

# k-anonymity

- ▶ **k-anonymity** is a property possessed by certain anonymized data.
- ▶ The concept of k-anonymity was first formulated by Latanya Sweeney in a paper published in 2002 as an attempt to solve the problem:  
*"Given person-specific field-structured data, produce a release of the data with scientific guarantees that the individuals who are the subjects of the data cannot be re-identified while the data remain practically useful."*

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- ▶ A release of data is said to have the k-anonymity property if the information for each person contained in the release cannot be distinguished from at least  $k-1$  individuals whose information also appear in the release.
- ▶ The various procedures and programs for generating anonymised data providing k-anonymity protection have been patented in the United States.