

CULTURE

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Do You Know Where His Keys Are?

By [Leander Kahney](#)

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[Click thumbnails to expand](#) *Matthew McClintock*

2:00 a.m. June 25, 2002 PDT

Some people make lists of their books or CDs. Some people take pictures of their possessions for insurance purposes.

Matthew McClintock, a 35-year-old webmaster from Chicago, makes lists and takes pictures to an obsessive degree.

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McClintock has created a website that attempts to document everything in his house, from the [boxers](#) in his dresser to the [tools](#) in the basement, and absolutely everything else in between.

Since last October, McClintock has carefully gone around his three-story house photographing and documenting everything it contains, including [cooking utensils](#), [books](#), [T-shirts](#), and pens in a [desk drawer](#).

He has taken digital pictures of each item, down to the [lone chopstick](#) in the kitchen [junk drawer](#) -- and written a short description of each: more than 2,000 objects in all.

"I really like lists and documentation and that kind of thing," McClintock said by phone from his job at [Columbia College](#). "I tend to make a lot of lists of things: things I own, things I've done. I love the Palm Pilot. I have a database of all the people at the college and all the classes, which is useless because I don't take any (classes). But there is something very comforting in having that kind of structured information."

McClintock's site is cleverly designed to make it easy to wander the house, rifling through drawers and cupboards. The site is divided into floors, then rooms, followed by furniture, drawers and their contents. Each piece of furniture is represented by a deco-style line

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drawing, and the contents have been digitally photographed.

McClintock estimates he has documented 70 percent of the house's contents. Most of what he hasn't documented is packed in boxes in the basement.

"I keep finding bits and pieces -- a dresser drawer, a wastebasket, some silverware, that kind of thing," he said.

The only places McClintock hasn't documented are his live-in girlfriend's [closet](#) and a [room](#) she uses.

His girlfriend compared the project to "[Kraftwerk](#) meets Charlie Brown." McClintock said he's not sure but thinks she's referring to the order and technological precision of Kraftwerk's music and the intimate, chatty homeyness of the *Peanuts* character.

"At first she thought it was pretty stupid but now she finds it pretty interesting," he said. "She's an artist. She gets obsessive. She likes building things, so she's tolerant of it."

As someone on Metafilter noted, McClintock is a serious neat freak.

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