

# Twittering lawyers



David T.S. Fraser

American Bar Association – Vancouver

16 April 2009

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# Twitter

- What is it?
- What is it good for?
- Why would a lawyer be interested?
- How do you do it?

# Twitter – What is it?

- A free service for “microblogging”.
- You can send 140 character “tweets” that are visible by anyone.
- You can follow (automatically receive) others’ tweets and you can have followers who get yours automatically.

# Twitter – What is it good for?

- Meant for sending short status messages:
  - *joeblow* is drinking coffee.
  - *joeblow* is going to the gym.
  - *joeblow* is deeply concerned about this personal privacy.
  - *joeblow* is tired.
  - *joeblow* is sitting in starbucks, drinking coffee.
  - *joeblow* wonders why you'd care about this.

# Twitter and trials

The New York Times

JULY 17

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March 18, 2009

## As Jurors Turn to Web, Mistrials Are Popping Up

By [JOHN SCHWARTZ](#)

Last week, a juror in a big federal drug trial in Florida admitted to the judge that he had been doing research on the case on the Internet, directly violating the judge's instructions and centuries of legal rules. But when the judge questioned the rest of the jury, he got an even bigger shock.

Eight other jurors had been doing the same thing. The federal judge, William J. Zloch, had no choice but to declare a mistrial, a waste of eight weeks of work by federal prosecutors and defense lawyers.

"We were stunned," said a defense lawyer, Peter Raben, who was told by the jury that he had been on the verge of winning the case. "It's the first time modern technology struck us in that fashion, and it hit us right over the head."

It might be called a [Google](#) mistrial. The use of BlackBerrys and iPhones by jurors gathering and sending out information about cases is

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# Twitter and legal education

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## Top 100 Twitter Feeds for Law Students

 → April 1st, 2009 Posted by Site Administrator

By Alisa Johnson

Twitter is a growing phenomenon among everyone from stay-at-home moms to the US President. Lawyers and other law professionals haven't missed out on this trend either, and you can find numerous Twitter feeds that are full of insights into the work of these working professionals in all areas of the field. Here are 100 Twitter feeds we've pulled together from law librarians, lawyers, students and much more to keep you in the loop.

### Law Students

These Tweepers are in the same boat as you, sharing their experiences in law school as well as advice and guidance on law issues and much more.

1. [Rex7](#): This third year law student is approaching graduation and a potential career in litigation and provides loads of valuable links and information.

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# Twitter and employment law

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## FC Expert Blog



### Are Employees Twittering Away Productivity?

BY FC EXPERT BLOGGER MARCIA CONNER Wed Nov 5, 2008 at 3:57 PM

*This blog is written by a member of our expert blogging community and expresses that expert's views alone.*

*Answers to executives' tough questions about microsharing in the enterprise.*

As the enterprise [microsharing market grows all in](#), I hear from skeptical leaders befuddled by this trend, wanting to be reassured their people aren't simply wasting time. Here are specific questions I've received and how I respond to each.

**Question:** How can all of this yammering be good for business and my bottom line?

**Answer:** In tough economical times, business managers seem to become critical of every activity even those generating the energy required for success. Break down the hype you have about what fosters your competitive advantage and you may come to realize your

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# All the cool kids are doing it



A screenshot of Barack Obama's Twitter profile page. A large red thought bubble with a black outline is centered over the profile, containing the text "Or used to ...". The profile header includes navigation links: Home, Profile, Find People, Settings, Help, Sign out. The profile information section shows: Name Barack Obama, Location Chicago, IL, Web http://www.barack..., 720,158 following, and 849,957 followers. The updates section shows 265 updates. The favorites section is empty. The actions section shows a link to block BarackObama. The following section shows a grid of 16 user avatars. The tweet section shows three tweets: a question about asking for help, a tweet about volunteering for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and a tweet about participating in the Inauguration.

Home Profile Find People Settings Help Sign out

**Name** Barack Obama  
**Location** Chicago, IL  
**Web** <http://www.barack...>

720,158 following 849,957 followers

Updates 265

Favorites

Actions  
[block BarackObama](#)

Following

Question & Answer: Ask  
President Obama:  
<http://whitehouse.gov/OpenF...>  
3:04 PM Mar 25th from web

is asking you to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr by volunteering in your area. Visit <http://USAservice.org> or text SERVE to 56333 for info.  
7:01 PM Jan 19th from web

To participate in the Inauguration visit <http://pic2009.org> or text HISTORY to 56333. Follow the Inauguration on Twitter @obamainaugural  
11:52 PM Jan 15th from web

We just made history. All of this happened because you gave your



# Legislators are doing it

## Congress joins Twitter craze

By Diana Marrero / Milwaukee Journal Sentinel | Monday, April 13, 2009 | <http://www.bostonherald.com> | Technology Coverage

WASHINGTON - This is what you get when politicians keep their comments to 140 characters or less:

"We need to cut spending! Holy Cow! A novel idea in Washington."

"Have u noticed your take-home pay has gone up? Stimulus at work."

"Some think I'm on vacation. I voted against recessing for 2 weeks."

These short missives are possible thanks to Twitter, an increasingly popular social networking site that is taking Congress by storm. As of last count, 121 members of Congress are "tweeting." It's the new media answer to long floor speeches, and anyone who's anyone on Capitol Hill seems to be doing it.

Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., is an avid "twitterer," posting 48 comments in his first two months on the site. He has around 2,000 followers, or people who have signed up to receive his tweets.

But don't worry, you still can get access to Ryan's more verbose remarks if 140 characters fail to satisfy. Ryan, who twittered about the novelty of fiscal restraint in Washington, also attached a link to a recent speech on the House floor, where he amplified his thoughts on runaway federal spending.

Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., is twittering as part of his re-election efforts, sending supporters notes on everything from current events to his favorite music. He has posted only 17 tweets since January but already has almost 3,000 followers.

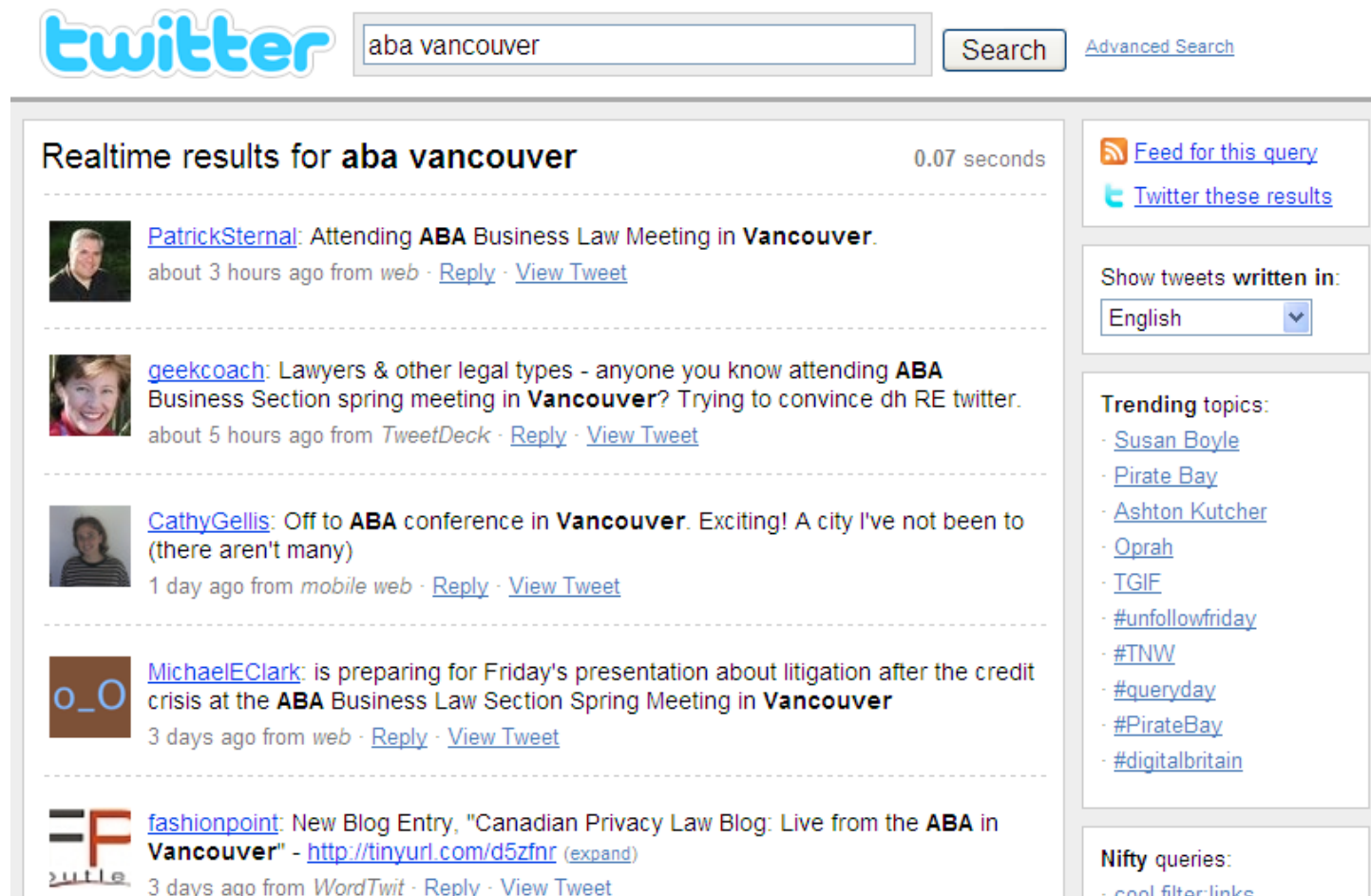
Lawmakers who use the micro-messaging service say it's just one more way to stay in touch with constituents.

"I'm not one of these people who need to say I've had a banana this morning, or I'm walking to the Capitol," Ryan said. "It's a way of communicating ideas and day-to-day messages to people."

# Legislators are doing it




# The person next to you may be doing it





The screenshot shows the Twitter search interface. At the top is the Twitter logo, a search bar containing 'aba vancouver', and buttons for 'Search' and 'Advanced Search'. Below the search bar, the results are titled 'Realtime results for aba vancouver' with a '0.07 seconds' timer. The main feed displays five tweets, each with a user profile picture, name, text, and timestamp. The tweets are from PatrickSternal, geekcoach, CathyGellis, MichaelEClark, and fashionpoint, all mentioning the ABA Business Law Meeting in Vancouver. To the right of the main feed are two sidebars. The top sidebar has links for 'Feed for this query' and 'Twitter these results', and a dropdown menu for 'Show tweets written in: English'. The bottom sidebar lists 'Trending topics' including Susan Boyle, Pirate Bay, Ashton Kutcher, Oprah, TGIF, #unfollowfriday, #TNW, #queryday, #PirateBay, and #digitalbritain. Below that is a 'Nifty queries:' section with a link to 'cool filter links'.


twitter aba vancouver Search Advanced Search


Realtime results for **aba vancouver** 0.07 seconds

 **PatrickSternal**: Attending **ABA** Business Law Meeting in **Vancouver**.  
about 3 hours ago from web · [Reply](#) · [View Tweet](#)

 **geekcoach**: Lawyers & other legal types - anyone you know attending **ABA** Business Section spring meeting in **Vancouver**? Trying to convince dh RE twitter.  
about 5 hours ago from TweetDeck · [Reply](#) · [View Tweet](#)

 **CathyGellis**: Off to **ABA** conference in **Vancouver**. Exciting! A city I've not been to (there aren't many)  
1 day ago from mobile web · [Reply](#) · [View Tweet](#)

 **MichaelEClark**: is preparing for Friday's presentation about litigation after the credit crisis at the **ABA** Business Law Section Spring Meeting in **Vancouver**  
3 days ago from web · [Reply](#) · [View Tweet](#)

 **fashionpoint**: New Blog Entry, "Canadian Privacy Law Blog: Live from the **ABA** in **Vancouver**" - <http://tinyurl.com/d5zfmr> (expand)  
3 days ago from WordTwit · [Reply](#) · [View Tweet](#)

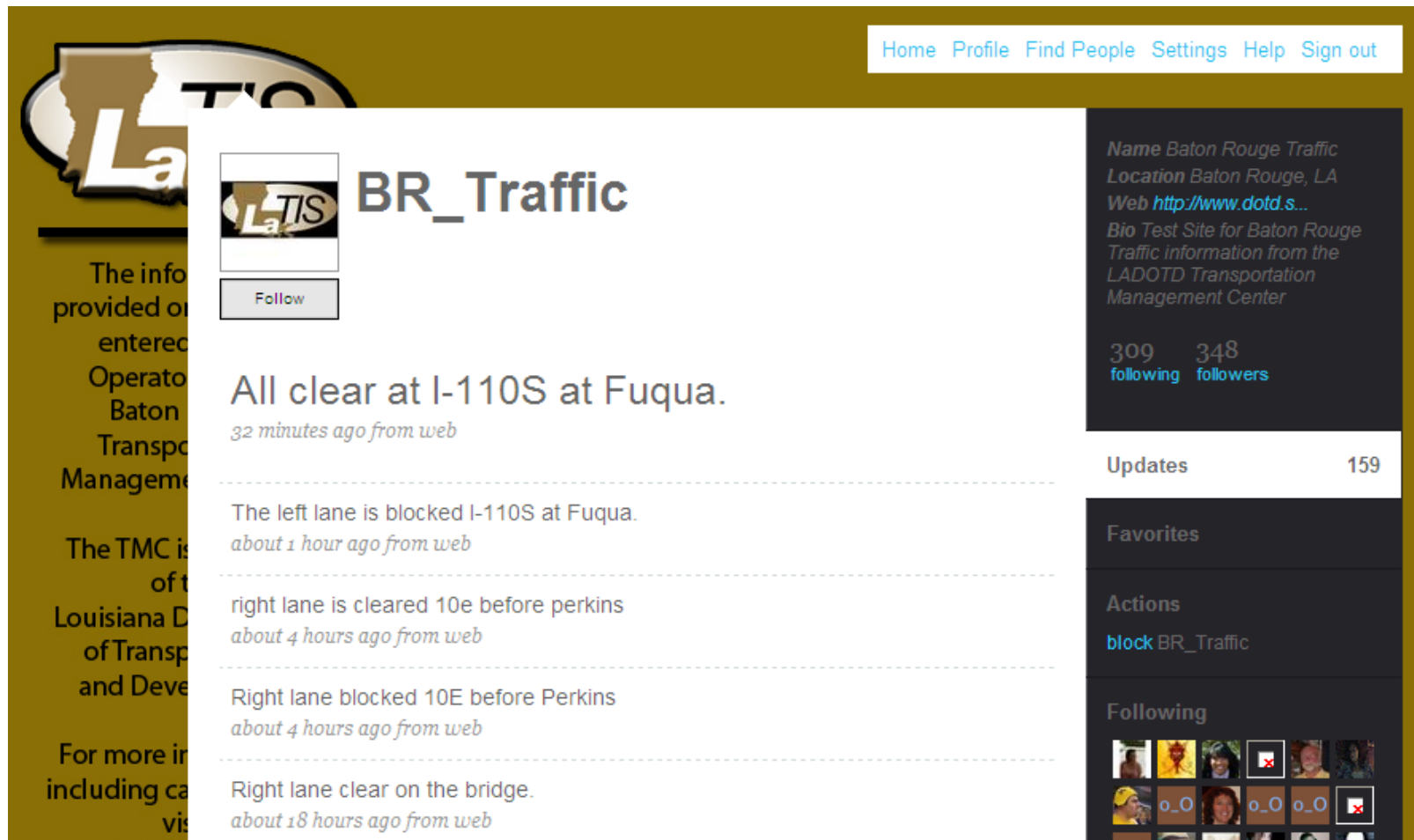
Feed for this query  
Twitter these results

Show tweets written in:  
English

Trending topics:  
· [Susan Boyle](#)  
· [Pirate Bay](#)  
· [Ashton Kutcher](#)  
· [Oprah](#)  
· [TGIF](#)  
· [#unfollowfriday](#)  
· [#TNW](#)  
· [#queryday](#)  
· [#PirateBay](#)  
· [#digitalbritain](#)

Nifty queries:  
· [cool filter links](#)

# Twitter: is there anything you can't do?



Home Profile Find People Settings Help Sign out

**BR\_Traffic**

Follow

*Name* Baton Rouge Traffic  
*Location* Baton Rouge, LA  
*Web* <http://www.dotd.s...>  
*Bio* Test Site for Baton Rouge Traffic information from the LADOTD Transportation Management Center

309 following 348 followers

Updates 159

Favorites

Actions  
[block BR\\_Traffic](#)

Following

All clear at I-110S at Fuqua.  
*32 minutes ago from web*

The left lane is blocked I-110S at Fuqua.  
*about 1 hour ago from web*

right lane is cleared 10e before perkins  
*about 4 hours ago from web*

Right lane blocked 10E before Perkins  
*about 4 hours ago from web*

Right lane clear on the bridge.  
*about 18 hours ago from web*

# Twitter: Is there anything you can't do?



Home Profile Find People Settings Help Sign out

**ACTION NEWS SF**

Follow

**ActionNewsSF**

*Name SF Breaking News*  
*Location San Francisco, CA*  
*Bio Breaking News, Traffic, Transit and Weather alerts for the San Francisco Bay Area/All the news that's fit to Tweet*

96 following 308 followers

Updates 765

Favorites

Actions  
[block](#) ActionNewsSF

Following

residents in Yountville report seeing a Large plume of smoke coming from this mornings fire on Mt Veeder Rd.  
*about 3 hours ago from txt*


Half Moon Bay Fire Dept. Responding to a gas main break near the Half Moon Bay Airport near Columbia & Princeton.  
*about 3 hours ago from txt*

MUNI service restored to the 22.  
*about 6 hours ago from txt*


Please disregard last Tweet. The 22 is affected but the other



# Twitter: Is there anything you can't do?



[Home](#) [Profile](#) [Find People](#) [Settings](#) [Help](#) [Sign out](#)

**franklinpolice**  
[Follow](#)

**April 16 log posted;**  
<http://tinyurl.com/c5ohxj>  
*about 8 hours ago from web*

---

**April 15 log posted;** <http://tinyurl.com/cm5e2u>  
*9:22 AM Apr 16th from web*

---

**April 14 log posted;** <http://tinyurl.com/dfnma2>  
*10:59 AM Apr 15th from web*

---

**RT140 RT 495N traffic returning to normal.**  
*9:12 AM Apr 14th from web*

---

**April 13 log posted;** <http://tinyurl.com/cgeu2r>


**Name** Franklin Police  
**Location** Franklin, MA  
**Web** <http://www.franklin...>  
**Bio** Franklin Police Department, Franklin, Massachusetts

0 following 546 followers

**Updates** 142

**Favorites**

**Actions**  
[block franklinpolice](#)

 [RSS feed of franklinpolice's updates](#)

# Twitter – Why would a lawyer be interested?

- Twitter is an interesting way of following people with common interests.
  - Follow other lawyers or experts in your practice area
  - Follow your clients or prospects – engage in dialogue
- Can keep up with news and developments in your area.
- Can use it to develop an online network of people with an interest in your area.

# Why would a lawyer use it?

- Use it to publicize your blog or firm articles.

Canadian Privacy Law Blog: New technology watches the watchers to tell them what they should have watched  
<http://bit.ly/4sCra7> #privacy  
12:24 PM Apr 14th from bit.ly

## Canadian Privacy Law Blog

The Canadian Privacy Law Blog: Developments in privacy law and writings of a Canadian privacy lawyer, containing information related to the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (aka PIPEDA) and other Canadian and international laws.

[Privacy Law Blog](#) [Privacy Resources](#) [Privacy Articles](#) [Privacy Calendar](#) [Contact Info/Profile](#) [Useful Links](#) [Travel Resources](#)

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

### New technology watches the watchers to tell them what they should have watched

Or, a new technology that supervises the people who are paid to stare at screens, tracking their eyes to let them know what parts of the screens they've been missing. See: [Eyeball spy turns the tables on Big Brother - tech - 14 April 2009 - New Scientist](#) via [Boing Boing](#), which doesn't miss a thing and never needs a newfangled gadget tell it that.

**Securing Sensitive Data**  
Vulnerable Data? Do You Know Where? Data Discovery and Masking Software  
[www.dataguise.com](http://www.dataguise.com)

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4/14/2009 12:22:00 PM :: (0 comments) :: [Backlinks](#)

Monday, April 13, 2009

### Live from the ABA in Vancouver

If you're going to be in Vancouver for the American Bar Association's Business law meeting later this week, drop by my sessions on Thursday from 1:30 - 3:00 to talk about lawyers and social networking and on Saturday from 8:30 - 9:30 for lawyers on twitter. Here's the full schedule: [Business Law: Section of Business Law](#)

**Collection Law Info**  
Find Info On Collection Law Access 10  
Search Engines At Once

**Garbage Disposal**  
Find Garbage Disposal. Compare the top  
industrial sites.

Ads by Google

4/13/2009 06:00:00 PM :: (0 comments) :: [Backlinks](#)

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Go!

#### Recent Posts

- [New technology watches the watchers to tell them w...](#)
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- [Hasn't start fired for weeks at Nadya Suleman's ...](#)

#### About this page and the author

The author of this blog, David T.S. Fraser, is a Canadian privacy lawyer who practices with the firm of [McInnes Cooper](#). He is the author of the



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# Why would a lawyer use it?

- Use it to engage in communities where your clients are.
- Use it to engage in legal communities.

# How to twitter

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# Online at twitter.com

Home Profile Find People Settings Help Sign out

**privacylawyer**

**Name** davidtsfraser  
**Location** Halifax, NS  
**Web** <http://www.privac...>  
**Bio** Privacy and technology lawyer in Halifax, Canada

31 following 37 followers

**Updates** 39

**Favorites**

**Following**



Canadian Privacy Law Blog: New technology watches the watchers to tell them what they should have watched <http://bit.ly/4sCra7> #privacy  
*12:24 PM Apr 14th from bit.ly*

---

Canadian Privacy Law Blog: NYT on the next generation in CCTV <http://bit.ly/r1qMP> #privacy #legal  
*7:09 AM Apr 14th from bit.ly*

---

Canadian Supreme Court says no expectation of privacy in your trash. <http://bit.ly/5CuE> #privacy #legal  
*8:46 PM Apr 9th from bit.ly*

---

@greg450318 I came close to the rubber-glove treatment a while back. But he wasn't wearing a white coat and wasn't happy when I coughed.  
*8:10 PM Apr 9th from web in reply to sectorprivate*


# Online at twitter.com


What are you doing?


140


Latest: Why am I getting network errors on twitterberry? Any fix? about 3 hours ago


update


 **stevemathews** RT @LexMonitor China Retools its Auto Industry to meet Global Challenge. Championing green cars.  
<http://bit.ly/2xtmaU>  
8 minutes ago from web


 **clarinette02** 'Spyware levels soar to new heights in 2009'  
<http://tinyurl.com/c6bmmc>  
11 minutes ago from web

 **clarinette02** 'Tiscali looking shaky after auditors raise doubts'  
<http://tinyurl.com/daujdw>  
12 minutes ago from web

 **clarinette02** Finally!! Heathrow powers up free gadget recharging <http://tinyurl.com/dzfrko>  
13 minutes ago from web

 **clarinette02** V Reding EU commissioner : "European privacy rules are crystal clear: a person's information can only be used with their prior consent".  
14 minutes ago from web

 **clarinette02** FB TOS : a third of active Facebook users must vote in order for the vote to be binding. The voting will end on April 23.  
15 minutes ago from web

 **privacylawyer**

31 following 37 followers 40 updates

**Tweet Deck**  
n. a powerful dashboard for Twitter and more.

Home

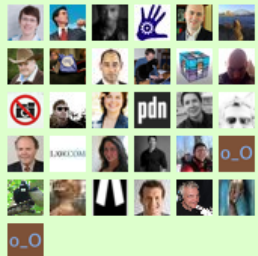
@privacylawyer

Direct Messages 2

Favorites

Everyone

Following add



# Mobile – twitterberry



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# Mobile – Tiny Twitter



**TINY TWITTER**

Love twitter and love tweeting from your mobile device? But don't want to get dinged for updates and double dinged for friend updates continually arriving via SMS?

Tiny Twitter is just what you are looking for and it will work on **ANY Java enabled phone** (that's a bunch & includes the Blackberry) and **ANY Windows Mobile Pocket PC or Smartphone** (they're pretty cool).


Get the goods here!

**Beta Beta Beta... March '09**  
Fresh new builds for Java/Nokia and Blackberry... Windows Mobile soon

# Tweetdeck

TweetDeck v0.14b TWEET GROUP SEARCH REPLIES louisgray LOG OUT + - x


▼ All Tweets



Eating the dinner of champions - two hot and ready little ceasars pizzas :) Long weekend here I come!

REPLY


D R F jakemash, Thu 3 Jul18:01 via twhirl



My take on identi.ca : <http://tinyurl.com/6948qd> . Spoiler alert: I'm not in love, but hey.

REPLY


D R F chrisbrogan, Thu 3 Jul18:01 via web



Is there a way to pass a utm parameter to a url with the original referrer before a 301 redirect is done?

REPLY

D R F JesseStacy, Thu 3 Jul18:00 via twhirl




Company i consulted for today provides cool web based financial service. 1 out of 4 ppl there had \*ever heard\* of linkedin or salesforce. wow

REPLY

D R F marshallk, Thu 3 Jul17:59 via txt


▼ Replies



@louisgray Yes, eBay and AOL

REPLY


D R F steverubel, Thu 3 Jul13:01 via Summize



@louisgray Probably GM, starting in the 1970s. Or even maybe Ford or Chrysler. People have severe brand loyalty.

REPLY


D R F itafroma, Thu 3 Jul12:54 via Summize



@louisgray Livejournal was just as slow and unreliable a number of years ago as Twitter is today.

REPLY

D R F mortonfox, Thu 3 Jul12:44 via Summize




@louisgray yes, Microsoft Windows

REPLY

D R F philwhln, Thu 3 Jul12:40 via Summize

MOVE LEFT MOVE RIGHT


▼ Search: twitter



hmm looks like the twitter maintenance just started. let's hope no fail whales.

REPLY


D R F parislemon, Thu 3 Jul18:02 via web



@Scobleizer that must mean the notion of Twitter as ambient intimacy is working well.

REPLY


D R F dahowlett, Thu 3 Jul17:57 via twhirl



FriendFeed now is half of a Twitter. I have 14,777 followers on FriendFeed. Got there a lot faster than Twitter did.

REPLY

D R F Scobleizer, Thu 3 Jul17:40 via web



Twitter has a 2-hr maintenance in 20 min (6 pm Pacific). It's getting better. They are warning us now (a real maintenance & not a crash).

REPLY

D R F mitchelltsai, Thu 3 Jul17:40 via web

MOVE LEFT MOVE RIGHT

Last Updated: 18:37 with 0 tweets / next update 18:42 Timeframe: 168 hours Twitter Status: Pretty much ok

# Follow topics



See what's happening — *right now*.

[Advanced Search](#)

Search

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# Follow topics

**twitter**   [Advanced Search](#)


---

**Realtime results for #privacy** 0.03 seconds


---

 **doktorbuzzo**: A planet where [#governments](#) abuse their citizens [#privacy](#)? "Officials Say U.S. [#Wiretaps](#) Exceeded Law" [NYTimes]: <http://bit.ly/33oaJ> (expand)  
29 minutes ago from [bit.ly](#) · [Reply](#) · [View Tweet](#)


---

 **johnmgannon**: annoy web analytics guys by blocking referrer headers: <http://digg.com/d14Tbd> [#privacy](#)  
about 1 hour ago from [TweetDeck](#) · [Reply](#) · [View Tweet](#)


---

 **tim\_obrien**: Once again, for emphasis: NSA intercepted more private e-mail and phone calls than previously thought: <http://bit.ly/z8rFW> (expand) [#nsa](#) [#privacy](#)  
about 1 hour ago from [web](#) · [Reply](#) · [View Tweet](#)


---

 **TheUrsus**: RT [@PrivacyProf](#) Announcement re collection and sharing practices: "SEC Issues GLB Model Privacy Form Test Data" <http://tr.im/iX79> [#privacy](#)  
about 2 hours ago from [web](#) · [Reply](#) · [View Tweet](#)


---


 **RedPorscheKilla**: Speaking of Skynet or fam Searches @ home, NSA "overcollection" of domestic data exceeded law; <http://tinyurl.com/df6fkg> (expand) [#IT](#) [#Privacy](#) [#Area51](#)  
about 2 hours ago from [TweetDeck](#) · [Reply](#) · [View Tweet](#)

---

 **weblittlepieces**: Why You Need to Monitor Your Online Reputation | Freelance Folder [#freelancing](#) [#tips](#) [#privacy](#) [#reputation](#) <http://weblittlepieces.com/593/>  
about 3 hours ago from [web](#) · [Reply](#) · [View Tweet](#)

---

 [Feed for this query](#)

 [Twitter these results](#)

Show tweets written in:

**Trending topics:**

- [Susan Boyle](#)
- [#tnw](#)
- [#teaparty](#)
- [#mw2009](#)
- [Texas](#)
- [Ashton Kutcher](#)
- [#dn09](#)
- [Tea Party](#)
- [Easter](#)
- [Clement Freud](#)

**Nifty queries:**

- [cool filter links](#)
- ["is down"](#)
- [movie :\)](#)
- ["happy hour" near:SF](#)
- [#haiku](#)
- ["listening to"](#)
- [love OR hate](#)

# About David T.S. Fraser

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- Blog: [www.privacylawyer.ca/blog](http://www.privacylawyer.ca/blog)
- Twitter: [www.twitter.com/privacylawyer](http://www.twitter.com/privacylawyer)

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