



(U//FOUO) Letter to the Editor: More Comments on Social Network Analysis

FROM: the editor
Unknown
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(U//FOUO) More thoughts on SNA, prompted by the articles ["Using an Intelligence Analysis Technique -- On Ourselves"](#) and ["The Leadership Center's Work With the 'Network of Networks' and SNA"](#):

(U) Social networking is truly the wave of the future. A lot of you may not know this, but college students (of which I finally ceased to be in May 2005) have been voluntarily assembling their own social networks online!

(S//SI) A service known as The Facebook (found at www.facebook.com) allows students to sign up and list all those who are their friends at their university and others across the US. The system requires the friend to confirm that they are, in fact, friends in order to keep the system honest. Additionally, the student may optionally enter in all of their classes and see who they are linked to via the classroom. Finally, through the link "visualize my social network" they can see a diagram similar to the ones we use to map terrorist networks.

(U//FOUO) I'm very excited about the possibility of extending the Agency's social network past the pilot group. It would be exciting to see if it follows a power law, as these networks often do, and whether the six degrees of separation holds up.

-- Eric Mesa

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