

The course of events as reported in the media

June 22, 2001 Elcomsoft releases the Advanced eBook Processor

The Russian software company Elcomsoft releases a program, called the Advanced eBook Processor (AEBPR), which can remove the encryption from eBooks for the Adobe Acrobat eBook Reader.

July 3, 2001 Elcomsoft stops selling the Advanced eBook Processor

After complaints by the American software company that produces the eBooks Reader, Adobe, Elcomsoft agrees to stop selling the Advanced eBook Processor, but it continues to distribute a free demonstration version.

July 16, 2001 Dmitry Sklyarov is arrested

The programmer Dmitry Sklyarov, an employee of Elcomsoft, is arrested by the FBI at the Def Con conference in Las Vegas, after Adobe handed over incriminating evidence to the Bureau.

July 19, 2001 Protest against the detention of Sklyarov picks up

Protests against the detention of Dmitry Sklyarov, and against Adobe, pick up on the Web.

July 23, 2001 Adobe pleads for the release of Sklyarov

In a joint statement with the Electronic Frontier Foundation, Adobe makes a plea for the release of Dmitry Sklyarov.

August 28, 2001 Sklyarov and Elcomsoft are indicted

After having been released on bail, Dmitry Sklyarov, as well as the company that employs him, Elcomsoft, are indicted on five counts of violating the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

September 26, 2001 Courthearings of Sklyarov are delayed.

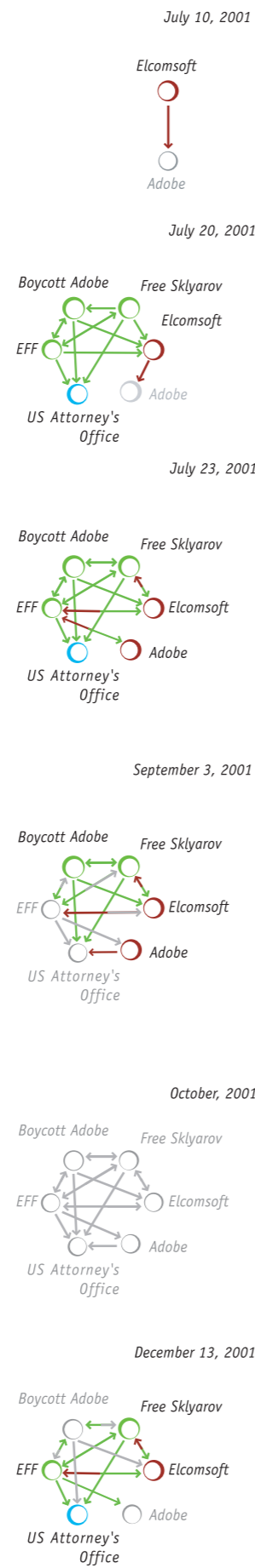
The courthearings of Dmitry Sklyarov and Elcomsoft are delayed until November 26.

November 23, 2001 Courthearings of Sklyarov are delayed.

The courthearings of Dmitry Sklyarov and Elcomsoft are delayed until March 2.

December 13, 2001 The US Court and the Sklyarov legal team reach an agreement

The US Attorney announces that the defense of Sklyarov and the judge of the district of Northern California have reached an agreement: the indictment of Dmitry Sklyarov will eventually be dismissed.



Shapshots of the core scandal-network

July 10, 2001 Before the birth of the scandal-network

On its Web site, Elcomsoft provides a detailed account of the actions Adobe has taken to force the company to remove the Advanced Ebook Processor from its site. Adobe's Web site is silent on the issue.

July 20, 2001 Birth of the scandal-network

Sites calling for the release of the programmer appear on-line, linking intensely among each other, as well as to the parties held responsible for the arrest, Adobe and the US attorney. The Adobe Web site still remains silent on the issue.

July 23, 2001 The scandal-network turns

Adobe and the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) publish a joint statement on their respective Web sites, calling for the release of the programmer. Soon after, Elcomsoft removes the incriminating material on Adobe from its Web site, as well as it's link to the company. A declaration of support for the Free Sklyarov movement takes its place.

September 3, 2001 The scandal-network turns again

Adobe again reverses its position, as it puts out a declaration of support for the indictment of Sklyarov and Elcomsoft, and linking to the Department of Justice. By this time, however, the EFF has stopped updating its on-line archive of the scandal. Neither do the other actors in the Sklyarov support network respond to Adobe's change of position.

October, 2001 The scandal-network is fading

It is difficult to ascertain just how long the Sklyarov support network continues to be active after Sklyarov and Elcomsoft have been indicted, and after Adobe declared its support for the indictment, but by the end of October all protagonists have stopped updating their sites.

December 13, 2001 The scandal-network comes full circle

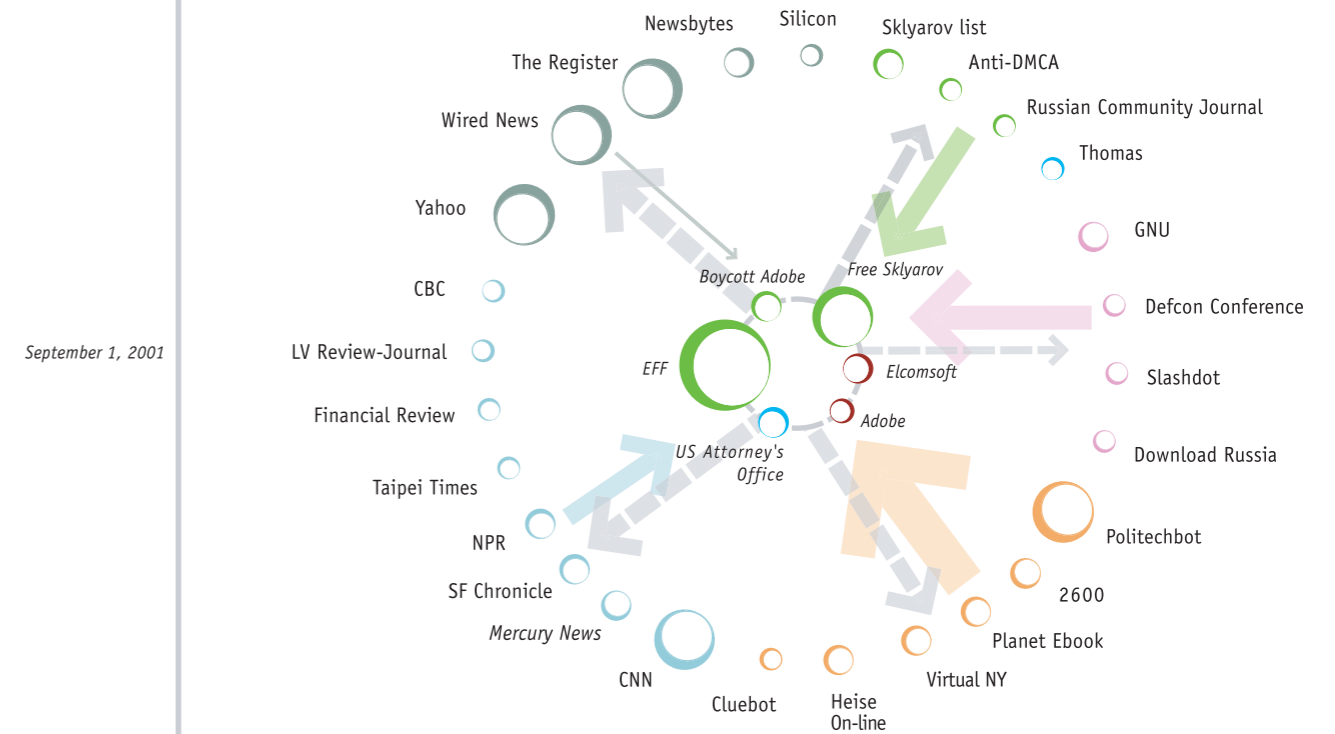
The Sklyarov scandal network is roused from its slumber, after it is announced that the indictment of Sklyarov will be dismissed. Except for Adobe and its critic, boycottadobe.com, all the actors in the core network comment on the good news. The scandal-network has come back to life, for one last time.

The case of Sklyarov versus Adobe on the Web:  
A small exercise in reading the network configuration of scandal.



Variations on the Adobe logo that circulated in the scandal-network.

Snapshot of the extended scandal-network



The extended scandal network: interlinkings between the core network and the scandal support network.

The extended scandal network is made up of the protagonists in the affair (the core scandal-network) and the relevant actors that reported and supported the scandal on the Web (the scandal support network). It was located with the aid of the IssueCrawler.\* This map shows the interlinkings between the core network and the scandal support network. The sizes of the arrows indicate the number of links going from an actor group to the core network, and vice versa. The sizes of the actors indicate relevance; in terms of the number of links each actor in the extended network receives from the even broader scandal network on the Web. The actors of the core network were found by the IssueCrawler to be the most relevant actors of their respective groups.

Legend

Actors in the core scandal-network

- Adobe
- Elcomsoft
- Electronic Frontier Foundation
- Free Sklyarov Campaign Site
- Boycott Adobe
- US Attorney's Office

Actor groups in the extended scandal-network

- Software companies
- Sklyarov campaign sites
- Legal institutions
- Geek community sites
- On-line technology news services
- (Webbified) mass media
- (Massified) new media on the Web

\* The IssueCrawler is a piece of software that locates networks on the web through co-link analysis, i.e., who's linked to whom. For a site to be part of the extended scandal network, it must be sufficiently linked by sites in the even broader scandal network on the Web. The IssueCrawler was developed by govcom.org and OneWorld International.