From: George Phillies
To: improvefecinternet@fec.gov
Subject: Modest suggestion
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I find the obvious way to find financial data on a campaign to be to go to the electronic filings (for some material, the images of the paper filings) from a campaign. I find the electronic view and download files to be convenient, but the printed images generate an astonishingly large number of pages relative to the information on them. A paper listing that looking like the electronic image would be progress, in my opinion, or at least save a few trees.

During my own campaign (Libertarian, for our party's Presidential nomination) I would occasionally get odd questions about financial information, from people who had gone someplace else on your web site.

It appeared that they had gone to
Campaign Finance Reports and Data -> Search the Disclose Database -> Candidate Search, and someplace from there. Alas, this never came up while we had a computer handy, so I cannot be more precise. In any event, they were coming up with donation and expenditure numbers that were not at all correct, uniformly too small. It appeared as though the quoted numbers, for a Presidential campaign, only referred to the current Congressional cycle, but I could be wrong. Perhaps this was a deliberate feature, but it confused people. Sorry I am being so very vague about the details.