

# INFO WARS

THE MAGAZINE  
VOL. 2, ISSUE 10 JUNE 2014 GLOBAL EDITION

NEWS, REVIEWS, EVENTS, INTERVIEWS, TRUTH.



## DEATH OF THE INTERNET



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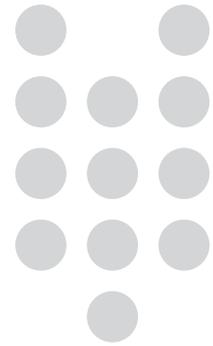
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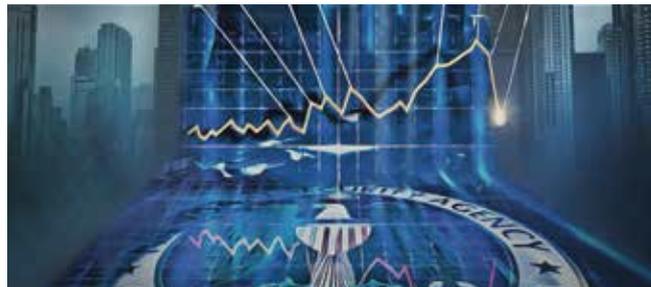
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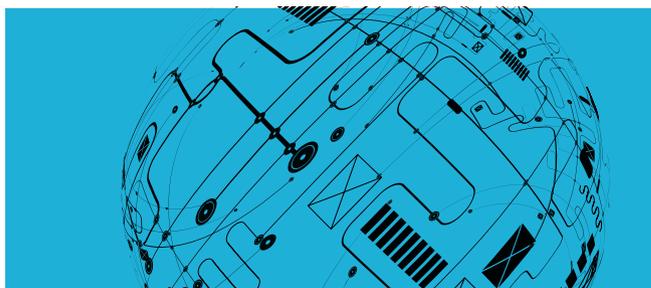
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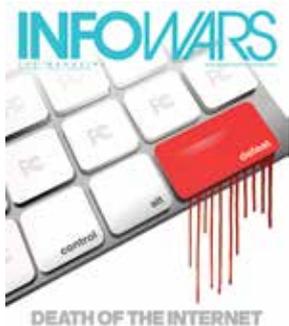


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## ABOUT THE COVER

In this June edition of The Infowars Magazine the fight for Internet freedom is highlighted in a multitude of articles that depict the very real threat of a regulated Internet. Whether it be the death of net neutrality, or the corporatization of the world wide web, the attack on online sovereignty is evident. The NSA backdoor spy programs and other invasive operations are also mentioned with other informative articles covering the most recent topics concerning the Infowar and the end of the web.

QUOTES

“When you talk to a human in 2035, you’ll be talking to someone that’s a combination of biological and non-biological intelligence.”



“We know where you are. We know where you’ve been. We can more or less know what you’re thinking about.”



“I can’t in good conscience allow the U.S. government to destroy privacy, Internet freedom and basic liberties for people around the world with this massive surveillance machine they’re secretly building.”



“If freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.”





## ❖❖❖❖❖ A SHORT STORY ABOUT US

**Infowars Magazine** was founded as a monthly publication in 2012 as the answer to the eminent threat of internet censorship. The first issue debuted in september 2012, bringing the fight for the infowar to a new front, the changing landscape of print media. Over 100,000 copies are distributed world-wide each month, spreading truth journalism with the passion of grassroots publication and the permanence of physical print. Our distribution points across the globe continue to grow and our subscriptions increase as people like you take the infowar to the streets, providing magazines to stores, restaurants, businesses, and neighborhoods. Take a stand against tyranny and join the front lines in the fight for freedom.

## ❖❖❖❖❖ ABOUT ALEX JONES

The Alex Jones Show is a nationally syndicated news/talk show based out of Austin, TX. The show is syndicated by the Genesis Communication Network on over 160 AM and FM radio stations across the United States, and has a large internet based audience.

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## CONTRIBUTION

<b>PUBLISHER</b> Alex Jones	<b>CONTRIBUTING WRITERS</b> Paul J. Watson Kurt Nimmo Kit Daniels Steve Watson Mac Slavo Daniel Taylor Michael Snyder
<b>MANAGING EDITOR</b> Kelen McBreen	
<b>ART DIRECTOR</b> Molly Rogers	
<b>GRAPHICS &amp; PHOTOGRAPHY</b> Molly Rogers Rob Reeger Paul Beck Steve McGhee	<b>PROJECT MANAGER</b> Tim Fruge
	<b>EDITORIAL ASSISTANT</b> Kit Daniels

## CHECK OUT

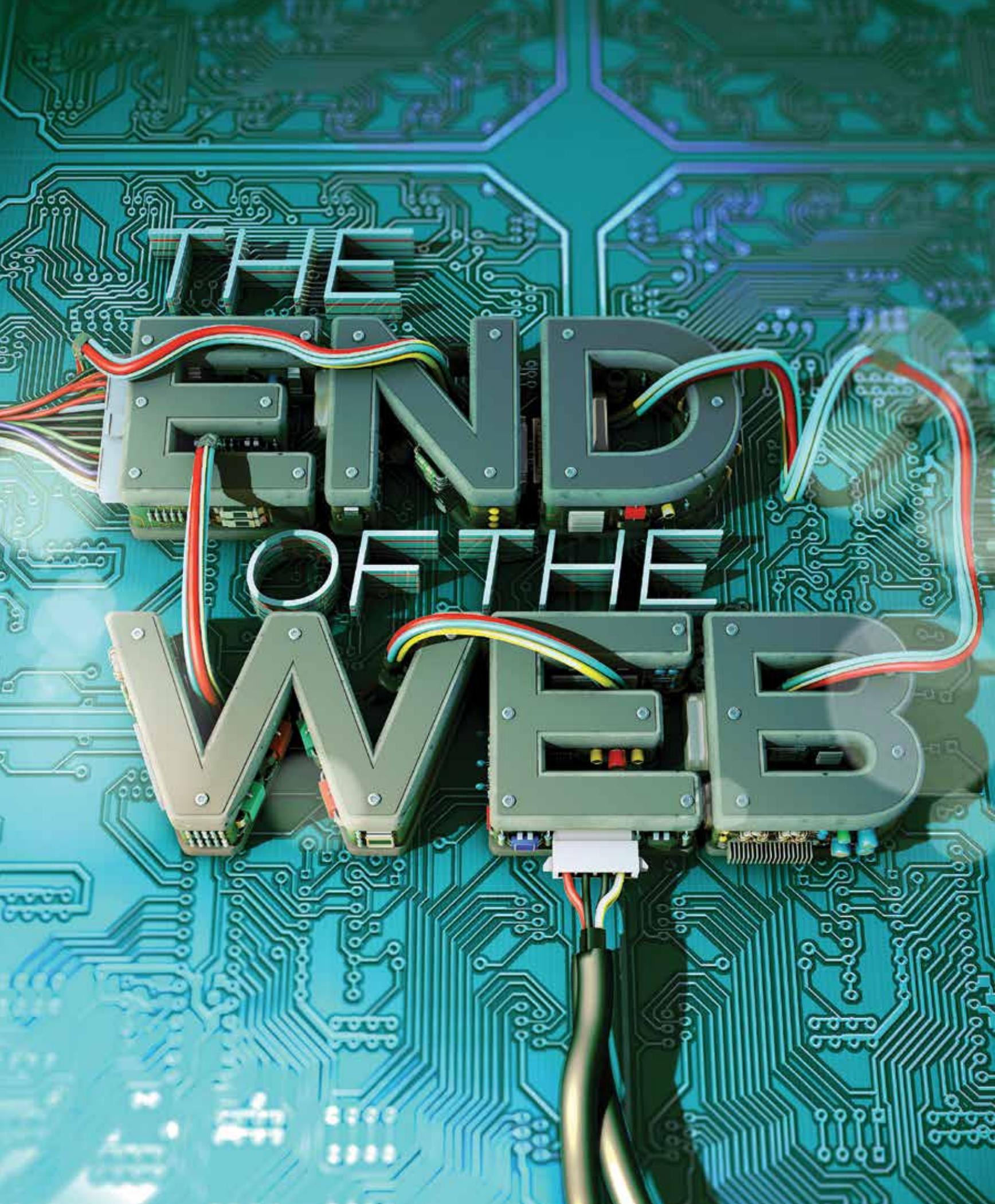
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# THE PLAN TO KILL THE INTERNET UNCOVERED

## 10 Ways The Freedom Of The World Wide Web Is Being Dismantled

**T**he Internet has emerged as the most empowering tool of individual freedom since the Gutenberg's press, affording billions of people worldwide not only the tool of instant communication, but access to a wealth of liberating information, freedom from the chains of received consensus, and the opportunity to become their own media platform.

This represents an ever increasing threat to the status quo of the elite, which is why the establishment is working feverishly to dismantle the freedom granted by the world wide web in its current form.

### #1 THE DEATH OF NET NEUTRALITY

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently gave the green light for large Internet Service Providers to create a two-tier Internet system which would allow large corporations to buy up dedicated faster bandwidth, ending net neutrality and potentially leaving smaller websites in the dust.

If passed this will allow the "tele-ization" of the Internet, resulting in large companies forming monopolies and restricting consumer choice.

"[S]maller companies that can't afford to pay for faster delivery would likely face additional obstacles against bigger rivals. And consumers could

see a trickle-down effect of higher prices as Web sites try to pass along new costs of doing business with Internet service providers," reports the Washington Post.

For almost a decade, we have warned of plans to create an 'Internet 2' under which the old Internet would be left to crumble and die, eviscerating the world wide web as a tool of free speech that allows independent voices to be heard amongst the cacophony of corporate and statist propaganda.

### #2 INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES ARE MANIPULATING THE INTERNET WITH DELIBERATE DISINFORMATION

Documents recently released by whistleblower Edward Snowden confirm that western intelligence agencies are deliberately flooding the web with disinformation in order to, "inject all sorts of false material onto the internet in order to destroy the reputation of its targets."

These techniques are intended to "control, infiltrate, manipulate, and warp online discourse," which has the effect of, "compromising the integrity of the internet itself," according to journalist Glenn Greenwald.

### #3 GOVERNMENTS ARE PAYING TROLLS TO SWAY PUBLIC OPINION

In 2010, Canada's CTV News reported on how federal authorities were paying companies to "correct misinformation" on web forums.

The Turkish, Israeli and Chinese governments along with a host of others have also implemented similar programs, while the U.S. Air Force hired data security firm HBGary to create large numbers of fake social media profiles that could be used to spread propaganda while countering anti-U.S. rhetoric online. Raw Story reported that the obvious function of the program was to "manipulate public opinion on key information, such as news reports," thereby creating, "the illusion of consensus."

### #4 MAINSTREAM NEWS WEBSITES ARE KILLING COMMENT SECTIONS

Although this remains a relatively rare phenomenon, increasing numbers of mainstream news websites are killing or severely restricting comment sections in order to drown out dissident voices that challenge the prevailing status quo.

Studies confirm that article comment sections – for better or worse – are heavily swaying public opinion.



Popular Science recently announced its decision to kill comment sections on their website in order to silence global warming skeptics. BoingBoing.net is following a similar track. The New York Times also recently indicated that it is scaling back comments and removing them from some articles altogether.

The effort to kill comments is part of the establishment media's desperate effort to dictate reality and maintain a grip on manufacturing consensus in the face of a burgeoning independent media and the Internet as a vehicle of free speech in general.

## **#5 THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S "COGNITIVE INFILTRATION" OF THE INTERNET**

In 2010, a White House program was revealed that centered around infiltrating conspiracy groups in order to undermine them via postings on chat rooms and social networks. Harvard law professor Cass Sunstein, Obama's appointee to head the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, spearheaded this "cognitive infiltration" of the web and has been heralding its success ever since.

Sunstein pointed out that simply

having people in government refute conspiracy theories wouldn't work because they are inherently untrustworthy, making it necessary to, "Enlist nongovernmental officials in the effort to rebut the theories."

Sunstein suggested that "government agents (and their allies) might enter chat rooms, online social networks, or even real-space groups and attempt to undermine percolating conspiracy theories by raising doubts about their factual premises, causal logic or implications for political action."

## **#6 FALSE FLAG CYBER-SECURITY ATTACKS AS A PRETEXT TO INCREASE WEB REGULATION**

While constantly repeating the necessity for restrictive cybersecurity regulations to be applied to the Internet in the name of preventing cyber attacks, the United States has itself been behind all the recent major cyber attacks.

After Alex Jones pointed the finger at Washington and Tel Aviv for being behind Stuxnet during a September 27, 2010 broadcast, the likes of CNN, the Economist and others followed up by ridiculing the claim as a baseless conspiracy theory. Months later in

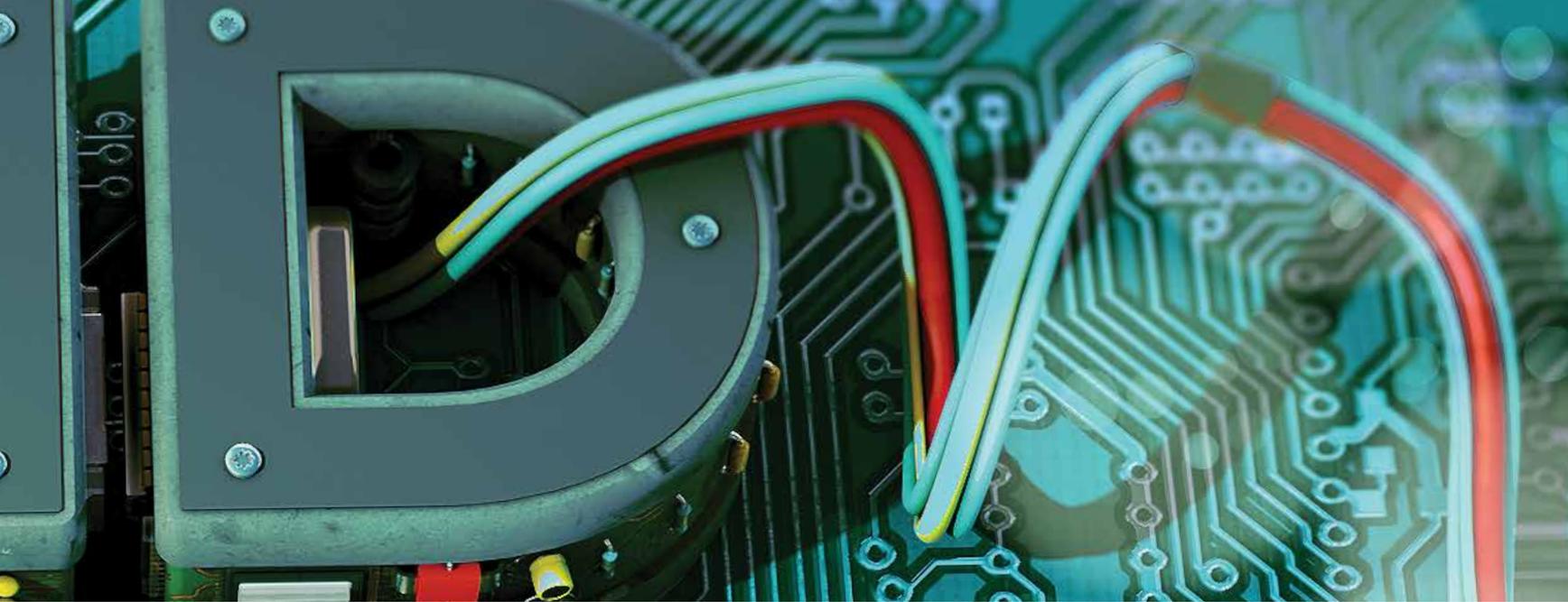
January 2011, the New York Times reported, "US and Israeli intelligence services collaborated to develop a destructive computer worm to sabotage Iran's efforts to make a nuclear bomb," acknowledging the "conspiracy theory" to be true.

As the Washington Post reported, the United States and Israel were also responsible for jointly developing the Flame virus.

Stuxnet's appearance was dovetailed by an aggressive PR campaign during which Joe Lieberman and others called for the government to be allowed to, "disconnect parts of its Internet in case of war," just as China did. What Lieberman failed to mention is the fact that China's Internet censorship program was and continues to be based around crushing dissent against the state and has nothing to do with cybersecurity.

## **#7 FAIRNESS DOCTRINE FOR THE INTERNET**

According to Tim Cavanaugh, under a plan entitled "Multi-Market Study of Critical Information Needs, "The airwaves regulator would subject news producers in all media to invasive questioning about their work and content," a move which could lead to policing of political content on the



web.

Although the study was widely derided in the media and now appears to have been derailed, the fact that the FCC is pursuing such programs illustrates the feds' contempt for free speech on the Internet.

## **#8 HOMELAND SECURITY'S INTERNET KILL SWITCH**

While fears of a government kill switch for the Internet have been mooted for years, under Standard Operating Procedure 303 or SOP 303, the Department of Homeland Security has given itself the power to oversee "the termination of private wireless network connections, both within a localized area, such as a tunnel or bridge, and within an entire metropolitan area," in the event of a declared emergency.

When privacy rights group the Electronic Privacy Information Center attempted to obtain more information on the plan last year, the DHS claimed that it could not locate any further details regarding the program.

The White House also still claims that it retains Internet kill switch powers under the law that created the Federal Communications Commission

in 1934. This law states that if a "state of public peril or disaster or other national emergency" exists, the president may "authorize the use or control of any...station or device."

## **#9 NEW TAXES AND REGULATIONS SET TO STIFLE COMMUNICATION & SALES ON THE WEB**

A blizzard of new taxes and regulations could herald "Internet freedom's expiration date," according to a recent Wall Street Journal piece which points to efforts by lawmakers to weaken the Internet Tax Freedom Act in order, "to punish all American consumers with new taxes on communication."

Lobbyists for giant retailers are leaning on Congress to empower some 9,600 state and local governments with more authority over e-commerce, including a potential e-mail tax which could dissuade millions of Americans from communicating online.

## **#10 SOPA, CISPA & THE FBI'S INTERNET BACK-DOOR**

Legislative assaults under the banner of SOPA and CISPA, which

were advanced in the name of stopping online copyright theft, yet were soundly defeated when it emerged they were actually designed to impose oppressive censorship and surveillance on the Internet, will continue to be advanced by those who seek to centralize power over the web into fewer and fewer hands at the top of the pyramid.

In addition, the FBI's attempt to amend the 1994 Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act in order to build backdoors into all Internet Service Providers, email clients and social media sites, is another effort to chill free speech by indoctrinating people with the notion that everything they do online is being permanently watched and recorded, making them less likely to express their freedoms due to fears of official oppression.

Only by aggressively opposing these onerous threats to the freedom of the Internet can we hope to preserve the world wide web in its current incarnation and continue to see informed and empowered people the world over embrace it as the tool of individual liberation it has truly become.

# CYBER-SECURITY EXPERTS ASK IF APPLE “FLAW” WAS REALLY NSA BACKDOOR

## Security Hole Appeared Just One Month Before NSA Bragged It Had Penetrated Apple Servers

**F**ollowing an admission by Apple that a “bug” in its operating system had left devices open to potential hacking, experts are questioning whether the security hole was intentional, in order to allow the NSA backdoor access as part of its mass spying program.

On Friday Apple acknowledged that a “goto fail” command in the company’s SecureTransport protocol had left iPhones, iPads, and MacBooks vulnerable to data intercept on networks and wireless connections. Anyone who had knowledge of the security flaw, could have accessed secure data, Apple noted, declaring that “a software fix will be released very soon.”

Johns Hopkins University cryptography professor Matthew Green told Reuters that the flaw (see below) was “as bad as you could imagine.”

Several coding experts are now raising their eyebrows over the matter, noting that the timeline of the inception of the security flaw matches up with leaked NSA slides that document how the spy agency had managed to gain access to Apple’s servers.

According to coder and App developer Jeffrey Grossman, who has studied the code in question, the flaw only appeared

in iOS 6.0 and was not present in iOS 5.11.

Immediately, tech experts began to note that iOS 6.0 was released in September 2012, just one month before Apple was added to the NSA’s list of penetrated servers, according to slides leaked by Edward Snowden.

Noting that while the evidence is circumstantial, blogger John Gruber, a computer scientist, says that “the shoe fits” where the NSA’s Apple breakthrough is concerned.

“Sure would be interesting to know who added that spurious line of code to the file,” he notes. “Conspiratorially, one could suppose the NSA planted the bug, through an employee mole, perhaps. Innocuously, the Occam’s Razor explanation would be that this was an inadvertent error on the part of an Apple engineer. It looks like the sort of bug that could result from a merge gone bad, duplicating the goto fail; line.”

Gruber has laid out five potential scenarios, personally leaning toward number three:

1. Nothing. The NSA was not aware of this vulnerability.
2. The NSA knew about it, but never exploited it.
3. The NSA knew about it, and exploited

it.

4. NSA itself planted it surreptitiously.

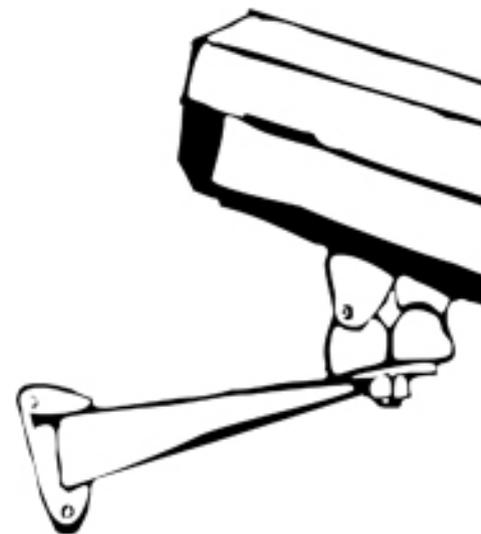
5. Apple, complicit with the NSA, added it.

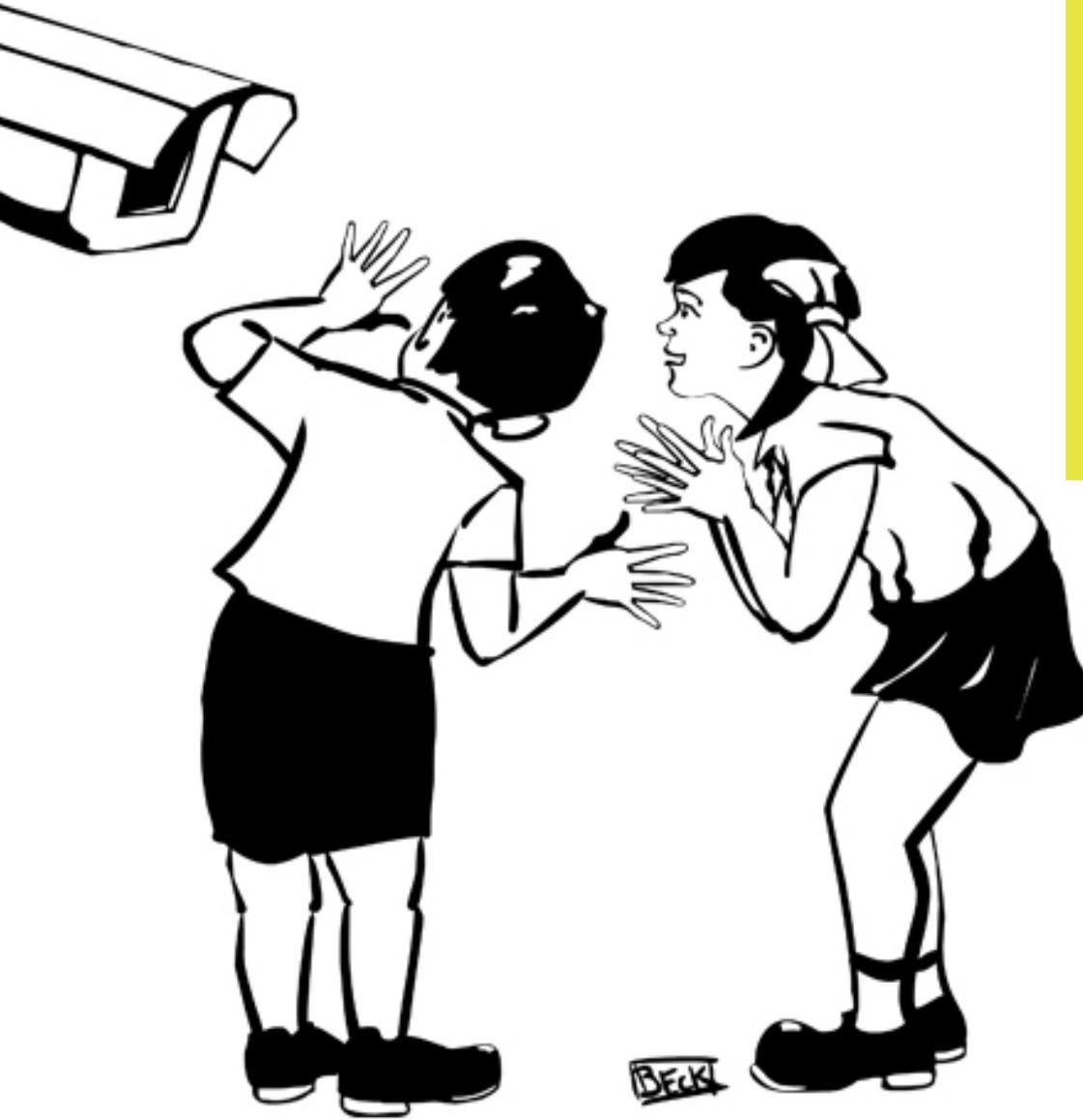
“...once the bug was in place, the NSA wouldn’t even have needed to find the bug by manually reading the source code. All they would need are automated tests using spoofed certificates that they run against each new release of every OS.” Gruber states.

“Apple releases iOS, the NSA’s automated spoofed certificate testing finds the vulnerability, and boom, Apple gets “added” to PRISM. ([It] wasn’t even necessarily a fast turnaround — the NSA could have discovered the vulnerability over the summer, while iOS 6 was in developer program beta testing.)” Gruber concludes.

Other tech bloggers concur that it is strange how such a major flaw wasn’t spotted or fixed sooner. “The timing is rather odd, and it makes you wonder how such a serious bug went undiscovered for over a year.” writes Cody Lee of iDownloadblog.

Ashkan Soltani, another security expert has compiled a list of current Apple applications that he believes are vulnerable to security hole that is still open on the current version of OS X for the Mac. The list





“ASHKAN SOLTANI, ANOTHER SECURITY EXPERT HAS COMPILED A LIST OF CURRENT APPLE APPLICATIONS THAT HE BELIEVES ARE VULNERABLE TO A SECURITY HOLE THAT IS STILL OPEN ON THE CURRENT VERSION OF OS X FOR THE MAC. THE LIST INCLUDES BASIC APPS SUCH AS MAIL, SAFARI, TWITTER, FACETIME AND CALENDER. THESE APPS TRANSMIT AND STORE EXACTLY THE TYPE OF INFORMATION NSA HAS TARGETED.”

includes basic apps such as mail, safari, twitter, facetime and calender. These apps transmit and store exactly the type of information NSA has targeted.

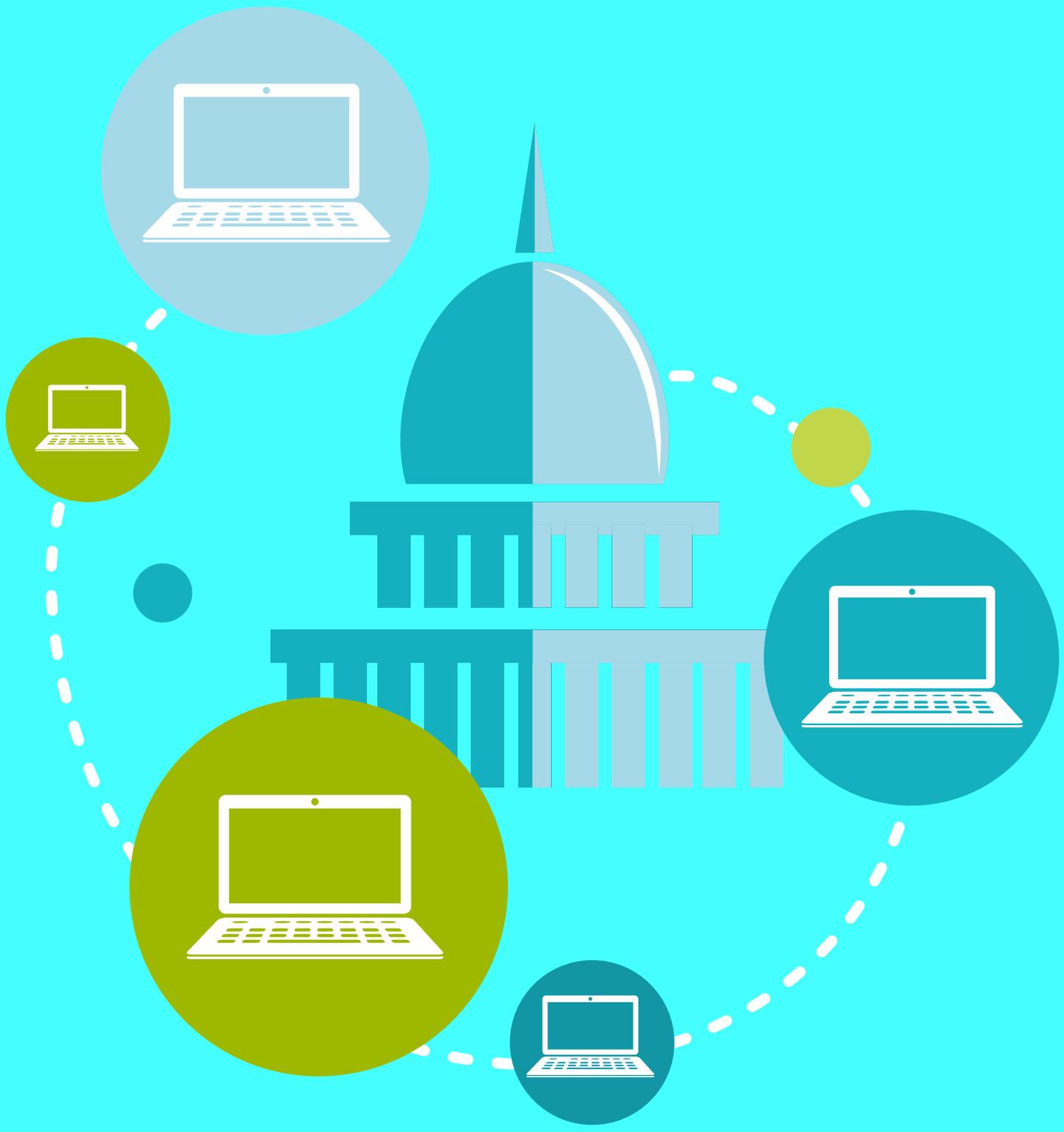
Just one month ago, a new Snowden leak revealed that the NSA had infiltrated iPhones with a program known as DROP-OUT JEEP, which allowed the agency access to text messages, voicemails and

other personal data.

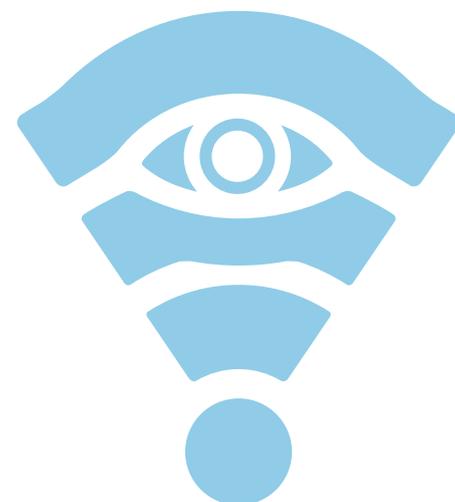
Apple has since vehemently denied having knowledge of the NSA's activities. “Apple has never worked with the NSA to create a backdoor in any of our products, including iPhone,” Apple said in a January statement. “Additionally, we have been unaware of this alleged NSA program targeting our products. We care

deeply about our customers' privacy and security.”

What do you think? Did Apple intentionally allow the NSA backdoor access to its servers? Is Apple, seemingly like Intel, the victim of NSA moles on the inside? Or is all of this just a big old coincidence?



# MONOPOLIZING THE INTERNET: COMCAST GOBBLES UP TIME WARNER



## *Imperium In Imperio* Will Govern Your Internet Connection

“Competition is a sin,” said the robber baron John D. Rockefeller. His maxim, a rule of conduct for large corporations for well over a hundred years, will soon govern how you receive your internet signal and how much you pay for it.

Earlier today, Comcast, the largest mass media and communications transnational corporation in the world, announced it will absorb Time Warner, the world’s second largest media and entertainment conglomerate. The “friendly” merger will “combine the country’s top two cable providers into a colossus that could reshape the U.S. pay TV and broadband industry if it clears regulatory hurdles,” reports Reuters. Hurdles, it should be noted, easily swept away by the real owners of the FCC and the federal government – leviathan-sized international corporations and the global banking cartel.

Despite this fact, we can expect a show. “A deal may face a fierce battle in Washington as you are merging the two largest cable operators,” an analyst told Reuters. It will be another dog and pony show designed to convince the American people they actually live in a democracy where the

government pretends it will protect them from predatory monopolies and other highly organized scams and rip-offs. It is well-known in the industry that Comcast has a “wealth of connections” in Washington. In short, it basically owns the FCC.

The Los Angeles Times posted an op-ed Wednesday on the merger. “Say goodbye to the public interest,” it headlines. The liberal newspaper predictably leans on the FCC and states the lumbering government regulatory commission “has all the authority it needs to protect net neutrality.” The prospect of handpicked political apparatchiks deciding the fate of the internet without bias is on par with a government sanctioned monopoly doing basically the same thing. All we basically need to know is that the current chairman of the FCC is Thomas Wheeler, a former lobbyist for the cable and wireless industry.

Prior to a creeping corporate takeover beginning in 1819 when the courts first tested the waters on the contentious subject of corporate personhood, the founders insisted charters be issued for business incorporation. “The Founders did not confuse Boston’s Sons of Liberty with the British East India Company,” Brian Murphy, a

history professor at Baruch College in New York, told the Harvard Business Review in 2010. The first generation of Americans “did their best to make sure that those institutions were subordinate to elected officials and representative government. They saw corporations as corrupting influences on both the economy at large and on government — that’s why they described the East India Company as imperium in imperio, a sort of ‘state within a state.’ This wasn’t an outcome they were looking to replicate.”

“With regard to monopolies they are justly classed among the greatest nuisances in Government,” James Madison wrote to Thomas Jefferson in 1788, a little more than a century before the Supreme Court ruled in a case involving a railroad that corporations have the same rights as flesh and blood humans.

“In an already uncompetitive market with high prices that keep going up and up, a merger of the two biggest cable companies should be unthinkable,” Craig Aaron of Free Press lamented on Wednesday, prior to the merger. “This deal would be a disaster for consumers and must be stopped.”

# NSA TO CONTROL THE STOCK MARKET

## Spy Agency Can Easily Manipulate The Market Through Latest Surveillance Hub

**A**n upcoming surveillance hub monitoring all investment transactions in real-time will allow the National Security Agency unparalleled ability to manipulate the stock market.

Through the use of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA)'s latest database, which keeps investor data in the same centralized location, the NSA could easily capture private, financial data on targeted investors and even influence the stock market as a whole.

And it appears that the dragnet database, called the Comprehensive Automated Risk Data System (CARDS), was designed with such vulnerabilities in mind.

"I can't think of any other reason that someone would invest so much time and so much effort into trying to monitor every brokerage account in the United States in real time," Porter Stansberry, the founder of the Stansberry & Associates Investment Research Conference, said on the Alex Jones Show. "That is an enormous technical challenge."

He also added that even knowing something as simple as how many individual investors own certain securities could be very, very valuable to select interests.

While one of the NSA's roles is undoubtedly financial espionage, the database will also make it easier for corporate entities and high frequency

traders to rig markets.

Indeed, three traders have already filed a lawsuit against CME Group Inc. for selling sensitive data to high frequency traders.

"The plaintiffs allege CME charged exchange and data fees for real-time price data, and purported that the data was sold to the users in real time. The suit further states that CME allegedly also charged high-frequency traders for the ability to see the data before others, including people who paid and continue to pay CME for seeing the same data first," reports the Wall Street Journal.

Since the 1987 stock market crash, the Working Group on Financial Markets, otherwise known as the Plunge Protection Team, has also been a target of charges of market manipulation.

The government itself routinely manipulates markets with the timing of announcements and the actual execution of quantitative easing and bond buying programs.

The Wall Street Journal recently reported on the new CARDS database and quoted FINRA's chairman stating that the dragnet "would provide us with a treasure trove of information."

Other revelations in the past reveal that the NSA is more than willing to monitor and manipulate financial transactions.

Last December, the White House report on the activities of the NSA suggested that the spy agency was already hacking into financial institu-

tions and altering the amounts held in bank accounts.

"Governments should not use their offensive cyber capabilities to change the amounts held in financial accounts or otherwise manipulate the financial systems," the report recommended.

Trevor Timm, a former analyst at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, asked if the recommendation implied that the NSA was already doing just that.

And a few months earlier, in September, German news outlet Der Spiegel reported that the spy agency was also tracking the global flow of money.

Under the "Follow the Money" program, the NSA collects credit card and other financial transactions into its own financial databank, called "Tracfin," which contains nearly 200 million records if not more.

"Further NSA documents from 2010 show that the NSA also targets the transactions of customers of large credit card companies like VISA for surveillance," the article continued. "NSA analysts at an internal conference that year described in detail how they had apparently successfully searched through the U.S. company's complex transaction network for tapping possibilities."

And the upcoming CARDS database, which a law professor suggested is as tempting of a target as the American fleet at Pearl Harbor, would grant the NSA almost unlimited possibilities to influence the stock market.

"LAST DECEMBER, THE WHITE HOUSE REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NSA SUGGESTED THAT THE SPY AGENCY WAS ALREADY HACKING INTO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND ALTERING THE AMOUNTS HELD IN BANK ACCOUNTS.

"GOVERNMENTS SHOULD NOT USE THEIR OFFENSIVE CYBER CAPABILITIES TO CHANGE THE AMOUNTS HELD IN FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS OR OTHERWISE MANIPULATE THE FINANCIAL SYSTEMS," THE REPORT RECOMMENDED."





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# NSA PRETENDS TO BE FACEBOOK TO SPY ON THE WORLD

## Malware Can Record Audio And Take Photos Of Web Users Without Their Knowledge

**T**he latest Snowden leaks on the NSA reveal that the spy agency is masquerading as Facebook in order to infect millions of computers around the world with malware as part of its mass surveillance program.

Glenn Greenwald reported the latest information today, noting that the practice has been in operation for over ten years with the help of British and Japanese intelligence.

The NSA, according to the leaks, has been distributing malware “implants” which can siphon out data from computers around the globe. The agency reportedly used a fake Facebook server as a launching pad to grab information from hard drives. The malware has also been designed to covertly record audio from a computer’s microphone and take snapshots with its webcam.

The internal documents describe the NSA’s own practice as “industrial-scale exploitation” of computer networks.

Chief research officer at the security firm F-Secure, Mikko Hypponen, described the practice as “disturbing,” noting that it could inadvertently affect the security of the entire internet.

“When they deploy malware on systems they potentially create new vul-

nerabilities in these systems, making them more vulnerable for attacks by third parties,” Hypponen told The Intercept.

Hypponen added that because the system is designed to operate without a great deal of human oversight, it could lead to the malware infection process spiraling “out of control”.

“That would definitely not be proportionate,” Hypponen said. “It couldn’t possibly be targeted and named. It sounds like wholesale infection and wholesale surveillance.”

The NSA refused to comment on the latest revelations, suggesting that because the practice is used for foreign and counterintelligence purposes, it is protected under a recent policy put in place by President Obama.

However, the evidence in the leaked documents indicates that the targets of NSA’s malware were not significant threats to national security, raising serious questions over the legality of mass surveillance tactics.

In one secret post on an internal message board, an operative from the NSA’s Signals Intelligence Directorate describes using malware attacks against systems administrators who work at foreign phone and Internet service providers. By hacking an

administrator’s computer, the agency can gain covert access to communications that are processed by his company. “Sys admins are a means to an end,” the NSA operative writes.

The internal post – titled “I hunt sys admins” – makes clear that terrorists aren’t the only targets of such NSA attacks. Compromising a systems administrator, the operative notes, makes it easier to get to other targets of interest, including any “government official that happens to be using the network some admin takes care of.”

The program appears to be part of NSA’s TAO (Tailored Access Operations), and is aimed at “Owning the Internet” according to the leaked documents. The leaked Black Budget of the program reveals it had a price tag of \$67.6 million last year.

Last month, a new Snowden leak revealed that British and American governments are spying on people in their own homes via web cams, laptop microphones and devices such as the X-box, a story that Infowars first reported on eight years ago.



"THE NSA, ACCORDING TO THE LEAKS, HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTING MALWARE "IMPLANTS" WHICH CAN SIPHON OUT DATA FROM COMPUTERS AROUND THE GLOBE. THE AGENCY REPORTEDLY USED A FAKE FACEBOOK SERVER AS A LAUNCHING PAD TO GRAB INFORMATION FROM HARD DRIVES. THE MALWARE HAS ALSO BEEN DESIGNED TO COVERTLY RECORD AUDIO FROM A COMPUTER'S MICROPHONE AND TAKE SNAPSHOTS WITH ITS WEBCAM."



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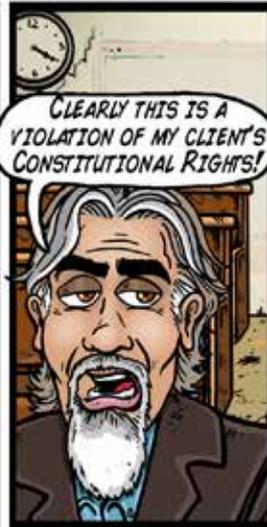
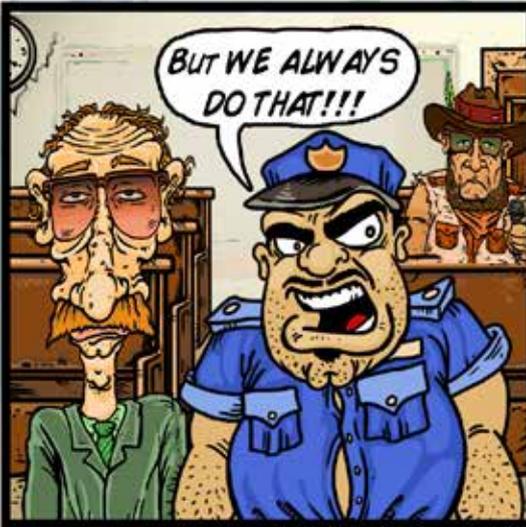
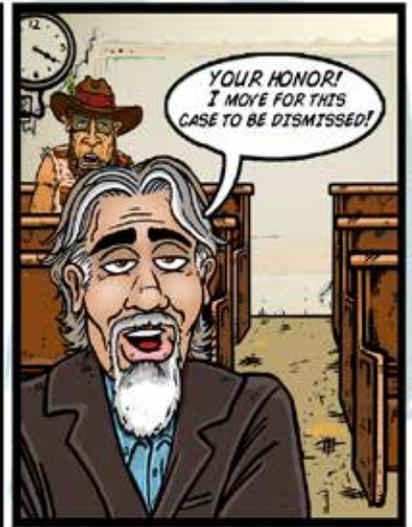
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# ANTI-SURVEILLANCE MASK CAN HIDE YOU FROM BIOMETRIC FACE SCANNERS

“An Alternative Identity When In Public”



**T**he U.S. government is spending billions of dollars to ensure that they can monitor and track every single activity in which you engage, be it online or off. The latest

attempt to infringe on the personal anonymity comes in the form of what has been referred to as Real I.D., essentially a social security number for the internet which would be used to follow your every move in cyber-

space. Coupled with technologies that include email mining, global positioning systems, predictive behavioral analysis, drones over America, and even eavesdropping via microphones on our cell phones, the ultimate goal is

“IN THE REALM OF BIOMETRICS, WHERE LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CAMERAS NOW WATCH OUR EVERY MOVE AND PLUG IN DIRECTLY TO DATA MINING FUSION CENTERS WHERE OUR ACTIVITIES ARE ANALYZED, AGGREGATED AND DISPATCHED ACCORDING TO OUR PERCEIVED THREAT, SOME MIGHT THINK THE SYSTEM ITSELF HAS BECOME UNBEATABLE.”

a surveillance state so expansive that Adolf Hitler and Josef Stalin would be jealous.

But just as quickly as government introduces the technologies that are supposed to keep us safe from terrorists and ourselves, enterprising rebels across the country are working to counter them.

In the realm of biometrics, where literally hundreds of thousands of cameras now watch our every move and plug in directly to data mining Fusion Centers where our activities are analyzed, aggregated and dispatched according to our perceived threat, some might think the system itself has become unbeatable.

Short of plastic surgery, how can we modify our faces to disappear from prying government eyes when we step out of our front doors?

If Leo Selvaggio has his way, you'll be able to assume an alternative identity by using an age old low-tech strategy made possible by modern-day 3-D printers.

It's so simple that it's brilliant, especially considering the fact that Selvaggio's innovation is capable of compromising multi-billion dollar face recognition surveillance systems with the use of an easily obtainable personal prosthetic mask.

His rubber mask aimed at foiling sur-

veillance cameras features his visage, and if he has his way, plenty of people will be sporting the Personal Surveillance Identity Prosthetic in public. It's one of three products made by the Chicago-based artist's URME Surveillance, a venture dedicated to “protecting the public from surveillance and creating a safe space to explore our digital identities.”

“Our world is becoming increasingly surveilled. For example, Chicago has over 25,000 cameras networked to a single facial recognition hub,” reads the URME (pronounced U R Me) site. “We don't believe you should be tracked just because you want to walk outside and you shouldn't have to hide either. Instead, use one of our products to present an alternative identity when in public.”

The 3D-printed resin mask, made from a 3D scan of Selvaggio's face and manufactured by ThatsMyFace.com, renders his features and skin tone with surprising realism, though the eyes peeping out from the eye holes do lend a certain creepiness to the look.

...  
“When you wear these devices the cameras will track me instead of you and your actions in public space will be attributed as mine because it will be me the cameras see,” the artist,

who's working toward his MFA at Chicago's Columbia College, says on a recently launched Indiegogo page for the products. “All URME devices have been tested for facial recognition and each properly identifies the wearer of me on Facebook, which has some of the most sophisticated facial recognition software around.”

(Cnet)

The anti-face recognition tech is currently only available in Leo Selvaggio's image, so government systems spotting anyone wearing the mask will flag him as the culprit. But the implications are so broad that somewhere inside the Department of Homeland Security surveillance personnel are undoubtedly scrambling to thwart it, because it presents a serious hiccup to the surveillance state.

With the ease of 3-D printing any technophobe with the ability to mimic someone else's face via 3D graphing software will have the ability to literally assume a person's identity by simply printing their face and wearing it.

In a the world of biometric surveillance, that means anybody can disappear from view and essentially become a 21st century Silence Dogood.

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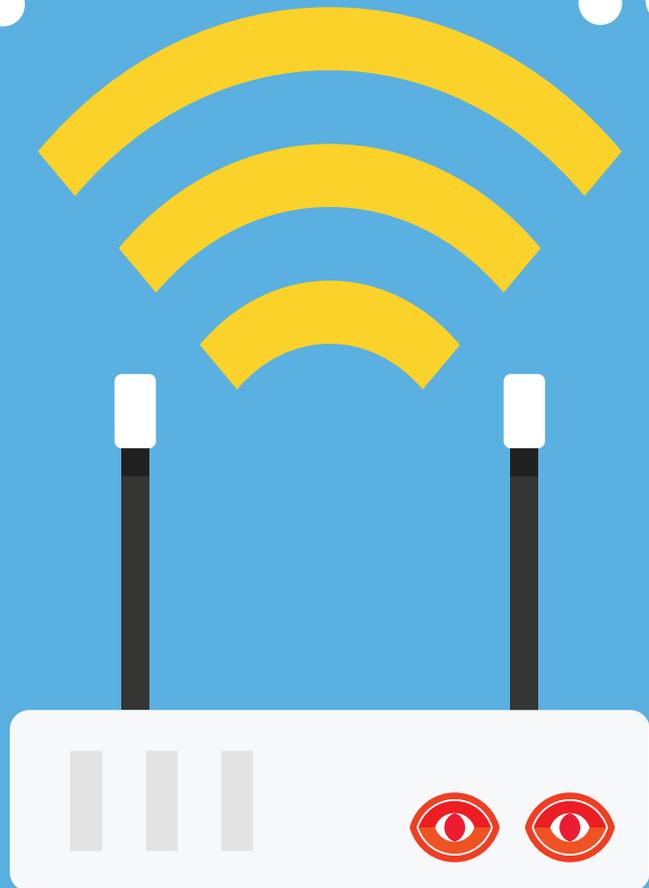
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“THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC) HAS APPROVED A PLAN THAT WOULD ALLOW LARGE INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS (ISPS) TO CHARGE SITES LIKE NETFLIX MORE TO RECEIVE PREFERENTIAL BANDWIDTH TREATMENT OVER SMALLER COMPANIES AND WEBSITES WITH LESS RESOURCES.”



# FCC MOVES CORPORATIZATION OF INTERNET FORWARD

In Addition To The Bandwidth Issue, Commissioners Are Concerned About Large Isp's Blocking Websites



**T**he Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has approved a plan that would allow large ISPs to charge sites like Netflix more to receive preferential bandwidth treatment over smaller companies and websites with less resources.

The change, approved in a three-to-two vote along partisan political lines, “could unleash a new economy on the Web,” *The Washington Post* reports.

This new economy will undoubtedly result in less choice for consumers and lead to what may be termed the “television” of the internet. In other

words large players like NBC and Disney will effectively monopolize the medium as they now do with cable and broadcast television.

“[S]maller companies that can’t afford to pay for faster delivery would likely face additional obstacles against bigger rivals. And consumers could see a trickle-down effect of higher prices as Web sites try to pass along new costs of doing business with Internet service providers.”

In addition to the bandwidth issue, commissioners are concerned about large ISPs blocking websites. In February, FCC chairman Tom Wheeler

said new rules would prevent content blocking.

In January an appeals court, however, ruled the FCC rules represented overreach and gave Verizon and other ISPs new latitude in determining prices for providing Netflix, Amazon, Google and Ebay.

The plan, in addition to raising prices, will also allow large ISPs to hobble sites deemed politically and socially unacceptable, from pornography to hacker sites and, importantly, alternative media and political sites.

# GOOGLE HIRES TOP GENETICIST IN SEARCH FOR LIFE EXTENSION

## How Will Synthetic DNA Impact Our Health And Environment?

**G**oogle is doing all it can these days to prepare for the coming “Singularity”. First, the company hired Transhumanist figurehead Ray Kurzweil to work as its director of engineering. Now, Google has hired top geneticist Cynthia Kenyon to work at Calico, Google’s “moonshot” operation aimed at extending human life.

At Calico, in partnership with Arthur Levinson, former chief executive of Genentech – the first genetic engineering company founded in 1976 – Google will strive to “significantly expand the human life span.”

Cynthia Kenyon, a biochemistry and biophysics professor, will help Calico search for radical life extension technologies. She will be working under Dr. Hal Barron, a former product development leader at Roche Pharmaceuticals that Calico hired in November of 2013.

Google chairman Eric Schmidt, who expects to be swallowing nanobots in the not too distant future, envisions life in this technological age as a streamlined and convenient existence.

Calico, working with Genentech, will likely utilize genetic engineering and synthetic DNA in its quest to extend human life. The Supreme Court’s ruling earlier this year ruled against the patenting of natural human genes. However, there was a vital part of the ruling that allows for the patenting of synthetically engineered DNA.

The U.K. Ministry of Defense published a 2006 report titled The DCDC Global Strategic Trends Programme 2007-2036. The report outlined possible scenarios surrounding life extension. The report states, “The divide between those that could afford to ‘buy longevity’ and those that could not, could aggravate perceived global inequality. Dictatorial or despotic rulers could potentially also ‘buy longevity’, prolonging their regimes and international security risks.”

The growing Transhumanist movement, with Google’s help, is attempting to shift cultural dialogues around aging and natural humanity. Google is paving the way in wearable technology that will eventually end up implanted in the human body. Trends researchers are already wondering how “naturals”

will compete with “Enhanced Singular Individuals” who have augmented themselves with implantable technology and genetic enhancements.

Whether or not any of these things can be accomplished remains to be seen. In the meantime these developments should not pass by without open discussion. How will synthetic DNA impact our health and environment? Synthetic biology is already set to enter the food supply this year with little to no debate at all.

The rapidly developing field of epigenetics is showing us that human DNA is far more complex than previously thought. As Discover magazine reports, “Your ancestors’ lousy childhoods or excellent adventures might change your personality, bequeathing anxiety or resilience by altering the epigenetic expressions of genes in the brain.” Will genetic code written in a computer contain the same “memories” of our ancestors that helped us to adapt and survive in the world?

*Daniel Taylor’s post first appeared on Old-thinker News.*





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# GREENWALD: NSA INTERCEPTS COMPUTER HARDWARE AND FITS IT WITH SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT

## Us Government Tampers With Routers Before “Factory Sealing” And Sending Them On

**G**lenn Greenwald, the journalist who broke the Edward Snowden revelations, has come good on his promise that fresh information on the NSA’s mass spying would be forthcoming. Today he reveals that the US government agency routinely intercepts computer hardware such as routers, switches and servers, and fits it with cutting edge surveillance equipment, before sending it back on its way.

In an article for The Guardian, Greenwald notes that the NSA tampers with the hardware, then repackages it with “factory sealing” before sending it off to unsuspecting companies who have no idea it has been intercepted.

Greenwald notes that the practice constitutes “an extreme form of gross hypocrisy,” given that it has been warning companies around the world not to buy Chinese hardware because it may be set up with surveillance technology.

The revelation again comes from documents leaked to Greenwald by former NSA employee Edward Snowden. Spe-

cifically, a June 2010 report from the head of the NSA’s Access and Target Development department states that US made hardware is “received” by the NSA before it is shipped overseas.

Greenwald writes:

“The agency then implants backdoor surveillance tools, repackages the devices with a factory seal, and sends them on. The NSA thus gains access to entire networks and all their users. The document gleefully observes that some ‘SIGINT tradecraft ... is very hands-on (literally!)’”.

“In one recent case, after several months a beacon implanted through supply-chain interdiction called back to the NSA covert infrastructure. This call back provided us access to further exploit the device and survey the network.” the NSA document reads.

“Chinese routers and servers represent not only economic competition but also surveillance competition.” Greenwald writes.

In a follow up interview with NPR, Greenwald stated that while intercepting equipment known to be on its way to terrorists may be acceptable to

some, “a system has been built without our knowledge that has incredible dangers embedded within and very few controls.”

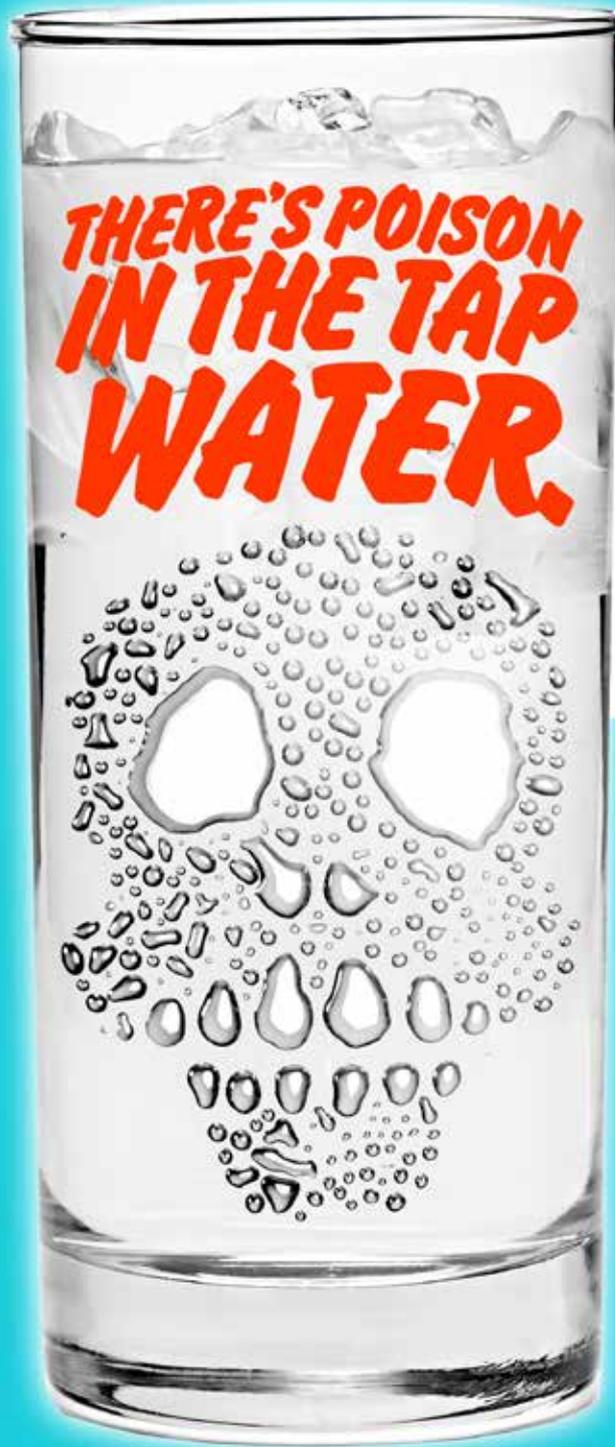
Greenwald notes that the NSA essentially believes it has the right to monitor all communications on the planet. He cites an NSA plan to tap into conversations originating from airplanes, for no particular reason.

“It’s just simply the fact that they do not think anybody should be able to communicate anywhere on the Earth without they being able to invade it,” Greenwald said.

Greenwald added that he believes the issue today is more pressing than previous NSA revelations in 2005 because it concerns domination of the internet and global communications in general.

With former NSA head Michael Hayden also making statements such as “We kill people based on metadata”, this sentiment will only be accepted more readily, both by critics of the spy agency and everyday Americans alike.





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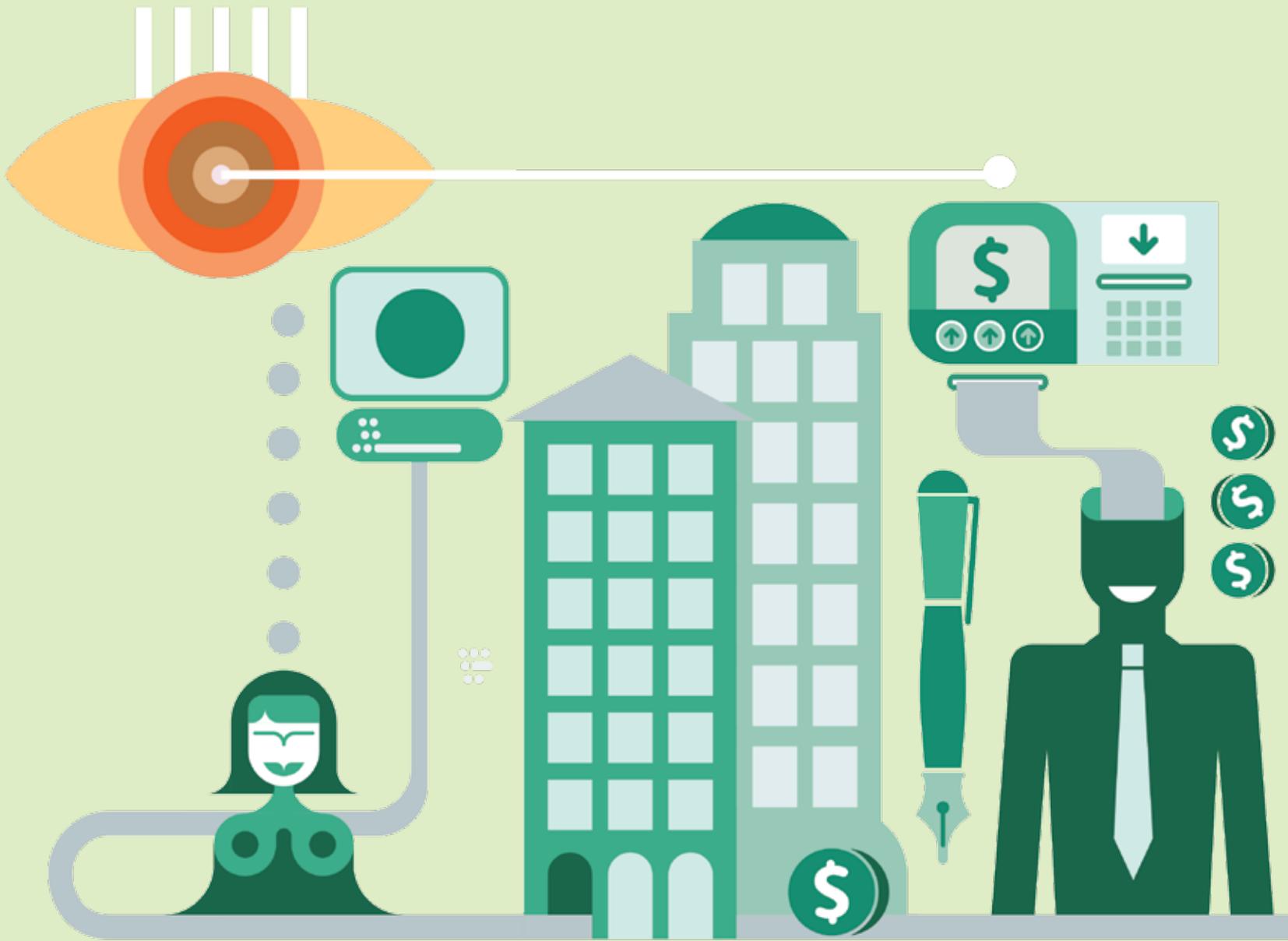
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“IT NOW APPEARS THE INTERNET WILL ULTIMATELY BE BURDENED WITH TAXATION, AN IMPOSITION THAT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RESULT, AS DOES ALL TAXATION, IN SQUELCHING INNOVATION, DISCOURAGING PROSPERITY AND NARROWING CONSUMER CHOICE”.

# KILLING THE INTERNET: A BLIZZARD OF NEW TAXES IN THE WINGS

## Lobbyists Show Their Power Over Politicians Once Again

**F**or years revenue-hungry states and local municipalities have salivated over the prospect of taxing the life out of the internet. Now a move by a small but dedicated minority in Congress may result in the scraping of the Internet Tax Freedom Act and usher in a new era of exorbitant taxation, according to The Wall Street Journal.

In a few months, the newspaper reports, “customers may begin receiving notices from their Internet providers that new taxes are on the way. Even though nearly everyone in Congress opposes slapping all of America’s heavy traditional telephone taxes on Internet access, a renewal of this successful policy is being held hostage by lobbyists for giant retailers.”

So persuasive is this minority, it has managed to convince both Democrats and Republicans that an extension of the Internet Tax Freedom Act – that has forbidden bit taxes, bandwidth taxes, and email taxes since 1998 – should be loosened up to allow 9,600 governments to shape rules for e-commerce. Specifically, states want additional authority to reach beyond their respective borders to collect sales taxes on items purchased online or they will pressure Congress to punish all Americans with new prohibitive taxes on all internet communication.

The Supreme Court decided in *Quill*

*v. North Dakota* back in 1992 it is too great a burden to force a mail order merchant to collect taxes in states where it has no physical presence. Retailers interested in undercutting smaller and more agile competitors and their allies in state government want to skirt the decision and write new rules for interstate commerce.

A brave new world of taxation threatened destruction of small online business when the Marketplace Fairness Act was proposed. It will force online retailers to collect taxes for state and local government across the board. Considering the huge number of state, local and tribal governments in the United States, the burden imposed for the collection of taxes would be, to say the least, significant. As of April 24, the bill was pending in the House Judiciary Committee.

It now appears the internet will ultimately be burdened with taxation, an imposition that will undoubtedly result, as does all taxation, in squelching innovation, discouraging prosperity and narrowing consumer choice. As the economy continues its slow motion collapse, federal, state and local governments will desperately seek new venues for taxation and wealth confiscation. The internet, so far unmolested, and thus allowed the freedom to innovate and grow, appears to be the next juicy target for the statist.



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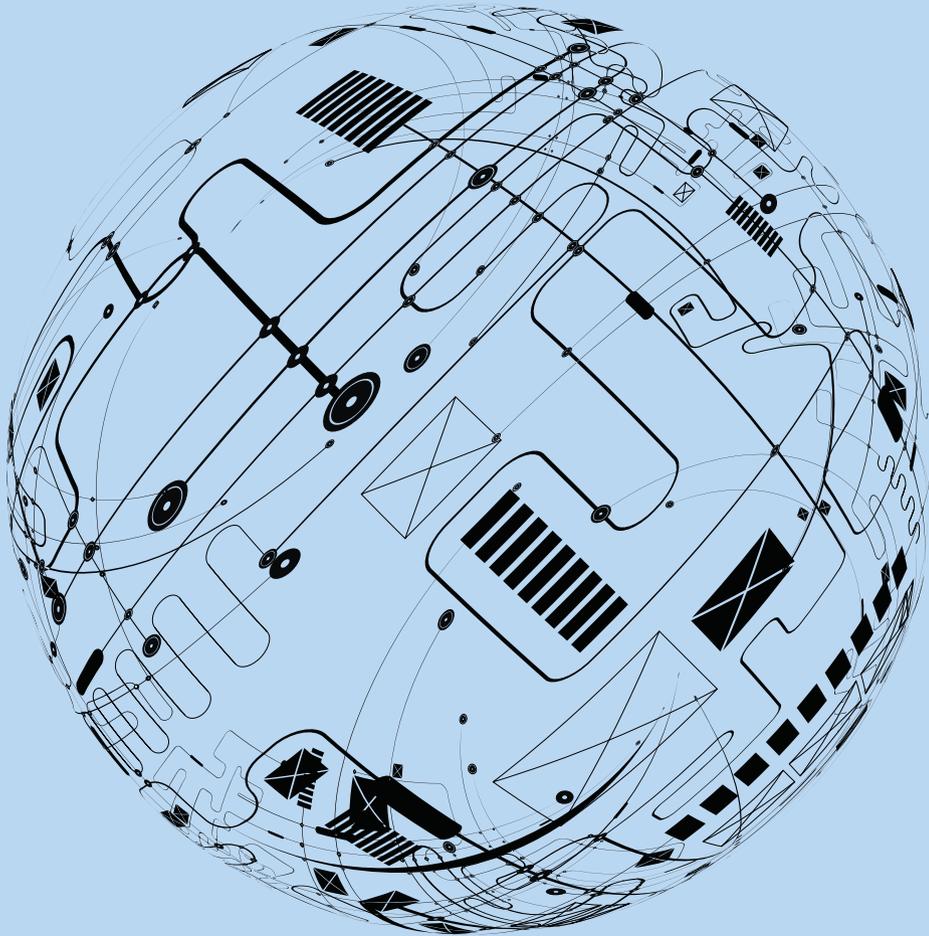
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# OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TURNS THE INTERNET OVER TO THE GLOBALISTS

Plans to impose a censorship and mass surveillance framework may now commence



**O**n Friday the U.S. Commerce Department released its grasp on the internet. Oversight of ICANN, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, will be passed on to the

“global internet community” next year. ICANN, under a Commerce Department contract, has issued domain names since 2000.

The United States has played a leading role in managing internet technology but has faced pressure to globalize

management of the internet over the last few years.

“We will not accept a proposal that replaces the NTIA role with a government-led or an intergovernmental solution,” said National Telecommunications & Information Administration

“THE UN AND EU HAVE SKETCHED OUT HOW THE FUTURE INTERNET WILL WORK. NOW THAT ICANN HAS RELINQUISHED CONTROL OF THE MEDIUM, GLOBALIST INSTITUTIONS CAN MOVE FORWARD WITH PLANS TO SCRUB THE INTERNET OF ALL CONTENT UNACCEPTABLE TO THE GLOBAL ELITE AND THEIR APPARATCHIKS AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND, ALSO, TURN IT INTO A REVENUE GENERATING CASH COW.”



boss Larry Strickling. The NITTA is an agency within the Commerce Department.

During the World Summit on Information Society more than a decade ago, it was proposed that governments not have too much control over the internet. “The international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations.”

In the intervening years the United Nations and the European Union have jostled for control the internet. During a meeting in Dubai last year the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the telecom branch of the United Nations, demanded rules governing the internet be rewritten. Specifically, the international organization proposed deep-packet inspection authority that would allow it to monitor and censor content on the internet. The United States walked out of the conference in protest.

Hamadoun Toure, Secretary-General of the ITU, released the fourth and final ITU/WTPF-13 report in May, 2013, outlining groundwork for internet governance and regulatory topics. The report calls for the creation of “Global Principles for the governance and use of the Internet” and proposes

resolution of issues pertaining to “use of Internet resources for purposes that are inconsistent with international peace, stability and security.”

The proposed changes were backed by China, Russia, Brazil, India and other UN members.

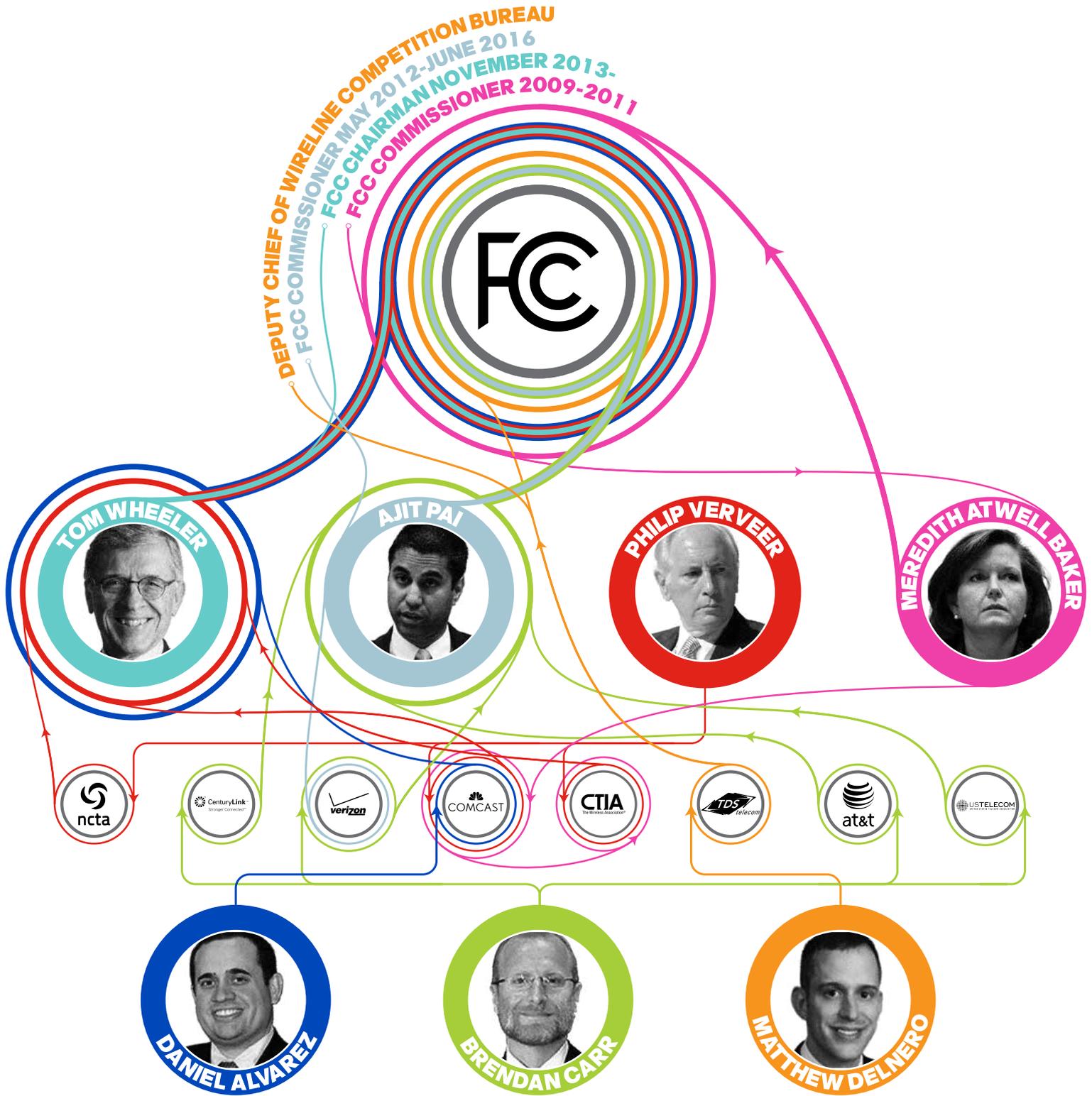
“Internet freedom’s foes around the globe are working hard to exploit a treaty negotiation that dwarfs the importance of the [U.N.’s 2012 World Conference on International Telecommunications] by orders of magnitude,” warned outgoing U.S. Federal Communications Commissioner Robert McDowell in testimony before Congress in a joint U.S. House subcommittee hearing on international Internet governance last February.

The European Union has proposed censoring the internet to protect children and fight terrorism. The Clean IT project proposed the creation of a censorship and mass surveillance framework for EU countries funded by the European Commission. “The Clean IT project aimed to start a constructive dialogue between governments, businesses and civil society to explore how to reduce the terrorist use of the internet. This dialogue resulted in a set of general principles and an overview of possible best practices,” the Clean IT Project web page explains. The plan called for police to patrol Facebook

and other social networks in search of “extremist material” and propaganda. In addition to allowing users to flag “terrorist” content and turn other users in to the police, the proposals called for eliminating anonymity on the internet.

In addition to censorship, the ICANN transfer will allow for a globalist taxation scheme. “While the Obama administration says it is merely removing federal oversight of a non-profit, we should assume ICANN would end up as part of the United Nations,” former Bush administration State Department senior advisor Christian Whiton told The Daily Caller. “If the U.N. gains control what amounts to the directory and traffic signals of the Internet, it can impose whatever taxes it likes. It likely would start with a tax on registering domains and expand from there.”

The UN and EU have sketched out how the future internet will work. Now that ICANN has relinquished control of the medium, globalist institutions can move forward with plans to scrub the internet of all content unacceptable to the global elite and their apparatchiks at the United Nations and, as well, turn it into a revenue generating cash cow.



# THE REVOLVING DOOR OF DEATH

## The Brazen Plot To Silence You

In true beltway insider fashion, the top posts at the Federal Communications Commission are stocked to the brim with corporate stooges, lobbyists and the globalists yes-men. These public offices, whose purpose it is to protect the consumer and regulate data transmission have been completely infiltrated by the communication industries' moles, warping public policy and regulations to bend to the will of the corporate overlords.

Now, it is clear that the FCC is in the grip of an obvious case of what is known as "regulatory capture." The classic technique is that corporations, and special interest groups lure high ranking government officials into

resigning their posts by offering them obscenely lucrative, often symbolic positions in the private sector. This has the effect of opening a high level vacancy at the federal agency that can then be filled with appointments made by politicians that have sold their souls to the industry in question.

The ongoing battle for control of the internet is locked in a long, hard, siege against the cabal of the communication cartels hell bent on seizing control of the free flow of information. Their goal is to destroy the foundational principles of the free, open internet and impose their "tiered" system whereby they can crush dissent and manufacture opinion.

The embedded lobbyists and their

masters have hatched a plan to stratify the internet into virtual 'lanes.' The idea is that information (data) that has payed the toll will be allowed priority and zip through the congestion with a virtual 'police escort.' Data that doesn't pay for special access is stuck in the data traffic jam, or intentionally throttled by the providers.

The turncoats at the FCC are doing their best to secretly slide these changes into law and rip freedom of speech out of the hands of citizens worldwide. It will stifle innovation, gouge users for money, and effectively kill any dissent to the powers that be.

Let's take a look at who these nefarious players are...

**Tom Wheeler, Chairman** - Is a true lobbyist-insider with close connections to major Internet Service Providers. Last March, a group of the most important companies threw a party in honor of Wheeler and other FCC commissioners who come scurrying when they call.

**Daniel Alvarez, Legal Advisor** - Is an attorney who represented Comcast, and is vocally outspoken in his support to kill Net Neutrality. He has authored several opinions and lobbied ceaselessly for the death of the internet as we know it.

**Philip Verveer, Senior Counselor** - Was an ambassador who was employed by Comcast a scant few months ago. He has also brazenly represented two powerful industry coalitions intent on destroying freedom on the internet.

**Brendan Carr, Legal Advisor** - Was none other than the associate general counsel at Verizon and put in his time as an attorney for the U.S. Telecom Association, which has been in virulent opposition of net neutrality for over nine years.

**Matthew DelNero, Deputy Chief** - Joined the FCC to work exclusively on the subject of destroying Net Neutrality. His former employer, TDS Telecom, lobbied furiously against Net Neutrality during his extended tenure there.

# POLICE NOW “ARMED FOR WAR” AGAINST RETURNING VETERANS

## Cops In Armored Vehicle Asked By Residents “Are You Coming To Take Our Guns Away?”

In an interview with Fox 59, a Morgan County, Indiana Police Sergeant admits that the increasing militarization of domestic police departments is partly to deal with returning veterans who are now seen as a homegrown terror threat.

In a chilling story entitled *Armed for War: Pentagon surplus gives local police an edge*, we learn how a Mine Resistant Vehicle (MRAP) which was once used during the occupation of Afghanistan will now be “patrolling the streets of central Indiana,” according to the report.

Sgt. Dan Downing of the Morgan County Sheriff’s Department states, “When I first started we really didn’t have the violence that we see today,” adding, “The weaponry is totally different now that it was in the beginning of my career, plus, you have a lot of people who are coming out of the military that have the ability and knowledge to build IEDs and to defeat law enforcement techniques.”

Downing goes on to relate how citizens approach the vehicle when it stops at gas stations to express their concerns that the militarization of police is about arming cops with the tools required for mass gun confiscation programs.

“We were actually approached when we’d stop to get fuel by people wanting

to know why we needed this...what were we going to use it for? ‘Are you coming to take our guns away?’” said Downing. “To come and take away their firearms...that absolutely is not the reason why we go this vehicle. We got this vehicle because of the need and because of increased violence that we have been facing over the last few years....I’ll be the last person to come and take anybody’s guns.”

Indiana seems to be a major trial balloon for the militarization of law enforcement given that the Indiana National Guard has also just purchased two military UH-72 Lakota helicopters which will also be used by local police and the DHS for “homeland security missions”. Downing’s claim that armored tanks are necessary to deal with violent crime doesn’t jive with actual statistics which suggest that violent crime is in fact on the decrease.

Downing’s admission that the armored vehicles are partly about combating the threat posed by returning veterans correlates with similar rhetoric at the federal level.

An April 2009 DHS intelligence assessment listed returning vets as likely domestic terrorists. Just a month later, the New York Times reported on how Boy Scout Explorers were being trained by the DHS to kill “disgruntled Iraq war veterans” in terrorist drills.

The FBI has also repeatedly charac-

terized returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan as a major domestic terrorist threat.

It seems to have been completely forgotten by police departments, the media and Americans in general that having military-style tanks patrol the streets is symbolic of a collapsing banana republic or an authoritarian Communist state.

Perhaps the main reason why police officers are being trained that veterans are a major threat is because returning vets are in a perfect position to recognize that America is beginning to resemble an occupied country like Afghanistan.

Such warnings have come from people like former Marine Corps Colonel Peter Martino, who was stationed in Fallujah and trained Iraqi soldiers. Martino went before a New Hampshire city council meeting last year to assert that the Department of Homeland Security is working with law enforcement to build a “domestic army,” because the federal government is afraid of its own citizens.

Indeed, the city’s Police Chief justified the necessity for the acquisition of an armored ‘Bearcat’ vehicle by citing the “threat” posed by libertarians, sovereign citizen adherents, and Occupy activists in the region.





“LAST YEAR, AWARD-WINNING MILITARY WRITER AND FORMER INTELLIGENCE OFFICER LT. COL. DOUGLAS PRYER PENNED AN ESSAY WARNING OF THE THREAT POSED BY REMORSELESS “KILLER ROBOTS” THAT WILL BE USED TO STALK AND SLAUGHTER HUMAN TARGETS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.”

# SCIENTISTS: ROBOTS COULD BE PROGRAMMED TO KILL YOU 'FOR THE GREATER GOOD'

## Autonomous Vehicles Present 'Morally Dangerous Path'

**A**s the United Nations debates legislation that could outlaw 'killer robots', scientists predict that artificially intelligent systems could one day decide to kill humans "for the greater good."

In an article for Popular Science, Erik Sofge outlines a scenario whereby robot cars would decide to sacrifice their human owner in order to prevent a collision that could kill more people.

A front tire blows, and your autonomous SUV swerves. But rather than veering left, into the opposing lane of traffic, the robotic vehicle steers right. Brakes engage, the system tries to correct itself, but there's too much momentum. Like a cornball stunt in a bad action movie, you are over the cliff, in free fall.

Your robot, the one you paid good money for, has chosen to kill you. Better that, its collision-response algorithms decided, than a high-speed, head-on collision with a smaller, non-robotic compact. There were two people in that car, to your one. The math couldn't be simpler.

Sofge cites an opinion piece by Patrick Lin, an associate philosophy

professor and director of the Ethics + Emerging Sciences Group at California Polytechnic State University, in which Lin delves into the "legally and morally dangerous paths" presented by the emergence of robotic vehicles.

Aside from Google cars and other autonomous forms of transportation, the question of giving robot soldiers a license to kill has raged for years and is currently the subject of a highly anticipated debate in New York being overseen by the U.N.'s Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

The UN body's role in banning blinding laser weapons for battlefield use in the 1990s has led to speculation that legislation banning the use of drone soldiers could be in the works.

"All too often international law only responds to atrocities and suffering once it has happened," said Michael Moeller, acting head of the U.N.'s European headquarters in Geneva. "You have the opportunity to take preemptive action and ensure that the ultimate decision to end life remains firmly under human control."

Last year, award-winning military writer and former intelligence officer Lt. Col. Douglas Pryer penned an

essay warning of the threat posed by remorseless "killer robots" that will be used to stalk and slaughter human targets in the near future.

Pryer's comments echo those of Noel Sharkey, professor of artificial intelligence and robotics at the University of Sheffield, who has repeatedly warned that the robots currently being developed under the auspices of DARPA will eventually be used to kill.

In a 50-page report published in 2012, Human Rights Watch also warned that artificially intelligent robots let loose on the battlefield would inevitably commit war crimes.

Michael Cahill, a law professor and vice dean at Brooklyn Law School, welcomed the idea of autonomous robots with the power to make life or death decisions on behalf of humans, but acknowledged that such a society could resemble a science fiction nightmare.

"The beauty of robots is that they don't have relationships to anybody," stated Cahill, adding, "They can make decisions that are better for everyone. But if you lived in that world, where robots made all the decisions, you might think it's a dystopia."

# PUBLIC REJECTS GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF INTERNET

## Attacks Against Online Free Speech And Privacy Opposed By People Who Think For Themselves

Countries around the world, including the United States, are proposing new guidelines for the Internet which will curb free speech and reduce online privacy, prompting many concerns from the public.

The European Commission, for example, has proposed the Clean IT project that would allow European officials to “patrol” the Internet, particularly social media sites, in search for so-called “extreme” speech under the guise of “protecting the children” and “fighting terrorism.”

Knowing how government likes to regulate above and beyond its stated purpose, “extreme” speech would likely include any online speech that questions government policy.

The Clean IT project would also coerce Internet Service Providers into implementing “real name” rules to prevent completely anonymous use of the Internet, according to a leaked document on the project not meant to be seen by the public.

The document also lists other stated goals of Clean IT, such as:

- Allowing police to remove online content “without following the more labour-intensive and formal procedures for ‘notice and action’,”
- Appealing any existing laws that prevent companies from monitoring their employees’ Internet use,
- Strict penalties for “knowingly” providing links to undefined “extremist” content, and

- Giving ISPs who play ball with officials preferable treatment when awarding government contracts

The list goes on and on.

“In essence, Clean IT wants to punish you for using the Internet as it was intended,” Zach Walton with WebProNews wrote on the subject. “It would require you to use your real name in all online communications.”

“It would punish you for linking to ‘terrorist content’ (whatever that means) and it makes no distinction between linking for educational or malicious purposes.”

But unfortunately, such Orwellian proposals are not unique to Europe.

In the United States, the Obama administration is spearheading a Chinese-style ID system for Internet users in a program called the “National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace.”

The program would replace the current system of usernames and passwords with biometrics, fingerprints for example, used for web access to government services such as license applications.

While the program is initially slated for government web sites, there’s no reason why it or a similar program won’t be used for private sites in the future as well, considering that the private sector is already taking steps to replace passwords with biometrics.

Both Samsung and Apple have already added fingerprint authentication technology to their smartphones

and other tech firms are eyeing fingerprints to replace passwords for online shopping, e-mail and even social media.

This could easily erode online anonymity if web sites begin demanding users’ biometrics in order to login to post comments or otherwise contribute to the site, and no doubt it will be sold to the public as offering more security than current methods of authentication.

But biometrics aren’t as secure as they seem.

“The creation of a biometric payment system would mean surrendering fingerprint data to companies with a history of security breaches,” Corinne Iozzio wrote in the Feb. 2014 issue of Popular Science. “If prints were irreproducible, that might not be such a concern, but it’s not particularly hard to hack a fingerprint.”

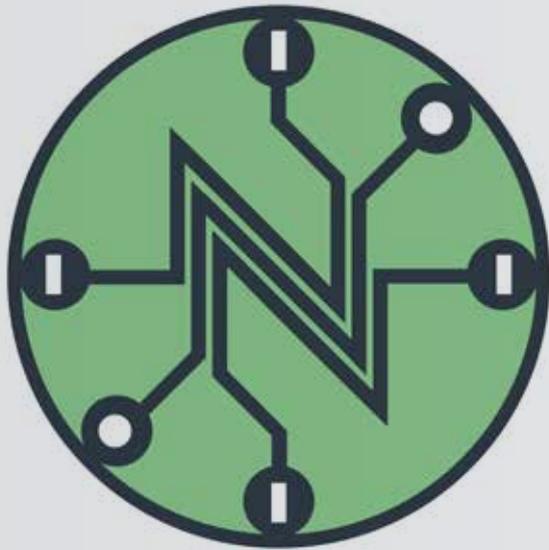
“A laser printout of a digital fingerprint has just enough relief for a counterfeiter to cast a glue-based copy.”

She also pointed out that a German hacker group successfully used a similar technique to trick Touch ID, Apple’s fingerprint recognition technology.

Unlike passwords or compromised credit cards, you can’t change or cancel your fingerprints; they are yours for life.

“A fingerprint’s greatest strength — its uniqueness — is also its greatest weakness,” Iozzio added. “And once it’s compromised, you’ll never get it

WE BELIEVE THAT A FREE AND OPEN INTERNET CAN BRING ABOUT A BETTER WORLD. TO KEEP THE INTERNET FREE AND OPEN WE CALL ON COMMUNITIES, INDUSTRIES AND COUNTRIES TO RECOGNIZE THESE PRINCIPLES. WE BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL BRING ABOUT MORE INNOVATION AND MORE OPEN SOCIETIES. WE ARE JOINING AN INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT TO DEFEND OUR FREEDOMS BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE WORTH FIGHTING FOR. LET'S DISCUSS THESE PRINCIPLES WITH THEM. WE AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THEM. DEBATE THEM. TRANSLATE THEM. MAKE THEM YOUR OWN AND BROADCAST THEM. DISCUSS THEM WITH YOUR COMMUNITY. AS ONLY THE INTERNET CAN MAKE THIS POSSIBLE.



# DID YOU KNOW?

back.”

But how does the public feel about both the use of biometrics on the Internet as well as government’s increasing surveillance online?

Recently, the University of Texas at Austin held its spring graduation outside on campus, attracting thousands from around the world, so we took the opportunity to ask a wide variety of attendants for their take on the subject.

Xavier, who hails from Bolivia, said that allowing police to monitor social media for so-called “extremist” talk would be a very big mistake.

“They shouldn’t do that because unlimited expression, free expression,

is a basic liberty which all people have,” he said. “We have to be able to express anything while of course respecting everybody.”

So he doesn’t believe that it’s wise for government to restrict free speech.

“We have to be aware of government,” Xavier added. “Government has to have power but it cannot have more power than the people.”

Similarly, one of the parents at the graduation, Bob, said that free speech on the Internet should “never, ever be restricted.”

“I don’t know if I have any fears, but I have concerns,” he said when asked for his opinion on Internet ID. “I don’t agree with it; never, ever, ever should

it happen.”

A business graduate pointed out that even with the government’s past encroachments on Internet freedoms, people are already saying less online than before.

“The government is already playing a role,” she said. “I think family members play the immediate role, [as in] What is my family going to think of me? What are my friends going to think of me?” and then “What is the government even looking at [about] me?”

“I think every day you have to be careful of what you say because it’s the society that we live in right now [where] anything you say could be

**NET NEUTRALITY** IS THE PRINCIPLE OF HAVING AN OPEN INTERNET. THE THOUGHT THAT INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS AND GOVERNMENTS SHOULD ALLOW NO BIT OF INFORMATION TO BE PRIORITIZED OVER ANOTHER. THIS PRINCIPLE IMPLIES THAT AN INFORMATION NETWORK SUCH AS THE INTERNET IS MOST EFFICIENT AND USEFUL TO THE PUBLIC WHEN IT IS LESS FOCUSED ON A PARTICULAR AUDIENCE AND INSTEAD ATTENTIVE TO MULTIPLE USERS. THE TERM WAS COINED BY COLUMBIA MEDIA LAW PROFESSOR TIM WU IN 2003.

criticized, like the LA Clippers owner, a perfect example of a private conversation turning into a global outrage.”

The graduate also disagreed with the latest push for biometric-based Internet ID, stating that it gives too much control to the government.

Harlan, who owns a business near campus, called the Clean IT program “devastating to people who want to share information.”

“Who deems what information is clean and what information is dirty?” He asked. “It seems like that kind of regulation is just fraught with all types of peril that will only endanger free speech in the future.”

On the subject of biometric authen-

tication, Harlan believes that most Americans would find it “really creepy.”

“I know I do,” he stated. “I can’t speak for everyone else but I think it would be a horrible, horrible use of technology.”

“I think people would probably turn away from those sorts of technologies and join ones that didn’t incorporate those sorts of things, but I could be wrong.”

It is definitely refreshing to see such strong opposition to the erosion of both free speech and privacy.

For one thing, the individuals we interviewed didn’t just parrot big government talking points which

are propagated through mainstream media outlets; rather they came up with their own conclusions about these new developments.

A lot of that can be contributed to both Edward Snowden’s revelations on government surveillance and the rise of the alternative media which doesn’t shy away from covering real issues such as the government’s push for biometrics.

This is exactly why governments across the world are moving against the Internet: they simply want to replace the flow of truth that reaches millions every day with their own false narratives which cement their control over the population.

# A NEW ECONOMY OF CORPORATE DOMINATION ON THE WEB

## FCC Approves Plan To Allow Large ISPs To Charge Websites More To Receive Preferential Bandwidth Treatment

**A** Democrat dominated Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has approved a plan that will allow large Internet service providers (ISPs) to charge bandwidth hungry sites like Netflix and Youtube more to receive preferential bandwidth treatment. The tiered arrangement in favor of large corporate sites will ultimately force smaller sites with less capital and resources into a ghetto with internet speed bumps comparable to the old days of dial-up access.

This fundamental change will significantly modify the web in favor of large telecom and entertainment corporations. It was approved in May following a three-to-two vote along partisan political lines. If adopted the plan will “unleash a new economy on the Web,” according to The Washington Post. It will undoubtedly result in less choice for consumers. Large players like NBC and Disney with lavish budgets will effectively monopolize the medium as they now do with cable and broadcast television. Consumers will pay more to receive sanitized and highly commercialized corporate content. They will face frustrating load times when they decide to visit smaller websites containing multimedia content.

“[S]maller companies that can’t afford to pay for faster delivery would

likely face additional obstacles against bigger rivals. And consumers could see a trickle-down effect of higher prices as Web sites try to pass along new costs of doing business with Internet service providers,” the Post reported following the FCC party-line vote ahead of final changes to be implemented later this year.

In addition to the bandwidth issue, commissioners are concerned large ISPs will block content in competition with them or deemed inappropriate. In February, FCC chairman Tom Wheeler, a former telecom lobbyist appointed by Obama, said he will make sure new rules prevent content blocking.

“There has been a great deal of misinformation that has recently surfaced regarding the draft Open Internet Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that we will today circulate to the Commission,” Wheeler posted on the FCC blog in April. “The Notice proposes the reinstatement of the Open Internet concepts adopted by the Commission in 2010 and subsequently remanded by the D.C. Circuit. The Notice does not change the underlying goals of transparency, no blocking of lawful content, and no unreasonable discrimination among users established by the 2010 Rule. The Notice does follow the roadmap established by the Court as to how to enforce rules of the road that protect an Open Internet

and asks for further comments on the approach.”

The remarks by the FCC boss arrived following a federal appeals court ruling in February. According to U.S. District Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, the agency overstepped its authority on net neutrality rules when it moved to prevent large internet service providers like Time Warner Cable and Verizon from blocking traffic by Netflix, Amazon, Google, Ebay and other bandwidth-intensive services. The court ruling opened the door for the latest foray by large ISPs to carve out high speed internet toll roads and charge accordingly.

“I intend to accept that invitation by proposing rules that will meet the court’s test for preventing improper blocking of and discrimination among Internet traffic, ensuring genuine transparency in how Internet Service Providers manage traffic, and enhancing competition,” Wheeler said in a statement after the court ruling. “Preserving the Internet as an open platform for innovation and expression while providing certainty and predictability in the marketplace is an important responsibility of this agency.”

The new decision by the FCC does not violate the federal agency’s previous commitment to discourage “behavior harmful to consumers or



“CONSUMERS WILL PAY MORE TO RECEIVE SANITIZED AND HIGHLY COMMERCIALIZED CORPORATE CONTENT. THEY WILL FACE FRUSTRATING LOAD TIMES WHEN THEY DECIDE TO VISIT SMALLER WEBSITES CONTAINING MULTIMEDIA CONTENT.”

competition by limiting the openness of the Internet.” It will, however, put a premium price on what consumers presently expect when they pay \$50 or \$60 per month for high speed internet. Moreover, consumers may experience many sites previously accessible on the internet’s level playing field as unbearably slow or, as prices rise on premium bandwidth, go away altogether.

It remains to be seen if the FCC will implement the new rules. “There is one Internet,” Wheeler mused prior to the vote. “Not a fast Internet, not a slow Internet. One Internet... Nothing in this proposal authorizes paid prioritization. The potential for there to be some kind of fast lane has many people concerned... I will work to see that does not happen.”

Some, however, believe Wheeler is fuzzing the margins as the four month window for comment and deliberation on the FCC proposals counts down. Michael Weinberg, vice pres-

ident of the advocacy group Public Knowledge, told John Nichols of The Cap Times he is “concerned that the FCC is considering some kind of paid prioritization.”

According to Nichols “paid prioritization” would “recreate the Internet as a place where there would be super-highway service for big-ticket customers and dirt roads for small businesses, creative artists and citizen groups. In a political context, it has the potential to narrow access to ideas and reduce the range of debate.”

For the political establishment this is good news. For nearly two decades the Internet has provided an open forum for diverse political groups challenging the establishment and the status quo dominated by corporate interests. A growing and vibrant alternative media has flourished on the Internet and this will undoubtedly change if the FCC allows large corporations like Comcast and Time Warner Cable to dominate the fast lane.

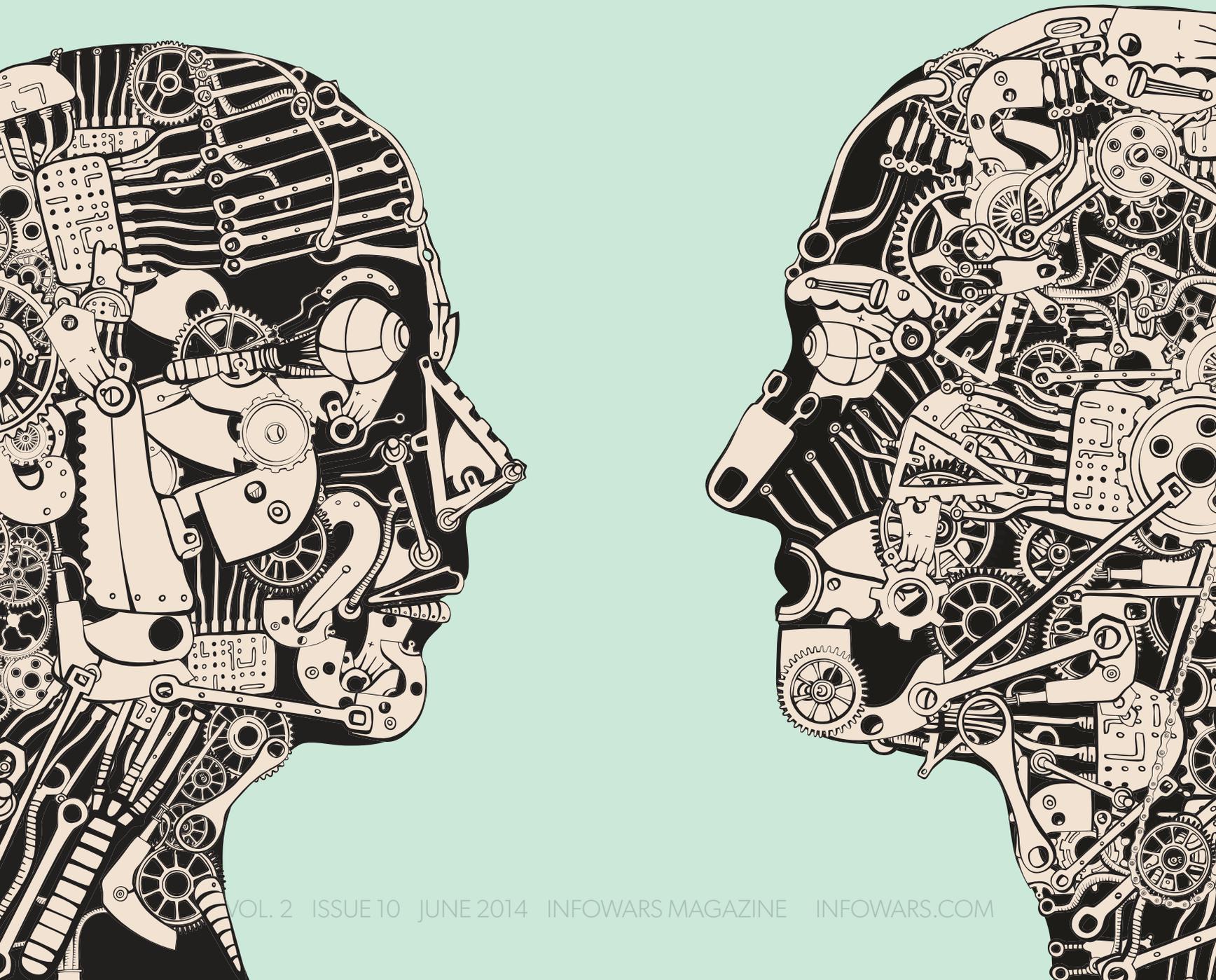
“Profits and corporate disfavor of controversial viewpoints or competing services could change both what you can see on the Internet and the quality of your connection,” the American Civil Liberties Union warns. “And the need to monitor what you do online in order to play favorites means even more consumer privacy invasions piled on top of the NSA’s prying eyes.”

It is important that you express your opinion about the FCC’s effort to establish a two tiered system that will either seriously hobble or eliminate outright many websites, especially small political websites operating on shoestring budgets.

**You can add a comment via the FCC’s Electronic Comment Filing System. The URL for the comment system is:**

*<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/upload/display?z=6inmu>*

“TRANSHUMANISTS ENVISION A DAY WHEN TECHNOLOGY WILL ALLOW HUMANITY TO BECOME SO ADVANCED THAT SICKNESS, DISEASE, POVERTY AND WAR WILL ESSENTIALLY BE ERADICATED. THEY BELIEVE THAT MERGING WITH MACHINES WILL PERMIT US TO BECOME TRILLIONS OF TIMES MORE INTELLIGENT THAN WE ARE TODAY, AND THEY ALSO BELIEVE THAT RADICAL LIFE EXTENSION TECHNOLOGIES WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR HUMANITY TO ACTUALLY ACHIEVE IMMORTALITY.”



# TRANSHUMANISTS: SUPERHUMAN POWERS & LIFE EXTENSION TECH WILL ALLOW US TO BECOME LIKE GOD

## Merging Man With Machine Is What Elite Have Planned

If you could merge your current mind and body with technology that would give you superhuman powers and would allow you to live forever, would you do it? This is essentially what the transhumanism movement is seeking to accomplish.

Transhumanists envision a day when technology will allow humanity to become so advanced that sickness, disease, poverty and war will essentially be eradicated. They believe that merging with machines will permit us to become trillions of times more intelligent than we are today, and they also believe that radical life extension technologies will make it possible for humanity to actually achieve immortality. Many transhumanists are convinced that such a world can be achieved within their lifetimes. They point to Moore's Law and to the fact that technology already appears to be growing at an exponential rate. As the technology curve continues to steepen, transhumanists believe that our world will rapidly become transformed into a place that would be unrecognizable to us today. Just a few decades from now, transhumanists believe that superhuman powers and extremely advanced life extension technologies will allow them to essentially become like gods.

The key moment that most transhumanists are looking forward to is known as "the Singularity". That is the moment when artificial intelligence will actually surpass human intelligence and a massive technological chain reaction will be triggered. At that time, most transhumanists believe that biological intelligence will merge with non-biological intelligence and humanity will become vastly more intelligent than it is today. During this transition, society will be fundamentally transformed...

After the Singularity occurs, it is predicted that vast changes will sweep through society; changes so drastic that they are nearly inconceivable at the present time. Experts in the movement say that after the Singularity, indefinite human life extension will rapidly become the norm. Many scientists working in this field are particularly interested in the concept of achieving immortality.

To most people, the idea of achieving immortality in our decaying physical bodies would sound absolutely ridiculous.

But transhumanists are very serious about this.

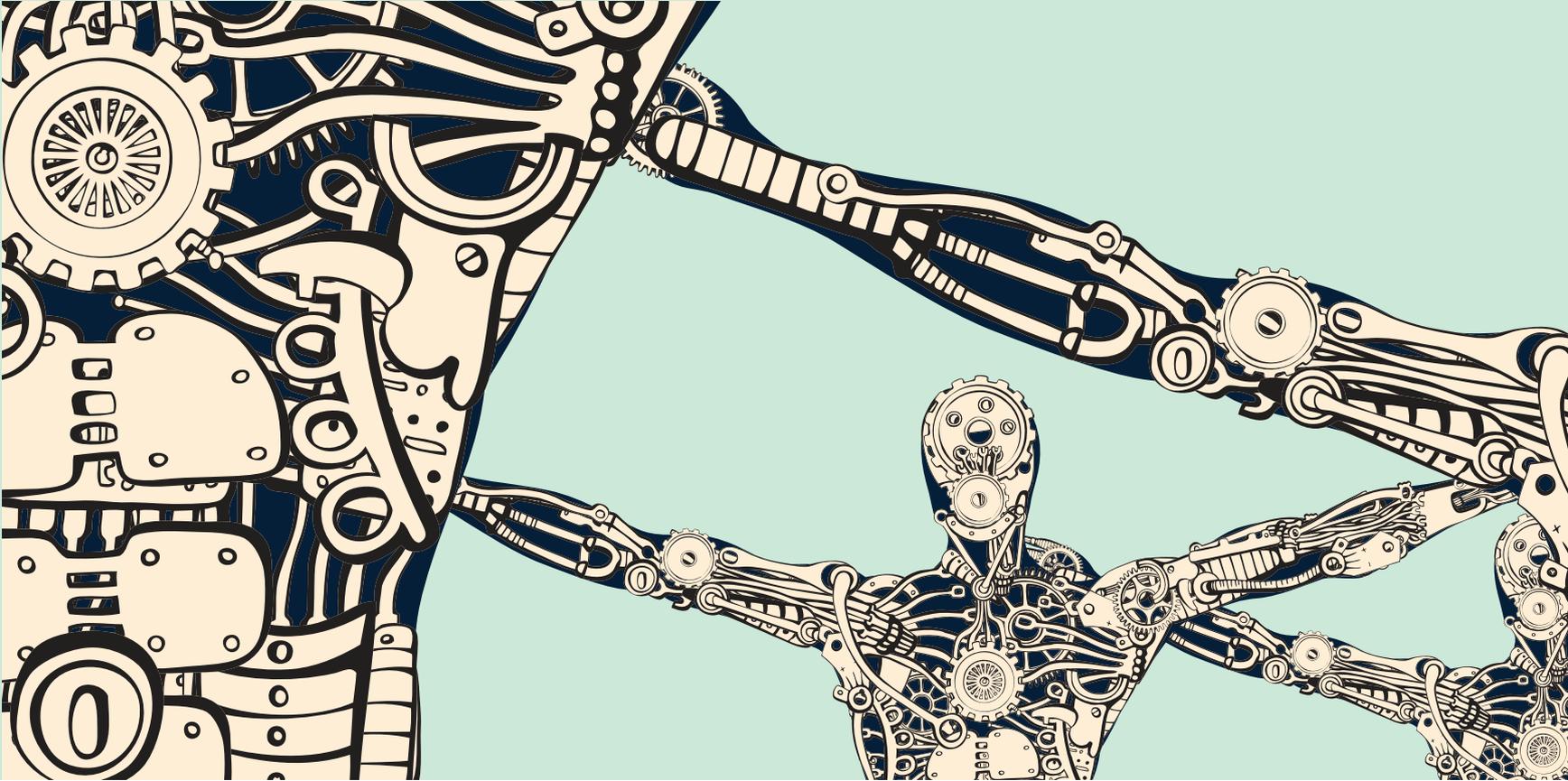
One way they are seeking to accomplish this is by searching for a method that will enable them to store

the human mind on a computer. If your entire consciousness could be "uploaded" into a computer, it could conceivably later be downloaded into a futuristic avatar of some sort once that technology has been developed.

But that is not the only life extension technology that transhumanists are working on. Some other examples include embedding nanobots in our bodies and brains and eliminating diseases through the process of "genetic reprogramming"...

Other futurists and transhumanists are working toward improving longevity through more biological means, such as growing new organs from stem cells, replacing worn out parts of the body with high-tech updated models, and curing diseases through genetic reprogramming. A third method of achieving a transhuman state of being may come through merging the biological and non biological in equal measure, such as embedding nano robots into the bloodstream and brain; and replacing atoms with nano computers to solve the degeneration that comes with aging.

According to transhumanists, not only will we be able to live much longer, but our quality of life will also be so much better in the future. The following is how one transhumanist



envisions what life will be like in the 2050s...

Robots have become an important family acquisition. Ability to replicate self-assembling robot parts in nanofactories, make these machines easily available and affordable. By 2050, technologies advancing at “Moore’s Law” speeds have produced an android-like creature nearly indiscernible from a human.

Programmed with Internet-downloaded software, 2050s household robots cater to our every whim. They also manage the nanorobots that whiz through our veins keeping us healthy 24/7, and monitor our safety when we connect to simulation events that whisk us away in a Star Trek Holo-deck-like adventure.

That sounds wonderful doesn’t it?

But how will we earn the money to pay for all of those things?

If robots are so advanced at that point, why would companies even need human workers?

Or will we have to “enhance” ourselves with technology just to be

useful in the workforce?

In a recent article by Andrew Smart, he suggests that these “enhancements” could just turn us into “better slaves”...

Could it be that we’ve been tricked into pouring our innovative energy into making ourselves better slaves? If the digital elite achieves its dream of a perfect union with machines, what becomes of the rest of us who either can’t afford cyborgification or who actually enjoy life as a regular human being? Would one Singularitized human be expected to handle the workload of 100 unenhanced workers? Robots will have of course taken the rest of the jobs.

In fact, robots are already taking our jobs at a staggering pace. This is even happening in low wage countries such as China...

Chinese company Hon Hai, the world’s largest contract electronics manufacturer, has announced it intends to build a robot-making factory and replace 500,000 workers with robots over the next three years.

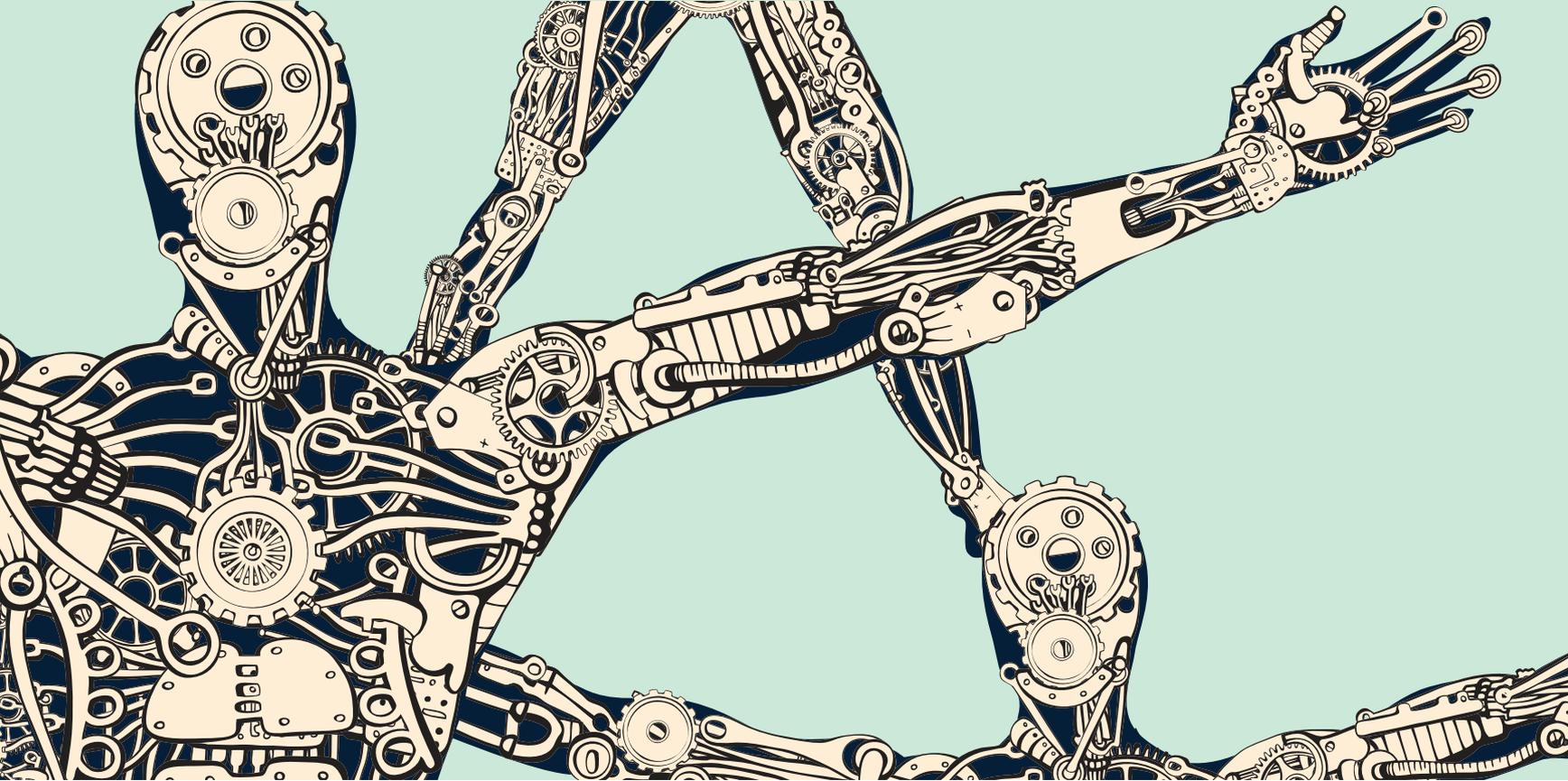
But transhumanists are not really concerned with such matters. They insist that we will become so intelligent that we will easily figure out the solutions to such social issues.

Yes, most transhumanists concede that there will be bumps on the road to utopia, but they argue that it would be foolish not to “take control of our own evolution”. They believe that we can use science and technology to guide the evolution of society and that this will create a far better world than we have today. The following is what one participant stated at a recent conference about transhumanism and religion...

Transhumanism is a thrust toward transcendence. It is not classical mysticism but seeks a temporal transcendence. The driving force behind this is evolution...

What is reality? Reality is evolution. It has a direction from the simple to the complex; the most complex [outcome] is intelligence. Thus evolution is aimed at intelligence.

We should thus have a will to evolve.



We have a moral responsibility to increase evolution and do so by continually striving to expand our abilities throughout life by acting in harmony with the evolutionary process...

Science and technology move us toward Utopia. One of the most exciting things about transhumanism is that all will be fixed.

That all sounds so alluring.

After all, who wouldn't want to live in a "utopia" where everything that is currently wrong with our planet has been "fixed"?

But transhumanists don't just stop there. They believe that eventually we will possess such superhuman powers and will enjoy such radical life extension technologies that we will essentially be like God.

The most famous transhumanist on the globe, Ray Kurzweil, takes 150 vitamin supplements a day in an attempt to extend his life until more advanced life extension technologies can be developed. In chapter 7 of "The Singularity Is Near: When Humans Transcend Biology", he expresses his belief that evolution and technology

are systematically moving us in the direction of becoming more like God...

"Evolution moves toward greater complexity, greater elegance, greater knowledge, greater intelligence, greater beauty, greater creativity, and greater levels of subtle attributes such as love. In every monotheistic tradition God is likewise described as all of these qualities, only without any limitation: infinite knowledge, infinite intelligence, infinite beauty, infinite creativity, infinite love, and so on. Of course, even the accelerating growth of evolution never achieves an infinite level, but as it explodes exponentially it certainly moves rapidly in that direction. So evolution moves inexorably toward this conception of God, although never quite reaching this ideal. We can regard, therefore, the freeing of our thinking from the severe limitations of its biological form to be an essentially spiritual undertaking."

Transhumanist Mark Pesce is even more extreme. He openly states that he believes that transhumanism will allow us "to become as gods"...

"Men die, planets die, even stars die.

We know all this. Because we know it, we seek something more—a transcendence of transience, translation to incorruptible form. An escape if you will, a stop to the wheel. We seek, therefore, to bless ourselves with perfect knowledge and perfect will; To become as gods, take the universe in hand, and transform it in our image—for our own delight. As it is on Earth, so it shall be in the heavens. The inevitable result of incredible improbability, the arrow of evolution is lipping us into the transhuman – an apotheosis to reason, salvation – attained by good works."

And what transhumanist Dr. Richard Seed has to say about all of this is quite frightening. He warns of "warfare" if anyone tries to prevent him from becoming a god...

If you want to get an idea of where transhumanists want to take us, just check out the YouTube video posted below. It was produced by "the 2045 Initiative", and as you can see, they believe that the world will be infinitely superior in the year 2045 than it is today...

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Good quality, high yields! Compact plants grow up to 3 feet and will produce a 3 to 4 inch bluish-green main head, maturity begins in 48 days.



**WATERMELON**

Great, sweet flavored melons - a popular watermelon variety! Average: 85 days



**SPINACH**

Slow to bolt with thick textured, crinkled leaves that are glossy and green. Fresh spinach in just 45 days!



**BEEF**

Great for the home garden and good for canning. Flattened globe shaped roots are dark purplish-red in color. Average: 48 days



**MELON**

Flesh is orange, sweet, fragrant and delicious. Average: 85 days



**CAULIFLOWER**

Pure white heads grow from 8 to 9 inches across. Average: 65 days



**ZUCCHINI**

Cosy black-green fruits average 6-8" long and 2" in diameter and are best when harvested young. Great eating! Average: 56 days



**BLACK BEAN**

Beans are mature when 90% of leaves have fallen from plants and beans have turned from white to black. Average: 90 days



**CUCUMBER**

Disease resistant old-time favorite. Holds well in summer heat. Average: 70 days



**BUSH BEAN**

This excellent variety will produce fruit over a long period of time. Average: 58 days



**CORN**

Heat tolerant. Good roasting ears - dried kernels can be ground for flour! Average: 77 days



**PEA**

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“THE PROGRAMMER EXPLAINS HOW GOOGLE CHROME’S SPEECH RECOGNITION FUNCTION REMAINS OPERATIONAL EVEN AFTER THE USER HAS LEFT THE WEBSITE ON WHICH THEY GAVE PERMISSION FOR THE BROWSER TO RECORD THEIR VOICE.”

“WHEN YOU CLICK THE BUTTON TO START OR STOP THE SPEECH RECOGNITION ON THE SITE, WHAT YOU WON’T NOTICE IS THAT THE SITE MAY HAVE ALSO OPENED ANOTHER HIDDEN POP UNDER WINDOW. THIS WINDOW CAN WAIT UNTIL THE MAIN SITE IS CLOSED, AND THEN START LISTENING IN WITHOUT ASKING FOR PERMISSION. THIS CAN BE DONE IN A WINDOW THAT YOU NEVER SAW, NEVER INTERACTED WITH, AND PROBABLY DIDN’T EVEN KNOW WAS THERE,” WRITES THE WHIS-  
TLEBLOWER.”

# WHISTLEBLOWER: GOOGLE CHROME CAN LISTEN TO YOUR CONVERSATIONS

Programmer goes public four months after company failed to fix exploit

**A** whistleblower who privately informed Google four months ago that their Chrome browser had the ability to record conversations without the user's knowledge has gone public after the tech giant failed to fix the issue.

In the video above, the programmer explains how Google Chrome's speech recognition function remains operational even after the user has left the website on which they gave permission for the browser to record their voice.

"When you click the button to start or stop the speech recognition on the site, what you won't notice is that the site may have also opened another hidden pop under window. This window can wait until the main site is closed, and then start listening in without asking for permission. This can be done in a window that you never saw, never interacted with, and probably didn't even know was there," writes the whistleblower.

The video shows a pop-under browser window recording and typing the programmer's words as she speaks.

The window can be disguised as an advertising banner so the user has no indication that Chrome is listening to their voice, whether that be on the phone, talking to someone on Skype, or merely having a conversation with someone near the computer.

The exploit is a "serious security breach" that has compromised the privacy of millions of Google Chrome users, according to the programmer, who warns, "as long as Chrome is still running, nothing said next to your computer is private."

The exploit turns Google Chrome into an "espionage tool," adds the programmer, noting that the recording function can be activated by the use of sensitive keywords and be passed on "to your friends at the NSA."

The programmer reported the exploit to Google on September 19 last year and was met with assurances that it would be quickly fixed. However, despite apparently fixing the bug within two weeks, the update was never released to Chrome users, with Google telling the programmer, "Nothing is decided yet."

As far back as 2006, we warned

that computers would use in-built microphones to spy on users. We also revealed how digital cable boxes had embedded microphones that had the capability of recording conversations since the late 1990s.

As we have previously highlighted, terms of agreement for both Android and iPhone apps now require users to agree to allow their microphone to be activated at any time without confirmation before they can download the app.

Facebook's terms of agreement also allow the social network giant to record your phone calls, read your phone's call log and "read data about contacts stored on your phone, including the frequency with which you've called, emailed or communicated in other ways with specific individuals."

We are now fully ensconced in a world that even George Orwell would have laughed off as inconceivable. Embedded microphones in everything from Xbox Kinect consoles to high-tech street lights that can record private conversations in real time represent the final nail in the coffin of privacy.

# WHITE HOUSE WANTS CHINESE-STYLE ID SYSTEM FOR INTERNET USERS

## Government Moves To Create “Identity Ecosystem”

**T**esting is set to begin next month on a pilot program that could lead to the introduction of a Chinese-style ID system for Internet users, an “identity ecosystem” that critics fear would create a backdoor to government regulation of the world wide web.

The White House’s “National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace” would replace the current system of using passwords to access sensitive online accounts with something akin to a biometric ID card that would link one individual to all their government services, such as food stamps, welfare as well as a myriad of other things like mortgage applications and applications for licenses.

“The original proposal was quick to point out that this isn’t a federally mandated national ID. But if successful, it could pave the way for an interoperable authentication proto-

col that works for any website, from your Facebook account to your health insurance company,” writes Meghan Neal, warning that the proposal is “a scary can of worms to open”.

The scope of the program could eventually be expanded into an ID card to access the Internet itself, greasing the skids for every citizen to require government permission to use the world wide web, a privilege that could be denied to criminals, accused terrorists and other undesirables, which according to federal government literature includes people who hold certain anti-establishment political beliefs.

The program bears more than a passing resemblance to a 2007 proposal by China that threatened to force bloggers to register their real identities and personal details via a single centralized ID system as a means for the Communist government to control information and punish dissenters.

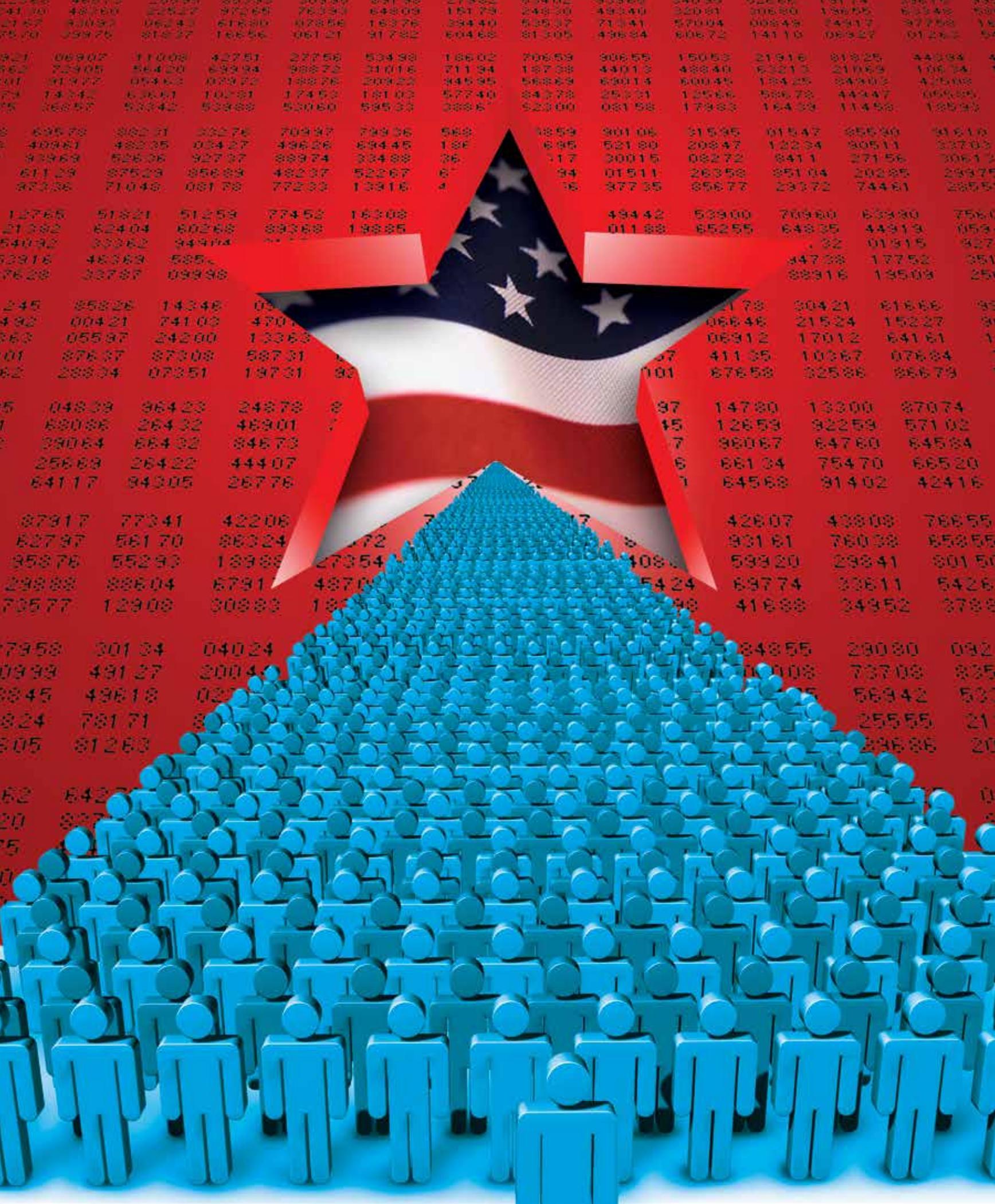
That idea was scrapped for being

too draconian, but the Obama administration is pushing ahead with its own Internet ID system in pursuit of a wider cybersecurity agenda that Senator Joe Lieberman publicly stated back in 2010 is aimed at mimicking Chinese-style censorship of the world wide web.

Back when the NSTIC plan was first introduced, CNet’s Declan McCullagh noted that it represented “the virtual equivalent of a national ID card” because it would eventually be mandatory for filing IRS tax returns, applying for benefits or renewing licenses.

The notion of the US government being able to provide a secure “identity ecosystem” immune from hacking and data theft is also naive given previous instances of information being stolen. The train wreck that was the launch of the Obamacare website is also a very strong argument for the government to stay out of such programs.

“BACK WHEN THE NSTIC PLAN WAS FIRST INTRODUCED, CNET’S DECLAN MCCULLAGH NOTED THAT IT REPRESENTED “THE VIRTUAL EQUIVALENT OF A NATIONAL ID CARD” BECAUSE IT WOULD EVENTUALLY BE MANDATORY FOR FILING IRS TAX RETURNS, APPLYING FOR BENEFITS OR RENEWING LICENSES.”



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