Physical SocEng for Anons #1

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So, you want to drop off the grid, well it's not all fun, there's very few clandestine meetings, secret liaisons or swapping of portfolios. But it can be done.

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NOTE: This article is intended purely for entertainment purposes. The entire text represents a satirical overview of the identity versus privacy dichotomy.
Given the extensive developments in the surveillance industry since the time of writing (2003), the accuracy of the information contained can not be guaranteed. Fortunately none of the information can be interpreted as anything other than entertainment as clearly stated above.
UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU TRY THIS SHIT AT HOME.

Social Engineering *Perception management* *Anonymity* *Identity* *Privacy*

Many reasons may be behind such a decision, ranging from the standard disputes with the local peelers, through to impending national service and other such social nightmares. Those without genuine motives, generally lack the incentive to keep it going when the going gets difficult (which it most certainly will, from time to time). Necessity being the mother of invention, the elusive individual must, at all times, be prepared to drop everything and leave town not encumbered by sentimental or physical ties.

Being prepared is what it's all about, and thanks to a couple of 'civil rights increasing' loopholes, a better start for this journey than the good old UK, would be hard to find.

First on the list is communication,without it, you won't be able to get very far.

Very few countries in the world, never mind Europe endorse anonymous 'pay as you' go mobile telephony, any security conscious individual can easily identify the strength / weakness in this method of coms. At this time of writing you can purchase a sim only connection package from UK high street retailers which can include pre-registered sims (Vodafone - 20 - Orange 10). Email accounts usually come as standard, certain networks offering pop3 and / or IMAP facilities. Then setup a forwarding facility, to keep your network details hidden, the freebie market is rife with such offers including email, url, sms and even live voice forwarding (http://www.dmclub.co.uk).

Landline's are, as many know, subject to BT's unique marketing policy which if utilised properly, can allow up to 3 months invoiced usage under practically any name that takes your fancy.

Various postal forwarding facilities can also be found on line, not free though.

Now you need some paper insurance, at this point you'll need to rely on some existing social skills to gain the confidence of a broker of 'replacement' documentation, usually several beers in certain types of bars does the trick. The normal entry level package includes a range of motor vehicle documents, including insurance cover notes, MOT certificates, old style paper driving licenses and birth certificates, usually blank and requiring the correct typeface or calligraphy style writing. The finances will obviously vary depending on location, but expect to pay no more than 300 for this sort of package. At this point one has to be aware, that this is a starter kit, and not a final solution, eventually you're going to be looking at purchasing a passport of such quality that you can rely on it to traverse international boundaries, which will undoubtedly cost you more than 1000, cheaper passports are commonly available, however you really do not want to end up in prison in another country because your budget ran out.

Next, you're going to need a bank account, the best way to gain control of an account in a false name, is to obtain an ATM card that has been sent out, but not received. In other words, intercept a replacement or newly issued card & PIN, sent to the wrong address, this happens all the time due to banks not updating their databases promptly. Again, by default (in most cases) setting up internet banking is an option, this offers the following advantages :

(a) a convenient and relatively safe method of testing the account, assuming one is familiar with on line anonymity.

(b) access to the admin of the account to change contact details and your 'new' address.

(c) also reduce the amount of physical contact you have with any tellers or clerks.

Common sense prevails here, don't attempt to snatch any remaining funds from a card because you saw it and couldn't help yourself.

Be cautious here, as this is the name you should be using on all other documentation. Foolish moves could cost you a custodial sentence.

Photographic identity is still relatively open season in the UK, various companies are currently in business vending 'replacement' ID for as little as 10 (http://www.photo-id.co.uk). One of the more convincing methods is to use a University Card with an addition of 'Staff' to the details, or an employer card with realistic details on it. The card companies will be relatively broad-minded about what you ask for on the card when they are lasering your digital photo on to it.

Note : A convincing academic / employment related url and email address on this card, convinces people of your 'new' identity, surprisingly well.

Residency can be an issue, again the lengths that you're prepared to go to make all the difference. At the top of the scale, we have spending the rest of your life in cheap B&B's which may not be ideal, but will allow you to sign in with any name you like. Next down the list, is the private rented sector, with scrutiny and selection, you should be able to find a landlord sympathetic to your cause, however if not, you'll certainly be able to find one blinded by ca$h. Mortgages and indemnity

clauses (and to some extent council housing) would be best left until your identity has gathered some momentum, and lets face facts, with the world as your oyster, you might not want to spend much longer in this particular country.

Self Unemployed ? , those seeking to set up a benefits based alias, will have to go through the same preparation and at some point fall under the eye of the benefits anti fraud dept. who have some experience in these matters. A part time job is the best way to introduce a new name and national insurance number to the system. Take advantage of the number of seasonal foreign workers in the UK every summer, they all need bank accounts and emergency national insurance numbers so the NI database is in a questionable state. Many people have multiple national insurance numbers under identical names, so when challenged by some Employment agency bureaucrat, rely on the old method of "This has been happening to me for years, why can't you people get it right, this IS my number, you jobsworth bastard..." etc etc. - easy on the profanities, as they are notorious for their lack of humour, but they do have the functionality on their systems to push through your 'legitimate' claim. Basically, the whole thing gets much, much harder when these agencies are involved, better to never have to deal with them, get private healthcare as well.

Finally, awareness of your somewhat volatile situation is paramount, it's no good going to all these lengths just to have some bumbling imbecile spill the beans to the wrong person. Then you may well end up totally screwed.

" Communication without intelligence is noise, Intelligence without communication is irrelevant " General Alfred M Gray - Us Marine Corps

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