

2003-1 Text 1

1- Wild Bill Donovan would have loved the Internet.

The American spymaster who built the Office of Strategic Services in the World War II and later laid the roots for the CIA was fascinated with information.

Donovan believed in using whatever tools came to hand in the “great game” of espionage - spying as a “profession.”

These days the Net, which has already re-made such everyday pastimes as buying books and sending mail, is reshaping Donovan’s vocation as well.

2- The latest revolution isn’t simply a matter of gentlemen reading other gentlemen’s e-mail.

That kind of electronic spying has been going on for decades.

In the past three or four years, the World Wide Web has given birth to a whole industry of point-and-click spying.

The spooks call it “open-source intelligence,” and as the Net grows, it is becoming increasingly influential.

In 1995 the CIA held a contest to see who could compile the most data about Burundi.

The winner, by a large margin, was a tiny Virginia company called Open Source Solutions, whose clear advantage was its mastery of the electronic world.

3- Among the firms making the biggest splash in this new world is Straitford, Inc. , a private intelligence-analysis firm based in Austin, Texas.

Straitford makes money by selling the results of spying (covering nations from Chile to Russia) to corporations like energy-services firm McDermott International.

Many of its predictions are available online at *www.straitford.com*.

4- Straitford president George Friedman says he sees the online world as a kind of mutually reinforcing tool for both information collection and distribution, a spymaster’s dream.

Last week his firm was busy vacuuming up data bits from the far corners of the world and predicting a crisis in Ukraine.

“As soon as that report runs, we’ll suddenly get 500 new Internet sign-ups from Ukraine,” says Friedman, a former political science professor.

“And we’ll hear back from some of them.”

Open-source spying does have its risks, of course, since it can be difficult to tell good information from bad.

That’s where Straitford earns its keep.

5- Friedman relies on a lean staff of 20 in Austin.

Several of his staff members have military-intelligence backgrounds.

He sees the firm’s outsider status as the key to its success.

Straitford’s briefs don’t sound like the usual Washington back-and-forthing, whereby agencies avoid dramatic declarations on the chance they might be wrong. Straitford, says Friedman, takes pride in its independent voice.

21. The emergence of the Net has _____.

[A] received support from fans like Donovan

[B] remolded the intelligence services

[C] restored many common pastimes

[D] revived spying as a profession

22. Donovan's story is mentioned in the text to _____.

[A] introduce the topic of online spying

[B] show how he fought for the U.S.

[C] give an episode of the information war

[D] honor his unique services to the CIA

23. The phrase "making the biggest splash" (Line 1, Paragraph 3) most probably means _____.

[A] causing the biggest trouble

[B] exerting the greatest effort

[C] achieving the greatest success

[D] enjoying the widest popularity

24. It can be learned from Paragraph 4 that _____.

[A] Straitford's prediction about Ukraine has proved true

[B] Straitford guarantees the truthfulness of its information

[C] Straitford's business is characterized by unpredictability

[D] Straitford is able to provide fairly reliable information

45. Straitford is most proud of its _____.

[A] official status

[B] nonconformist image

[C] efficient staff

[D] military background