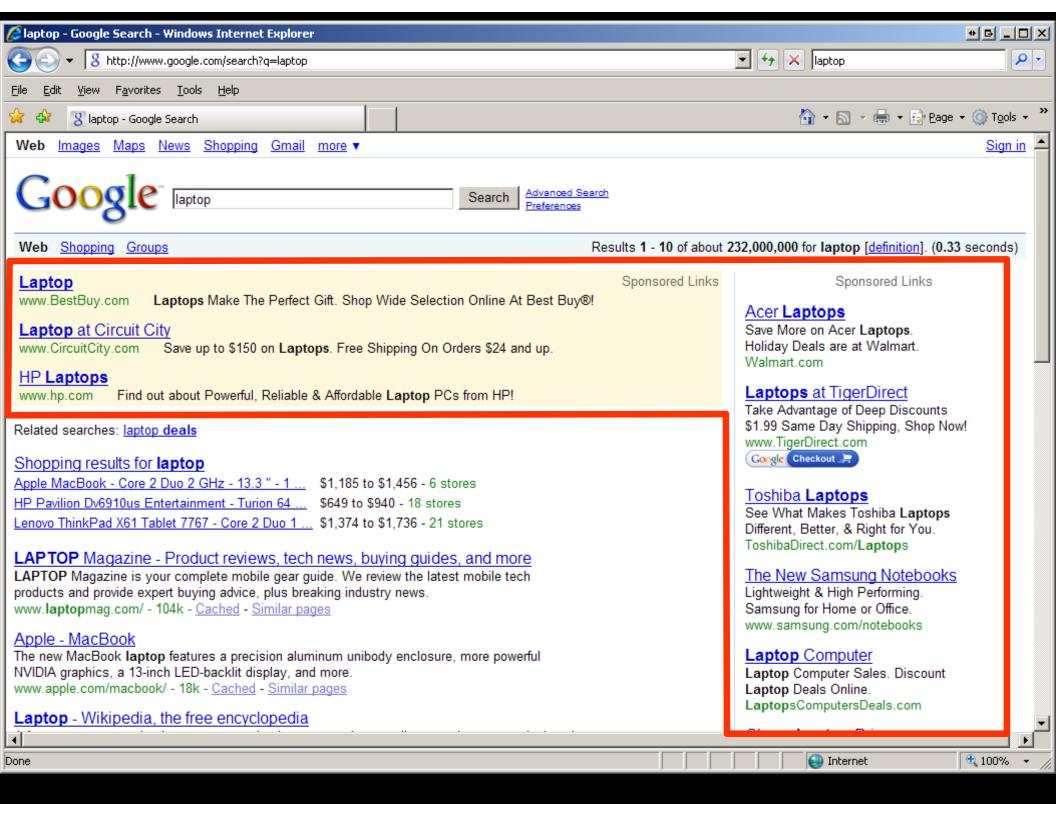
Relationships

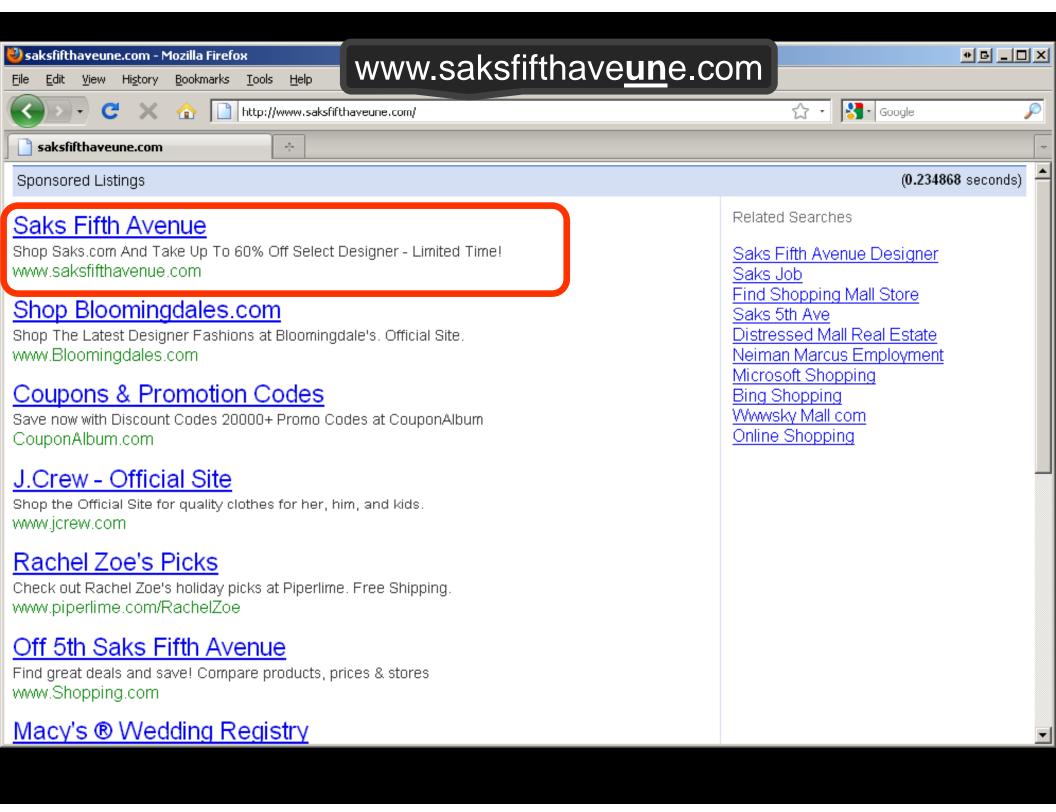
advertisers



Avoiding overpaying

- The historic problem
- Sponsored search to the rescue?







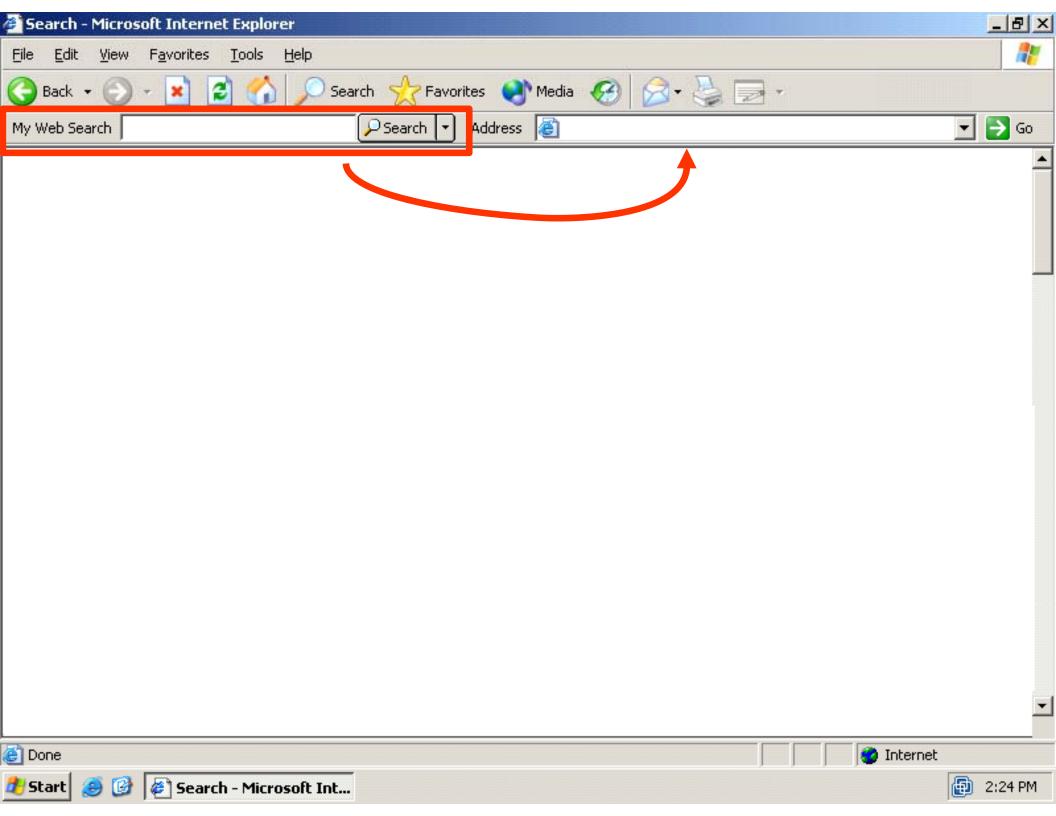
Toolbar Features:

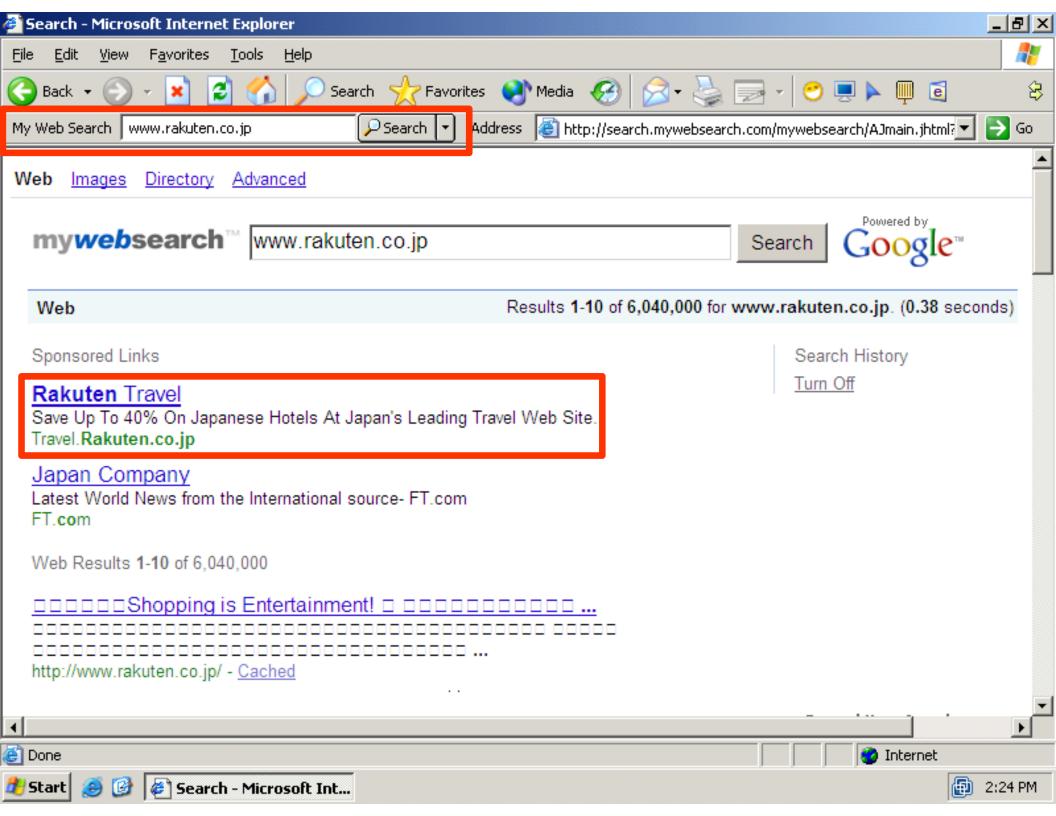
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Google AdWords Dispute Resolution(AU)

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Agenda

- Advertisers' rights: avoiding overpaying
- Sites' rights: algorithmic search priority & bias



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calendar n. Any of various systems of reckoning time in which the be divisions of a year are defined

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YUI 2: Calendar

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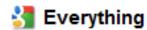
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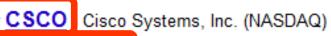
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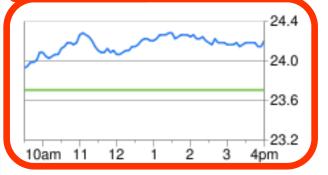
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-Marissa Mayer, 2007

Vice President of Search Products and User Experience, Google

The Proposed Transaction Between Google and Yahoo Japan

Google Search Market Share



Concerns

- Biased results & less diversity of views
- Reduction in innovation in web search



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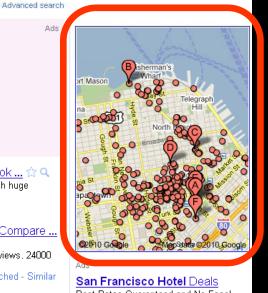
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Concerns

- Biased results & less diversity of views
- Reduction in innovation in web search
 - Will Google keep the latest features for itself? Then who will use Yahoo Japan? Then where does competition come from?
- Less competition in syndicated search



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- Biased results & less diversity of views
- Reduction in innovation in web search
 - Will Google keep the latest features for itself? Then who will use Yahoo Japan? Then where does competition come from?
- Less competition in syndicated search
 - Foreshadows higher fees to Google and lower payments to publishers
- Data sharing -> competition, privacy
 - G and YJ promise separation.



— Is "trust us" good enough? Google toolbar Google buzz





What to do?

- Talk to regulators & legislators.
 - LDP Internet Search Issue Research Caucus Interim Report
- Monitor your ad prices. Watch for increases.
- Monitor your algorithmic search positions.
 Watch for drops.
- Try to avoid depending on web search. Look for alternatives: display advertising, social networking, emails, affiliate marketing.

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