

Identity theft: Much too easy?



A study of online systems in Norway

André N. Klingsheim and Kjell J. Hole

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The NoWires Research Group
Department of Informatics
University of Bergen

Outline

- The Norwegian birth number (“fødselsnummer”)
- Examples of personal information leakage
- The current situation
- Summary

The birth number (“fødselsnummer”)

- *Norwegian Birth Numbers* (**NBNs**)
 - unique identification of Norwegian citizens
 - easy to generate on a computer
- *The Norwegian National Identity Register*
 - contains all Norwegian citizens’ NBNs, addresses, and family relations
 - gives many parties access to this information

Personal information leakage

- Some Internet services leak personal information
- Is a particular NBN in use?
- Name and address
- Other information
 - primary physician
 - medical personnel's prescription rights
 - direct marketing opt-out

Mobile operator's website

Bestilling av -abonnement: Steg 2 av 4 - Fyll inn personalia

Valgt mobilnummer: 99999998

Personnr(11 siffer) / orgnr(9 siffer): *

Merk: Juridisk eier av abonnementet må være fylt 18 år! Under 18 år? [Klikk her.](#)

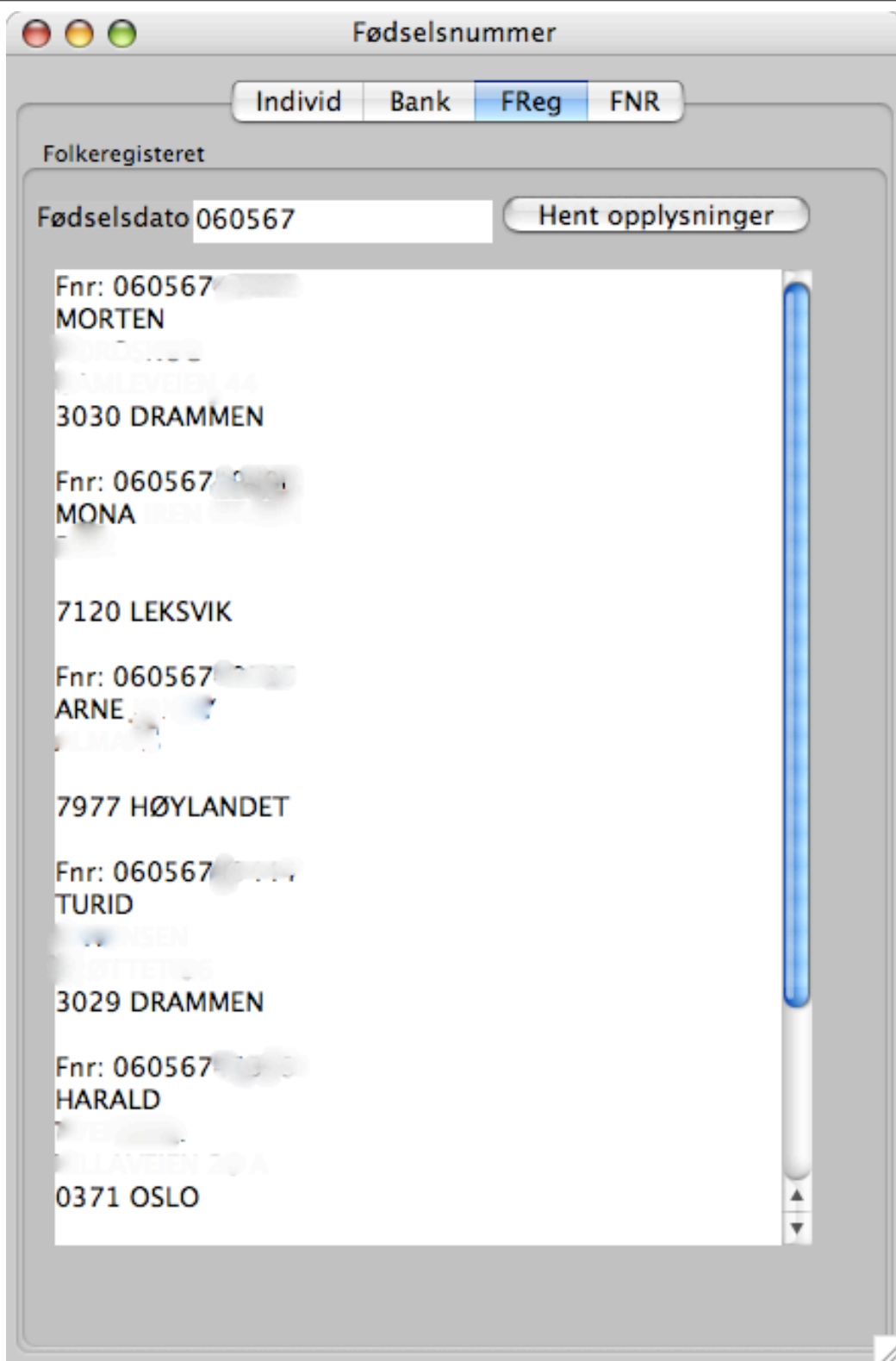
Firma navn:

Fornavn:

Etternavn:

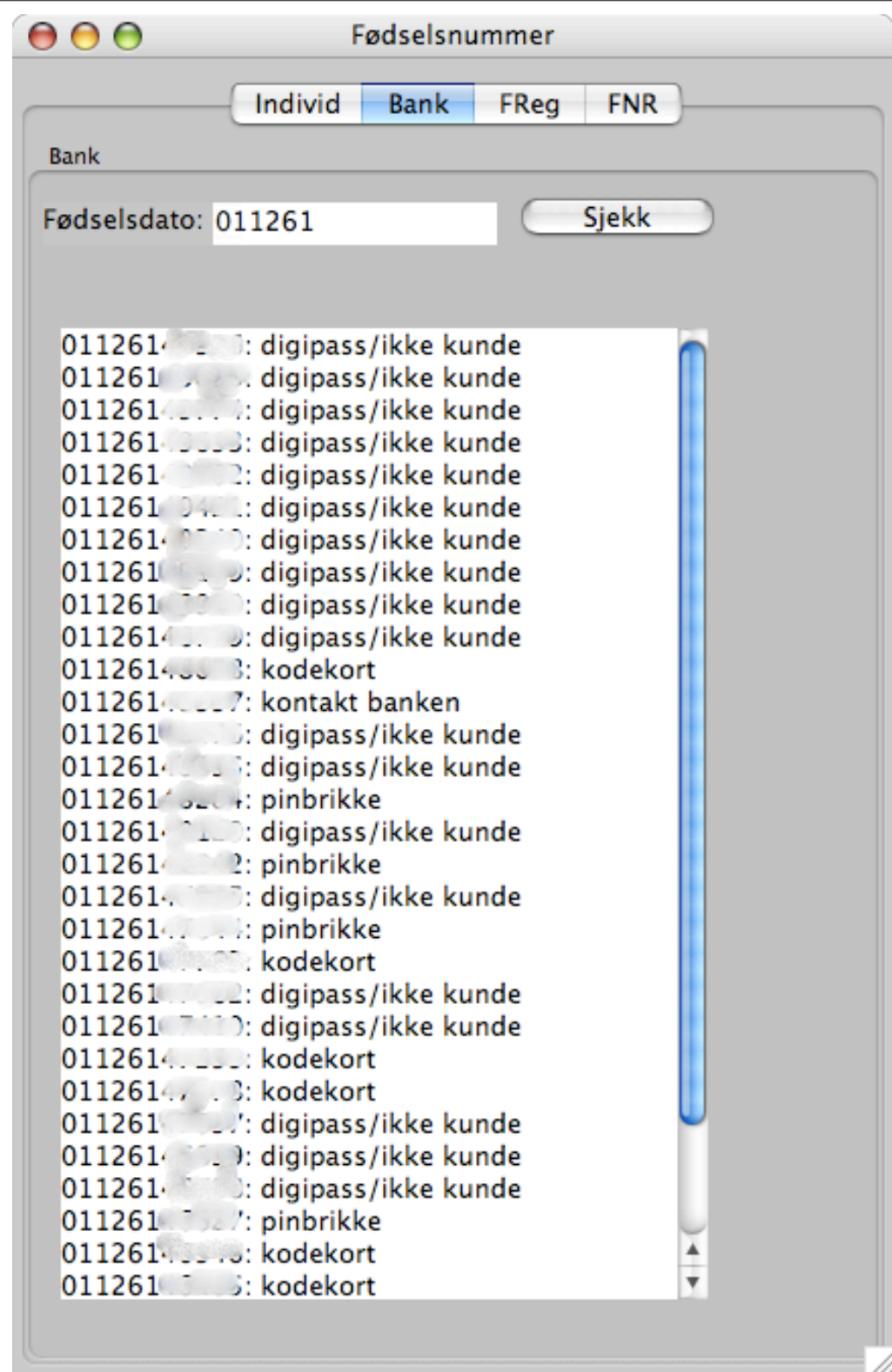
Gate adresse:

Postnr / sted:



NBNtool, a mobile operator

Some personal information
has been removed from this
slide



**NBNtool,
a bank**

Developments until Jan, '08

- Mobile operators improved their systems after news coverage. Now they leak less. Still, **the 140 000 identities already leaked can be used to order phone subscriptions.**
- Norway Post shut down their online mail rerouting service after NBNtool was demonstrated on national TV. **An improved system was up and running October 1st 2007.**
- The online bank **still leaks parts of its customer list.**

Developments, cont.

- Oct., '07: The '06 tax information (income, assets, taxes paid) for Norwegians was published on the Internet for three weeks
- The information is still available and searchable on many online newspapers
- Data can be collected automatically—and easily combined with the previously leaked identities
- Valuable information for professional ID-thieves

Summary

- Norwegians' personal information was—and still is—available on the Internet
- Citizens are still subject to a notable risk of identity theft
- More work is needed by the government, private companies, and researchers to mitigate this risk



www.nowires.org/IDtheft