

SURF 'N STUFF 'N TIPS

LOOK BACKWARDS

Occasionally, I'll miss calls from numbers I don't recognize. Before I call the number back, I want to know who I'm calling. Most phone books list numbers by name first, so I use the Reverse Phone Directory.

Type in a number, address or name. Any one piece may get you the rest. There are three databases to use from this site.

If you are curious to see what others can find out about you, type yourself in. The results might persuade you to opt out of listing services. Anyone vigilant in keeping their information private won't be found through this site.

Links to other features, like package tracking and search engines, are also available. The only catch is that many links are revenue generating and not particularly helpful. Otherwise, this site may be quite handy in your favorites list.

TO VISIT THIS COOL SITE, GO HERE: www.reversephonendirectory.com

DON'T CALL ME, I'LL CALL YOU

Aren't you tired of credit card offers? Been pre-approved for every credit card on the planet. To reduce junk mail, go to OptOutPrescreen.com.

Legally, your credit information is open to creditors and insurance companies. They examine your credit rating and make you offers.



If you choose to opt-out, your name is off the credit companies' lists. Your information will no longer be provided for unsolicited offers.

If you previously opted out, you can use this site to opt-in. Otherwise, you are "in" by default.

This will not take you off of all mailing lists. Companies can still make you offers. You just won't appear on the credit-reporting companies' lists, which are used to generate many offers. Still, any less junk mail is an improvement.

TO VISIT THIS SITE, GO HERE:



www.optoutprescreen.com

SOME TRUTHS ACCORDING TO SNOPES.COM

Opening a greeting card from FriendGreetings.com can trigger a software download that will automatically send an e-card to everyone in your address book.

On April 24, [Yahoo!](http://Yahoo.com) will begin charging an annual fee for its previously-free POP e-mail service.

Entering a phone number into the [Google](http://Google.com) search engine will return a home address and a map with directions to that address.

Your personal information can be obtained through the Zabasearch.com web site.

SOME UNTRUTHS ACCORDING TO SNOPES.COM

Microsoft is marketing the [Iloo](http://Iloo.com), an Internet-capable portable toilet.

Signing up with a [National Do Not E-Mail registry](http://NationalDoNotEmailRegistry.com) will stop you from receiving unwanted e-mail.

Account claims Dell is selling computers with [keyboard loggers](http://KeyboardLoggers.com) installed at the behest of the Department of Homeland Security - and finally: Japanese software replaces Microsoft error messages with [haiku](http://HaikuPoetry.com) poetry.