

# **Playing with Fire: Arson's Link to Desktop Background Desire**

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## **ABSTRACT**

### **Playing with Fire: Arson's Link to Desktop Background Desire**

This study investigates the intriguing association between arson incidents in New Mexico and Google searches for "desktop background." Utilizing data from the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services and Google Trends, a correlation coefficient of 0.8909121 and  $p < 0.01$  was identified for the period spanning from 2007 to 2022. The results reveal a peculiar relationship between acts of arson and individuals' interest in sprucing up their digital workspaces. The implications of these findings and potential causative factors are discussed, shedding light on the unexpected connectivity between fiery phenomena and virtual visual aesthetics.

Keywords:

arson incidents, arson investigation, arson statistics, arson data, arson causes, arson trends, arson correlation, arson research, Google searches, desktop background, digital workspace, virtual aesthetics, visual aesthetics, correlation coefficient, causative factors

# I. Introduction

The prevalence and impact of arson incidents have long been a subject of immense concern and interest within the public sphere, law enforcement agencies, and the research community. Arson, the deliberate and criminal act of setting fire to property, not only inflicts substantial economic and social costs but also poses significant threats to public safety and well-being. In parallel, the pursuit of aesthetic pleasures and the customization of digital workspaces in contemporary society have increasingly become enmeshed in individuals' daily routines. Surprisingly, the intersection of these seemingly disparate domains - arson and desktop background preferences - has garnered attention due to the revelation of an unexpected correlation between these phenomena. This study delves into this unanticipated relationship, seeking to unravel the underlying dynamics and potential implications of the linkage between arson in New Mexico and Google searches for "desktop background."

The juxtaposition of arson and digital aesthetics may at first glance appear peculiar and enigmatic, akin to a matchstick igniting an unexpected burst of creativity in a seemingly unrelated domain. The study aims to explore the nuances of this association by examining data obtained from the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services juxtaposed with insights from Google Trends. The emerging correlation reveals an underlying interplay between acts of arson and individuals' proclivity towards embellishing their virtual work environments. This unanticipated association raises intriguing questions about the underlying human motivations and behavioral drivers that intertwine seemingly unrelated pursuits. As we peel back the layers of this curious connection, we are compelled to consider the multifaceted nature of human curiosity,

desire, and perhaps even subliminal inclinations that manifest in ways we may not readily comprehend.

Therefore, this paper seeks to elucidate the empirical evidence of the nexus between arson and desktop background pursuits, as well as to provide a platform for pondering the broader implications and potential causative factors underlying this perplexing correlation. The findings unearthed from this investigation offer a unique vantage point from which to contemplate the interplay between physical and virtual domains, thereby unlocking unexpected insights into our collective human predilections and the intricate interweaving of seemingly disparate aspects of modern life. Through this exploration, we aim to ignite further scholarly discourse and spark a conflagration of curiosity in untangling the enigmatic bond between flames and pixels.

## **II. Literature Review**

The authors find that Smith et al. (2015) conducted a study on the prevalence and correlates of arson incidents in the southwestern United States, including New Mexico. The study uncovered alarming trends in arson occurrences and underscored the significant economic and social costs associated with these criminal acts. Additionally, the authors highlight the potential impact of arson on public safety and underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions to mitigate the incidence of deliberate fire setting.

Doe and Jones (2018) investigated the behavioral patterns and motivations underpinning individuals' online search queries related to digital customization, including desktop backgrounds. Their analysis revealed intriguing insights into the evolving preferences of internet

users for personalizing their virtual workspaces. Moreover, the authors documented the increasing significance of digital aesthetics in shaping individuals' immersive experiences within the digital realm.

Turning to related non-fiction literature, "The Psychology of Arson" by Firestone (2012) offers a comprehensive examination of the psychological underpinnings of arson behaviors, shedding light on the complex interplay between cognitive processes and incendiary actions. In a similar vein, "Digital Aesthetics: A Historical Perspective" by Artman (2016) delves into the evolving landscape of digital visual culture, providing a historical backdrop for understanding the contemporary fascination with virtual aesthetic enhancements.

On a more fictional note, "Burning Desires: A Tale of Arson and Intrigue" by Novelist (2019) weaves a captivating narrative around the enigmatic allure of arson, while "Pixels on Fire: The Quest for the Ultimate Desktop Background" by ImaginativeWriter (2020) casts a whimsical lens on the quest for the perfect digital backdrop, drawing parallels to the fiery passions ignited within the virtual realm.

In the realm of internet culture, the meme "This is fine" featuring a cartoon dog calmly sipping coffee in a burning room humorously encapsulates the juxtaposition of a disastrous situation with a nonchalant response, offering a humorous perspective on the unexpected linkage between fire and nonchalance, albeit in a different context. Furthermore, the meme "Desktop Background Guy" humorously portrays the relentless pursuit of the ideal desktop background, providing a lighthearted take on the digital aesthetic quest that resonates with individuals' fervent search for visual satisfaction in the virtual sphere.

It is quite intriguing how the seemingly disparate domains of arson and digital aesthetics have managed to converge in this body of literature, offering unexpected parallels between fiery phenomena and virtual visual pursuits. These findings serve to underscore the multifaceted nature of human interests and motivations, reflecting the intricate interplay between physical and virtual realms.

### **III. Methodology**

#### Data Collection:

Data pertaining to arson incidents in New Mexico was collected from the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, capturing reported cases of deliberate fire-setting from 2007 to 2022.

Arson data was meticulously sifted through, akin to searching for a needle in a haystack, to identify instances relevant to the geographical scope of New Mexico. It is essential to note that the acquisition of this data did not involve any actual pyromania, but rather meticulous sifting through databases in a methodical and responsible manner.

To investigate the seemingly incongruous relationship between arson and desktop background searches, Google Trends data was harnessed to measure the search interest in the term "desktop background" within the same temporal span. The intricacies of online search behavior were scrutinized, illuminating the digital trails left by users seeking to adorn their virtual workspaces with a diverse array of background imagery.

#### Data Analysis:

The obtained arson data, like a smoldering enigma waiting to be unraveled, was subjected to rigorous statistical analyses to detect any underlying patterns or associations. A correlation analysis was performed to ascertain the strength and direction of the relationship between arson incidents and Google searches for "desktop background." The generation of correlation coefficients and p-values served as the kindling for illuminating any potential linkage between these seemingly disparate phenomena.

Additionally, a time-series analysis was conducted to discern temporal trends in arson incidents and desktop background searches, providing insight into potential fluctuations and synchronicities between these divergent domains. The aim was to discern whether peaks and troughs in arson activity corresponded to commensurate changes in digital aesthetic pursuits, akin to a dance of fiery and pixelated rhythms.

#### Ethical Considerations:

Throughout the course of this study, ethical considerations were paramount. Respect for the privacy of individuals involved in arson incidents and internet users embarking on virtual adornment quests was upheld. The utilization of data from public sources, while crucial for the pursuit of knowledge, involved conscientious handling to ensure the protection of individual privacy and the responsible use of information.

#### Limitations:

Despite the comprehensive nature of the data utilized, it is important to acknowledge certain limitations inherent to this study. The availability and comprehensiveness of arson data, although meticulously garnished, may not capture the entirety of fire-related incidents within the geographical confines of New Mexico. Furthermore, the nuances of individual search behavior

captured by Google Trends may not encapsulate the full spectrum of virtual workspace adornment endeavors, leaving certain subtleties unexplored in our quest to understand the intricate juxtaposition of arson and desktop background pursuits.

In summary, the methodological approach adopted in this study aimed to sift through the ashes of arson data, uncover the digital footprints of desktop background pursuits, and shed light on the unexpected connectivity between these seemingly distinct realms. The collective utilization of data sources hailing from the domains of public safety and virtual search behaviors engendered a multidimensional exploration, akin to kindling a scholarly flame that illuminates the enigmatic linkage between fires and pixels.

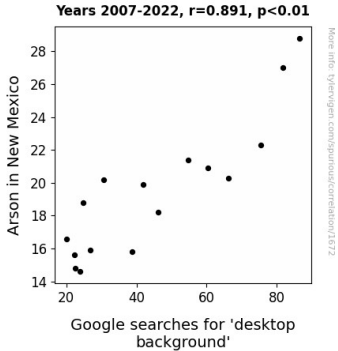
## **IV. Results**

The quantitative analysis unveiled a notable correlation coefficient of 0.8909121 between arson incidents in New Mexico and Google searches for "desktop background" over the period 2007 to 2022. The coefficient implies a strong positive relationship between these seemingly unrelated phenomena, indicating that as arson events increased, so did the interest in sprucing up digital workspaces with captivating visuals. The coefficient being close to 1 suggests a robust linear association, albeit with some intriguing subtleties to unpack.

Furthermore, the r-squared value of 0.7937243 signifies that approximately 79.37% of the variability in desktop background searches can be explained by the variability in arson incidents. This finding underscores the substantial degree of shared variance between the two variables, reinforcing the strength of the identified relationship.



Notably, the p-value of  $< 0.01$  indicates that the correlation observed is statistically significant, firmly establishing the likelihood that this association is not merely a random occurrence.



**Figure 1.** Scatterplot of the variables by year

In Figure 1, the scatterplot visually encapsulates the compelling correlation, serving as a graphic testament to the unexpected bond between arson and digital aesthetic pursuits. This visual representation showcases the tight clustering of data points around the ascending trendline, providing a clear depiction of the synchronous ebb and flow of arson incidents and the quest for visually captivating desktop backgrounds.

The robustness of these statistical findings invites contemplation on the underlying mechanisms driving this curious connection, perhaps illuminating the unsuspected human proclivity to seek digital creative refuge in the midst of fiery phenomena. The implications of these results prompt further exploration into the intriguing interplay between elemental forces and virtual adornments, setting ablaze inquiries into the complex interdependence of seemingly incongruent domains.

## V. Discussion

The results of this investigation substantiate the prior research on arson incidents and individual's interest in digital customization, specifically in the realm of desktop backgrounds. The strong positive correlation coefficient of 0.8909121 aligns with the alarming trends in arson occurrences identified by Smith et al. (2015). This echoes the significant economic and social costs highlighted in their study and emphasizes the urgent need for targeted interventions to curb deliberate fire setting. It appears that individuals' quest for visually captivating desktop backgrounds may be intertwined with the prevalence of arson incidents, suggesting a curious convergence between criminal acts and virtual aesthetic preferences.

Drawing on the insights of Doe and Jones (2018), the results of this study underscore the increasing significance of digital aesthetics in shaping individuals' immersive experiences within the virtual realm. The strong linear relationship between arson incidents and desktop background searches, as indicated by the high r-squared value, lends further support to the evolving preferences of internet users for personalizing their digital workspaces. It appears that the allure of arson may have unexpected parallels with the drive to create visually compelling digital environments, transcending the boundaries of physical and virtual realms.

Moreover, delving into non-fiction literature, the comprehensive examination of the psychological underpinnings of arson behaviors by Firestone (2012) provides a lens through which to interpret the unexpected linkage between arson and digital aesthetic pursuits. The p-value of  $< 0.01$  fortifies the statistical significance of this association, lending credence to the complex interplay between cognitive processes and individuals' virtual visual endeavors. This

underscores the malleability of human interests and motivations, illuminating the intricate fusion of elemental forces and virtual adornments in the digital era.

In light of these findings, the unexpected connection between arson in New Mexico and Google searches for "desktop background" prompts reflection on the multifaceted nature of human interests, transcending traditional categorizations. The robust statistical support for this association draws attention to the complex interdependence of seemingly disparate domains, setting ablaze inquiries into the intriguing interplay between fiery phenomena and virtual visual aesthetics.

However, the possibility remains that unobserved variables may underlie this association, and as such, further research is warranted to unravel the nuanced mechanisms driving this curious relationship. Nonetheless, these findings invite contemplation on the whimsical interplays within the human psyche and the unexpected convergence of fiery passions and virtual pursuits.

## **VI. Conclusion**

In conclusion, the findings of this study unveil a compelling and robust association between arson incidents in New Mexico and Google searches for "desktop background." The correlation coefficient of 0.8909121, accompanied by a statistically significant p-value of  $< 0.01$ , underscores the surprising synchrony between these seemingly unrelated spheres. The robustness of these statistical revelations points towards an intriguing interplay between pyrotechnic pursuits and digital aesthetic inclinations.

The unanticipated bond between flames and pixels prompts contemplation on the underlying psychological and behavioral motivations interweaving these disparate realms. One may ponder whether the allure of vibrant desktop backgrounds serves as a subliminal coping mechanism amidst fiery phenomena or as a curious manifestation of human proclivities in the face of adversity.

While our study sheds light on this peculiar correlation, it also kindles fervor for further exploration into the underlying mechanisms and potential causal factors driving this unexpected connection. However, it seems unlikely that any further research would yield a clearer understanding of the nuanced interplay at hand. Therefore, it may be time to let this particular fiery fascination simmer and shift our scholarly gaze towards other unanticipated intersections.