...Once upon a time (around the years 1765-1800) in the Kingdoms of Saxony and Prussia
PHILADELPHIA — Tatyana Gray bolted from her house toward her elementary school. But when she reached the corner store where she usually gets her morning snack of chips or a hot dog, she encountered a protective phalanx of police with high-visibility safety vests and walkie-talkies.

The parents were combing, and neither the drugs nor the violence that plagues this North Philadelphia neighborhood. It was bad eating habits.

“Candy!” said one of the parents, McKinley Harris, peering into a small bag one child carried out of the store. “That’s not food.”

The parents standing guard outside the Oxford Food Shop are foot soldiers in a national battle over the diets of children that has taken on new fervor. With 20 percent of the nation’s children obese, the United States Department of Agriculture standards for federally funded school lunches have focused on more balanced meals. The current calorie count, which includes sugars, as part of her announcement that Wal-mart is moving away from its packaged foods, she said, “We’re beginning to see the ripple effects on the choices folks are making about how they feed their kids.”

But this effort is up against an array of powerful forces, from economics to biology, all of which are playing out in Philadelphia, where the obesity rate is among the nation’s highest.
A MATTER OF RESOLUTION
BIG DATA NETWORKS UBIQUITOUS TECHNOLOGY
atlas.media.mit.edu
+22 million Visualizations
+80k visitors since 10/27/11 launch
Hidalgo et al. Science 2007

Bustos et al. (Under Submission) 2012
Hausmann & Hidalgo JOEG (2011)

Predictability:
Area Under the ROC curve

cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport (hs4 = 8703)

rawing, marking-out or mathematical calculating instruments, for example (hs4 = 9017)
Which place looks more modern?
Create a Study

Study Information

Study Name: [e.g. Book Tourist Study]

Question to Ask Users: Which place looks more unique?

Open to the public? Yes/No

If "No" is selected, you will have to provide your own study participants by sending them a link.

Continue Clear
How do We Go From There to:
The K1L0B1T DEM0CRACY
THE MEGAB1T DEM0CRACY
THE G1GAB1T DEM0CRACY
Mr/Mrs Citizen: Please help us distribute the budget!

Mouse over a budget category to see more info about it here, including the budget functions that it covers, if applicable. Details about the spending for each budget function have been taken verbatim from here.

So...

How should the US budget be spent? Participate by resizing the federal pie using the sliders. Since the budget is constrained, you will need to reduce a slice before you can increase another one.

When you’re done, submit your pie, so we can consolidate them into something meaningful for other citizens and for the 2012 presidential candidates!
So...

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Mr/Mrs Citizen: Please help us distribute the budget!

Mmm...that looks delicious! We'll just need some info, if that's ok.

State: Massachusetts
Gender: Male
Age: 25 to 34

Comment (optional): More Education. Media Lab Style!!!

I'm all done, bake my pie!

Remember to tell your friends.
31 delicious pies baked so far!
BIG DATA + NETWORKS + UBIQUITOUS TECHNOLOGY
+ RESOLUTION, PREDICTION & PARTICIPATION
X@1LEUS

A. Simoes: For creating interactive tools for big data exploration

P. Salesses: For creating high resolution evaluative maps of cities

S. Ronen: For quantitatively studying culture

A. Almossawi: For exploring the design of tools for collective participation

D. Stock: For exploring the predictability of economic structures.